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The Bethlehem of To-Day.

PREVIOUS to the birth of Our Lord humanity was dying the death that sin brought upon it, the knowledge of God was lost to all save to the one small nation of the Jews in an obscure part of the world. It would be difficult to conceive of the tidings of great joy, which the annunciation of the angel would bring to a world that had not yet seen Christ, its Saviour.

On a cool December night when the sheep flocks were resting on the hills of Galilee, and the shepherds sat in faithful vigilance to their gentle trust, there appeared in the sky a bright new star, an angel descended from heaven, clad in robes of whiteness, and stood before them. Great was the fear and amazement of the shepherds, the angel seeing this said: "Fear not, for behold I bring you good tidings of great joy, that shall be to all the people. For this day is born to you a Saviour."

To-day that same field which lies to the east of Bethlehem is used to pasture sheep. There is a little village in front of it and on one place is a beautiful olive grove. Anyone who journeys from Jerusalem to Bethlehem, a distance of about seven miles, passes over this field. After the traveller leaves Jerusalem, he passes a hill, upon which stood the building in which Judas Iscaariot sold his Lord for 30 pieces of silver, close by the site is