DECEMBER 23, 1922

CHATS WITH YOUNG MEN

GOING HOME FOR CHRISTMAS He little knew the sorrow that was in his vacant chair, He never guessed they'd miss him,

he'd surely have been or he there.

He couldn't see his mother or the lump that filled her throat,

Or the tears that started falling as she read his hasty note;

And he couldn't see his father, sit-ting sorrowful and dumb, the never would have written that he thought he couldn't Or he

He little knew the gladness that his presence would have made And the joy it would have given, or

he never would have stayed : He didn't know how hungry had the

little mother grown Once again to see her baby and to laim him for her own.

He didn't guess the meaning of his visit Christmas Day

Or he never would have written that he couldn't get away.

He couldn't see the fsding of the cheeks that once were pink,

the silver in the tresses; and he didn't stop to think

the years are passing swiftly, and the next Christmas it

might be

There would be no home to visit and no parents dear to see ; He didn't think about it—I'll not

He was heedless and forgetful or he'd surely have been there.

Are you going home for Christmas Have you written you'll be

there Going home to kiss the mother and to show her that you care?

Going home to greet the father in a

way to make him glad?

If you're not I hope there'll never come a time you'll wish you had.

Just sit down and write a letter-it will make their heartstrings

hum With a tune of perfect gladness-if you'll tell them that you'll

THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS

The ringing of the chimes, the singing of sweet songs, the glow of love on happy faces, the laughter of little children—all of these enter into our picture of our Christmas festival. It is a time of joy. Within the breast of almost every man there is a more generous beat ing of the heart, a realization of a better self than is often evidenced to the world in the course of daily We awake for a time at least to an understanding of our duty to our neighbor; the world for a day feels a touch of that peace of which the angels sang. It is the message which the Christ Child brings that we thus hear, sometimes faintly, sometimes in full force—the mes-

sage of true peace and joy. present time. We usually do not stop to analyze the meaning of this message. As a rule we accept it as a mere matter of course. We often do not hear its ceived of making a scenic represenwider appeal—its deep significance for the individual and society. In the world about us today Pessimism is enthroned. Men have lost the secret to the possession of real last-ing joy. They seek it in vain in the pursuit of pleasures that nauseate and sicken; that corrode the heart ord noisen the mind. Have nost the his sanction. Deaving tome, St. Christmas Eve, when, through the aid of his friend, Giovanni Velita, he constructed a crib and grouped Hatred and a vague dis- ox, and the shepherds who came to guietude prevail among them. adore the new-born Saviour. He dynasties are but of yesterday. y no longer whither they acted as deacon at the midnight On Christmas Eve all houses are bound in the journey of life, and try to find their consolation in a dark despair. The spirit of the age, "scientific" as it calls itself, has confined itself to the detailed, material things of the present life, and has thereby banished hope. "Modern culture," Bishop Keppler well says, "is fundamentally well says, "is fundamentally worldly, and of this present life; it is culture of technical science, cul-ture of the intellect. Hence it is culture is essentially inner culture of heart and soul." More Joy, English Translation, p. 20.) It is this true culture which the Christ Child brings, a culture which should extend throughout the globe, to teach men Hope—and peace and the real joy; to cause the man writhing under the pain and dark-ness of his physical labor to see the sign above him in which he shall conquer and find peace—for time by reason of eternity; to teach every human heart that there is something beyond the bitterness and unequal recompenses of the present routine of suffering and struggle. With this spirit suffused throughout society there would be a new relationship between man and man. There would be more sufferance of the difficulties in adjusting social conditions and a greater readiness conditions and a greater readiness to cooperate in such adjustment. And it must not be forgotten that the Christ has also brought the basic ideas which will make this adjustment the better. He has pro-claimed the dignity of the worker, of the weak and unfortunate. He has insisted on the stability and unity of the family, so necessary of Ara Coeli. unity of the family, so necessary for a proper social status. He has emphasized the necessity for self-

easier, and thus lead us to rest. Peace and joy, joy and peace!— those are the things the world needs so badly today. Success to the crusade of joy; of trouble and misery and distress there will always be enough upon the earth; it. It is the sign of an endless let us take care that there shall always be enough of joy as well. True joy, which is spiritual and supernatural, seems to have lost its value in the world today: let us in the wild woods, but in your trought the tore of the spiritual and supernatural, seems to have lost its value in the world today: let us in the wild woods, but in your trought to the spiritual and supernatural, seems to have lost its value in the world today: let us in the wild woods, but in your true joy, which is spiritual and the the spiritual and supernatural, seems to have lost its value in the world today: let us in the wild woods, but in your in the wild woods but in your in the wild woods. but in your in the wild woods but in your in the wild woods. but in your in the wild woods but in the wild woods but in your in the wild woods but in the wild woods but in your in the wild woods but in your in the wild woods but in your in the wild woods but in the wild woods, but in your homes; there it will shelter no deeds of blood, but loving gifts and acts of kindness." its value in the world today; let us prize it above everything else. Hundreds are busy burdening them-selves and others with cares and troubles, with sins and crimes, let us array against them thousands The fir tree, the common ever-green of the northern region, bewho will daily think of creating joy for others. "On every side hell offers its intoxicating cup; let us offer men the manna of true joy." From Christ we learn the lesson which will enable us to do this. He is the teacher of joy. At this for came the holy tree of the converted pagans, and in its honor or in memory of the thoughts it stood for they decorated it with lights and gifts at Christmas. A BEAUTIFUL CHRISTMAS is the teacher of joy. At this fes-tival of His we can learn in a prac-tical way—in the relations of our The wanderings of the Blessed daily lives, as employers, as land-lords, as workingmen—these things of which He tells us.—The Echo. Virgin and St. Joseph on Christmas Eve, before they found shelter in the stable where our Blessed Lord was born, are still commemorated in Spain, where they have OUR BOYS AND GIRLS posada, or hostelry processions, marches on Christmas Eve from house to house. Children carrying images of Mary and Joseph lead CHRISTMAS GREETING

Merry, merry Christmas, Haste around the earth : Merry, merry Christmas, Scatter smiles and mirth.

Merry, merry Christmas, Be to one and all ! Merry, merry Christmas,

Enter hunt and hall. Merry, merry Christmas,

Be to rich and poor ! Merry, merry Christmas Stop at every door.

Merry, merry Christmas, Fill each heart with joy ! Merry, merry Christmas To each girl and boy.

Merry, merry Christmas. Better gifts than gold :

Merry, merry Christmas To the young and old. Merry, merry Christmas, May the coming year Bring as merry a Christmas And as bright a cheer.

-ABRAM J. RYAN

THE CHRISTMAS CRIB Devotion to the crib is no doubt of

CHRISTMAS IN ery ancient origin; but it remained for St. Francis of Assisi to popularize it and to give it the tangible form in which it is known at the

All nations celebrate the festive season of Christmas, but none con-versant with the methods of cele-When St. Francis visited Rome in 122⁴, he made known to Pope Honorius II. the plans he had conbration in European countries will gainsay the fact that in Ireland, a land of sainted memories and living, throbbing faith, the feast tation of the place of the Nativity. The Pope listened gladly to the details of the project and gave it his sanction. Leaving Rome, St. has a religious significance un-equalled in any other land. And this is but natural, for in the darkest hour of their checkered, and poison the mind. They have around it figures of the Blessed ever been exceptionally loyal to the and glorifies all sorrow. forgotten the way to the attainment Virgin and St. Joseph, the ass, the tenets and doctrines of that Church, it is the cause of all y

compared with which the oldest

IRELAND

CUSTOM

the way, followed by a mixed crowd, all bearing tapers, who halt at

We can all catch this spirit of Christmas; we can all rejoice, not merely for the day but for the entire year. A living close to the cross is essential, for in that sign of contradiction comes happiness and peace; both to the individual and society. A greater concern for the welfare of our fellows and for a real endcavor in bettering those conditions which deserve such bettering, in the spirit of Christian charity and justice, will make us forget our own difficulties the easier, and thus lead us to rest. Peace and joy, joy and peace!-

memory of some members of the in Tokio. To Monsignor McGlinchey family now resident in America or and Father Delauney and myself in worshippers had left them a chronic national necessity, is also joyously portrayed in song and

story. The feast of the Epiphany, or "Little Christmas," is a holy day of obligation in Ireland, and is observed with almost as much solemnity as is the greater feast. On St Stenber's day the Seth of men who have carried on the work of Christianity for decades. One had been in Japan fifty-one years On St. Stephen's day, the 26th of December, the boys and young men hunt and kill the "little wren," and carry it with measured steps and relation of these two had any desire to return home, even for a visit. They were content to stay with their Japanese converts. We spent a very pleasant day at Nikko, which is to the Japanese what Rome is to the Christians. On

from village to village. Generally the marchers are rewarded with a slight contribution, which is spent

for social purposes on that evening. our return to Tokio we were the Several legends are extant, stating guests of Captain Yamamoto, the why the wren, above all other birds, incurred in a particular manner the preceptor of the Prince Regent and one of the most distinguished Cathdispleasure of the Irish people, but space will not permit me to comolic laymen of Japan. The dinner was in true Japanese fashion and we ate unshod and cross-legged, with ment upon the authenticity or lack of it in this brief sketch.

chop-sticks. Father Delauney had a hard time of it. He had to do Years have passed away; cen-turies have come and centuries have everything but stand on his head to gone since the glad tidings of the first Christmas morn was heralded manoeuver the mysterious Japanese foods to the world, yet today in Ireland, (This is the third of a series of

door after door to ask admission. No response is given to their appeals until they come to the church where the first summons is the same religious spirit which enveloped the manger of Bethlehem articles by Father Mathis, who is circling the globe in company with immediately answered by a voice from within, inquiring who is there. The spokesman replies: "It is Mary, the Queen of Heaven, is as fresh and vivifying as ever. — The Sentinel of the Blessed Monsignor McGlinchey of Boston. Father Delauney, who is bound for the Bengal Mission Fields in India, Sacrament.

THE INCARNATION

is with them.)

THE HOLY NIGHT

And it came to pass that in those

days there went out a degree from Cæsar Augustus; that the

whole world should be enrolled.

This enrolling was first made by

Cyrinus, the Governor of Syria. And all went to be enrolled, every

one into his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee out of the City of Nazareth into Judea; to the City of David, which is called

clothes, and laid in a manger. And

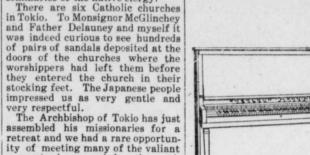
who begs a place to lay her head; the night is dark and cold, and she is a wanderer from far Galilee." The doors of the church are Jesus Christ, yesterday and today and the same, forever ! These words of St. Paul express at once thrown open, and the procession enters, to be led to a side altar prepared to represent a stable with a manger, dimly lighted by a single lantern. Here all kneel and recite the last prayers of a processible the noblest and the most delightful occupation of our lives. To think, to speak, to write perpetually of the grandeurs of the Son of God the last prayers of a prescribed litany; and as the final petition dies away, a little boy with wings fastened to his shoulders, and in his made Man for us-what joy on earth is like it When we think of what we owe to Him, and of the relation in which arms an image representing the Holy Child, rushes in, and lays his we stand to Him ! Earth grows into heaven as we burden in the crib. The tapers are come to live and breathe in the atmosphere of the Incarnation. then lighted, and carols of welcome to the world's Radeemer are sung. -The Monitor.

Bethlehem : because he was of the house and family of David, to be enrolled with Mary his espoused wife ; who was with child. And it Jesus makes Heaven wherever He is, whether in the Stable of Bethlecame to pass, that when they were m, the Tabernacle of the Cathothere, her days were accomplished, lic Altar, or in the heart of the that she should be delivered. And she communicant, just as He took the Beatific Vision with Him into Limbo when He died, and turned brought forth her first-born son. and wrapped Him up in swaddling clothes, and laid Him in a manger ; because there was no room for them the pensive shadows of the patri-archs home into the full glow of

in the inn. And there were in the Heaven. same country shepherds watching, and keeping the night-watches over their flock. And behold, an angel The Incarnation lies at the bottom of all sciences, and is their ultimate explanation. It is the secret beauty in all arts. It is the completeness of all true philosoof the Lord stood by them, and the brightness of God shone round about them, and they feared with a great fear. And the angel said to phies. It is the point of arrival and departure to all history. The destinies of nations as well as individuals group themselves them: 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, but glorious history, the Irish as individuals group themselves people, instinctively religious, have who is Christ the Lord, in the City of David. And this shall be a sign

It is the cause of all we see and the pledge of all we hope for.unto you : You shall find the Infant wrapped in swaddling Father Faber.

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THE CATHOLIC RECORD

SEVEN

SHERLOCK-MANNING

"Hear With Both Ears"

Acted as deacon at the midnight Mass. The legend relates that having sung the words of the Gospel, "and they laid Him in a manger," he knelt down to medi-in their march to Bethlehem; and, in their march to Bethlehem; and, in the routh of Ireland this is the manger," he knelt down to medi-tate briefly on the sublime mystery of the Incarnation and there appeared in his arms a child sur-rounded by a brilliant light. A painting by Giotto representing St. Francis celebrating Christmas at Chronik is prograd during the twelve days of Christmas. These wax candles are about three feet in length and three inches in circumference, and are chronik is prograd during the method. Greccio is preserved in the Basilica of St. Francis of Assisi. Devotion Jan. 6th, the feast of the Epiphany, incapable of satisfying or contend-ing man, and is empty of joy. True out the Christian world. Yearly from the eve of Christmas until the day of the octave of Epiphany, a crib representing the birthplace of Christ is shown in all

birthplace of Christ is shown in all Catholic churches in order to re-mind the faithful of the mystery of the Incarnation and to recall accord-ing to tradition and the Gospel narrative the historical events connected with the birth of the Redeemer. The old Franciscan church of Ara Coeli possesses per-haps one of the largest and most

church of Ara Coeli possesses per-haps one of the largest and most beautiful cribs in the world. In this crib the famous Santo Bam-bino di Ara Coeli is exposed from the eve of Christmas to the feast of the Epiphany. The Santo Bambino is a figure carved out of wood rep-resenting the new horn Saview. esenting the new born Saviour. It s said to have come from the Holy during this time than at any other resenting the new born Saviour. Land and in the course of time it period throughout the year. Farm-has been bedecked with numerous ers show their generosity to their jewels of great value. It is carried in procession yearly on the feast of the Epiphany by the Minister General of the Friars Minor, who solemnly blesses the city with it from the top of the high flight of stairs that lead to the many entrance neighbors by donating butter, eggs, cream, milk, potatoes, and every other farm product; and, in per-forming this philanthropic act, feel, owing to the happiness of the recip-ients, that it is more blessed to give than to receive. What an edifying sight to witness on Christmas the old and the young repairing to the lonely chapel, as stairs that lead to the main entrance

ST. WINNIFRED AND THE TREE

they call it, in the gray dawn of the morning, some coming a distance of four miles on foot to approach emphasized the necessity for self-reform as the real basis for a wider betterment of general conditions, which will make the conduct of life possible. By reason of all these things has He given us reason to exclaim: "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say rejoice!"

WORLD CIRCLING MISSIONARY

By Rev. Michael Mathis, C. S. C. III.

Nagasaki, Oct. 12.—Another post in our missionary journey around the globe has been passed.

Japan, the island empire of the Orient, with a romance of Catholicity that goes back to the days of Francis Xavier, and which few

davs

other countries can equal has been the subject of our wonder for six We are forced to admire the

staunchness of the Japanese Catho-lics, who number 80,000 in a population of 60,000,000 and the hospitality accorded by their ecclesiastical and lay leaders will not soon be forgotten by us. The Archbishop of Tokio and the

Rev. Mark J. McNeal, S. J., an American priest who is well known to readers of the N. C. W. C. News habit rvice, met us on our arrival at

Yokohama. We were first taken to the College of the Brothers of Mary and our

and a reception was given at which the French colony was invited to meet "the first missionary of France." Mgr. Baudrillart gave several lectures in Santiago, on Catholic social action in France, the Catholic regivel among the young visit there, we felt, recompensed us for our inability to visit St. Louis University in Honolulu. The Japan-ese have a keen appreciation of the benefits of Catholic education and when we arrived in Tokio we found a there in the catholic set of the set Catholic revival among the young intellectuals, the French family, the French woman, etc. At Valparaiso he gave an inter

a thriving institution in the Catho-lic University of Japan, in the in-terest of which Father McNeal toured the United States recently. esting lecture on the social ques-tion, explaining that the social problem was above all a religious and moral problem. After a visit

Here we had our first touch of the romance of Catholic history in Japan, for the altar boys who served our Mass the first morning we were there were grandsons of martyrs for the faith. We felt very close to the heart of Catholicity in to the intendant of the province and to the Seminary San Rafael, Mgr. Baudrillart was the guest of the Valparaiso Club, where he was received by M. Le Lorrain, Consul of France.

To none is death so little of a change as to those whose life has been one long, unbroken confidence

suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly army, praising God, and saying: Glory to God in the Highest: and on Winning for Detroit Fame For Hospitality the front rank of Detroit's fine hotels, the Fort Shelby, with its 400 pleasant rooms, offers you uncom-mon advantages in location, envir-In earth peace to men of good will. MGR. BAUDRILLART IN SOUTH AMERICA Valparaiso, Chili. - The press of South America has been enthusiastic in its comments on the visit through the various nations of the outhern continent of Mgr. Baudrillart, head of the Catholic Institute of Paris, and member of the French Academy In Santiago and Valparaiso especially, the reports of his addresses and lectures were significant of the favorable impression produced in outh America by the illustrious French prelate, one of the rare French Academicians who wears the violet robe instead of the green In Santiago Mgr. Baudrillart was received by M. de Lefeuvre-Meaulle,

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