

and missions have trees, and many little, as well as big hearts are made glad by the presents that are given, and the accompanying time of rejoicing. It is also observed in the same way in the many hospitals, and in the Lepers' Home. The Greek Orthodox Church celebrates Christmas twelve days after the

usual day—on the day of Epiphany, the sixth of January. The day is celebrated by them exactly as, by the Latins or Roman Catholics, with the exceptions of the Patriarch, accompanied by only two of his Bishops, and by the Russian, and Greek Consuls who accompany him. The Russian Consul corresponds to the French Consul in occupying the position of defender of his faith in the East; the Bishop of Bethlehem comes out to meet the Patriarch, making the number of Bishops three, to correspond with the Three Wise Men. Another and decided difference is that in the procession to the grotto no wax babe is taken, they having a perfect abhorrence of this custom of the Latins, and as the Latins leave the babe till this day to remove it, no little strife has often been aroused between them. It will be remembered that in the year 1851 the Crimean war broke out, and that it originated at this Church of the Nativity, through the strife between the Greeks and Latins. The Greeks having a different almanac from the Latins, throws the day of their Christmas, December the 25th, on January the 6th. The Armenians, who use the same calendar as the Greeks, have Christmas still twelve days later, as they claim

Christ's birth and the date of His baptism to be the same; January 6th seems to have been the date on which ancient Christians celebrated Christmas. The Armenians, Syrians, Copts and Abyssinians have their services together. These are all Monophysites. Their service differs little from that of the Greeks, with the exception of

the baptism of a silver cross, which they take as an emblem of Christ, dipping it three times in holy water, with a few drops of holy oil added. A god-father is appointed for this cross till the time for the baptism at the next Epiphany. The one who is appointed god-father pays the Church a goodly sum for this

family of his congregation in Bethlehem. There are about thirty families of them.

There are many places of interest to visit during the Christmas celebration in Jerusalem and Bethlehem, and although the natives do not have a Santa Claus as the Europeans do, still, with the different celebrations coming as

they do, they have twenty-four days of feasting and frolicking to indulge in, as very little business of any kind is transacted till the feasts are all concluded. One place of great interest to visit in Jerusalem is the St. Salvador Roman Catholic church. Here they have in cardboard a panorama giving a history of the birth of Christ from the beginning, showing the Wise Men of the East approaching, with their servants, and camels loaded with presents. There is the grotto, with the manger with the star above it, donkeys and cows feeding and going in and out; also the shepherds' field is shown, showing the sheep grazing, the shepherds standing by, and the angels who proclaimed "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good-will toward men." May the time soon come when this proclamation is realized, when the spot so often disgraced by greed and strife, may indeed be blessed by "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good-will toward men."

C. H. Baldensperger.
Jerusalem.

Preparing for Christmas.—Christmas once more is upon us, and rejoicings will be many. May our joy be the unfading and changeless one which springs from the Christ who is the

guest of our hearts. May this Advent be so spent by us in the duties and lessons Holy Church affords us that when Christ comes to us in Death we may be prepared to welcome Him. If we make Him our Friend and Companion in health He will be ours when sickness and death come to us. How



MADONNA AND CHILD.

honour, and also gives money to the poor of the Armenian congregation. Seven sheep or enough oxen to amount to the same, are killed and cooked during the night, from the broth of which the Patriarch has a porridge of crushed wheat made. The next morning he distributes it with a portion of meat to each

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