



MARRIAGE PROCESSION.

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This picture shows a marriage procession in the east. The friends of the bridegroom with torches and music march through the streets at night and come to his house whither the bride has been already brought by her parents and friends. The girl friends of the bride wait till the cry is heard, "Behold the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him!" when they light their small hand-lamps and go forth singing and rejoicing. As these lamps are quite small and will not hold much oil they have to carry oil flasks with them. This the Foolish Virgins in the parable neglected to do, and were not able to enter in to the marriage feast. The whole scene illustrates many passages of the Bible and is one of great jubilation and picturesqueness.

In connection with a series of articles in the *Methodist Magazine* for 1894, a full account will be given of marriage, funeral and other customs of the east, and splendidly illustrated accounts of the different places connected with the life and labours of our Lord—Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Bethel, Samaria, Shechem, Nazareth, Cana, Capernaum, and other places on the Sea of Galilee and as far as Caesarea-Phillipi, the northern limit of the journeys of our Lord.

JUNIOR



W. H. WITHROW, Secretary for Canada.

PRAYER-MEETING TOPICS.

DECEMBER 24, 1893.

Junior Epworth League.

ACCEPTABLE OFFERINGS TO CHRIST.—Matt. 2. 11; 1 Cor. 16. 2; Mark 12. 42; Psalm 50. 14; 116. 17; 1 Tim. 2. 8; Col. 3. 23, 24; Eph. 6. 6, 7.

Junior E. L. of C. E.

HOW MAY WE MAKE SURE OF A MERRY CHRISTMAS?—Luke 2. 8-20.

LESSON NOTES.

FOURTH QUARTER.

STUDIES IN THE EPISTLES.

B.C. 4.] LESSON XIII. [Dec. 24.

THE BIRTH OF JESUS.

Matt. 2. 1-11. Memory verses, 9-11.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Thou shalt call his name Jesus: for he shall save his people from their sins.—Matt. 1. 21.

God is the best friend-maker: if you need a friend, and cannot find one, go to God; he can make you one, and one exactly suited to your disposition and wants.

OUTLINE.

1. The Star, v. 1-6.
2. The Child, v. 7-11.

PLACE.—Jerusalem. Bethlehem.

EXPLANATIONS.

"When Jesus was born"—Not at the precise time, but within a year afterwards. "Wise men"—Legend gives their names: Caspar, Melchior, Balthasar. Such men are called, in Daniel, Magi. They were students of the stars. "From the east"—Probably from Persia. "Born king"—Not a king by appointment, like Herod, but by birthright. "His star"—Probably a miraculous appearance. "Troubled"—Fearing a revolt against his own rule. "Chief priests"—The high priest and heads of the priestly order. "Scribes"—Students and interpreters of the law. "Written by the prophet"—Written by Micah centuries before, and well understood by all students of the Scripture in that day. "Among the princes"—Each town having its own ruler, who stood as its representative. "Privily"—Secretly, so that it might not be known. "Diligently"—Here meaning precisely, exactly. "What time"—So that he might know the age of the child. "Worship"—While saying "worship" he was meaning to slay. "The star"—Which had disappeared for a time. "Frankincense and myrrh"—Fragrant and costly gums, obtained from trees, and used in sacrifice.

PRACTICAL TEACHINGS.

1. These wise men sought the king where they supposed the king would be, in Jerusalem. He was not there. We often think we seek God when we go where earthly wisdom prompts, and fail to find him.
2. These wise men gave the best they had to give—gold, frankincense, myrrh. And we give, what?
3. These Eastern heathen, we should say, told the Church that the King was born. The Church gave answer where he should be born. The heathen sought him; the Church forgot him. Whom are we imitating to-day—Church or wise men?

THE LESSON CATECHISM.

1. What name was given to the Saviour before his birth, as given in the Golden Text? "Thou shalt," etc. 2. "Where was Jesus born?" "In Bethlehem of Judea." 3. Who came to Jerusalem seeking him? "Wise men from the East." 4. By what were they led to Christ? "By a star." 5. How did they honour him? "With worship and gifts."

DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION.—The incarnation of Christ.

CATECHISM QUESTION.

What do you mean by satisfaction and atonement?

I mean that the death of Christ in our stead was so precious, that for the sake of it God the righteous Judge can forgive our sins and receive us to his favour.

THE LIFE OF A STOKER.

The stokes (or firemen) of some of the great ocean steamers work four hours at a time in a temperature ranging from 120 to 160 degrees. The quarters are close, and they must take care that while feeding one furnace, their arms are not burned on the one behind them. Ventilation is furnished through a shaft reaching down to the middle of their quarters. Each stoker tends four furnaces, spending perhaps two or three minutes at each; then dashes to the air pipe to take his turn at cooling off, and waits for another call to his furnaces. When the watch is over, the men go perspiring through long, cold passages to the fore-castle, where they turn in for eight hours. One man twenty-eight years old who was interviewed by a reporter, had been employed at the furnaces since he was fourteen years old. He confessed that the work was terribly hard, but it came hardest on those who did not follow it regularly.

"But if we get plenty to eat," he said, "and take care of ourselves, we are all right. Here's a mate of mine nearly seventy years old, who has been a stoker all his life, and can do as good work as I can. Stokers never have the consumption, and rarely catch cold. Their grog has been knocked off on the English and American lines, because the men got drunk too often, and it did them much harm. When I used to take my grog, I'd work just like a lion while the effect lasted. I'd throw in my coal just like a giant, and not mind the heat a bit; but when it worked off, as it did in a very few minutes, I was that weak that a child could upset me. Take a man dead drunk before the fires, and the heat would sober him off or give him a stroke of apoplexy.—*Popular Science Monthly.*

Methodist Magazine FOR 1894

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