

The Christmas Message

The Christmas story is a gentle pastoral, of shepherds keeping watch by night and of an infant cradled by an anxious mother in a manger. But it is a great deal more than that. It is an earnest of a conquering force so mighty that neither powers nor principalities have been able to prevail against it.

The shepherds, we are told, were sore afraid; and the angel said to them, "Fear not." These words should be helpful to us today, for there are many fears among Christians as to the future. We are living in an age of rampant materialism. Strifes and persecutions are commonplace items of news. Yearnings for "peace on earth" persist, and men of good will are striving valiantly to bring it to fulfillment; but always there are setbacks and betrayals. We seem to have lost our way in an endless maze, and for new stars in the sky we have Soviet sputniks and moon rockets.

But it is worth remembering that the Christian dispensation was ushered in not only by herald angels carolling their benison of peace, but by the slaughter of the innocents. It was a savage world into which the Prince of Peace was born, and the same star that led the wise men to His cradle shone down on Rachael weeping for her children.

In his superstitious fears of the sort of government the new-born King would introduce, Herod took what his modern counterparts would call "the necessary steps." He butchered all the babies he could find who were born in Bethlehem and in "all the coasts thereof": the first year of the Christian era. But these measures, as everyone knows, were inadequate. The new King was more dangerous than even Herod imagined. And tyrants for nineteen hundred and fifty-nine years have been waging the same futile struggle—using rack, dungeon and stake, war, pestilence and famine, with equal unsuccess.

For Christ's kingdom is not of this world, but in the hearts of men. It is a mystery transcending politics, science, and philosophy. So long as we remember to spell out the Christmas message with loving-kindness, so long will there be hope that some day we may understand it. But that is not necessary. The shepherds came to Bethlehem because they were "wise enough to be simple"; to marvel and give thanks for the matchless miracle of birth and life. We must follow their example, with our gift offerings of love, if we are to become persons "unto whom was born in the City of David a Saviour."

2-Way Insurance Traffic

It comes as a surprise to learn, on the authority of the Canadian Life Insurance Officers Association, that Canadian life insurance companies do slightly more business in the United States than United States companies do in Canada. Last year the premiums paid to 12 Canadian companies by their U.S. policyholders totalled \$207 million, while Canadian policyholders paid \$200 million to the 37 U.S. life companies doing business here. The Canadian companies' lead is narrowing, however. Compared to \$7 million in 1958, it was \$12 million in 1956 and \$17 million the year before that.

Actually, premium and benefit moneys do not flow back and forth across the border. The excess of the premiums over benefits is invested in the country of origin to earn interest for the policyholders there until required to pay benefits. But, as the Association notes, the large size of the two-way traffic provides forceful evidence of the confidence in which the people of the two nations hold each other and each other's institutions.

It was in 1889 that the first Canadian company entered the large and prosperous American market and

within 17 years four more companies had followed. Canadian companies also expanded into the United Kingdom and numerous other countries before the turn of the century. Today premiums from outside Canada account for 38 per cent of the premium income of all Canadian companies and premiums from the United States make up 60 per cent of the foreign portion.

In turn, the U.S. companies have been well received by Canadians since the first company commenced business here in 1850. However, they must compete in this market not only with domestic companies but also with British, Dutch and other European companies, while Canadian companies are the only foreign companies doing a significant volume of business in the States. U.S. companies today do little "foreign" business other than in Canada.

This Happy Island

There is a measure of truth in it, of course, when some readers occasionally complain that newspapers "never seem to publish anything but bad news." Certainly every paper has the duty each day to report many developments that are distressing, disturbing and disappointing.

Against this background, it becomes easy to overlook the fact the newspapers likewise present a great deal of news that ranges all the way from pleasant to joyful. Much of it appears in the form of "little news"—small items scattered through many pages—so it rarely seems to bulk so large as the reports considered more momentous.

As a case in point, The Guardian today is winding up the publication of some 12 columns of "Home for Christmas" news—almost a page and a half of it—in the second of its two Christmas Greeting editions. In this way it is telling the story of how more than 300 Island homes are being gladdened at this season by reunions, get-togethers and other events that are rich in family significance.

Additionally, in the same two editions, The Guardian is presenting the Christmas greetings of something more than 275 places of business across the province.

It is a joyful thing, at this season, to have so large a story to tell of the rich values in friendship and family life that are treasured most by the people of this happy Island.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Last minute shopping is still essential, but make it snappy.

To all our readers, a Merry Christmas; and may the hope and joy of the season abide with them the year round.

How right the instinct of mankind to make the Christmas season one of rejoicing for children, to whose fresh eyes the world—even in its far from perfect state—present so many joyful surprises!

The next World's Methodist Congress, to be held in Oslo, Norway, in August, 1961, is expected to draw 2,000 delegates from Methodist churches in about 79 countries. From the United States alone will come 1,000 delegates and the famed Mount Mission College Choir.

A national campaign to help schools for the blind in various parts of the world has been launched in France by the French National Commission for Unesco. Money collected will be sent to rehabilitation centres for blind persons in Ceylon, Ghana, Java, Teheran, Poland and Tunis.

Let's not forget those 200 needy families in Charlottetown this year that are depending on the Catholic Social Welfare Bureau and the Protestant Family Service Bureau to brighten their lives with Christmas supplies. Nor the Salvation Army pot, which transmutes the contributions of passers-by into a golden stream of benevolence at this season.

Penal reform in Canada took a long step ahead with the opening last week of a new medium-security institution at Joyceville, Ontario. There the traditional grimness, the armed guards and high walls have been replaced by better surroundings, job training and recreation. Security precautions are inconspicuous and supervision is light. By next September, when the new institution is expected to be billed, it will house some 450 prisoners from nearby Kingston Penitentiary. Its inmates will be carefully selected, and only those who are likely to benefit from greater freedom will be transferred.



'WHERE CANADA BEGAN'—AN ISLAND GREETING

In designing the Christmas cards sent out this year by The Guardian and The Evening Patriot, the attempt was made to tell a little of the Island's story, particularly for hundreds of friends in other provinces, while also expressing the spirit of the season. This photographic study was chosen to serve that purpose.

The story of the picture was told in an accompanying panel, as follows: "The concept of Confederation had its first official utterance at the 1864 conference in the Provin-

cial Building in Charlottetown. In a significant sense, "Canada Began" at the moment when that concept was created as a purpose, to be realized three years later.

AT BETHLEHEM

The House Of Bread

Dr. Robert Harvey in the Winnipeg Free Press

BETHLEHEM is the hallowed place in the Holy Land to which the thoughts of the Christian world turn inevitably as "The time draws near the birth of Christ."

Framed in the foliage of many old, grey olive trees, its shining white masonry, some 2,500 feet above sea level, crowns the top of the limestone ridge on which the town is built. In the valley below are rich grain fields that give the place its lovely and suggestive name, Bethlehem, "the

House of Bread." Here the alien "Ruth among the golden corn" gleaned among the reapers of Boaz, before she became his wife and the ancestress of Jesus.

HELD BY ARABS The town lies five miles south of Jerusalem, but before it can be visited today permission must be obtained from the Arab forces that hold the ancient capital, the Holy City. The white-domed tomb of Rachel is passed on the way, that has enshrined for centuries the grief of the patriarch Jacob at the death of his beloved wife.

On the terraced slopes of the hillsides below the town vines and figs grow in abundance, while across the valley can be seen the dim, blue hills of Moab. Ruth no doubt looked that way after she had expressed her resolve to share the people's bread and God of her widowed mother-in-law Naomi, in words of moving and deathless beauty.



FROM "ODE ON THE MORNING OF CHRIST'S NATIVITY"

This is the month and this the happy morn wherein the Son of Heaven's eternal King Of wedded maid and virgin mother born Our great redemption from above did bring: For so the holy sages once did sing That He our deadly forfeit should release, And with His Father work us a perpetual peace. That glorious form, that light insufferable, And that far-beaming blaze of majesty Wherewith He went at Heaven's high council table To sit the midst of Trinal Unity, He laid aside; and, here with us to be, Forsook the courts of everlasting day, And chose with us a darksome house of mortal clay. — John Milton.

TOYS OF YESTERYEAR

Only in imagination trot and canter The painted horses, dapple greys and chestnuts That once we stabled in the walnut shadows Beneath a gate-legged table in the hall. Painted horses that we groomed and harnessed And backed between the shafts of dray and van. Who feeds you sugar now, who strokes your glossy manes? Only in imagination smile the dolls, Soft Raggedy Anns with simpering round faces And braided floss of hair, dolls cherished, Neglected, loved devotedly again. Only in imagination spins the top, Satin-striped in red and silver humming A pure entrancement of Eolian sound. Only in imagination drifts the snow That lightly shaken, swirls above the towers Of a castle frozen in a crystal globe. The top runs down, the fairy castle dims; Time has blurred the rag dolls' rosy faces, And prancing horses that were shod with fire Stand small and wooden, down the echoing years. — Lenore A. Pratt in the Ottawa Journal.

Deep gorges run eastward from Bethlehem towards the Dead Sea some 12 miles distant, and westward towards the plains of old Philistia. Set amid the wild and even savage grandeur of the Judean wilderness, Bethlehem is a lovely and fertile spot.

Ruth's great-grandson David tended the sheep of his father Jesse in the fields of Bethlehem. When David was later at war with the Philistines, he was deeply moved at their devoted loyalty when three of his followers broke through the Philistines, who were holding the tow, to get a coveted drink of water for their young leader from the well of Bethlehem. In dark contrast there took place some centuries later the slaughter of the infants of Bethlehem at the order of the alarmed and cruel Herod, when "Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea."

MANY PILGRIMS The Church of the Nativity, that has drawn countless pilgrims through the centuries to the "Little town of Bethlehem," is the only surviving monument in Palestine of early Christian times, and the oldest Christian church in the world. Bethlehem is the most Christian of all the towns of Palestine, due to a rebellion that broke out in 1834, which resulted in Ibrahim Pasha destroying the Moslem quarter of the town. Most of its 8,000 population belong to the Greek Catholic church. The men are alert and energetic while, as Kinglake noted in his book "Eothen," the beauty of the women is proverbial.

On Christmas Day, 1100 A.D., after Bethlehem had been captured by the Crusaders, Baldwin, one of the leaders of the first Crusade, was crowned as the first king of the Latin kingdom of Jerusalem in the Church of the Nativity. That kingdom lasted for 87 years until dissensions among the Crusaders allowed Saladin, the chivalrous Saracen leader, to recapture the Holy City. England's Richard the Lion-Heart and the other Crusader leaders could not afterwards win it back.

TRADITIONAL SITE Over a cave or grotto, which is the traditional site of the birth of Jesus, the Emperor Constantine in the year 330 built the Church of the Nativity. In the year 550 the Emperor Justinian restored it, and only the nave remains of

Tight Band May Cause Neuritis

By Herman N. Bundesen, M. D. EXPECTING a new wrist watch for Christmas? If so, you had better watch your watch band. Most of you naturally prefer the strap or band of your wrist watch to fit snugly. But be careful it doesn't fit too snugly.

CAUSED NEURITIS

A California physician recently found a case in which a too-tight watch strap caused progressive neuritis of the thumb and index finger in an otherwise healthy woman. The physician, Dr. Howard R. Bierman, director of the Hospital for Blood Diseases, City of Hope Medical Center, at Duarte, says similar cases probably occur more frequently than we realize.

COMPLAINED OF NUMBNESS

The patient was a 34-year-old housewife. When first seen by doctors she complained that her left thumb and index finger had been persistently numb for about three months. Sensation was impaired in the entire thumb and finger. Occasionally she felt cold sensations, tingling and crawling of the skin in the finger and thumb. Motion was not restricted, but there was a definite weakness present.

The patient wore a watch on her left wrist. When it was removed, a deep impression of the thin leather strap remained. The woman said she wore her watch almost continuously, even when she was asleep. She had purchased the leather strap about three months earlier, she said, and began to notice numbness in her thumb and finger a short time later. The doctor advised her not to wear this strap again.

GRADUAL IMPROVEMENT

Following this, there was gradual improvement in sensation during the first six weeks. Sensation returned more rapidly during the next three months. In all, it required about 130 days for the peripheral nerves to regenerate. Even a year later there still was slight impairment of sensation in the inside area of the left thumb.

QUESTION AND ANSWER

Mrs. M. E.: Is it unusual for a baby to be born with a so-called veil over its face? Answer: The so-called "veil" over the face at birth is a portion of the membrane of the afterbirth. This occurs when the membranes do not rupture, or incompletely rupture, before the baby is born. It has no special significance.

Berlin Problem Remains

By Alan Harvey Canadian Press Staff Writer

Behind the apparently solid Western agreement to invite Russia to a summit meeting remains—perhaps as insidiously as before—the fundamental element of an old disagreement. The difference is that West Germany, probably with French support, still opposes any concessions on Berlin.

Britain, on the other hand, is prepared to make some sacrifices for the sake of improving East-West understanding and keeping negotiations in motion while the United States is taking a pragmatic position.

State department officers indicate that the Berlin situation—still the central problem of the cold war—will be given another "thorough-going analysis," presumably in the hope of reaching an agreed Western approach before the East-West summit meetings start.

CONCESSION CONFLICT

The Western conflict, if it can be called that, is seen at its sharpest in the British and German position. British officials say the government has not gone back on the concession—including reduction in allied troop strength—offered at the Geneva talks last summer. The Germans deny any progress was made at Geneva. They say the position is as it was a year ago when the NATO council issued a declaration saying they would stand firm on their rights in Berlin.

Possibly this difference should not be exaggerated. Each of the Western powers has gained something from the Paris talks. If Britain has given in temporarily to Chancellor Adenauer's no-change view, she can be counted upon to keep pressing, in subsequent negotiations, for a flexible stand.

What does seem clear is that for the time being Adenauer and

NOTES BY THE WAY

Girls and billiard balls kiss each other with about the same amount of feeling—Wall Street Journal

The chap in the next office says that in an argument with his wife he always has the last word. He apologizes. — Calgary Herald

The dairy science department of the University of Alberta is carrying out research on how ice-cold butter can be easily and simply spread on fresh bread. This is one of the worst bits of research we've heard of for a long time. — Ottawa Journal

"What are you so angry about?" asked Jones of a business colleague. "I sent my handwriting to have my character told and the fellow had the cheek to say that I was inclined to be violent—just let me get hold of him, I'll smash every bone in his body." — Galt Reporter

Fire committee chairman Earl Van Tassel rose to speak at the monthly meeting of the Digby Town Council. For the second successive month, he said, Digby had not had a fire. Then—just as he sat down—came the wail of the Digby fire siren. Someone had dropped a smouldering cigarette on the front seat of a car. — Cape Breton Post

Montane, the painter and writer, is not able to continue with his writing this month because he broke his right arm in an accident. However, he is accepting portrait assignments because he writes with his right hand and paints with his left. "In the arts it is better not to let your right hand know what your left hand is doing," he said. — France Soir, Paris

Mealtime can get quite complicated in this air age. For instance, the Tokyo Times says if meals are served according to hours, passengers on the Tokyo-to-Paris flights will eat nothing but breakfasts. The plane is scheduled to leave Tokyo at 6 a.m. Japanese time, fly West at top speed, pass over Bombay at 6 a.m. Indian time, over Cairo at 6.45 a.m. Egyptian time; over Rome at 6.05 European time and arrive in Paris at 7 a.m. A wise-cracker has dubbed it an orange-juice flight. — Kitchener-Waterloo Record

The Age Old Story

In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.

Doctor: "Why is this TB1240 too good on your back?" Patient: "That's no tattoo. That's where my wife ran into me while I was opening the garage doors." — Galt Reporter

Some Hindu villagers are convinced that President Eisenhower is a reincarnation of the Indian god Vishnu—a supreme compliment indeed but one which probably comes as something of a shock to that kindly, innately modest man. — Ottawa Journal

Alberta has long claimed to be the only rat-free area in North America and wages a relentless fight to keep that reputation. Hats cross that province's boundary from Saskatchewan every summer and are wiped out every winter. Eight men keep a full-time patrol of the Alberta-Saskatchewan boundary and their work and other measures cost Alberta many thousands of dollars each year. But Albertans figure the results are well worth the cost when they consider that estimates of rat damage in Canada run to \$275 million, and in the United States to over three billion dollars annually! — St. John's Evening Telegram

OUR YESTERDAYS

(From the Guardian Files) TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO (Dec. 24, 1934)

Mr. Fidele Gallant, Charlotte town Royal, and at present of the North American Hotel, Kent Street, leaves Monday for Montreal where he has accepted a position. Prior to his departure he was presented with a gift and an address by his friends at the Hotel.

President B.W. Robinson presided at a largely attended meeting of the Summerside Curling Club Wednesday evening. The chairman of the different committees presented their reports, and arrangements were made to have the season open by Christmas Day. The ice is considered to be in good condition and there is every prospect for a good season.

TEN YEARS AGO

It has been recently announced that Mr. Edwin Esty of Summerside is now owner and manager of the Gulf Wholesale Limited, formerly owned by M. F. Schurman Co. Ltd. From the business premises of the former Muttart Ranch, the firm distributes its products to Island and Maritime centres.

A fire of unknown origin, which for a time threatened to destroy the entire village of Tyne Valley, completely destroyed the general store and living quarters of R. C. Montgomery last evening. The loss included the store stock together with all furniture and personal belongings of Mr. and Mrs. Montgomery. An estimate of the loss was not available last night.

French call "une susceptibilité payante"—a sensitivity that pays off. And his crowded travel program for early next year, which may include a one-day visit to Canada in April, will perform strengthen his position as one of the key negotiators on the Western side.

Advertisement for Keith Carmichael Ltd. featuring a woman in traditional dress and the text: "Joy to the World... As on that Holy Night of blessed memory, may the message of Christmas enter the hearts of mankind. May peace and good will be with you and yours. KEITH CARMICHAEL LTD. Brackley Pt. Rd. Charlottetown Dial 6423"

Advertisement for Terry's Flower Shop featuring a woman holding flowers and the text: "Send FLOWERS for Christmas... CUT FLOWERS POTTED PLANTS... Roses, Carnations, Assorted Mums, Gladiolus, Christmas Centre Pieces, Door Decorations, B. C. Holly, Corsages, Winter Bouquets. We Deliver—Open Evenings. TERRY'S FLOWER SHOP Flowers Wired World Wide 137 Kent St. Dial 5230"

Advertisement for MacLean Funeral Home Ltd. featuring a woman in a dress and the text: "MAXIMS A stout heart breaks bad luck... A wonderful Christmas we wish for you! May it be as full of triumphant joy as a Christmas carol, rich in spiritual peace and happiness. MacLEAN FUNERAL HOME LTD. Charlottetown"