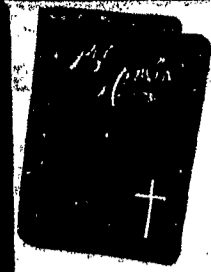


# IDEAS FOR CHRISTMAS GIFTS!



## Prayer Books

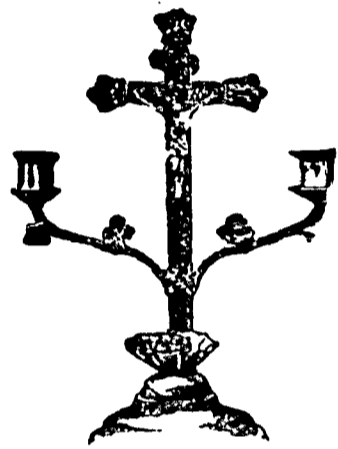
Child's Prayer Books from 10c to \$1.00.  
Pocket Prayer Books with or without Gospels, suitable either for Ladies or Gentlemen, 20c to \$5.  
Key of Heaven in three other sizes with or without Epistles and Gospels, Padded or Flexible covers, 50c to \$7.50.  
Manual of Prayer \$1.00 to \$4.00.

### All the Popular Catholic Books.

A full line of the works of Newman, Faber, Vaughn, Spaulding, Sheehan, Conway, Dorsey, Finn, etc.

And a large line of

## Standard Catholic Books.



### Religious Brooches, Medals, Etc.

Religious Photo Buttons, 5c and 10c each.  
" " Brooches with beautiful gold plated frame, 15c each.  
Gold and Silver Hearts, 15c to \$1.25.  
" " Medals, 10c to \$2.50.  
" " Crosses, 25c to \$8.00.

## Statues.

Fine Risque and Munich Statues. White and colored in popular subjects.  
Sizes 2 1/2 to 24 inches, 5c to \$5.00.  
Pocket Statues in Bronzed Metal, Silverplated, and Silver, 15c to 50c.

## Holy Water Fonts

Some very beautiful designs, from 10c to \$5.00

## Christmas Crib,

From 10c to \$6.00. Just the thing for Children

## Devotional Books

"Manual of Sacred Heart."  
"Imitation of Christ."  
"Leaflets."  
"An Hour Before the Blessed Sacrament",  
and many others in cloth and leather bindings

## Catholic Bibles.

(Large Type Edition) Portable size, \$1 to \$6.50

## Fine Rosaries

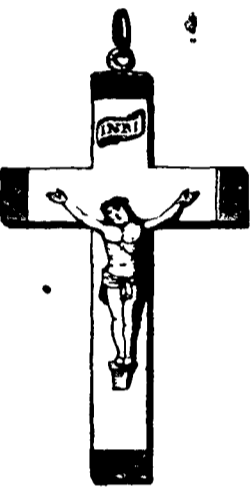
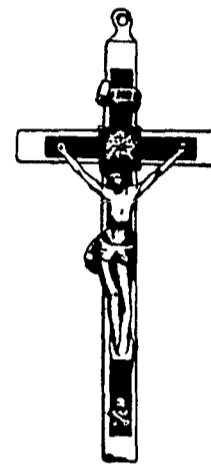
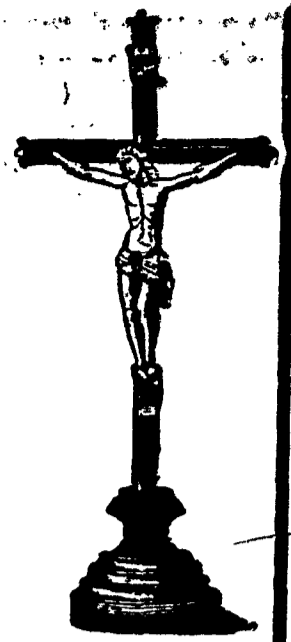
Genuine Amethyst and Garnet Rosaries with solid 14k gold chain, heart and cross \$30.00.  
Amethyst, Garnet, Emerald, Pearl, etc. mounted in 14k rolled gold plate and silver chains, \$1.00 to \$10.00.  
Pearl, white metal chain, 25c to \$1.00.

## Crucifixes.

In Wood, Brass, White Metal, Goldplated, etc., to stand or hang 25c to \$6.00.

## Candlesticks.

Opal, Glass, White Metal, Brass, Onyx Trimmed, etc. from 30c to \$4.00 a pair.



# YAWMAN & STUPP,

20 Clinton Avenue North

Near Main St.

# The Bethlehem of Today

LIFE IN THE TOWN WHERE CHRIST WAS BORN

By EVANGELINE BEN OLIEL

(Copyright, 1903, by Evangeline Ben Oliel.)

BETHLEHEM, which in the days of the prophet Micah was "little among the thousands in Judah," is now one of the largest villages in Palestine. The inhabitants number about 3,000. It is very appropriate that this village, in which the Saviour was born, should be superior to all others in Palestine. This it is generally acknowledged to be. The natives of Bethlehem are the most intelligent and the most industrious of all the village dwellers around Jerusalem. They are also renowned for their high moral character. The entire population holds the Christian faith, either that of the Latins or of the Greeks. Ibrahim Pasha on leaving Bethlehem in ruins, strangely enough, drove out the Turks and allowed the Christians to stay and dwell in the birthplace of their faith, and they have held sway there ever since.

The inhabitants of Bethlehem cultivate the land with a diligence unknown to their Mohammedan neighbors. The women are quite as industrious as the men, both in the work of the fields and in their homes. Many a maiden with flowing veil and tin-

gling coins on her cap can be seen gleaning in harvest time.

The women of Bethlehem are noted for their beauty and their graceful and dignified carriage. The latter may be caused by the habit they have of carrying heavy pitchers and baskets laden with fruit on their heads above their already heavy head gear. They are also renowned for their nobility and sprightliness of character. They claim to have descended from the crusaders, and still wear the costume that was in style in those days. It is the prettiest of all the brightly colored gowns worn in Palestine and is elaborately trimmed with embroidery worked by themselves.

At the door of their homes and in the courtyard which is the common property of the surrounding houses women and maidens can be seen sitting on mats grinding the grain at their small hand mills, singing cheerily as they work. Inside the houses others are busily helping the men carving articles of worship out of the oyster shells found in the Persian gulf. These relics, which they offer for sale, are truly things of beauty, though carved by the hands of these simple, illiterate workers. Large entire shells have been

relief pictures of the Nativity exquisitely carved on them. The Bethlehemites carry on quite an extensive trade both in the orient and in other lands in curios made from this pearl, as also from the olive wood of the land and the black stone from the Dead Sea.

The houses in Bethlehem are scattered here and there regardless of symmetry and with no attempt whatsoever



A BETHLEHEM FAMILY GROUP.

at forming streets. There is but one street in the whole town, and that is the country road leading up into the market place. On arriving here all vehicles must of necessity stop and the visitor must alight and visit the city on foot, ascending and descending its stony, intricate lanes, or, rather, passages between the houses. Many of these paths up into the village are composed of wide stone steps. The houses are mostly built of white limestone and have but one story, with flat roofs, which serve as streets, so closely are they connected to each other. In the greater number of the houses there is only one room, the sole door of which is the street entrance. This is always left wide open, and visitors are ever welcome, for hospitality is a strong

characteristic of all the varied inhabitants of Palestine. Thus all the events occurring in one home are known and discussed by the dwellers in all the surrounding houses, and there are no secrets kept from the eyes or ears of neighbors. All the dwellers in one village are neighbors to each other. There are no street lamps in Bethlehem, and therefore the people will

draw to their homes and close their doors soon after sunset. Most of the business of the town is carried on in the market place during the morning and housekeepers purchase their provisions daily from the men and women squatting on the ground of this central square, where they spend hours bargaining over the price of each article.

The homes of the natives are very simply furnished. The comfortable which serve for beds at night are all put away on a shelf on one side of the room by day. In one corner stands a large stone pitcher of water. This the women fill twice a day from the village well, which is the general meeting place of friends and strangers, and this is the starting place of all the news and gossip of the town. The small hand mill is an important article in every home. Their cooking stove is a little earthenware hearth. On this the coffee-pot can be found at almost any hour of the day, or the large pan which contains the rice or beans, which constitute the most important meal of the day. On the walls of the Latin homes are small crucifixes and in the Greek gilded pictures of saints. The Bethlehemites are very proud of the fact that they dwell in the very town where the Saviour was born.

The center of interest in Bethlehem both to the inhabitants and to the visitor, is the large cluster of buildings consisting of the Church of the Nativity surrounded by the Latin and Greek convents. This most interesting edifice in all Palestine is the oldest Christian church in existence. It was built over a site the authenticity of which is little disputed. St. Helena founded the church in 335 A. D., at the time when she erected so many beautiful edifices upon sacred sites in Palestine. If this church in Bethlehem had been built entirely according to her plan it would have been simply magnificent, but for some unknown reason her details were never carried out. Still the church has standing remains which show something of its former grandeur. The beautiful Corinthian pillars of marble and the cedar beams from the Lebanon, which uphold the roof, and the faded remains of the beautiful frescoes on the walls all give one an idea of the magnificence of her plan.

The present church built over the site and adjoining this basilica of St. Helena is owned in common by the Latins, the Greeks and the Armenians, who each have their own separate share in it and their own small chapels within the one building. The Turk holds control of it and sells the privi-

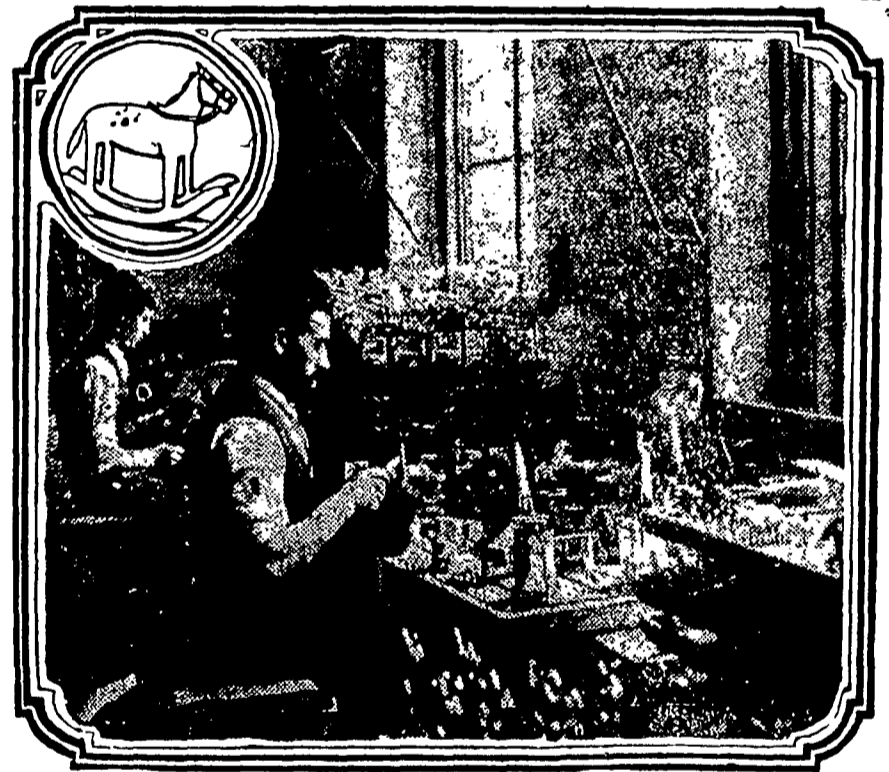
lege of possession of the various sacred spots to the highest bidder. The Greeks, being the wealthiest of the oriental Christians, own the largest chapel. This is a source of great sorrow to the Latins, and because of the unfriendly feeling between all these

different sects Turkish sentries are stationed to keep the peace within all the churches in Palestine which are owned by several sects in common. The grotto of the manger, the site of all sacred sites in the whole world, is reached by a descent of marble stairs, which lead down below the chancel. Here is a small grotto, where, in the place of the stable of history, is a magnificent little chapel resplendent with gold and silver decorations. Many rows of golden lamps hanging from the rocky ceiling shed a gorgeous though subdued light into the otherwise dark and gloomy inclosure. The cradle in which the Holy Infant lay is, according to tradition, in the Church of Santa Maria Maggiore in Rome. An altar stands on the spot of the manger, and above it is a large painting of the stable in which the great Nativity took place. An altar lighted up by many gilded lamps, which burn day and night, records the visit of the magi and the offering of their rare gifts of frankincense and myrrh. This incident is also depicted in a large painting. A golden star in the marble floor is inscribed: "Hic Natus Est Jesus Christus de Virgine Maria."

The whole chapel containing these two altars is only thirty-seven feet long and eleven wide. The walls are covered with rich though somewhat faded tapestries and paintings. As one gazes around and meditates on the associations of the place, looking on the cave, which in all probability is the very one which stood below the inn, and as one's eye rests upon the devoted pilgrims prostrating themselves before these altars in gratitude of soul, one is greatly impressed with the realization of one's surroundings and their marvelous history.

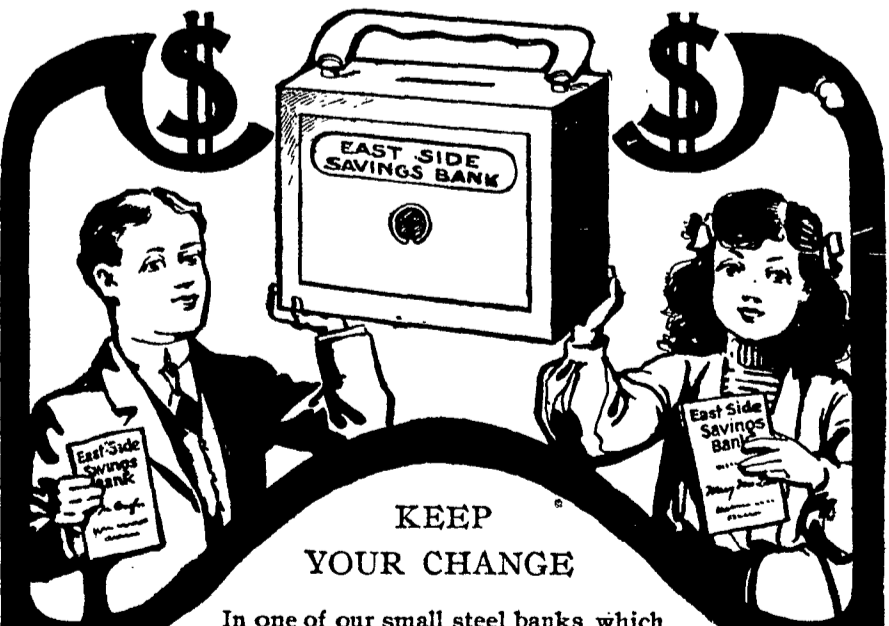
Under the building are caves. Beneath one of the altars down in these grottoes is a dark recess behind an iron grating. By the light of torches in the hands of the monks, who act as guides, one peers down into the grewsome depths below. The monks tell us that this is the pit where the massacred infants were cast. Here also is a large painting depicting the details of this tragic event. The most interesting of all these caves is that in which the noble St. Jerome lived and died and from whence he gave to the world his great life work of translation.

As the church and the convents are built on the very highest point of the hill the view from their towers is that of a magnificent landscape spreading out for miles before one. Beyond the undulating plains just below the hill of Bethlehem is the wilderness of Judaea leading from Jerusalem down to the valley of the Jordan.



## CHRISTMAS TOY MAKERS HARD AT WORK.

THERE are 150 manufacturers of Christmas toys in the United States. They turn out in a year about \$3,000,000 worth of toys and yet do not supply more than one-half the demand created by the 12,000,000 little ones whose wants are imperative at Christmastide. The toys imported are chiefly manufactured in France and Germany.



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