

Awarded the \$50 Prize in the Christmas "News" Competition.

THE INVOLUENTS.

CHAPTER I.

Nazareth.

It was early evening. The spring day had been perfect, and now the slanting rays of the sun lit up with mellowed radiance the charming landscape. Variegated flowers peeped from the meadows with beautiful blue and white flowers.

CHAPTER II.

Jerusalem.

Herod's palace lay in glittering splendor on the hillside. The streets of Jerusalem were thronged with traders and loiterers, who exchanged friendly greetings, good-natured badinage, or threats and violence.

The contrast was in their looks and in their demeanor. One was light of complexion, with brown wavy hair, and deep gray eyes. He was less graceful than his companion, but more conscious in movement and speech.

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ward the babe. As they arose the next morning, they gazed at one another with serious, questioning eyes.

But now the attention of the guard is no longer on browsing sheep and drowsing slaves; it is on the infant in the manger.

Such a Herod! said the young man. His mind is not on the coming of the Messiah, but on the power of Rome.

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A SKETCH FOR A STORY OF THE INFANT CHRIST. By Willard Done.

tears of Christ himself, shall cry to God for justice and reward! It was in the midst of this cruel slaughter that Ezra and Miriam...

CHAPTER IV. Jericho. The wretched life of Herod was nearing its end. In a last vain attempt to prolong it, he had gone to the warm springs of Jericho.

CHAPTER V. Nazareth. The setting sun looked down upon the fields of Galilee. Some weeks had passed since the return of the prescribed Jews to their homes.

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But he had not noticed that a silent figure followed him into the passage, the scraps of laughter, and the conversation which came faintly from the room.

A slight rustle at the door was followed by a loud knock, and Sylvia burst into the room. "To thy task, O 'Max', he cried impetuously, not seeing Miriam live in the sunlight of her life."

"By the law of humanity, by the law of kindly policy, I am justified," he said. "My death is not a misdeed, and I am not a criminal."

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