HEAD OF CHRIST BY FRA ANGELICO.

HEAD OF CHRIST BY BELLINI.

THESE RELICS, NOW IN THE HANDS OF THE PALESTINE SOCIETY, ARE BELIEVED TO BE THE MOST IMPORTANT FINDINGS OF THE CENTURY.

THE HANDWRITING OF THE SAVIOUR.

The Palestine Exploration Society Believed to Have Unearthed the Original Manuscript of the Man-God, Whose Birth We Now Celebrate.

It is inconceivable to think that the Christ, whose advent we so gladly celebrate to-day, should have breathed a prayer of sorrow? And still, more wonderful that the very manuscript upon which the prayer was written should have been discovered now.

After 1,800 years of mystery concerning many points in the life of Jesus, can it be that the very handwriting is to be laid before us to be studied and worshiped.

Such is the claim of a celebrated explorer who has given us many wonderful Biblical relics.

Dr. Brunsenbach, the great German student of Biblical investigation, believes this to be the case and Bible students agree with him.

Dr. Brunsenbach is the cultured archaeologist and explorer of Waldfeed Germany, who has been at work with a company of excavators, in Palestine, digging in the ruins of the ancient cities and temples in the hope of bringing forth documents to surprise and educate the world.

Many have been the marvels brought to light here, but none so great as this, the discovery of the handwriting of Christ.

THE FINDING OF THE MSS.

The finding is thus told by Dr. Brunsenbach:

"When I went to Palestine a short time ago to broaden and deepen my understanding of the Bible, I became convinced that many of the most remarkable antiquities were being discovered daily by the Fellahen running over the land, and especially by those digging deep below the surface in the interest of the various Palestine exploration societies. At Jerusalem and Lachish they were brought to me from the depths of the earth (many times) amounted all over the world, but none, it seems to me, so important as this bit of manuscript bearing the impress of the Saviour.

"This manuscript is a small square page, written on both sides. The writing is almost entirely effaced, or so imperfect as to render a complete translation out of the question. This much, however, can be established with certainty, that it is the prayer of an oppressed and persecuted spirit, written in Aramaic. The writing is peculiar in being inscribed below instead of upon the lines.

"The best preserved section is given here in fac-simile. It is signed by the name of the Saviour, spelled yeshua by us upon the record of the antekeeper at Jerusalem, published recently.

"On the margin of the manuscript another hand, using the square Galilean characters has written the word 'Saviour,' showing that its first owner considered this the manuscript of Jesus. The word Saviour in the Galilean Aramaic of that time is expressed Hoonah. This writing belongs to the first century, as will be admitted by all scholars.

"The manuscript is very brittle. Like three of the facsimile may be rendered, and still another stanza as a stain, in nonsense under (pronounce). The whole is a plain—concerning persecution, that everything and every one is against him who has the divine treasure and wants alone. Every one misrepresents the words he utters; he is troubled deep like fear and sadness, darkness is round about him."

This pathetic prayer of sorrow is inexpressibly sad at this season of unbroken joy.

The Palestine explorers could not restrain their tears at seeing it, while rejoicing at the same time at their success.

THE PALESTINE SOCIETY.

A work of such importance and as much dignity requires money and the Palestine Exploration Fund was begun for the purpose of making research in the Holy City. The fund which is an international one, maintained by Europe and the United States, was put to the support of the Palestine Exploration Society. This consists of the most famous Biblical students in the world, who devote their time, brain and effort to the substantiation of the great truths which are the foundation of their belief.

The site of the Ancient Temple at Jerusalem has long offered a tempting field to the student of Biblical research, and the excavation of the mounds where the Temple once stood has been rich in reward.

Many interesting pieces of pottery and metal, good undoubtedly in the old church service, have been found, but more precious than all is this papyrus script which has all the earmarks of authenticity.

This discovery is the most remarkable of the many marvelous ones during the past few years. Dr. Brunsenbach has been associated with Dr. Hommes and Dr. Bliss, all men learned men, who have worked unstringly at the ruins. One of the mounds called Lethey, by the Arabs, was found to contain no less than eight cities, built one upon the ruins of the other, and going back as far as 1300 B. C.

Here was found the parchment which was ascribed to Moses. It was written in the primitive Hebrew script.

THE PRECIOUS DOCUMENT.

The Jesus manuscript, as it is called in its classification by the society, contains a prayer composed and written by Jesus. It is supposed to have been penned shortly after his famous sermon on the Mount.

There is reason to believe that this manuscript is only the beginning of many that will be unearthed. The fact that one document from the hand of Jesus has been found inspires his followers with the thought that where there was one there are probably more. Should this prove to be the case, the discovery and decipherment of these documents will be infinitely human words of stirring and prayer—may overthrow theories and upset some of the wage opinions now held, but they will give to Christendom a living, breathing Christ, one with whom all Christians can suffer and plead in sympathy and love.

In this simple prayer is a revelation of the personality and struggles of him to whom millions of Christians the world over, bow the knee. It is possible, by the use of chemicals, more of the writing may be made legible, and before long the whole prayer will be given to the world. This manuscript will arouse the interest of American Christians of every sect of life, preachers, professors and the great mass of the common people—those who once "heard him gladly"—the people for whom Jesus worked, thought, preached, died, and, as we know, prayed and wept.

Dr. Brunsenbach has also found with this treasured manuscript a supposed prayer by one of the disciples of Jesus, known as Yemarahi, a name not hitherto known. He appears to have officiated as a preacher. Brunsenbach thinks that this is no other than the Apostle Paul, judging from his thought and style of composition. This is a part of his discourse:

"Waiting, waiting by the word of Isaiah. Rejoice, O barren one who hath not borne, for God in his mercy hath spoken and it will come to pass. Isaiah saith: 'Arise, it is light, for the witness is come. I, the God of Terrors, will give forth the oracle. I will waken a joy for God, yea, great joy, through the Saviour. Move it well. At last, when Israel has returned, this blessing shall come through Jesus, the 'Man of Sorrows,' and afterward the death of Jesus shall testify for each who hath part in him."

CHRISTMAS TREE OF SANTA CLAUS.

It Is Handled by a Middleman, Who Makes a Living Working Only Six Weeks a Year.

The Christmas tree business has grown until Santa Claus himself can no longer attend to it personally.

The good old Santa cuts down a few trees with his sharp, bright hatchet and specially prepared boys and girls, but the rest of the work he delegates to his assistants, who cut the trees down for him.

The directions given to Santa Claus in those days to his army of benevolents were so good and thorough that to-day you find the Christmas tree as beautiful as when Santa Claus personally laid every stroke at the roots of the finest trees in the forest.

The Christmas tree industry is one of the most curious of this country. A man who is in the Christmas tree business works only six weeks in the year. The remaining forty-six weeks he spends either vacationing at home or enjoying his money in foreign lands.

His business begins the middle of November and is all wound up by the first of the year. During the six weeks of his activity he must work day and night without sleeping or eating, according to schedule. He catches his trees, and winks his winks, and is thankful for this.

The individual buys in whole forests of Christmas trees and has them brought to the city. He sends the men, wholesale the trees to the dealers who in turn, retail them to the father and mother of the small boy and girl. The Christmas tree man is called the "Middleman," because he is the one who deals with the wood shaver in the forests and takes the tree from the woods to the city, there it place them where they can be sold.

Time was when the small boy was content to get any kind of a green tree Christmas time, but that day is long past. How the lad of to-day knows a good Christmas tree when he sees it, and he demands a tree that merchantable in shape and green all over with soft, feathery fronds falling from the branches, nor will he be content with anything else.

Away off in the country live the woodmen who raise the Christmas trees. They have inherited the forests from their fathers and grandfathers, and the Christmas tree season is to them a harvest of money. These who carry on the business of tree raising have made a study of it, pulling up shoots and seeding out bushes so that the tree will have room to grow and spread.

The trees properly raised Christmas tree requires enough forest space to spread its limbs around it like a great umbrella, and the Christmas tree farmer is careful that his tree has plenty of space for the purpose. The tree needs sun and air so it will grow strong and tall.

A few years ago nearly all the Christmas trees came from Maine and Michigan, but now they are growing them in other forests and you can generally get a tree that was raised within 50 miles of home.

CHOPPING THE TREE.

Just at this season, if you happen to be in the vicinity of a Christmas tree woods, you will hear the merry ring of the axe; and if you can get close enough you will see the tree fall at the hands of the woodman. If the woodman understands his business he will have a gang of men behind him who catch the tree as it is cut so as to notice its tumble to the ground. They will lay it carefully in a pile with many others and at night the trees will be loaded on great sleds to be shipped to the railroad station.

You will notice that trees six feet tall are the most popular. This is the average size of a good Christmas tree, or the height at which the average man can pitch trimmed tops to branches.

A Christmas tree of six feet will be sold, fifty cents is the price, which is to be a tree that is very handsome, when it will command a dollar. The wood shaver of three feet or so which are sold for the benefit of the family forests and takes the tree from the woods to the city, there it place them where they can be sold.

Time was when the small boy was content to get any kind of a green tree Christmas time, but that day is long past. How the lad of to-day knows a good Christmas tree when he sees it, and he demands a tree that merchantable as the balsam. In these days you get a balsam tree fragrant and waving, soft and feathery, for the same price which was asked to pay for a stiff, branched spruce. But spruce trees, on the other hand, are very decorative for large halls, and as they grow tall and broad they are in demand.

After the Christmas trees are loaded on sleighs and are taken to the station they are tied in bunches of five each and carefully assorted the same size and height.

The bunches are laid into the railway cars, five trees to a bunch, 80 bunches to a car load. This was before the exception of the Christmas tree industry by the fact that there are now arriving at the great city centres every day, carloads and carloads of these trees, and before another week will be unpacked and tempting you from the street corners.

THE COST.

The Christmas tree man who receive them at the station pay only twenty-five cents a bunch for those big trees, so that he gets five for twenty-five cents. But on the other hand, he must pay for the cost of the car which brought them to the city, and the labor involved in handling, so that his Christmas tree profits are not as great as might be imagined.

Santa Claus, besides dealing in Christmas trees, deals also in Christmas green, which comes principally from the East. Delaware and New Jersey supply nearly all the green of Eastern commerce, and their products are shipped to the far West. The lake States have a very delicate, feathery green which is very popular for Christmas, but unfortunately it does not grow in great abundance at present. It is softer and more decorative than any other green found, and, when it is cultivated, Santa Claus will find that he has a wonderful new material.

Santa Claus uses these greens for vases and figures, such as wreaths, crosses and Christmas stars. The favorite green for this use are ground pine, feathery tuft and Princess feather. These are tied in ropes by the hands of the farmers' children and are shipped in barrels to the cities. At Chicago Wisconsin is the headquarters for the green, and Christmas time there are thousands of barrels sent every year.

THE HOLLY.

A part of the Christmas green is the English holly, it comes mostly from Jersey. Holly is often red and handsome. It is used in bunches by itself to decorate the window, or is tied in ropes of green. Nearly all the "real English holly" comes from Jersey. Though there are a few patches of the holly in Southern Illinois, it takes the trees to grow a Christmas tree, but the green there themselves every year, so they are the little will there which are worth the great trouble of the travel there.

The Christmas tree farmer who starts a shoot when he is a boy, will be able to sell the tree when he is grown to manhood, and if he lives on stand for three every year, or cultivating them, he will have a steady supply of trees as long as he lives and can make a good living by it for some. If the farmer is here enough to see the fruit of the year among on his Christmas tree produce.

But the man in the cities who handles the trees for the city to deal around the business best. They can tell to the minute during the summer how the Christmas tree year will be, and they make their Christmas tree preparations accordingly.

A wet summer is best for them for a Christmas tree never thrives in great heat. But the Christmas tree crop never fail, it springs up year after year and there will always be a supply.

Santa Claus made his old very thick in the Christmas tree industry and is a wide proprietor in the institution of gifts. He generally those that are purchased from the corner just as fresh they were his own, and the man who selling from a behind tree at 11 o'clock Saturday night may wake up Christmas morning to find that the good old Saint has trimmed the tree so good it is enough it had stood waiting for him by the chimney in the back of the parlor, for a full month.

AN IDEAL FEATHERY TREE FROM MICHIGAN.

THE SCENT OF THE GOLDEN ROSE

This Year It Will Lie Upon the Heart of Giselda and Its Fragrance Will Soothe the Hapsburgs.

The most interesting ceremony of the year in the eyes of many is the presentation of the Golden Rose which takes place in the spring at the hands of the Pope.

Like the play of Hamlet with Hamlet left out, if such a simile would not be too playful at such a time, the ceremony of the presentation of the Golden Rose has often been performed without the giving of the rose itself. Many a year has passed by in which the Pope decided to bestow the Rose upon any of his people.

THE ROSE AS IT IS MADE TO-DAY.

The withholding of the Rose does not mean that there is no one worthy to receive it, it only signifies that no one person has come forward, conspicuously deserving over all the others to be rewarded by one great gift.

The Golden Rose is correctly speaking, the Rose of Virtue. It originates in the thirteenth century when the ceremony was first used. Virtue is a rose, and, owing to the temptations of the world at that time, more difficult to preserve.

ROSE OF VIRTUE.

The head of the church, wishing to encourage women in continuous virtue in character and consequently in conduct, had a bank of pure gold formed from the solid ore. Upon each leaf is placed a diamond, upon a dewdrop, and in one of the roses just opened to place of a heart of pure ruby, which lay like a drop of blood in the gold.

This completed he set it in a vase of jasper, and on Sunday, it was the fourth Sunday in Lent, the Holy rose presented to entire place to the jewel the world, to thief of it.

The Pope blessed the institution of the Golden Rose, and it was then that there has been a great gathering for it.

This year it is to be given to Dei Mezzi Aldobrandini, Archduchess Giselda Louise Marie, Archduchess of Austria, to her husband, and Princess of Bavaria to be married with Hi Royal Highness Prince Leopold Alexandrine Joseph Marie Arnulfus.

She is the eldest daughter of the late Queen Elizabeth of Austria.

In the early days of the Golden Rose it was bestowed with great ceremony and with the expenditure of a great deal of money. The Pope was absolutely prodigality in getting it up, and when it was completed he had not begun the expense attached to the presentation.

Four one week to a month before it was time to give the Rose a papal pontiff will special instructions from the Pope, in company with one of the officers of the noble guard, presented themselves at the Vatican to receive the Rose from the hands of the Pope. His Holiness, having the flower brought before him, filled the Rose with a precious balsam, composed of the richest attar of rose. Over this was placed a cover or cap in such a way that the balsam remained in the Rose.

A COSTLY CEREMONY.

The papal delegates then travel with much state, and with great care lest the object be injured, to the home of the recipient, and, then, with a great deal of ceremony, they presented it at the altar steps. The expense of transporting and presenting the Rose with the bull in case which attended it was more than $3,000.

It was such a very great reward to receive the Rose that Kings and Queens tried hard to get it, and, whenever they had done a good deed, they would not hesitate to notify His Holiness so that he would judge them accordingly.

With their matchless opportunities for doing good, it is not strange that so many crowned heads have received it. Henry VIII. won it three years in succession, although the churchmen of to-day shake their heads at such a festival. Mary, Queen of Scots, got it one year, and Maria Teresa, the greatest Queen Austria ever knew, also received it. Napoleon got the Rose by a single meritorious action, and Isabella II., Queen of Spain, and it for, it is said, her success in keeping certain irreligious in the church. Queen Louise, of Belgium, was the last of the line of King Louis Philipe, of France, holds the Golden Rose and keeps it in a glass case, which is in the room, owned in a great for great deed. It is brought out only on very occasions.

Everything connected with the Golden Rose has remarkable representations attached to it, one of which is that a drop of the attar of rose falling upon the vase at presentation will meet it permanently, and that, as long as the lives, the owner of the rose can be traced to the world of the Rose which travels with her when she wants the Rose carment which she donned on that day.

It is customary for the recipient of the Rose to deposit it in the church as a lasting memorial of the occasion. In preparation for the altar, from white to the color and and from skin to the glove, everything is one.

ITS SUPERSTITION.

At one time there was who ever appeared in the ceremony of the giving of the Rose, attempted to establish the superstition that it would bring ill luck to its owner, in proof of which they cited the case of Johanna of Austria, who was strangled by her nephew and the Empress Josephine, who was a lady of the Rose, and whose life ended as early away from Marie, Queen Isabella, of Spain, the Queen of Naples and Queen Isabella, of Brazil, the daughter of Don Pedro, not with horses of one kind or another, died after receiving the Rose; but good people tell you that the Rose that is a help for all the and one night of it will drive fear from the mind—as there is compensation.

The Church of Rome, while as rich today as it was in the thirteenth century, has other channels for its money, and the other Popes of modern times have decided that it was best to cut down the expenses attached to it, and so the Rose—as it will be honored this year—while it is a beautiful thing, a set to be compared with the Roses of other days.

It is now a small plant of pure gold, there are several roses upon the plant with leafs and a great many leaves, but the leaves have no diamonds upon them and there is no ruby in the Rose of Roses. It is just a bunch of pure gold. It stands in a vase which is gilded, for the vase itself is not pure gold. This fact is sometimes disputed, though there is no one sufficiently worthy to test the material of which the vase is made. It is supposed that His Holiness would scarcely, as he has so many poor in Italy, go to the expense of a pure gold standard.

The one who now receives the gift must bear the traveling expenses of the papal prelate and the officer of the noble guard who bear the Rose from Rome. This year it will cost the Princess Leopold, of Bavaria, $3,000 to get the Rose from Rome to Munich. On arriving at Munich the delegates are met by attendants with carriages decorated with wreaths of flowers, and the harnesses are trimmed with garlands of white roses.

The party enters the carriage and proceeds to the church or chapel where the ceremonies are to take place. Here the Rose will stand in state, as it arrive a day or two. Then there will be a magnificent ceremony, at which pontifical mass will be said. Meanwhile the Princess, the royal family and the entire court, with a few friends, will assemble in the chapel.

THE PRESENTATION.

At the end of the mass the prelate will take the Rose from the case and the Princess will advance to the altar steps where she will kneel. The prelate, then, taking the rosebush in his hands, will lay it upon the heart of the Princess, saying:

"Behold, the mystical Rose, the gift of the Most Holy Father."

To which the Princess will reply:

"Thanks be to God."

Then, with the rose upon her heart, she will leave while the choir above chants the Te Deum. The ceremony is now at an end.

The good book says that the Lord shows mercy "unto the third generation of them that love Him and keep His commandments."

The Princess Giselda is the eldest of three children of the late Empress of Austria. The Pope is said to be fond of Giselda is the most innocently from a churchy point of view. She was a favorite child of her mother to transact good works and was often seen among the poor and distressed. To stricken Austria she has been a ministering angel. The Pope is said to have selected her for the virtues of her mother and her own good, lovely qualities, which are more unusual for a Princess of the royal house of one of the principal empires of Europe.

Franz Joseph has longed to see the Rose in his own honored household, and this year his wish will be gratified.

The Sunday of presentation is called Laetare Sunday, which is the fourth Sunday in Lent.

A COLONY WITHOUT CHRIST.

One of the American missionaries in the Philippines has discovered a tribe in these islands that worships idols. They are not, strictly speaking, Filipinos, for as they speak Philippine Islanders, for the Filipinos have a special religion of their own and the Spanish Islanders are Roman Catholics. This tribe is partly Japanese, unconverted.

The idols that they worship are of the most "refined" sort. Women dressed in European fashion and men as peasants. They are supposed to be the god of the harvest, and the goddess of beauty and kindness. On the shelves in the huts stand these idols to whom these people offer up prayers and libations, night and morning.

A preacher in a public hall in New York created a tremendous sensation a few weeks ago by saying large sums to be used in the conversion of some of the tribes in our colonies. Doubtless a part of this money will be sent to the missionaries in the Philippines.

It is a difficult matter to preach Christianity to those who have already heard of Christ. The idea is no new one to them and they regard the religion as old and antiquated, but these tribes know nothing of Christianity and would therefore offer a splendid field to the foreign missionary.

An interesting point is being raised as to whether work in the Colonies can be regarded as foreign missionary work. If it comes under the head of home missions it will call for the entire revenue number of the funds of the uses of the missionary funds now in existence. "Home missions" have hitherto meant the poor and degraded of the cities, but it would be obviously unfair now to call our Colonies foreignes.

The actual handiwork upon the Philippine idols is exquisite. The figures are carved and are then inlaid with a curious Japanese work which is very expensive. It shines like enamel, and might be such. It is in many colors and the natives show great taste in the blending.

In Hawaii, now, the worship of idols is almost abolished in the large cities, though you will still find some of the worship of Pele, the god of the volcano of Hawaii, and other gods. It was to propitiate Pele that Lili-Like, the mother of Kaoiani, laid down in her tent and starved herself to death. Pele was pouring forth fire, smoke and lava, and the belief was that Pele could be stopped only by the sacrifice of the life of a member of the royal family. So Lili-Like laid down in the night of the native and starved herself.

In the Hawaiian Islands the worship of idols is stronger to-day than it ever was. Each of the idols are the gods of Nature, which are Armed Ones, and the idols are merely the pictures or statues of the real gods.

IDOLS OF THE PHILIPPINES.

THOUSANDS OF OUR COLONISTS WILL WORSHIP THESE IDOLS.