

tion: *Hic de virgine Marie Jesus Christus natus est.* Here, then, it was, according to tradition, that our Savior was born of his virgin mother.

It is beyond the scope of this article to inquire into the authenticity of this tradition. It has already been mentioned that it can be traced back as far as to the second century, but no farther. Who first originated it and on what grounds, is not known. Caves were often used for stables, particularly when the inns were crowded, and it is not impossible that this one could have been used by Joseph and Mary at the time mentioned. The question is of little importance compared with the great fact that the Savior came in fulfillment of the promises given.

The circumstances under which Christ was born deserve to be carefully studied not only by His followers, His people, but by the whole world. If they teach anything at all, they direct men to despise all such distinctions as are founded on "rank," birth and riches, and which are generally so highly esteemed among the thoughtless. They teach that true dignity and real nobility are possible in the humblest stations of life. For Jesus could, no doubt, have assumed human nature in an imperial palace as well as in a stable, had this been consistent with the plans of the Eternal Father. He might have had a queen for His mother, instead of an obscure, poor maid from a country village. But such was not the plan. He came under the most humble circumstances, yet with power to, finally, become the ruler of the earth.

In the circumstances connected with this birth, we clearly see that a human being may be poor, and of low estate, and yet be clothed with divine authority. Will the world learn this lesson and apply it to the work of God in these last days? For history has again been repeated. And as sure as Christ, who was once a poor, helpless child in Bethlehem, shall rule this whole earth, as sure will His faithful servants, his messengers and Apostles, both of ancient and modern times, be crowned with Him in millennial and celestial glory.

#### THE "MORMONS" AND MEXICO.

FROM dispatches which have come over the wires during the last two or three days, we learn that the idea is being revived in the East of

a "Mormon" exodus to Mexico. This time it starts from some reported "interviews" with Hon. John W. Young, who has given to certain members of the press the information that he is contemplating some railroad work in Old Mexico.

The railroad building talents of this gentleman are well known, as his successes in this line have been numerous. We understand that he received a request, some time ago, to take the contract for building a railway in Mexico and that he has about determined to accept the offer. It is probable that this project will throw open to settlement a large area of land which would offer a fine field for colonization.

This, we believe, is all there is at the bottom of the rumors and speculations which are being indulged in concerning a "Mormon" hegira. We know of no negotiations or contemplated movement of the "Mormons" to Mexico or elsewhere. Utah is good enough for us. And "our friends the enemy" who would like nothing better than a wholesale clearing out of the people who made this Territory, need not bug to themselves the delusion that we are going to vacate in their favor.

As to Mr. Young's projects, they are his own. They are not Church measures. They belong to his private business. He is full of enterprise and has done a great deal towards the development of this inter-mountain region. But this has been done personally, not by or under the Church or its direction. His vim, confidence and go-a-head determination have been the motive power, with such capital as he could invest or procure. It will be the same with the Mexican movement. The Church is not connected with it in any way.

We hope it will succeed. It will be a good thing for that country. And as it may open the way for colonists from crowded parts of the United States it will be a benefit to this country. With the experience, indomitable will and untiring perseverance he will bring to bear, we can see no reason why it should not be a grand success. But this will have no connection with "Mormon" affairs beyond the fact that Mr. Young is a "Mormon," the son of a "Mormon," and that he believes in the great cause of which his venerated father was so prominent a champion and leader.

A LADY had her pocket picked to the tune of \$13 on Christmas night, while leaving the Theatre.

#### AS TO THE RED MAN.

AMONG the most sensible explanations we have seen regarding the causes of dissatisfaction among the Indians, appeared lately in the *St. Paul Press*. Being pertinent in its relationship to a current subject of unusual interest, we herewith present it:

"If the gentlemen at Washington who are debating the question are really anxious to learn wherein the Government is mostly at fault for the present Indian outbreak, aside from its abominable policy of permitting the bearing of arms, they should look to the infamous spoils system as applied in the Indian Bureau. Of all the mistakes with which our miserable Indian policy is so fully embellished, there is none more inexcusable than that which puts in charge of the most important agencies in the country men whose tenure of office is more secure than that of the party to which they belong. To see the spoils system at work, full blast, in the Indian bureau, and then find intelligent men wondering why the Indians are not under better control, is a thing to make men almost despair of the Government under which they live. No one can deal satisfactorily with the Indian except upon a good understanding of the Indian character. This untutored savage is not a bit of plastic material that we can mould to suit our purpose. He has the inherited attributes of unnumbered years behind him. Childlike in some particulars, he is fixed and immovable in others. And one of his characteristics is his entire confidence in or his entire contempt for the person with whom he has official relations. The Indian does not generalize. He tests practically the agent put in charge of him. If he finds that person a man of good qualities, firm, true to his word, fearless, yet generous and kind, he makes of him a friend. To him that agent is not at all the representative of a government of which he has only the simplest conception, but the man who possesses his confidence and trust. An agent who has established such relations with the Indian can exercise over him almost unlimited control. An agent who has incurred suspicion or dislike may discharge his duties with fidelity, and still be only a cause of constant irritation. It follows that, when once an Indian agent has secured an influence over the tribe with whom he deals, when they trust him and have formed a sort of attachment for him, he becomes one of the most valuable officials that any government could have. He can do more with the Indian, in peace or war, than an army with banners. It is by the influence of such men that treaties have been concluded, when the whole power of the Government could not have secured the assent of a score of Indians. It is through them that the Indians who have been neglected and seen the Government ignore its most solemn obligations have been brought to endure privation patiently. It is by their influence that conflict has been avoided in numberless cases. And this individual way of dealing with the Indian is the only way that has ever met with the slightest success.

"Consider, now, the atrocious folly of our practical politics. Here is an agency, where many thousand Indians are gathered, where an agent who knows his duty and does it has been established for many years, and where the Indians have come to like him and