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

Dr. Bruonsellach is the current archaeologist and explorer of Waldfred Germany, who has been at work with a company of excavators in Palestine, digging in the ruins of the ancient mounds and temples in the hope of bringing forth documents to surprise and edify 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 FINDINGS OF THE MSS.

The finding is thus told by Dr. Bruonsellach:

"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 Fellahein peasants over the land, and especially by those digging deep below the surface to the mound of the various Palestine excavation societies. At Jerusalem and Lachish they have brought up from the depths of the earth many 'finds' accounted 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 quarto 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 child, 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 precisely as upon the record of the gatekeeper at Jerusalem, published recently.

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

"The manuscript is very brittle. Like three of the facsimile that be rendered, and still another stigma as a stain, is mockbook under preservation. The whole is a plain—convincing proposition, that everything and every one is against him who has the divine treasure and stands alone. Every one misrepresents the words he utters; he is trodden down like dust and when darkness is round about him."

This pathetic prayer of sorrow is fortunately end at this season of universal 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 so 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 museum 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 relics.

Many interesting pieces of pottery and metal, used possibly by the old church fathers, have been found, but more precious than all, is this manuscript which has all the ear-marks of authenticity.

The discovery is the most remarkable of the many marvelous ones during the past few years. Dr. Bruonsellach has been associated with Dr. Bliss and Dr. Bliss, all most learned men, who have worked untiringly at the ruins. One of the mounds called Lathey, 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 1200 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 the 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 (these intensely human words of striving and prayer—may overthrow theories and upset some of the age 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 Americans Christians of every walk of life, preachers, professors and the great mass of the common people—those who once "heard him gladly"—the people for whom Jesus labored, thought, preached, died, and, as we know, prayed and wrote.

Dr. Bruonsellach has also found with this treasured manuscript a manuscript prayer by one of the disciples of Jesus, known as Yemyrahn, a name not hitherto known. He appears to have officiated as a preacher. Dr. Bruonsellach thinks that this is none other than the Apostle Paul, judging from his thought and style of composition. This is a part of his discovery.

"Waiting, waiting to 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 Jerusalem, will give forth the oracle. I will wake a voice for Gleb, for great joy, through the Saviour. Mark 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 for specialty good boys and girls, but the rest of the work he delegates to his assistants, who cut the trees down for him.

The dispensing given by Santa Claus in those days to his army of assistants were so good and thorough that to-day you find the Christmas tree so beautiful as when Santa Claus personally laid every stroke at the roots of the dear 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 vegetating at home or engaging his money in other 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 does work day and night without sleeping or eating, according to schedule. He catches his hens, and wrinkles his sticks, and is thankful for either.

The individual tags in stock forests of Christmas trees and has them brought to the city. He stocks the city 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 stock is called the "Middlemen." Everyone has heard of the "Middlemen," who come between the farmer and the consumer in the forests and among the trees from the woods to the city, there to place them where they can be sold.

Time was when the small boy and girl content to get any kind of a tree for a Christmas tree, but that day is long past. Even the boy of three knows a good Christmas tree when he sees it, and he demands a fir that resembles real 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 secrets from their fathers and grandfathers, and the Christmas tree season is to them a harvest of money. Those 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 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 the tree has plenty of space for the purpose. The tree also 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 the limits of home.

CHOPPING THE TREE.

Just at this season, if you happen to be in the vicinity of a Christmas tree stock you will hear the merry ring of the axe, and if you run out close enough you will see the tree fall at the hands of the woodman. If the woodman incorporate his business he will have servitors beside who will catch the tree so as to notice to tumble to the ground. They will lay it carefully in a pile with many others and at the time when it is loaded on great sleds to be drawn to the railroad stations.

You will notice that trees six feet tall are the most salable. This is the average size of a good Christmas tree as the height at which the average man can pick pockets from its branches.

A Christmas tree of six feet sells for about fifty cents unless it happens to be a tree that is very handsome, when it will command a dollar. The small shrubs of three feet or so, which are used in the dwellings of the poorer can be bought for a quarter. They are much sought for by people with small families, who like to set the Christmas tree up on the table, and when the children come around and view it at case "aunt."

Tags of twenty years ago had spread in size, and the tree is very good and he demands a fir that resembles as the balsam. In these days you get a balsam tree fragrant and waxing soft and feathery, for the same price which you used 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 sleigh 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, the bunches in a car load. You can judge of the enormity 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, which, in a month or so, will be unpacked and adapting you from the street corners.

THE COST.

The Christmas tree man who received from at the station pay only twenty-five cents a bunch for these 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 supposed.

Santa Claus, besides dealing in Christmas trees, deals also in Christmas greens, which come principally from the East, Delaware and New Jersey supply nearly all the greens of Eastern commerce, and their products are shipped to the far West. The late Blaine have a very delicate, feathery green which is much sought for at 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 say that he has a wonderful new material.

Santa Claus uses these greens for mottos and figures, such as wreaths, crosses and Christmas stars. The favorite greens for this use are ground pine, feathery leaf, and Princess feather. These are tied in sizes by the hands of the Polish children and are shipped in barrels to the cities. In the West, Wisconsin is the headquarters for the greens, and Chicago has there from ten thousands of dollars every year.

THE HOLLY.

A part of the Christmas green is the English holly, it comes mostly from Jersey. Jersey holly is crisp, red and bright, and it is used in large quantities by itself to decorate the windows, or in bulk in vases of green. Nearly all the real English holly comes from Jersey, though there are a few barrels of it from Southern Delaware. It takes five years to grow a Christmas tree, but the greens can be thinned every year, so they are the little sold when which have caused the great trades of the forest trees.

The Christmas tree farmer who plants a plant when he is a boy, will be able to sell the tree when he is grown to manhood, and if he keeps on cutting them every year, or contracting them, he will have a steady supply of trees as long as he lives and can work. A friend was a boy in the east. If the forest is large enough to cut the tree all the year around so his Christmas tree products.

But the man in the city who buys the trees are the ones, who enjoy the Christmas tree. They can tell by the clients during the summer how the Christmas tree year will be, and they make their Christmas tree preparations accordingly.

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

Santa Claus holds his all very kindly to the Christmas tree industry and is ready to aid in the distribution of gifts. He decorates those that are overlooked, even the corner just as though they were his own, and the man who stood up a behind tree at 12 o'clock Saturday night may wake up Christmas morning to find that the good old Saint has trimmed the tree so perfectly as though 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 single 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 sought.

The attendants of the Rose does not think that there is no one worthy to receive it. It only signifies that no one person has come forward conspicuously above the rest of the others to be extracted by so great a gift.

The Golden Rose is, correctly speaking, the Rose of Virtue. It originated in the thirteenth century when the Church needed a great deal of money, and, owing to the temporary loss of the world at that time, more difficult to procure.

ROSE OF VIRTUE.

The head of the church, wishing to encourage the growth of the virtues of character and generosity in people, had a piece of pure gold shaped from the solid ore. Upon each leaf he placed a diamond like a dewdrop, and in one of the roses just opened he placed a heart of pure ruby, which lay like a drop of blood in the gold.

This completed the gift. It is a mass of pure gold, and one Sunday, it was the Fourth Sunday in Lent, the Pope's new presents are taken from it to the person who seemed worthiest of it.

The only stipulation the institution of the Golden Rose said, was that the lines there has been great striving for it.

This year it is to be given to Her Royal and Imperial Highness Archduchess Giselda Louise Marie, Archduchess of Austria, in her own right, and Princess of Bavaria by her marriage with the Royal Highness Prince Leopold Maximilian Joseph Marie Antonius.

She is the oldest daughter of the late Queen Elisabeth 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 went absolutely prodigally in getting it up, and when it was completed he had to bear the expense attached to the presentation.

From one week to a month before it was time to give the Rose a papal private with several hundred men in 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 Rose 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 touched the Rose.

A COSTLY CEREMONY.

The papal delegates then travel with much state, and with great care lest the plant be injured, to the house 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 music which attended it was more than $20,000.

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 great 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, was it three years in succession, although the courtesies of Giselda make their heads at such a bestowal. Mary, Queen of Scots, got it the rear, and Maria Teresa, the greatest Queen Austria ever knew, also received it. Napoleon gave the Rose for a single meritorious action, and Isabella II., Queen of Spain, got it for, it is said, her success in keeping certain philosophies in the church. Queen Amelie of Belgium, who was a daughter of King Louis Philipe, of France, holds the Golden Rose and keeps it in a glass case, which is in turn, placed on a great the proof count. It is brought out only on rare occasions.

Everything connected with the Golden Rose has remarkable superstitions attached to it, one of which is that a drop of the attar of rose falling upon the dress at presentation will work a personality, and that, as long as the Rose, the owner of the rose can be traced by the scent of the Rose which travels with her. Often she wears the Rose present which the donnes on that day.

It is customary for the receiver of the Rose to donate for the rose to a bride prepare for the altar. Pope takes is the color scent and from also to the giver everything is now.

ITS SUPERSTITION.

At one time those who were opposed to 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 Spain, who was strangled by her father and the Empress Josephine, who was a lady of the Rose, and whose life ended so early away from Napoleon, queen Isabella, of Spain, the Queen of Naples and Queen Isabella, of Brazil, the Empress of Iron Pedro, not with records of a time kind of another, soon after receiving the Rose; but good people tell you that the Rose itself is a talis for all ills, and one sight of it will drive care 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 wise Popes of the most these have decided that it were best to let down the expense attached to it, and so the Rose—as it will be bestowed this year—while it is a beautiful thing, is not 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 buds and a few, many leaves, but the leaves have no diamonds upon them and there is no ruby in the Rose of Roses. It is just a rosebush 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 worldly 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 private and the officer of the noble guard who bear the Rose from Rome. This year it will cost the Princess Leopold, of Bavaria, $1,500 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 were, for a day or two. There 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:

"Receive, O royal 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 chanting the 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 those that love Him and keep His commandments."

The Princess Giselda is the oldest of three children of the late Empress of Austria, and in Her Sound unconditionally have rewarded for with the Rose of the survivors Giselda is the most unworthy from a churchly point of view. He was often chosen by her mother to transact good works and was often seen among the poor and distressed. To stricken Austria she has been everything. The Pope is said to have alluded her for the virtues of her mother and her own good, lowly qualities, which are most unusual for a Princess of the royal house of one of the principal countries of Europe.

Franz Joseph has longed to see the Rose in his own bereaved 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, nor are they Spanish Filipino 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 Japanese fashion and men as peasants. They are worshiped as 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. Inasmuch 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 to new one to them and they regard the religion as an old and opposing one. 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 reconstruction of the plan of the uses of the missionary funds now in existence. "Home missions" has hitherto meant the poor and degraded of the cities, but if war of be obviously unfair now to call our Colonies foreigners.

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 shrines of Pele, the god of the great volcano of Hawaii, and other gods. It was in propitiate Pel that Lilo-Lilo, the mother of Kamiani, laid down in her tent and starved herself to death. Pele was another of the Gods and lava, and the belief was that Pel could be stopped only by the sacrifice of the life of a member of the royal family. So Lilo-Lilo laid down in the night of the natives and starved herself.

In the Hawaiian islands the worship of idols is stronger to-day than it ever was. Each of the Gods 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.