

The time in which Jesus was born and the circumstances accompanying that event ought to be convincing proof to both Jews and Gentiles that He really was the true Messiah, even if His life and death did not furnish conclusive evidence of the fact. He came when the Roman empire was at the height of its glory, as predicted by Daniel. He came when Judea had just become a dependency of that empire, fulfilling the dying Jacob's prophecy, that Shiloh should come when the scepter had departed from Judah. His birthplace was Bethlehem, as announced by Micah. He was a descendant of David, as the genealogy proves, a fact appealed to by the early defendants of Christianity, Justin Martyr and Tertullian, as well known to the general public. And yet, though a descendant of the most celebrated royal house of Judah, He came—as the Prophets had foretold—surrounded by most humiliating circumstances. "He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief, and we hid, as it were, our faces from him. He was despised and we esteemed Him not." *Is. liii., 3.* Is there any other man born, in which prophetic statements regarding a coming Messiah are so literally fulfilled as in Jesus of Nazareth?

Wonderful lessons—and, oh, how difficult to learn!—are presented to mankind in the manner in which Christ enters the world He came to save. Viewed with a merely human eye, He appears to be only a frail infant, resting on straw in an uncomfortable oriental khan, for "there was no room for them in the inn." And still more, in the short-sighted human judgment, he was almost marked with the brand of shame. Had not even kindhearted Joseph contemplated the supposed propriety of privately abandoning the youthful mother? His entrance into the world and His whole life were such that His claim to divinity seemed incomprehensible. Is this not the son of Joseph, the carpenter, whom we all know? How can he be the promised Messiah?

But He was viewed in a different light by the inhabitants of celestial worlds. They were not deceived by appearances. They knew that true greatness does not depend on wealth nor on earthly glory and on what men generally approve and admire. It is also clear that God's work for the accomplishment of His plans and purposes on earth does not depend on what men would deem essential. When mankind is to be redeemed, not one of those who by the world were considered noble and great are chosen as instruments, but one of whom no man would have thought for that purpose. Never was so great work performed by man as that which Jesus did.

With His advent, a new era dawned on the earth. A religion inimitable in beauty and full of love was placed before our view. In contrast with other systems, His was free from tyranny. He proposed to break the fetters of soul and body and to extend the hand of fellowship to all nations and all individuals. And He was Himself the living personification of the principles He taught. Prejudices fell before the light of His Gospel. He rebuked the pride of mighty ones and unmasked

the hypocrisy of a false orthodoxy. He laid the foundations of political as well as religious liberty, prepared the way for the free development of the faculties of man and to the extension of knowledge in all directions. See how immeasurably vast a work was performed by one, from whom men in their own wisdom turned as an outcast! For He fought not with the weapons of men but with truth and righteousness.

Does not this suggest the idea that those who in this age turn in scorn from the servants of the Almighty, as did the world once from Jesus, are much mistaken and have not learnt the first lesson which every Christmas ought to bring home to them? Joseph Smith came, a mighty man of God, proven to be so by word and by works. But because he was of humble birth, unlearned, as the world takes it, poor, persecuted, many think themselves justified in rejecting him and his message. History repeats itself. But only those who cannot or will not comprehend the teachings of the past are misled by appearances. To the honest mind the circumstances under which the Christian Church was first founded in the commencement of our era and the re-establishment of the work in this age are so similar as to suggest the same Divine origination. Faith perceives this and makes the believer cheerfully repeat the first Christmas carol ever sung: "Glory to God on High and peace on earth."

### THE POWER OF THE QUEEN.

The question is often asked whether or not Queen Victoria has the veto power, like our President. This is a matter worth knowing, and the fact that her majesty has exercised no such power has a tendency of itself to cause our people and a good many of her own subjects to understand that under the British constitution she has no such prerogative. But this is an error. She can forbid a measure if it pleases her, and doubtless would do so; but she is too wise to do an act the inevitable result of which would be temporary political chaos and the immediate disruption of the government, and such a result would unquestionably attend the formal veto of any act of parliament.

It should be understood that, while Queen Victoria is a ruler in the conventional sense, she does not rule so much as does our President, who can exercise more power unchallenged in respect to the subject named and the appointment and removal of officers of the government in one term than the British monarch has during the whole of her reign. The last word, in fact, describes her ascendancy fully; she reigns but does not rule. The government is in the hands of the ministry and they are responsible to parliament, remaining in power only so long as a majority of that body is in harmony with them. Now if the Queen were to veto a measure that had passed both houses of the law-making power and received the approval of the ministry, the latter would instantly resign, because that is the English method; and if she thereupon called to her aid a new ministry favora-

ble to her views in the premises—while she would do of course—it is obvious that such body would have a majority in the house of commons against them and would be as powerless as so many automata. There would thus be a standstill; the machinery of government would be deadlocked, and the Queen would have to recall the old ministers or have a considerable row on her hands, such as no sovereign would invite or prolong if it came without inviting. These ministers would not respond unless her majesty had in the meantime signed the bill, which she would naturally do before sending for them, and after the storm there would be a calm.

The reader can readily understand from this that Victoria or any other head the British government may have is extremely unlikely to veto a bill. She holds a position in relation to her people similar to that of the child to his governess, who told him in pleasant tones—"My little dear, you can have anything you want; but you must not want anything you can't have."

### WHY?

Selling half-dollars at twice their face value is not so much to brag about after all. Uncle Sam has been coining 62 cents' worth of silver and palming it off for \$1 for some time.—*Chicago Mail.*

And yet you receive those 62-cent dollars for 100 cents in payment for subscription, advertising or any other patronage; of course you would not receive them for that unless you knew you could dispose of them on the same terms—that is, being able to purchase 100 cents' worth of anything you want. Come to think of it, did you ever hear of anybody refusing a standard dollar in payment for a full dollar's worth of anything purchased? And whatever will effect exchanges without depreciation or inflation on either side has some claims to recognition as money, has it not? If only 62 cents' worth of merchandise, why on earth do you give anybody a dollar's worth of your excellent paper for one of those coinages? That is the question.

### A JURY "CALLED DOWN."

That was a pretty hard case which the wires recently reported as having occurred in Chicago, wherein a jury refused to do its duty because the court would not allow them certain "creature comforts" while on duty. Damages were asked by a mother from a corporation because of the loss of a child nine years old through the company's negligence; the facts being admitted, the only thing to be determined was the amount of damages proper to be awarded. As soon as the panel retired, or rather immediately after, a bailiff came from them with a request for the judge (Brentano) to order the following supplies sent to the jury room:

One case export beer.  
One quart McBrayer whisky.  
One dozen Bass' ale.  
Three decks of cards.  
One quart Pepper whisky.  
One box Figaro cigars.