THE SCRANTON TRIBUNE- SATURDAY, DECEMBER 22, 1900.

LEST DAY STATE

Mrs. Charles Shook, Mrs. Potter, Mrs. Weather-bee, Misses Mame Davis, Susie Barnes. Tenors--Messrs. Joseph Bigsbee, Joseph Lenny, Professor Martin, J. Laird, H. Lees, J. H. Cousins. Bass--Messrs. Jonathan Broadbent, David Watkins,

Charles Shook, J. B. Evans, Organist-Miss Belle Green, Director-Professor J. H. Cousins,

Memorial Baptist Church.

RecitationEvan Treharne

Blakely Baptist Church.

10.30 A. M.

gramme follows:

Lord's Praver, in Concert,

Scriptures, Luke 2: 7-19.

will occur next Tuesday evening.

African M. E. Church.

For a Cold in the Head

Laxative Bromo-Quinine Tablets.

Prayer.

Prayer.

Offertory ...

Recitation, "Search for Santa Claus"

Annie Cook

Mary Jones

Mary A. Jones



the Penn Avenue Baptist church. This service will be in commemoration of St., John, the evangelist, whose name is so closely associated with the teachings of the order. December 27 is St. John's day, and the 30th being the Sabbath nearest to that date will be most appropriate for the public service. Dr. Pierce will preach upon "The Lion of the Tribe of Judah."

The drummer evang-list, Rev. W. H. Williams, conducts two Anti-Saloon league meetisgs tomorrow in the Presbyterian church, Wyoming, 10.30 a. m., subject, "Breaking Home Ties;" 7,30 p. m., subject, "The Last Romp with the Tiger." His appointments are as follows: Thursday, Dec. 27, 7.30 p. m., Presbyterian church, Mehoopany; Friday, Dec. 28, 7.39 p. m., Bap-tist church, Russell Hill; Sunday, Dec. 30, 10.30 a. m., Methodist church, Forty Fort; 7.30 p. m., Court Street Methodist church, Providence; Dec. 31 to Jan, 14, inclusive, Methodist church, Dunmore: Jan. 15 to 21, inclusive, Ash Street Methodist church; Jan. 22 to 28, inclusive, Jackson Street Baptist church; Sunday, Feb. 3, Luzerne, 10.30 a. m., Presbyterian church; 7.30 p. m., Methodist church: 4 p. Young Men's Christian association, Wilkes-Barre.

. . . The Railroad Young Men's Christian association workers have been pushing their membership canvass all through this month and the total now reaches 635. The success of the canvass will be celebrated by the members at their mid-winter rally on Saturday evening, the 29th. The famous Schubert quartette has been engaged for the occasion and will render a concert programme. H. O. Williams, of Richmond, Va., will give an address. Light refreshments will be served and all members are expected at the rally.

The Railroad Young Men . Christian association meeting Sunday will be addressed by Secretary W. W. Adair at 3.45 p. m. Subject, "Routes and Terminals." A railroad talk for all railroad people. Music by the Camrallroad people. brian quartette.

Mrs. Grace P. Offer, of Pittsburg, who is traveling in the interest of the Women's Mite Missionary society, will arrive Monday, and will address the women at the church, Howard place, Monday night.

Rev. E. E. O'Brien, evangelist of the Pittsburg African Methodist Episcopal conference, will spend another week with the pastor and members of the African Methodist Episcopal church. Meetings this week are a great success.

'The Sunday school of the African Methodist Episcopal church, Howard place, will receive its Christmas treat Tuesday evening.

NE WEEK from tomorrow even-ing, December 30, Rev. R. F. Y. Pierce, D. D., has invited the Masons of the city and their

Pierce, D. D., has invited the Masons of the city and their wives to attend divine services at 'enn Avenue Baptist church. This ce will be in commemoration of ohn, the evangelist, whose name evening preaching service at 7.50 p. m.; sub-ect of sermion, "The Advent, a New Way to Heaven." The church will be warm and comfortable; the scats are free, and you will relcome.

First German Methodist church, Adams aver First German Methodist church, Adams avenue and Vine street-G. Bobilin, pastor. Preaching services, 10.30 a. m. and 7.30 p. m.; Sunday school at noon and at the Taylor Avenue chapel at 2 p. m.; Epworth league meeting at 7 p. m. Christmas service on Christmas day at 10 o'clock n. m. In the evening the Sunday school Christ-mas festival will be celebrated. Wednesday evening the Taylor avenue Sunday school will hold its Christmas festival.

African Methodist Episcopal Church, Howard Place-Dr. D. S. Bentley pastor. Christmas praise. Preaching, 10:30 a. m.: subject, "The Song of the Angels."

Baptist.

Penn Avenue Baptist church, Penn avenue between Spruce and Linden streets. Christmas services all day. Preaching, morning at 10.30 and evening at 7.30, by the pastor, Rev. Robert F. Y. Pierce, D. D.; norming prayers in the lower temple at 9.45. Topic of the morning sermon, "Christmas Immortelles," The Sunday school will meet in the auditorium at 2 o'clock school will meet in the additional at others with special Christmas services. Glits will be presented by the members of the school to be sent to the poor, "A Christmas Star," em-blematic piece, will be rendered, written for this occasion by the paster. Sunday school at the Ameriman mission at 3.30 p. m.; Y. P. S. C. E. meeting at 0.30, Topic of evening sermon, "Following the Star, or, Modern Wise Men." First Baptist church, South Main avenue-Rev. S. F. Mathews, pastor. Christmas services morning and evening, 11.30 a, m. and 7.30 p. m. Subject for morning, "The Day Spring from or High," Luke 1: 7-8; subject for evening, "The Mystic Star, "Matt. 2:1. In the evening there will be special Christmas music; Sunday school, 2.30 p. m., at Plymouth church, Dr. Beddoc, superintendent; B. Y. P. U. service, 6.30 p. m. at Ivorite hall; Wednesday evening prayer meet-ing, 7.30 p. m., basement of the Welsh Baptiat church. All are cordially invited. cordially invited.

Jackson Street Baptist Church-Special ser-vices all day. Morning praver meeting at 9.30 o'clock; leader, Brother Mathew Holley. Preaching services at 10.20; Rev. Thomas de Gruchy D. D., will preach; "The Christmas Message." Sunday school at 2 p. m. The choir will ren-der Christmas music at every service. Evening Evening service at 7 o'clock sharp; praise service, Christservice at 7 o clock sharp; praise service, chiraf-mas anthenus, children's chorus, address by the pastor. Come, joy and gladness all day. You are all invited to attend all the services of our church. Strangers are always welcomed.

Green Ridge Baptist Church-Rev. W. J. Ford pastor. Morning prayer at 10; preaching at 10.30 and 7.30; subject in the morning. "The Coming of the Kingdom;" in the evening, "Pilate's Predicament." Special Christmas music at both services. The evening service will be the farewell service in the old church. Sunday school at 11.45; meeting of the Junior society at 3.30; prayer meeting of the senior society

at 6.30. Shiloh Baptist Church, Center street-Service at 10.45 and 7.30 p. m. There will be special sermons by the pastor, Rev. James A. Sumlar, morning and evening. The public is invited to worship with us. All are welcome Baptist church, Center street-Services Shiloh

at 10.45 a. m. and 7.30 p. m. There will be special sermons by the pastor, Rev. James A. Sumlar, morning and evening. The public is invited to worship with us, North Main Avenue Baptist church-Rev. S. G. Reading, pastor. Services at 10.30 a. m. and

Park street--Rev. F. S. Ballentine, rector. Ber-vices, 10.30 a. m., 2.30 p. m., 7.50 p. m. All seats free, All welcome.

Reformed Episcopal.

Grace Reformed Episcopal church, Wyoming avenue, below Mulberry street--Rev, George L. Alrich, pastor. Prayer and praise service at 9.59 a. m.; divine worship at 10.30 a. m. and 7.30 p. m., preaching by the pastor. A. m., "Remember the Sabbath," Exod. 20: 8-11; p. m., "True Courage," Acts 27: 29-25. Sents are free. Strangers cordially invited. Sabbath school at 12 m.; Y. P. S. C. E. at 6.30 p. m. Divine worship and communion at 10.30 a. m. on Clarist-mas morning. Subject of the sermon, "How Far mas morning. Subject of the sermon, "How Far Into the Night?" Iss. 21: 11-12; Bible class for lesson study on Wednesday evening at 7.30 p.

Evangelical Lutheran.

o'clock. All are welcome.

Evangelical Lutheran-Fourth Sunday in Ad-Gospel, John 1: 19-28; epistle, Phil 4: enti St. Mark's, Washburn and Fourteenth streets-Rev. A. L. Ramer, Ph. D., pastor. Services, 10.50 a. m., 7.30 p. m.; Luther league, 6 p. m.;

No.3 a. M., 7,30 p. m.; Latter league, 6 p. m.; Sunday school, 12 m.; Catechetical instruction, Monday, 7 p. m. Wednesday evoling service, 7,30; Mission Band, Saturday, 2,50, Morning subject, "The Denials and Confession of John the Deniative Science S subject, "The Denials and Confession of John the Baptist"; evening subject, "God Hath Visited His People." Christmas festival with Sunday achool, Monday, 7 p. m.
Holy Trinity, Adams Avenue and Mulberry streets--Rev. C. G. Spleker, pastor. Services, 10:30 a. m., 7:30 p. m.; Luther league, 6:30 p. m.; Sunday school, 12 m.; Cateehetkeal instruc-tion, Monday, 7 p. m.; Bible study, Wednesday, 7:45 p. m.; Mission Band, Saturday, 10 a. m. Morning subject, "Confessing Curist"; evening subject, "Awaiting Christ." Christmas festival with Sunday school, Wednesday, 7:30 p. m. St. Paul's Short avenue--Rev. W. C. L. Lauer, pastor. Services, 10:30 a. m., 7:30 p. m.; Sun-

pastor. Services, 10.30 a. m., 7.30 p. m.; Sun-day school, 2.30 p. m.; Catechetical instruction, 3.45 p. m.; Luther league, Wednesday, 7.30 p. m. Zion's Mifflin avenue-Rev. P. F. Zizelmann, pastor. Services, 10.30 a. m.; Sunday school, 2

), TIL. Christ church, Cedar avenue and Birch street-Rev. James Wilke, pastor. Services, 10:30 a. m., 7.30 p. m.; Sunday school, 2p. m. St. Peter's, Prescott avenue-Rev. John Ran-

St. Peter's, Prescott avenue--Rev. Join Ran-dolph, pastor. Services, 10,30 a. m., 7,30 p. m.; Sunday school, 2 p. m. Emanuel German-Polish Lutheran church, Reese street--Rev. Ferdinand Sattelmeir, pastor. Preaching in the Polish language at 10 a. m.; Sunday school at 2 p. m. Grace English Lutheran church (General

Synod), corner Madison avenue and Mulberry street-Rev. Luther Hess Waring, pastor. 9.30 a. m., Sunday school; 10.50 a. m., divine wor ship. Subject of sermon, "The Great Choice"; administration of the Holy Communion; offering for the benevolent work of the church; 6.45 p. m., Y. P. S. C. E.; 7.30 p. m.ti divine worship, "hristmas sermon by the pastor. The public is

Miscellaneous.

Calvary Reformed Church, Gibson street and Monroe avenue--Rev. Marion L. Firor, pastor, Services Sunday, 10.50 a. m. and 7.50 p. m.; Sunday school, 11.45 a. m.; Christian Endeavor, 0.45 p. m. Morning subject, "Who Are Thou?" evening, "Rejoicing in the Lord." Christmas services on Christmas Day, 6.30, a. m. and Sunday school, Christmas services Wednesday evening, Dec. 20, at 7.30 p. m.

All Souls' Universalist Church, Pine street, between Adams and Jefferson avenues-Rev. O. R. Beardsley, pastor; residence, 629 Adams ave nuc. Morning service, 10.30 a. m.; subject, "What Is Christ to Us?" a Christmas sermon; evening service, 7.30 p. m.; subject, "Who Are Christians?" Sunday school at 11.30 a. m.; Mrs. S. Benjamin, superintendent; Young Peo ple's Christian union meet at 6.45 p. in. Spe cial meetings begin Jan. 13. Let every menuber attend church.

The Congregational Prohibition church-Rev Dr. Bird, pastor. There will be regular preaching services on Sabbath evening at 7.30 in Morel's hall, on Breaker street, Green Ridge, subject "Shall We Have a Christmas Without a Christ?"

Zion United Evangelical church, 1420 Capous avenue-Preaching, 10.30 and 7.30 by the pastor, Rev. G. W. Messenger. Subjects, "Christ, The King" and "No Room for Christ"; Sunday school, 9.45; K. L. C. E., 6.30. All seats free. Every-

body welcome to all services. First Christian church, North Main avenueby the nastor, Rev. I

IN THE CHURCHES

[Concluded from Page 10.]

charge of the pastor, Rev. George E. Guild, D. D., and the superistendent, Mr. H. H. McKeehan, will complete the worship of the hour. At the evening service the choir will be assisted by Mrs.C.H.Genter, soprano; Miss Jennie Kaufman, soprano; Miss Eva Dor-RecitationJohnnie Harris Song, "Uncle Ned,"Johnnie Harris Recitation, "Santa Claus,"Mary A. Jones Recitation, "Right and Wrong," ...Ruth Williams Recitation, "Night Before Christmas" Nav. Jones sey, soprano; Howard E. Griffin, tenor; Archie Morgan, tenor; Harold Norton, bass, and will present the folm., followed by the regular prayer meeting at lowing programme of anthem and solo selections:

Anthem, "Let Us Now Go Unto Bethlebern," Men's Voices, Soprano Solo and Full Choir. Baritone Solo, "The New-Born King," Mr. Floyd Heberling Anthem, "O, Little Town of Bethlebern,"

(Words by Phillips Brooks). Mrs. Frank Norton and Choir.

Recitation, "Search for Santa Claus" Margarette Harry Song, "Pray Tell Us"Jane Williams Recitation, "A Christmas Carol," ..Ressle Powell Recitation, "A Secret"Jennie Leonard Recitation, "A New Church Organ." Luhn Shotts Recitation, "A Vagabond Boy" ... Esther Williams Soprano Solo, "Bethlehem," Miss Phoebe E. Smith Recitation, "Gullty or Not Gullty", May Simms Recitation, "Gullty or Not Gullty", May Simms Recitation, "Heavenly Father", Francis Davies Song, "My Name in Mother's Prayer," Tenor Solo, "The Christ Child," Mr. Joshua John

Anthem, "Cantique de Noel," (Soprano Solo and Obligato), Miss Smith and Choir, The music of the day will be under the direcion of Mr. Charles F. Whitten

Organist-Mrs. W. C. McDonald.

Providence M. E. Church.

Thomas Reese, Louis Jones, George Davies Tableaux, "A Maiden in Search of Happiness." Motion Song, "Nearer My God to Thee," Annie Hughes, Mary A. Jones, Bessie Powell A finely arranged programme will be given Christmas Sunday at the Providence Methodist Episcopal church by the well-trained choir of twenty-two Double Quartette, "The Cuckoo, voices. The solos, duets and quartettes will be sung by the well-known sing-ers, Mrs. J. H. Cousins, Miss Mame Davis, Miss Alice Laird, Mr. Jonathan At the Blakely Baptist church, of Broadbent, Professors Martin and which Rev. David Spencer, D. D., is

Cousins. MORNING SERVICE.

Scripture Reading. Alto Solo, "Birth of Christ"Tipton Miss Mame Davis.

Hymn 188Congregation

dian Broadbent and Full Choir, Hymn 189Choir and Congregation Benediction.

Beneffiction. Postlude in E Miss Belle Green.Ilandel EVENING SERVICE.

Hynn 107, "Hall Thou Long Expected Jesus" Prelude, Allegro In GC. II. Rinck Miss Green. 7,30 P. M. Hymn 103, "The Voice That Long in Dark-Hymn 198, Hark! the Herald Angels Sing," Choir and Congregation

Prayer. Anthem, "O, How Excellent,"Grinnell Sernion, "The Light of the World" les Shook, Misses Mame Davis, Susie Barnes, Anna Fadden and full Ladies' chorus, "Brightest and Best of the choir in concerted chorus,

Scripture Reading. Duct, "Songs of Praise the Angels Sing", Shelley Prayer. Mrs. Cousins and Miss Davis, Offertory in G Flat Miss Green. OffertoryO Grand finale, "Hallelujah Chorus,"Ha Benediction.

Anthem, "Angels Adore Him" Lyor Quartette and Soprano Solo, Mrs. Cousins, Miss Davis, Professor Martin, Jonathan Broadbent and Full Choir.

Hymn, "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name," Choir and Congregation Mr. Broadbent. dist Episcopal church:

Organ PreludeMiss E. F. Howard Hynn, "Joy to the World," J. Haydn Cousins Anthem, "The Shepherd's Choir." Mrs. J. H. Cousins. Anthem,

PERSONNEL OF THE CHOIR.

Mary Armstrong, Margarette Williams, Altos-

The Birth of Christ

Matt. ii, 1-11.

Sopranos-Mrs. J. H. Cousins, Misses Mac Gill, nna Fadden, Alice Laird, Maggie Serviss,

Bass solo, "The New-Born King", .J. E. Nelson ... Wiegand Solo and Chorus, "Prince of Peace" Choir Soprano solo, "Oh, Shining Light," Doxology and Benediction.

Alto Solo, "Birth of a Saviour,", Mrs. E. Nelson RUBBER TIRED CABS AND CARRIAGES; BEST Postlude in C



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MATTER HOW BLEMISHED THE SKIN, FACE BLEACH WILL MAKE IT PERFECT

41

Rt. Rev. Bishop Hoban will usher In the New Year by celebrating a mass at midnight in St. Peter's cathedral. 7.30 p. m.; Sunday school at 2 p. m. Dudley Street Baptist church--Preaching by the pastor, Rev. J. L. Kreamer. 10.30 a. m.

Tomorrow's Services Methodist Episcopal.

Elm Park Church-Prayer and praise service at 9.30 a. m.; preaching at 10.50 a. m., by Homer Eaton, of the New York Book Concern; children carrols and extra music at this service at 12 m., a short Bible study in Sunday school room; Sunday school at 2 p. m., and Epworth League at 6.30 p. m. At 7.50 p. m. the Christ-mas song service, the usual extensive pro-At the mission, 1519 Pine street nday school at 9 a. m.; Epworth League at 6.30 p. m.

simpson Methodist Episcopal church-Rev. R. Sweet, D. D., pastor, Morning pravers at preaching services at 10.30 and 7.30, ser-by the pastor: Sunday school at 12; Junior Ebworth league at 2.50; Young men's meeting at 4; Epworth league at 6.30. At the morning and evening services the choir, under the leadership of Professor W. W. Jones, will render spe music. A musical treat is promised all at

ténding. Free seats. A cordial welcome. Asbury Methodist Episcopal church, corner Monsey avenue and Delaware street-Rev. W. G. Simpson, D. D., pastor. Devotional meeting of the Brotherhood of St. Paul at 9.30 a. m.; preaching at 10.30 a. m.; Sunday school at 2.30 p. m.; Epworth league at 6.30 p. m.; preach-ing at 7.30 p. m. The services will have special usic features. Prayer meeting, Wed-Christmas m nesday at 7.30 p. m. Business meeting of the Brotherhood of St. Paul on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month at 7.30 p. m. Sunday school Christmas music on Monday evening with grand music. Seats free and all wel-

Court Street Methodist Episcopal church-Rev. C. Lyman, pastor. Class, 9.45 a. m., O. D. e Witt, leader; preaching at 10.30; Sunday 11.45, G. R. Clark, superintendent; ood of St. Paul, 3 p. m.; Junior league, school, 11.15, G. 3.30; Epworth league, 6.30. Special Christmas song service by the choir, 7.30. All welcome. song service Seats free.

Ash Street Methodist Episcopal church-Rev J. R. Austin, pastor. Morning preaching service at 10.30, subject, "Christmas Chimes"; class meeting at 11.30 a. m., J. E. Masters, leader; Sunday school at 2 p. m., E. W. Stone, superintendent; Epworth loague at 6.45 p. m., leader; evening preaching service at 7.30. A cordial welcome to all.

Nay Aug Methodist Episcopal church-Rev. J. R. Austin, pastor. Sunday school at 2.30 p. m.,



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atory diseases: days' treatment and medical advice free HYOMEI Outsits \$1.60. Trial Outsits 25c. All

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Memorial Baptist church—Tomorrow at the usual hours, the pastor, Rev. W. F. Davies, will preach at both sessions, Welsh in the morning and English in the evening; Bible school at ? p. m. Summintendut Genera Davies m., Superintendent George Davies.

Presbyterian.

First Presbyterian Church-Services appropri-ate to the Christmas season will be held both morning and evening on Sunday, Dec. 23. Dr. McLeod will preach. Arrangements have been nade to have a re-union of all the members of the church at a special Communion service on Dec. 30. As this will be the last Sunday of the year and the last Sunday of the Century the hope is expressed by the pastor and elders o the church that every member will be presen A service preparatory to Communion will be

held next Wednesday evening, Dec. 26, Second Presbyterian church-Services, 10.00 : m., 7.30 p. m. Christmas services morning and evening. Dr. Robinson will preach in the morn-ing on "The Wise Mon" and will give an address in the evening at the Christmas praise service A cordial invitation is extended to all for services.

Green Ridge Presbyterian church-Rev. I. J Lansing, pastor; Rev. L. R. Foster, assistant pastor. 10.30, worship, special Christmas music and sermon, subject, "The Faith of the Wise Men"; 12, Bible school; 6.30, Christian Endeavor: 7.30, worship, special Christmas music and sermon, subject, "Childhood Central in Christianity." A cordial invitation and wel-

Providence Presbyterian Church-Pastor, Rev Dr. George E. Guild. Special Christmas music at 10.30 a. m. and 7.30 p. m. The Sunday school will attend in a body the morning scssion. Endeavor meeting at 0.35 p. m. Washburn Street Presbyterian church-Rev

John P. Moffat, D. D., pastor. Services at 10.50 a. m. and 7.30 p. m.; Bible school at 12 m.; Young People's C. E. at 6.20 p. m.; prayer meet-ing, Wednesday, 7.30. Christmas music and ser-mons morning and evening. A double quartette, choir, also the Bible school orchestra, morning and evening. The pastor will preach Christmas sermon morning and evening. All cordially welome. Adams Avenue Chapel, New York street-

Preaching service at 10.30 a. m.; Sunday school at 3 o'clock; Mr. Chandler, superintendent. A 6.45 p. m. The Rev. Jaines Hughes, pastor, will preach a funeral sermon for his daughter in the evening at 7.50. A very hearty invi-tation is given to all who may desire to wor-ship here. pear.

Episcopal.

Saint Luke's Parish--Rey, Rogers Israel, D. D., rector: Rev. E. J. Haughton, senior curate; Rev. M. B. Nash, junior curate. Fourth Sunday in Advent. St. Luke's Church-7.39 s. m., Holy Com-St. Lake's Content-1, 35 E. B., Holy Con-munica; 10.30 a. m.; morning prayer and ser-mon, 7.30 p. m.; evening prayer and sermon, 9.15 a. m. Sunday school and Bible classes.
 St. Mark's, Dummore-8 a. m., Holy Con-muter and serminal sectors.

munion; 10.30 a. m.; morning prayer and ser-

mon; 7.50 p. m., evening prayer and sermon 5 p. m., Sunday school and Hible classes, East End Mission, Prescott avenue-2 p. m. Sunday school and Bible classer; 3.30 p. m. - 333. evening prayer and sermon. bloodshed.

South Side Mission, Fig street-2.30 p. m., Son day school and Bible classes. St. George's, Olyphant-2.30 p. m., Sunday school and Bible classes; 3.30 p. m., evening

prayer and sermon. Church of the Good Shepherd, corner Green

Ridge street and Monsey avenue-Rev. F. R. Bate-man, rector, Fourth Sunday in Advent, Holy Communion, 7.30 a. in. t morning prayer, litany and serune, 10.30, and Sunday school and Bible classes, 2.30 p. m.; evening prayer and sermon

St. David's church--Rev. Edward James Mc Henry, rector. Celebration of Holy Eucharist, 7.30; matins, litany and sermon, 10.30; evensong and address, 7.30; Sanday school, 2.30, Christ's church, corner Washington avenue and

INTRODUCTION .- In the month of December he rural population of ancient Italy erlebrated

a festival, called Saturnaha, whose origin was ascribed to the gods. At first it was a kind of harvest home occasion, not unlike our Thanka-giving. Under the emperors games were introduced. The festivitics began about the 19th and continued a week, during which all business was suspended, social distinctions were

forgotten, crowds of people pressed along the horoughfares, presents were exchanged, teasting and revelyy were in the houses, and all classe nude merry. In the second Christian century, the bishop of Rome instituted a moveable feast in commemoration of the oleth of Christ. The eastern churches observed it in April and May, In the fourth century, after due consideration,

Sunday School

Lesson

for

December 23.

the festival of the nativity was fixed on the 25th of Desember. It has been thought by some that this was done to displace the heathen ob-servances above mentioned. Whether designed servances above mentioned. Whether designed or not, it has that effect. For many centuries the rejoicing at this time of the year has been tempered by thoughts of the advent. The le-

son of the day covers incidents connected that event. VISITORS .- Luke records the visit of the shepherds on the morning after the birth, and the presentation in the temple at Jerusalem. Josoph and Mary must have returned to Bethlehein, perhaps to complete the listing ordered by Cuesar (Luke ii: 1), while their other visitors came from the east, probably from the ancient home of Abraham (Gen. x: 25). They were called wise men, a class of who, like the friends of Job, devoted themselves to the study of phil-osophy and religion. By many it is believed that they had access to the prophetic writings of Israel, which, by the captivity, had been ex-tensively distributed among the learned. There was a general expectation throughout the world that an important personage was about to ap-

These wise men had seen a star (Numb xiv: 17), which they had interpreted as an omen of the birth of a king. They came, therefore, to Jerusalem, the capital of the na-tion, supposing that the infant Prince would be among those in authority. Their purpose was praiseworthy. It was no idle curio-ity, neither spirit of enulty that brought them, they desired simply to pay their homage (iss. ix: 3). In this they may have been moved by the good

spirit of God. ANXIETY.-The appearance of these men

Jerusalem, their statement of what they had seen before they left home, their qustion and their declared purpose, caused no small commotion. Herod was greatly troubled. An Edom-ite by descent, a proselyte to the Jewish reli-gion, he had come to the throne by war and doodshed. Ambitious and cruel, he feared rival, but probably knew something of the

old-time predictions of the Messiah. The royal family, sepecially the sons who succeeded this monster, would share his anxiety. They would natuarlly communicate their thoughts to subordinates in the public service, and the feeling of insecurity would gradually pervade all official circles. It is possible that the church party and the people would be divided. Pions

the theme would be on every lip. great joy entered the heart of Herod, for the ex-of which he needed fuller information. eutio Wher is this child, the prospective King? He is not in the palace, neither in Jerusalem. The chief priests and scribes, the high officials of the He was in a house when the wise men can (Vetse 11).

surch, were called together and consulted. they were not, as a rule, men of piety,- (2 Chr. xxxvi: 14), but they were acquainted with the Scriptures. Seated in the great counsel chamber they represented the best learning of the nation (Matt. ii: 7). Herod required them to tell him "where Christ should be born." For their reply they searched the sacred writings, her needed they to search long. The custodians of the parchments, with more care and precision than we exercise now, had a system of indexing by which any subject might b quickly examined (John v: 39), and every de tall concerning the Great King might easily be traced. The proof text was found (Micah v: 2), and the answer was given, in the very language of the old prophet, who had written seven

centuries before. Here is the first Jewish tes-timony to Jesus delivered in His infancy, the beginning of that overwhelming evidence which afterward was employed in convincing the people that God's Annointed had come.

ORDERS .- Having obtained the desired infor nation, Herod called the wise men and inuired concerning the time when the star ap-This was the second step in working peared. out his mendish design. Because afterward he ordered the salughter of all the innocent 2 years 10) old and under (Ch. ii: 16), it is thought by some that that indicated the time which they gave him. They were then sent to Bethlehem, with instructions to search for the child and to return to Herod and bring him word. He He would make these wise and good men the ad-vance agents of his crime. What consummate value agents of his crime. What consul-hypocrisy is this? What bellish hate? The Lord of glory began His career with a murder-onus king in search of Him (Psalm ii; 3). It was a right thing which Herod proposed-to worship Jesus, emblematic of that honor which all kings must ultimately pay Him (Rev. xx); 21). But this concealed purpose was the ear-liest expression of that ennity of the unregenmark of their goodness. erate heart which pursued Him throughout His career and caused His ignominious death on the

cross (Mark xv: 32).

JOURNEY .- The wise men departed from the JOURNEY, —The wise men departed from the presence of Herod, having learned what they sought, the rity of the Redeemer's birth. Beth-lehem, a little quiet community, perched like a bird's nest among the toeky hills of Judah, lay five miles south of Jorusalem. The home of Jease and of his great son, David (I Sam, yvi; 4), it was famed, not in Israel only, but in all other lands as well. As the travelers moved lowward, that same star which they had seen in their own country, whose guidance they had followed, went before them. By it they discan the The of the problem is a possible that the church of the problem is possible that the church party and the people would be divided. Pions sculs there were, waiting prayerfally for the coming of the Promised One (John 1: 45), and many were weary of Roman rule (Acts 1: 6). But, on the other hand, party because of honor and enclument, many desired to retain the existing order, quile content to be under the rule of Cassar (John Xix; 12). The discussions reisting order, quite content to be under the rule of Caesar (John xix: 12). The discussions re-sulting from this diversity of opinion and inter-

would add to the general excitement, until | it become stationary, the magi, knowing their search was successful, were filled with

J. E. Gilbert, D.D.

Secretary of American Society of Religious Education.

Mrs. S. J. Morton

WORSHIP,-Jesus was born in a stable and tid in a manger (Luke ii: 16). Our lesson says

It has been supposed that vas able to secure for mother and child mor infortable quarters than those at first obtained and tradition represents that the women of the town, on hearing of the advent, offered their houses to the Little Stranger. It must have been an exciting occasion when these visitors from a far country gained admission to the dwelling-honorable men seeking a child! The intelligence must have been rabidly carried inte all 'arts of the village, drawing the people together, doubtless, in great numbers. Fall down prostrate, their faces to the floor, Falling Oriental custom, the wise men worship the boy the future King. Then opening their treasures brought probably on the backs of camels, they presented their glifs, a custom in eastern coun-tries from time immemorial (Gen. xxxiii; 8), when inferiors would humble themselves in the

presence of the great. "Gold, frankincense and nvirh" were offered, the things usually bestowed upon kings (1 Kings x: 10). WARNED .- Wicked men are not always sui. fered to act their pleasure. Sometimes the spirit of God restrains them by moving directly

upon their minds and hearts (Ex. xviii: 11). At other times that spirit prompts other men so to act as to thwart their designs (Psahn lxxvi) Herod will not be permitted to destrothis boy Jesus, whose time for sacrificial death this buy stears, whose time to sacrificial death is subsequent to a long and noble service for truth (Matt. xvi; 21). The wise men whom he would employ against llim, by a dream or vision, a method long established (Numb. xli; 6), and frequently used duving the evangelical history (Matt. xxvii; 19), were made aware of the kine?, purpose. The communication of the the king's purpose. The communication of this intelligence to their minds caused their return to their own country without visiting Jerusa-lem again, leaving Herod to devise another scheme of more extensive slaughter, by which he went into history as the most cruel heartless of men (Verses 10-18). This ac This act of the Magi, under Divine instruction, is a further

REFLECTIONS .- The events of this les orshadow the entire life of Christ, and the his-my of the centuries that followed His birth.

by their attitude toward Him men have class-field themselves as enemies or friends. This wicked have opposed Him, sometimes with re-louters flay, resorting to the basest measures y preventing the spread of His Kingdom There can be nothing but an irrepressible con-flict between Jesus and all the powers of dark-ness (1 John, iii: 8), and in that conflict there he no result other than the contusion of latter. But the good and wise of all them at His teet. They have bowed down with reverence before Him and owned Him as them at his teet. They have bowed down with reverence before Him and owned Him as Lord. They have gone out from Him into di-tant parts, loyal and devoted to His cause. In the midst of the rejoicing in this festival week the midst of the rejoicing in this festival was it is important for every student of these lessons to adjust his relations to thrist. To all who will come to Him, led by that spreading gloss, will come that of the star that hung over Bethexceeding that of the star that hung over Beth-lehem, we are able to promise a merry Christ-

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