

REMARKABLE CHRISTMAS CRIB AT ST. PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL



One of the most interesting Christmas cribs ever seen in this city will be a feature of the Yuletide effects at St. Patrick's Cathedral, State street east of Second. An interesting article on the Christmas crib and its history has been given in the Telegraph by Father T. B. Johnson, one of the assistant rectors under Mr. M. M. Fassett at the Cathedral. It is as follows: "The crib, or manger, in which, according to tradition, our Saviour was laid after His birth, was probably the receptacle in which food was served to domestic animals. From quite an early date in our era Christians generally believed that, on the first Christmas night, an ass and an ox shared with the Holy Family the shelter of the grotto at Bethlehem, a conviction influenced, perhaps, by the text of the Prophet Isaiah (1, 3): 'The ox knoweth his owner and the ass his master's crib.'"

The little town of Bethlehem, about six miles from Jerusalem, is built upon two hills and stands nearly 2,400 feet above the level of the sea. It is in the more eastern of those hills that is still shown the cave in which Christ was born. As to the authenticity of the place our earliest witness is the famous Christian apologist, Justin Martyr, who, in his Dialogue with Trypho, written about 132-135 A. D., informs us that "when the Child was born in Bethlehem, since Joseph could not find a lodging, he took up his quarters in a certain cave near the village" (c. 78). Thus, within four decades after the death of the last of the Apostles, St. John, it would appear from the employment by this writer of the expression 'a certain cave' that the actual cave was then well known to the Christians of the Holy Land. That this conjecture is well founded is confirmed by the testimony of the greatest Christian writer of the third century, Origen. In his well-known work against the pagan philosopher Celsus, Origen alludes to the grotto in the following terms: "If any one desires to satisfy himself, without appealing either to the prophesy of Micah, or to the history of Christ, as written by His disciples, that Jesus was born in Bethlehem, let him know that, in ac-

cord with the Gospel narrative, at Bethlehem is shown the grotto where He first saw the light, and the manger in the cave where He was wrapped in swaddling clothes. And this sight is greatly talked of in surrounding places, even among the enemies of the faith, it being said that in this cave was born that Jesus who is worshiped and revered by the Christians" (Contra Celsus, l. 51). So that, according to Origen, about the year 248, when his book against Celsus was written, the cave and the manger of Bethlehem were familiar landmarks of Christianity in Jerusalem and the vicinity. "The next important date in the history of the grotto of the Nativity is that of its adornment by the pious mother of Constantine the Great, the Empress St. Helena. After her conversion to Christianity the empress took the keenest interest in the places most closely associated with the earthly life of Christ. It was Helena who first converted the grotto into a chapel, adorning it with precious marbles and other costly ornamentation, while at the same time her son, Constantine, erected over the grotto a great basilica, which, with modifications, remains to the present day. "It was probably in the seventh century that the relics preserved in the Church of St. Mary Major as portions of the manger of Bethlehem were first brought to Rome. But, although these relics were regarded with the greatest veneration, the idea of reproducing something in the nature of a fac simile of the scene of the Nativity appears to have originated with the lovable Saint of Assisi, in the thirteenth century. It was constructed by a friend of St. Francis, named Giovanni Velita, and consisted of a grotto, showing in miniature the holy-birth Saviour, receiving the adoration of His mother and foster-father, and of the shepherds of Bethlehem. The success of the Grecio experiment was instantaneous, and Christmas cribs were within a few years found in Franciscan as well as other churches in every country of Europe. "On this coming Christmas Day, at the pontifical high mass (5.30 a. m.) in St. Patrick's Cathedral, the people of Harrisburg will have an opportunity of seeing an example of the latest type of Christmas crib, containing some special features that were not impossible before the nineteenth century. The crib ordered for the Cathedral will consist of a grotto which, when erected, will be eleven feet high, eleven broad and five feet deep. Twenty-four figures will be shown, including, by a pardonable anachronism, the Wise Men from the East, as well as the Holy Family and the shepherds. The grotto will be lighted by concealed electric lights, which will throw a soft light on the various figures in the cave beneath."

Will Your Home Present That Cheerful and Real Home-Like Appearance on Christmas Morning?

A NEW PIECE OF FURNITURE OR A NEW RUG may help a great deal to make your house what it really ought to be on Christmas Day. Our large stock of furniture and our liberal credit system are at your service right now to help you.

Gift suggestions

There is no more suitable gift for Father, Mother and other Grown-ups than a nice piece of furniture. We herewith submit a list of articles all of which make useful and ornamental presents.

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- Chiffoniers
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- Iron Beds
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- Couches
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- Lounging Chairs
- Parlor Tables
- Library Tables
- Pedestals
- Tabourettes
- Costumers
- Extension Tables
- Parlor Suits
- Bed Room Suits
- Dining Room Suits
- Living Room Suits
- Tea Wagons
- Serving Tables
- Buffets
- China Closets
- Smoker Sets

PICTURES

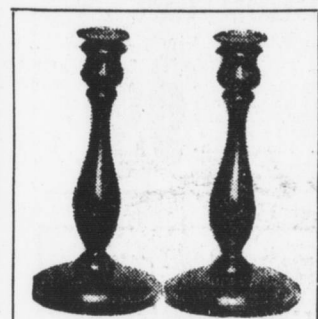
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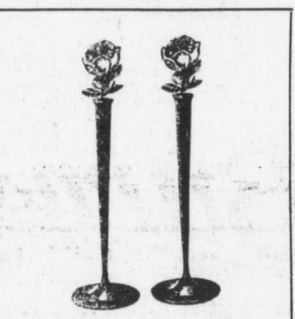
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50 more pairs of these \$3.00 Solid Mahogany Candlesticks go on sale to-morrow at half price. Beautifully finished with heavy crystal top. No phone orders.



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Brass Candlesticks With Globes \$2.50
Regular selling price, \$3.50. Ornamental as well as useful. Stand 14 inches high. This will be an appreciated gift.



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Artistic in design; strongly made of Willow in Verd Green finish. All sizes and shapes.

GOLDSMITH'S FOR GOOD FURNITURE Walnut to Locust above Second.

Socialists Want War Pushed to Bitter End

Paris, Dec. 21. — The Socialists of Paris and of this district met in private session yesterday. It was reported, voted almost unanimously that France should pursue the war so as to render the defeat of imperialism in Germany more effective, the resolution put it, and peace more durable.

German Successes Due to Munitions Preponderance

London, Dec. 21. — "The successes of the Germans have been due almost entirely to the mechanical preponderance they achieved at the beginning of the war," said David Lloyd-George, Minister of Munitions to-day. "Their advances eastward and southward were due to this mechanical superiority, and our failure to drive them back in the west or check their advance in the east was due to the tardiness with which the allies developed their mechanical resources."

Declare An Attack on Saloniki Inevitable

Saloniki, Dec. 20, via Paris, Dec. 21. — The highest Greek military authorities declare it to be their belief that an Austro-German attack on Saloniki is inevitable. The Greek general staff will quit Saloniki to-morrow.

"Too Late Dogged Allies Every Step" Says Papen

London, Dec. 21. — The speech by David Lloyd-George, minister of munitions, in the house of commons last night, furnished a fresh opportunity for the Times and the Daily Mail to attack the government. In an editorial this morning the Daily Mail says: "The speech contains the gravest indictment yet drawn against the government. 'Too late' is written in letters of fire upon the government records. Too late in aiding in Belgium, too late to save Serbia; too late in the Dardanelles; too late with munitions—these words have dogged the allies' every step." The Times says editorially: "It is a melancholy and humiliating story in which the words 'slow' and 'late' recur with painful frequency."

RUSSIAN FLEET BOMBARDS VARNA

[Continued From First Page.]

fort to land troops, were not borne out, subsequently. Everything indicates that the Greek frontier will be crossed by the Austro-German, Bulgarian and Turkish forces as soon as they are ready, despite the protests of Greece. The Turks are reported to have concentrated two divisions close to the border. Turkey Able to Help. Turkey will be able to supply Germany with quantities of cotton and copper and other needed materials as soon as the transportation problem is solved, which is expected to be soon, declared Dr. Nazim Bey, secretary of the young Turks' committee, in an interview in Berlin. The Albanian port of Durazzo is said to be the latest objective of the Teutonic-Bulgarian campaign in the Balkans. Strong forces are believed to be marching across Albania in an effort to forestall Italian occupation on the coast. In the meantime, there is no indication of the development by the central powers of an offensive against the allies in Macedonia. On the contrary, it is reported the Bulgarians are endeavoring to themselves along the Serbo-Greek border. Forty-four Air Flights. The first concrete evidence of friction between Greeks and Bulgarians comes from Epirus where Bulgarian bands and Greek forces, according to press dispatches have come in conflict. If an offensive movement toward Saloniki is undertaken it is hardly likely Greece will interfere, as she must grant the same facilities to the central powers as she accorded the entente allies if the present policy of neutrality prevails. While the German newspaper comments show they are concentrating troops along the front of Greece's Macedonian border the entente allies are ceaselessly debarking men and munitions at Saloniki. Several months ago the Bulgarians were reported to be concentrating troops along the front of Greece's Macedonian border the entente allies are ceaselessly debarking men and munitions at Saloniki. Several months ago the Bulgarians were reported to be concentrating troops along the front of Greece's Macedonian border the entente allies are ceaselessly debarking men and munitions at Saloniki. Several months ago the Bulgarians were reported to be concentrating troops along the front of Greece's Macedonian border the entente allies are ceaselessly debarking men and munitions at Saloniki.

GEN. RUZSKY RELIEVED

London, Dec. 21. — A Petrograd news agency dispatch says that an Imperial ukase relieves General Ruzsky from command of the Russian armies on the northern front but continues him as a member of the council of the empire and of the supreme military council.

Bulgars Are Discontented With German Arrangements

Paris, Dec. 21. — A Rome dispatch to the Havas Agency dated December 20, says the newspaper Secolo has received from its Seres (Macedonia) correspondent the following: "Russo-Bulgarian deserters report that the discontent with the German officers' arrangements is increasing in the Bulgarian army. Near Strumitsa a Bulgarian soldier fired three he-

General DeWet With 118 Treason Prisoners Freed

London, Dec. 21. — General Christian DeWet, one of the leaders of the South African rebellion against the British government in 1914, who was convicted of treason at Bloemfontein, Union of South Africa, last June, has been released from prison, as have 118 other high treason prisoners, according to a dispatch to Reuters' Telegram Company from Johannesburg.

General French Bidding Adieu to Army in France Propheesies Early Victory

London, Dec. 21. — Field Marshal Sir John French Saturday issued the following order of the day before leaving the army on the western front: "In relinquishing command of the British army in France I wish to express to the officers, the noncommissioned officers and men, with whom I have been so closely associated during the last sixteen months, my heartfelt sorrow in parting with them before the campaign in which we have been so long engaged together has been brought to a victorious conclusion. I have, however, the firmest conviction that such a glorious ending to their splendid and heroic efforts is not far distant, and I shall watch their progress toward this final goal with intense interest, but in the most confident hope. "The success so far attained has been due to the indomitable spirit and dogged tenacity which knows no defeat and the heroic courage so abundantly displayed by the rank and file of the splendid army, which it will ever remain the pride and glory of my

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By actual count—with all reserve stock unpacked—we have but fifty-eight more Victrolas to offer.

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| Six 10-inch Double-face Records | 4.50 | Records, your selection | 10.00 |
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