



CHRISTMAS AND THE DARKEST DAY

By JOHN E. DOLSEN

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EVERY day the sun grows colder,
Riding lower through its arc.
Will it, as the year grows older,
Leave us always in the dark?

But we know that science teaches
'Twill begin its upward climb
When its lowest point it reaches,
At the solstice—Christmas time.

Earth to all her utmost regions
Shuddered 'neath the march of Rome,
Whose triumphant, pagan legions
Dragged their loot and captives home.

Must her rule go on, unceasing?
Would her armaments be hurled,
With an insolence increasing,
'Gainst a servile, helpless world?

Were Rome's gods alone undying?
And must other nations crook
To her Caesar, deifying
Him with suppliant word and look?

When it seemed her ruthless power
Nothing on the earth could stem,
In that saddest, darkest hour
Christ was born at Bethlehem.



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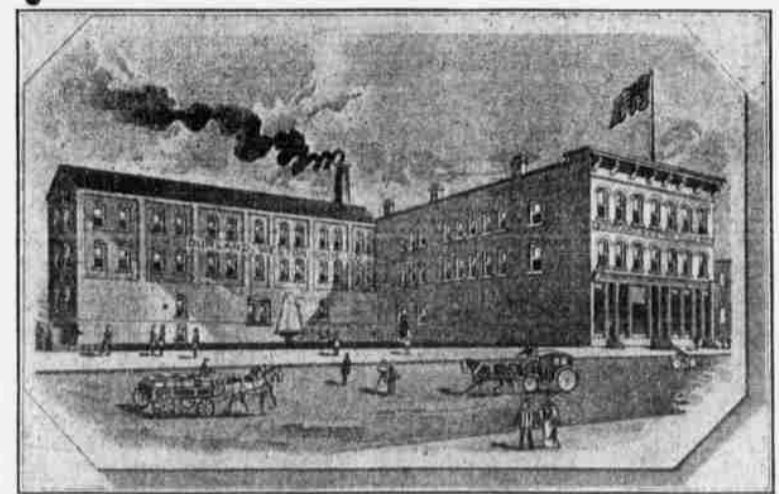
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