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PASSION PLAT

At Ober Ammergau.

Re-enacted During Summer Months of 1910

No spectacle in the history of the world, ancient or modern, has compared with the Passion Play presented every ten years in the picturesque village of Ober Ammergau. Four times in the last forty years the devout villagers have reenacted the scenes incident to the closing days of the Saviour's life During the Summer months of 1910 the quaint Bavarian villagers of Oher Ammergau will re-enact this greatest of all religious plays, in accordance with the selemn vows made by their ancestors many years ago. Thousands of people from all nations are now preparing to visit Ober Ammergan next summer -in fact, the Passion Play will attract the elite of the most highly civilzied nations of the world.

The story of the origin of the Passion Play is of great interest. Two hundred and seventy years ago, at the time when the long thirty years' war was devastating Germany, a disastrous attack of plague swept the villages and valleys of the Bavarian Tyrol. The plague hit Partenkirchen, Mittenwald and indeed all the larger towns, which were devastated by it and the cities were depopulated as thoroughly as though blasts of fire had burned the life from every street and alley. So, through scenes of horror, all the larger towns became infected with the fell disease; but in the little village of Ober Ammergau there was no plague. It was an oasis of life and hap. piness in a desert of suffering and disease.

In order that the infection of the desert might not enter this isolated village of Ober Ammergau, the village authorities drew a cordon about the hamlet already protected by nature by its circle of mountains and forbade anyone to pass from the happy valley into the perilon while while the conditions, of course, included that none should penetrate from the plague-stricken regions into the charmed circle thus exempt. As it happened, however, a native of the village who had been for some time working at Eschonlohe, a village at the foot of the Ettalberg, where the plague was raging furiously, was seized with a sudden homesickness, and unknown to any of the village magnates, returned, finding his way by night over the mountains. Three days afterwards he lay dead of the dreaded plague and no less than forty of his fellow villagers succumbed to the same cause.

It occurred to the villagers, in their agony of terror, that a pious vow might possibly propitate Heaven and turn the vengence from their hearths and homes. They then and there, in solemn assembly, consulted as to what act of theirs would be most pleasing to the Almighty, and finally it was resolved that then and every ten years afterwards should be performed with all due reverence and solemnity a play which would set forth the life, death and mediation of the Redeemer. From that time it is asserted, the plague was stayed in the village and the vow has been kept strictly and religiously, the decennial connection being only nee broken since 1634 in order to establish the performance at the beginning of every decade; for which a fresh start was made in the year 1680.

The Passion Play consists of eighteen acts ir scenes, together with a prologue. The p'ay begins with Christ's entry to Ierusalem and, as the play develops, the speciator witnesses a series () tableaux, portraying the driving of the money-changers from the temple; the sons of Jacob plotting the sale of Joseph; Tobias taking leave of his p ents; the bride bewailing the loss of the bridegroom; Christ in Simon's use; Mary anointing the feet of Jesus; King Ahasuerus exiling the proud Queen Vashti and elevating the humble Esther to the throne; Christ if etelling the destruction of Jerusalem; Christ sending two of his disciples to prepare the passover; the decision of Judas to betray his master; the fee ng of the Israelites with manna; and the last supper This will be in ad tion to the tableaux showing Jesus before Pilot, before Herod and climax 'g with the crucifixion and the resurrection. Any person witnessing this P ssion Play enacted by the humble, devout and faithful villagers of Ober minergau cannot help bed ing instilled with a longing and a desire to le la better life and to embrace the gospel of Jesus Christ. Words cann t express the grandeur of this great Passion Play, which must be seen to \ appreciated.

The Chicago Examiner, realizing the gre advantage a trip to Ober Ammergau would be for the school teachers, as arranged to include the Passion Play in the tours of Europe which v I be given the five most popular teachers of Evanston, Wilmette, Kenil orth, Glencoe. Winnetka. Lake Forest, Lake Bluff, North Chicago and ot Ir North Shore suburbs.

The citizens of the North Shore towns an the boys and girls of the schools of these towns will decide as to the po ularity of the teachers to take the tours. In addition to the tours of E top; for the teachers, the Examiner will award 58 beautiful prites, value at \$1,500.00, for the boys and girls who collect the most votes on specia ballots for their teachers. The first prize is an inner-player plano valued : \$850. The second prize is a Browniekar, a real automobile, the smalle of its kind in the world. Other prizes are a gold watch, encyclopedia, co se in a business or musical college, golf set, sweater jackets, sweater coat roller skates, ice skates, etc., etc.

of the schools to elect the five most popular to chers and to win these 58 beautiful prizes. An early start in this election is essential if you wish your favorite teacher to win. Literature on the subj it and full information will be sent upon request. Address The Chicago I aminer, 626 Davis Street, Evanston, or phone Evanston 1776. Do not de ty.

It is up to the citizens of the North Shore to ins and the boys and girls

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