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PALESTINE: PIGMY LAND WITH A GIANT HISTORY

The historic Holy Land where moved the Nazarene whose birth will be com memorated around the world this week, is characterized as "a tiny lit tle country," by Viscount James Bryce in a communication to the National Geography society:

"Though the traveler's hand books prepare him to find Palestine small It surprises him by being smaller than he expected. Taking it as the region between the Mediterranean on th west and the Jordan and Dead sea on the east, from the spurs of Lebanon and Hermon on the north to the desert at Beersheba on the south, it is only 110 miles long and 50 to 60 broad - that is to say, it is smaller than New

"Of this region large parts did not really belong to ancient Israel. Their hold on the southern and worthern districts was but slight, while in the southwest, a wide and rich plain along the Mediterranean was occupied by the warlike Phillistines, who were sometimes more than a match for the Hebrew armies. Israel had, in fact, little more than the hill country, which lay between the Jordan on the east and the maritime plain on the west. King David, in the days of his power, looked down from the hill cities of Benjamin, just north of Jerusalem, upon Philistine enemies, only 25 miles off, on the one side, and looked across the Jordan to Monbite enemies, about as far off, on the other.

"Nearly all the events in the history of Israel that are recorded in the Old Testament happened within a territory no bigger than the state of Connecticut, whose area is 4,800 square miles; and into hardly any other country has there been crowded from the days of Abraham till our own, so much history -that is to say, so many events that have been recorded and deserve to be recorded in the annals of mankind.

"Nor is it only that Palestine is constantly feels as he moves about that it is a small country. From the | rocked for eight days by earthquakes, beights, a few miles north of Jerufar-off summit carrying snow for eight months in the year, It is Hermon, nearly 10,000 feet high Hermon, whose fountains feed the rivers of Damascus.

"But Hermon is outside the terri tory of Israel altogether, standing in the land of the Syrians; so, too, it is of Lebanon. We are apt to think of that mountain mass as within the country, because it also is frequently mentioned in the Psalms and the Prophets; but the two ranges of Lebmon also rise beyond the frontiers of Israel, lying between the Syrians of Damascus and the Phoenicians of the

"Perhaps it is because the maps 'rom which children used to learn lible geography, were on a large scale, that most of us have failed to realize now narrow were the limits within which took place, all those great doings that fill the books of Samuel and Kings. Just in the same way the classical scholar who visits Greece is surprised to find that so small a ter ritory sufficed for so many striking in cidents and for the careers of so many famous men.

"ENCHANTED ISLAND"

Cyprus, fairy land of the Mediter ranean, which Greeks have been urging Great Britain to turn over to them, ha a history no less strange than the fic tion of Shakespeare's "Othello," for which the island, in part, is the setting. Richard Coeur de Lion wrested it

from a ruler who had won it by forg ing letters in his monarch's name after that ruler, Isaac Comnenus, ha refused to let the Crusader's ship wrecked and seasick lady-love land there the first time she asked.

Richard married Berengaria there and went his way, after turning over the island to a pennitess adventurer, Guy de Lusignan, who founded "feudal state amongst spice garder and silken luxury," and thus establish ed a dynasty which has been described as the most remantic European his-

Cyprus bulks large in the crotch Asia Minor, like a huge fist with a lean finger pointing straight at Antloch. Historically, one may imagine, the finger should be crooked a bit more, in perpetual accusation of the sultan, the degenerate Sellm II, whose renerals captured the island, impelled in part, at least, by the fact that Selim's favorite wine came from there Geographically, the promontory marks the line of Cyprus' prehistoric coonee

tion with Asia's mainland. There too, reigned the Queen Catherine Cornaro

Early came to Cyprus those "Yankees of the Levant," the Phoenicians.

captives," also conquered Cyprus, graphical pathway of tribes pushing Bearhadden, the Caesar and Carnegie westward from Asia and southward of Assyria, who left at Ninevah an from the bleak Russian steppes toward | due from farm to city k indexed library of many thousands of the warmer sencoast lands. Moreover, clay tablets, received tributes from ten Bessarabia is at the convergence of

Cyprian kings. deminion, and Evagoras, one of the "peck of the bottle" toward Europe's island kings, hero of the world's first lands of milk and honey. known blography, penned by Isocrates, Among the most harrowing of the in-

memories of eastern, Grecian, Roman. Kahn, and though there is no comple

the goddess' birth.

Kouklis is on the site of the an- had been maimed and murdered. cient Paphos. The Paphos of today A picture of peaceful, pastoral Bes-Paul struck blind the sorcerer, Elymas, of the World war, furnishes a pleasing and converted Sergius Paulus, the Ro- contrast. A delight to the few tour-

The present-day Larnaka is on the the Moldavian homes. site of the biblical Chittim, whose ships are mentioned by Daniel, and

whose ivory is referred to by Ezekiel, In Larnaka is the tomb of Lazarus, who, after being raised from the dead, is said to have become bishop of the The area of Cyprus is about equal Rhode Island, while its total popula

tion is about half that of the latter AZORES: MAY BE AERIAL

HALF-WAY HOUSE

The Azores islands, in years to come, may be an established mid-Atlantic rest station for airplane flights

Farthest from a continent of any Atlantic island group, the islands lie 830 miles west of Cape da Roca, Portugal, and more than a thousand miles southeast of Newfoundland, nearest North American land.

Volcanic eruptions and earthquakes while the former were active, made the Azores objects of scientific interest akin to that evinced in the now famous Mount Katmai region in Alas ka. Suboceanic eruptions, sometimes pilling up islands which soon disappear ed, were characteristic phenomena. really a small country. The traveler | One early description of such an event tells how the earth and waters were followed by a vast caldron of fire that salem, he sees, looking northward, a | seemed to sweep the sea's surface and consume the clouds, spewing enormous masses of earth and rock. Then there appeared a group of rocks, ever grow ing higher and wider until an area of several square miles was contained in this "no man's land." Later it was shattered, and subsided, as the result

of more earthquakes. The Azores comprise three group of islands. Their total area is less than that of Rhode Island; their popu lation about equal to that of Kansas City. Mo. Most of the inhabitants are Portuguese. The rest are Flemish and Moorish, with a few immigrants from the United Kingdom.

Fruits and fish constitute the prin cipal exports. O anges are supplanting pineapples, but the other products -lemon, citron, Japanese mediar, and bananas maintain their popularity The principal fish are the mullet, tun-

Saint Michaels, largest island of the group, has lava beds, caves which may be traversed for miles, and a mam moth crater with two jeweled lakesone azure, the other emerald-at its

On Santa Maria is the church where Columbus knelt. Off Terceria a su marine volcano made its appearance as recently as half a century ago, O. Corvo have been unearthed which suggest Carthaginian visits, and an Arabian geographer of the twelfth century described islands of the "West ern Ocean" thought to have been the

About the middle of the fifteent century the Portuguese sent expedi tions to settle upon them. One island Fayal, was presented by Alphonso of Portugal, to his aunt, Isabella. duchess of Burgundy. It was upon her marriage to Philip the Good, duke of Burgundy, that he founded the famous knightly order of the Golden

In 1829 supporters of Maria da Gloria against Miguel, in the struggle for the Portuguese crown, established themselves on the islands, and for the three years following Queen Mari lived at Angra, one of the seaports importance. Others are Ponta Delgad.

BESSARABIA: A CONEY ISLAND OF HISTORY

exerginty of Roumania, has long been racial catch basin.

Her population was more than 2,-Moldavians, Little Russians, Jews, Bulgarians, Greeks, Armenians, Tarture,

of the original Cimmerians.

these two history-beaten paths, and Pausanias, Benedict Arnold of many times a clash ensued to decide Sparta, liberated Cyprus from Persian which group should pass through the

who united the scattered principali- vasions was that of the Mongols i ties, is the King Arthur of island tra- the fourteenth century. They came across the Volga under Batu, grands Thus Cyprus reeks with composite of that Mongol Charlemagne, Jenghin and even Anglo-Saxon civilization. No story of their depredations in Besless was it a focal point for religious. sarable, that region probably suffered At Kouklis, where certain tides still atrocities similar to others which are pile masses of foam along the shore, recorded in harrowing detail. At Aphrodite is supposed to have been Ryazan women and children were used born of the waves. Here are ruins as targets in bow-and-arrow contests; of a temple for her worship, where slivers of wood were driven under the originally fetes were held which, as nails of the men; then they were corone writer puts it, "were the scenes ralled in churches to watch their womof a too literal worship of Venus," and en being tortured, and finally rousted where until recently it was the cus- alive. Another city, Kozelsk, was retom to immerse maidens in honor of named Mobalig, "City of Woe," and Kiev was laid waste after her people

was the one-time Neapaphos, where St. sarabia prior to the renewed ravages ists who went through the region, were

A Moldavian interior was immaculate and vivid. Brightly-colored curtains and hangings were used. An inevitable decoration were rows of yellow gourds, the raising of which is one of the minor Bessarablan industries. The people are deeply religious. Each orthoodox home had its altar, facing eastto the combined areas of Delaware and ward, sucred bread beneath the icon, and cornstalks placed in the shade of a cross before it. Even the altars were colorful because of their draper ies and candles, and many times they were laden with flowers. The Bessarablan women are sprightly, brighteyed, and pretty.

Moldavians constituted about half the inhabitants of Bessarabia, Roumania, it will be recalled, was formed by the union of Moldavia and Waltachia; hence the adjoining Bessarabia, with its large Moldavian population, long has been the "Irredents"

THE BERMUDAS

The Bermuda Islands suggest the adventures of Robinson Crusoe in their colonization and present in their later chronology a curious parallel to United States bistory, with the events predated by a number of years.

The Robinson Crusoe comparison obtrudes because the island was discovered and later settled as the direct esult of shipwrecks, and the settlers had to build themselves a bark to set

As for the anticipation of American history on a miniature scale, it may be noted that the colonization took place seven years before the Pilgrims landed at. Plymouth, Mass.; that witches were burned. Quakers were persecuted, and miscreants were ducked before similar occurrences are recorded in New England, and that slavery was abolished in 1834. The Bermudians protested long before 1776 against the other country's rule, until the island prisons were overfull; but relief came in their case not through a declaration of freedom, but by the accession of Cromwell

But the essential point of contact of the American with the Bermudian arises from the all-but forgotten fact that while the immortal Lafayette galdians supplied the ammunition to be

So acute was the need for powder 1775 that George Washington wrote to the governor of Rhode Island that "ne quantity, however small, is beneath notice." Learning that there was upon shipment of food supplie from the colonies, Washington address ed a letter to the people of the island, who had shown themselves sympathetic with the American revolution provisions and "every other mark of | affection and friendship which the grateful citizens of a free country can tors" if they would make this aminunition available for the Continents

It so happened that the powder has been procured before the letter was delivered, and with it the Continents army compelled the British to evacu-

Not only the sale of the powder, but

the fact that Bermuda allowed the colonies to have salt, so incensed its governor that he upbraided the citizens for treason, and feeling ran so high that he was removed. His successor was a native of Salem, Mass, whose loyalty to the mother country was such that he gave up large estates in the colonies rather than join the revoluthrop family. Under his rule th land's full allegiance to England was

the town of Hamilton was founded and the seat of the island government. It pedic procession of Getae, Goths, has a population of less than 3,000, grief-stricken by her husband's death, Avars, Huns, Bessi (whence her It did not become the capital of the struggled against intrigue that the name), Ugrians, Kumans, and Mongols, islands until the time of Sir James throne might be saved for his unborn to mention but a few, since the days Cockburn, lord chief justice of Eng-For Bessarabia, sloping southward most famous lawyers. Cockburn, nearfrom the westward footbills of the ly three quarters of a century ago. Sargon, the king of Assyria who, as Carpathians, between the Dniester and made the plea of insanity, which saved Isalah had prophesied, led "the Egyp- Pruth, down to the Black sea and the life of Daniel McNaughten, who Hans prisoners and the Ethiopieens | Danube delta, lay in the normal geo | shot Sir Robert Peel's secretary,

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