

A CURIOUS LEGEND.

Concerns a Piece of Gold One of the Wise Men Gave Christ.

The 6th of January was a marked day in the calendar of mediaeval times, for upon it fell the feast of the Epiphany—the most popular of Christian festivals—Christmas day only excepted. All good churchmen know that the word Epiphany—meaning the “appearing”—has reference to the star which guided the “three wise men” to the cave-stable at Bethlehem twelve days after the birth of the holy child.

Tradition says that they were three Kings—their names, Melchior, Balthazar, and Gaspar—the one an Arabian, a descendant of Shem; the second, an Egyptian, of the race of Ham, and the third, Japhet’s representative—typical of the world-wide homage to be paid to the incarnate Jehovah.

“Three Kings the King of kings three gifts did bring.” Melchior presented gold in recognition of the sovereignty of the babe; Caspar, frankincense, in acknowledgement of his divinity, and Balthazar, myrrh, as typical of his human life—destined to be so full of bitterness.

Of the gold offered by Melchior, there is, according to ancient legend, a very curious history. Originally coined by Ferah, the father of Abraham, the money was given by him to his son upon his departure from the land of the Chaldees. It is stated in the Koran—adopted from Mesopotamian traditions—that the patriarch was forced into exile on account of his monotheistic convictions, and because he would not engage in his father’s business, which was the manufacture of idols of gold and silver. These idols were of the moon-god, “Sin”—whence the name of the highest mountain of that region—Sinai. The money given by Terah to Abraham was next used for the purchase of the Cave of Macpelah of Ephron the Hittite.

When Joseph’s brethren sold him to the Ishmaelites they received these identical pieces of gold in payment—so runs the legend—which they afterward paid to Joseph, when driven.

IN TIME OF FAMINE, to buy corn in Egypt. Upon the death of Jacob, Joseph sent the money to the land of Sheba to buy spices, where with to embalm the body of his father, and was buried in the royal treasury until the Queen of Sheba made her famous visit to Solomon, when, among other gifts, she presented the coins to that opulent monarch.

During the reign of Rhaboeham, Solomon’s son, Shishak, King of Egypt, made a successful invasion into Judea and despoiled the temple, wherupon he presented to his ally and companion in arms—the King of Arabia—the famous pieces of gold as the share of the plun’r.

Nearly 1000 years later Melchior, the apocryphal successor of the Arabian monarch, brought them as a gift to “him, that was called the King of the Jews.”

It would seem that the ingenuity of our visionary archeologists might be overtaxed to further connect the itinerant coins with the subsequent events of the New Testament—wherever money plays a part—but they stumble at nothing. The story goes on to say that in the hurry of the flight into Egypt the Virgin mother dropped the gold pieces in a field, where they were afterward found by a shepherd. Not daring to disclose his good fortune, lest he be suspect of dishonesty and the money be taken from him, he kept it by him for many years. In his old age, being afflicted by an incurable disease, he besought the aid of the Christ, who healed him. As a thank-offering he carried his treasure to the temple and laid it upon the high altar. Thus falling into the hands of the high priest the money was paid to Judas as the price of his treachery in the betrayal of his Master.

The fact that the reward agreed upon to be paid to Judas, is spoken of as thirty pieces of silver seems to offer no difficulty. It is explained upon the ground that in the translation “silver” is used as the generic term for money—like “argent” in France.

When tortured by remorse, Judas returned the money to the priests, they used it for the purchase of the “potter’s field,” to bury strangers in—since which all trace of the much traveled money has been lost.

CO-OPERATION.

It Is Practiced With Success By A Society of Basket Makers.

In Europe, as is well known, the principle co-operation has been incorporated in many forms as yet untried in this country. A late number of the Economic Journal furnishes interesting particulars concerning a French society of basket makers, which has flourished at Villaines, for about 45 years. The workers, about 150 in number, work at their own houses, and supply themselves with osiers at their own cost. The society exists for the purpose of finding a market, and is so successful that the demand is greater than the supply.

The society does not concern itself with the delivery of goods. Customers must make their own arrangements to send for them. The society is managed by a committee, but the actual work devolves on the President and on the Secretary, who are the only paid members. The society is reported to be successful and popular and its members prosperous. In instances such as this we may see an indication of the form of co-operation which is sure to become popular among us in the near future.

STEEL FOR POLISHING.

A fibrous preparation of steel, made in the same manner as the so-called “mineral wool,” by passing an air-blast through the molten steel, is coming into use for cleaning, polishing, etc., instead of sandpaper.

WHAT HE WANTED.

She—and do you love me for myself alone?

He—Yes. That is to say, I don’t want your mother with you.

A VERY DEEP MINING SHAFT.

Circumstances Under Which It Is Being Sunk to Cut a Vein.

The Tamarack Copper Mining Company, of Michigan, is sinking a shaft, which when completed will be over 5000 feet deep, making it the deepest shaft in the world. The shaft is being sunk on land adjoining the Calumet and Hecla mines, and not far from it is one 3000 feet deep. These two shafts will tap the vein of the Calumet and Hecla company at a point off their land. The land belonging to the Calumet and Hecla company was originally patented under the timber act. That was before the copper was known to exist there. The land once being patented as timber land could not be patented as a mineral claim. The result is that the copper company can not follow the vein beyond the side lines of the timber claim. The company did not purchase all the surrounding land, not thinking any one would sink for the vein at such a distance, as it dipped at such an angle. But the Tamarack company did purchase the surrounding land and was sinking for the vein. Their purchase limited the future operations of the Calumet and Hecla Mining Company, as the ore in sight can be exhausted in about fifty years, and then it will have to suspend operations, as it can not go beyond its side lines, thousands of people Testify that Hood’s Sarsaparilla cures Scrofula, Salt Rheum, Dyspepsia, Malaria, Catarrh, Rheumatism, And That Tired Feeling. Remember this And get Hood’s, And only Hood’s.

The World’s Great Blood Purifier is Hood’s Sarsaparilla, Which absolutely Cures every form of Impure blood, from The pimple on your Face to the great Scrofula sore which Drains your system. Thousands of people Testify that Hood’s Sarsaparilla cures Scrofula, Salt Rheum, Dyspepsia, Malaria, Catarrh, Rheumatism, And That Tired Feeling. Remember this And get Hood’s, And only Hood’s.

A PILGRIMAGE TO JORDAN.

The Annual Exodus of Russians for the Holy Land.

The Russian peasants have a strong belief in the sacred properties of the waters of Jordan, says the London Graphic. Nothing but Jordan water must be used for baptism, and to be buried in shrouds which have been made from linen which have been dipped in the Jordan, or, still better, in which the wearer has bathed in the Jordan, is extremely desirable.

So strong is this feeling that an annual exodus of pilgrims sets out for Palestine. Hospices have been built through Russia and at Jerusalem, where the pilgrims have free accommodation for a period not exceeding twelve months. They walk from all parts of Russia, some of them even as far as the White Sea to Odessa, where they take steamer to Jaffa. Then on to Jerusalem, where they wait until the Saturday before Epiphany. On that day both men and women walk in thousands down the twenty miles of continually descending road to Jerico, where they encamp for the night.

On the Sunday the whole troupe headed by the Bishop go on to the Jordan, and after the Bishop has blessed the waters they fill bottles, tin kettles, and in fact, any available vessel with Jordan water, and most of them, men and women alike, taking no notice whatever of the thousands of Arabs, Jews, Greeks, Mohammedans, and even English and American tourists with cameras who are there, calmly divest themselves of clothing and putting on their shrouds and crossing themselves three times, stumble placidly down the muddy river banks in the cold waters of the Jordan.

There is a strong contrast between the broad, simple, honest-looking countenances of the Russians and the keen and crafty faces of the wily Arabs by whom they are surrounded. There is a surprise and a pleasure in hearing for the first time the sweet and tuneful voices with which the pilgrims regularly chant their service each taking his or her own part, and producing a weird and beautiful melody which will long dwell in the memory of those who hear it.

At the Brook Cherith, memorable as the spot where Elijah was fed by ravens, an Arab, with a view to the main chance has provided a plank, for the use of which he demands toll. Much to his disgust, however, the pilgrims prefer to wade the stream.

Faith, Fancy and Fact. Have convinced people that Putnam’s Famous Corn Extractor should be given the preference. Get rid of your corn; get rid of them without pain; use Putnam’s Extractor and no other.

COMPARATIVELY HONEST.

Miss Sharp—Before I gave you that pie, said my sidewalk needed shoeling.

Hungry Hoby—Yes, lady I reiterate my statement—it duz need shoeling. An’ el I wuz you’d keep me eye peeled for some laborer and giv’ him de job. Morrin’ lad.

SEEDS GIVEN AWAY.

There never was such a bargain offered in seeds as that set forth in Rennie’s advertisement in this paper. Users are offered seeds in 25c. packages at less than wholesale rates. This is no fake bargain, but something gilt-edged; in fact the price at which seeds are offered speak for themselves. Moreover in dealing with Mr. Rennie people are dealing with a man whose name has been a household word in Canada for probity and honor for a generation past. We have no hesitation in recommending our readers to order freely at the prices offered. Do not wait until the offer is withdrawn, but order now.

TIME FOR JANE TO BRACE UP.

Jane, said the newly-married lady of the house, I want you to flute each slice of bread we have for dinner.

Fluted, is it? I’m not the sewin’ woman, mum.

Jane, you are not keeping up with your business. What did I get you that saw-edged bread knife for?

NIL DESPERANDUM.

“Things in general,” said the pessimistic Theosophist, “are very, very bad.”

“Oh, well,” replied the optimistic

Theosophist, cheerfully, “it’s all in a lifetime, and besides, there will be other lifetimes.”

Pure Roots and Herbs with Celery—a great digestive stimulant—sold by all druggists. Large pack. 25c. WOODWARD MEDICINE CO., TORONTO, CAN.

Two Hundred and Seventy-five

Cups in each pound of 40c. LUDELLA Ceylon Tea.

Do you realize the value this contains—seven cups for one cent. Try ‘25, 40, 50 and 60c. In lead Packages. From Leading grocers.

HER FIFTY YEARS' KEEP.

On the occasion of his golden weddin’, a methodical English husband figured up from his carefully-kept accounts what his wife had cost him. He had an assured income of \$2,500 a year throughout his life. Winning his wife, what with presents, engagement ring, and extra expenditure on his own personal adornment, cost him \$300; her share of the household expenses was \$625 a year; her clothing and linen cost \$250 yearly; presents, medical attendance, amusements and summer excursions amounted for her share to \$350 annually. He therefore spent for her in fifty years \$60,750.

IMPOSSIBLE to adulterate

MONSOON..... IN