

REV. F. C. STIFLER SEES FAMED SPOT IN HEBRON

the cave itself. Abraham bought well. For days like his or any days, it would be a most fitting burial place.

When Abdel, the superintendent, was through with his customary speeches, his English was exhausted. But he had more business yet. With evident dignity he presented each of us with his card. Then he asked for ours in return. This ceremony over, he fumbled in his flowing skirts till he produced a little notebook. Thumbing over the pages he came to a sheet on which was written in good script English: "Honor-Built, Ready Made Homes, Sears Roebuck & Co., Chicago." We sensed at once that it was no mere passing interest that actuated his pointing to this memorandum. After considerable of a struggle over the wall of foreign tongues that separated him from us, we discovered that what he wanted was a catalogue of these ready-cut homes. I promised him that I would send him one.

Why did Abel want this catalogue? I am not sure but this is my conjecture. Scattered about Palestine are the little farming settlements of the Zionist movement. Their homes are decidedly western in appearance and in contrast with the native structures are made of timber. Abel is, I think, looking to his laurels. Hebron must have some of these modern houses too. I have already asked to have a catalogue sent to him.

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Just one more incident. The gracious superintendent accompanied us down through the torturous alley-way till we came to the seventh step from the bottom. Here he asked us to stop while he pointed out a crevice in the wall, well-worn about the edges. This he told us (for now again he was making his speech and knew the English words) was the limit to which the Jews might come in their approach to

the Mosque. This on Friday was their wailing place, just as in Jerusalem the west wall of the Temple is their wailing place there. This hole, so the Jews believe, leads direct to the Tomb of Abraham. Into the hole they put their written prayers. Abdul explained all this and then reaching into the hole he brought out as souvenirs for each of us a prayer. Mine was a bit of note-book paper with Hebrew characters upon it meaning, "Holy Father of our Race, Save Us."

But this is not the whole story of the Jews of Hebron. As we drove out through the main street of the city,

we passed a buxom young matron gowned in a tasteful green silk dress, with bobbed hair, silk stockings, and high-heeled shoes. She was carrying a market basket in her hand. She might have been on Wilmette avenue. "Does she live here?" I enquired of George, the Guide. "She appears so modern, the prosperous and different from the cringing veiled women of this city." "Oh yes," said George, "She is from one of the Jewish families here."

More boys than girls are born in Illinois, the ratio being 106 boys to 100 girls, census bureau data shows.

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