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CHRISTMAS

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Y U L E T I D E G R E E T I N G S :

December 15, 1931

We have no costly gift to bring, like the *magi* of old, although we would like to share some of our books with you, to gladden your hearts this Christmas. Some of the titles we've been enjoying this season appear in the list inside. Another is Martin Luther's CHRISTMAS BOOK, with its celebrated woodcuts by his contemporaries. In it we learn how Martin Luther's conception of the Nativity found expression in three *forms*: in sermon, in song, and in art.

THE CHRISTMAS BOOK, which blends some of Luther's sermons that interpret Christmas, deserves reading because of the superb human delineations. The book ends with one of his carols designed for a children's pageant, FROM HEAVEN HIGH. The carol begins with the announcement of the angel:

'' FROM HEAVEN HIGH I COME TO EARTH I BRING YOU TIDINGS OF GREAT MIRTH ''

The children take up the song:

'' HOW GLAD WE'LL BE IF IT IS SO! WITH ALL THE SHEPHERDS LET US GO! ''

After several stanzas in which shepherds and children crowd around the cradle of the Baby Jesus and invite him to be the guests of their hearts, ALL SING:

'' TO GOD WHO SENT HIS ONLY SON BE GLORY LAUD AND HONOR DONE.
LET ALL THE CHOIR OF HEAVEN REJOICE, THE NEW RING IN WITH HEART AND VOICE. ''

M A Y T H E N E W "ring in" for you.

Faithfully yours,

Eleanor Stephens
Librarian

OUR AMERICAN HERITAGE

(Authors)

Gerald Johnson THIS AMERICAN PEOPLE, recognizing that "Books in all their variety are the means whereby civilization may be carried triumphantly forward," and UNDERSTANDING FEAR, may now learn to appreciate the American Heritage in Times of Crisis, as did our Pilgrim fathers.

BIBLE Most beautiful in this heritage is the "Book of Books," which has been translated recently into words of our day in various forms. The figure of Jesus towers in this retelling of the Gospels called GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD.

Elizabeth Goudge

Zofia Kossak It is remarkable how many authors in 1951 have turned to Hebrew history for the theme of their stories. Abraham is the hero of THE COVENANT, in which the shepherd chieftain, prompted by divine revelation, leads his people to the Promised Land. The kingdom of the Pharaohs and the trials of the children of Israel are described in the story of the great Hebrew liberator, MOSES.

Shalom Asch

Frank G. Slaughter Luke, the great physician, and Paul, the tentmaker, are central figures in a strange story taken from apocryphal writing and retold as THE ROAD TO BITHYNIA. It pictures Luke's search for the scroll which contained the early words of Jesus. The reissue of a book first written in 1914 by the great modern physician who is also a great religious figure in our day, reveals THE MYSTERY OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD. Another famous "religious," whose people also have been a conquered nation in this century, has given us courage, in his wellspring of MEDITATIONS.

Albert Schweitzer

Toyohiko Kagawa

William O. Douglas In STRANGE LANDS AND FRIENDLY PEOPLE, a Supreme Court Justice who revisits the Biblical lands, makes us see these people as they are now, on the march and swept by revolutions. Yet, before we can help solve their problems, we must learn to solve some that are closer home. From reading AND MY HIGH TOWER, some young people may find new inspiration in discovering how one couple solved their difficulties. Another minister's wife, instead of turning inward when her husband, the famous chaplain of the United States Senate, died, has shared his story and prayers with others by writing THE MAN CALLED PETER.

Virginia Selvey

Catherine Marshall

Elton Trueblood If it is true that we are destined to live our lives in tension and turmoil, then the way of wisdom is to learn to live realistically. A modern Quaker recommends techniques whereby we may achieve THE LIFE WE PRIZE.

Ruth Bounds

Maurice Dolbier

Katherine Milhous

Lee Kingman

We may even keep a date with Christmas more effectively if we read aloud to our children some of the lovely Christmas stories:
 SAINT SANTA CLAUS
 TOTTEN'S CHRISTMAS SECRET
 SNOW OVER BETHLEHEM
 BEST CHRISTMAS

Franz Wasner

During the coming holidays, rejoicing together, the American family can gather about and sing from
 THE TRAPP FAMILY BOOK OF CHRISTMAS SONGS.

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