

THE HERALD'S PULPIT.

Able and Scholarly Discourse by the Rev. Dr. Duffy
of St. Mary's Parish Church.

THE BIRTH AND SECOND COMING OF CHRIST IN THE LIGHT OF ASTRONOMY.

A Sermon Preached at the Cathedral the Third Friday Evening in Advent, 1905, by Rev. F. P. Duffy, M. D., Rector of St. Mary's.

The cycle of the revolution of earth brings round once more the seasons Advent and the Nativity. Any new light, from sources outside of Holy Scripture, that can be thrown upon the birth and second coming of our Lord, cannot fail to be of an intensely absorbing nature to the reflective or religious mind. It is because I believe that astronomy reveals such a light that I present this aspect of the wondrous events for devout consideration.

The ancient astronomers called the apparent path of the Sun through the heavens the ecliptic. They marked off a belt on either side of this ecliptic to the extent of eight degrees and named it the Zodiac. They then divided the zodiac into twelve equal parts of thirty degrees each, and associated these twelve parts with twelve constellations which they called signs of the zodiac. The names are: Aries, the ram; Taurus, the bull; Gemini, the twins; Cancer, the crab; Leo, the lion; Virgo, the virgin; Libra, the balance; Scorpio, the scorpion; Sagittarius, the archer; Capricornus, the goat; Aquarius, the water bearer; Pisces, the fish. It will thus be seen that Pisces is the twelfth sign and agrees with the month of December. This is important to remember.

The old astronomers further divided the nations of the earth among the twelve signs. To the sign of Pisces, they assigned Palestine, or Judea, or as it was anciently called, Kinahkhki. To mention the sign was equivalent to mentioning the country, and vice versa. For instance, to refer to any event or happening to the sign Pisces was the same as saying it occurred in Judea or Kinahkhki.

Now the zodiac and signs of the zodiac can be traced back to remote Chaldean times, ages before Judah, or Israel, or even Abraham was born. It is important to remember this: The land now called Judea was anciently known by the name of Kinahkhki, and this land of Kinahkhki was placed under the sign now called Pisces—long ages before the progenitor of the Jews had an existence. So that here it is impossible to say that the land known as Judea was placed under the sign of Pisces, or Pisces made to correspond with the month of December, as the result of an afterthought. There was absolutely no knowledge of the founder of the Hebrew race—and hence there could be no collision—when the assignment was first made: for the signs of the zodiac can be traced much further back than the ancient Babylonians or Chaldeans. The Babylonians themselves stated they received their civilization, letters and culture from the more ancient people known to us as Accadians. These Accadians knew about the zodiac, and that the part of the earth bordering upon the Le-

vant, now called Palestine, was apportioned to the sign Pisces.

Philology, Archaeology and History would lead us to conclude that either these Accadians received their civilization, learning and primitive form of religion from the Druids, or that they were a branch of the great Celtic or Gaelic family, who in remote antiquity dwelt in countries adjacent to Chaldean. The ancient Druids were acquainted with the zodiac and its signs and the different countries allotted to the several signs.

Whether our Lord Jesus Christ was born in the year popularly called A. D. 1, or in what is now generally held by the learned as B. C. 4, we are bound to associate His birth with the sign Pisces. Many astronomical events occurred about that time which make this a fact beyond question. For our purpose it is only needful to refer to one remarkable event, occurring at that time, on or about the meridian of Bethlehem. The heliacal rising of Sirius was coincident with that of the sun in the fifth fourth, third and second years B. C. or before the accepted A. D. chronology.

So far (as the actual fact is concerned) the astronomical phenomena do not affect the validity of the argument one way or the other. It is beyond dispute that Jesus was born when the sun was in Pisces, and therefore in the month of December. But when we come to deal with what St. Paul calls the "fulness of time" as the epoch marking the birth of Christ and with the second advent of our Lord, the astronomical phenomena count for everything. It is therefore important for this purpose that we fix certain phenomena in connection with Sirius and the sign Pisces.

Sirius is the brightest star in the heavens and as such played an important role in the Magian religion. It is known from the Zend Avesta that the Spiritual ruler of Sirius was next in order to the Spiritual governor of Mithra, or the sun or God. Now when we come to trace the etymology of the name Sirius we are assured by certain scholars that it comes from a Celtic root. We next find in Irish tradition what is regarded as a mythological or legendary character, a personality called Gobhan Saer. Saer and Sir of Sirius belong to the same root (the vowels are of small account in primitive languages). Irish scholars tell us that Saer has the meaning of "Son of God." We thus arrive at the remarkable fact that Sirius is associated with the Son of God by Persian Magians and ancient Celtic Druids.

If we now turn our attention to primitive Christian symbolism, the catacombs of Rome and other archaeological evidence, we find that Christ was known in the first, second and third centuries especially, as the Ichthus, or Pisces, or Fish, because He was born in that sign. To quote an eminent archaeologist: "To Biblical subjects must be added a large cycle of symbolical designs, such as the anchor, the lamb, the dove, the ship and most constant and characteristic of all, the fish." (Headlam, Fellow of all Souls, Oxford.) Confirmatory of the catacomb symbols are the monumental epitaphs in which Jesus Christ is called the "Heavenly Ichthus."

The titles of our Lord most frequently met with in the Bible and early Christian writings are: Jesus Christ, Son of God, the Saviour. These titles in the Greek language give a unique combination with an important bearing on the subject. They are: Iesous, Christos, Theou They are written in English characters: Iesous Christos Theou Vios Soter. If we place the initial letters of these five words successively after each other, we get the word Ichthus. This was well known to the Christians in primitive times, and in days of persecution they expressed their belief in Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the Saviour, by this one word, Ichthus, or by the symbol of the Fish. Is it a mere coincidence that these initial letters of our Lord's titles spell Ichthus, the sign of the zodiac in which He was born? We cannot for a moment consider it a matter of chance. Rather it was the accomplishment of God's design, as we shall see presently.

We have now found the birth of Christ, the star Sirius, the sign Pisces and the country Judea all inseparably connected, so we shall pass on to the Biblical passages bearing especially upon this particular epoch. St. Paul states that "when the fulness of time was come God sent forth His Son made of a woman" (Gal. IV. 4). The Greek word for "fulness of time" is pleroma tou chronou. This is an astronomical term and means the completion of a cycle, orbit, or revolution of some heavenly sphere. So that at the birth of Christ some mighty cycle had been completed and another begun. Of what absorbing interest it would be, not only to the theologian but to the astronomer, if we could discover what that cycle is? And we can, I think.

If we turn to Acts III, 21, we find St. Peter uttering these momentous words: "Whom the heaven must receive until the times of the restitution of all things." The Greek expression is most remarkable: Chronon apokatastaseos panton. Let us take these words as they stand. And first chronon. There are two words for time used in the New Testament—kairos and chronos. Kairos means a fixed time, a definite period of comparatively short duration; chronos means time in general, an indefinite period, an epoch, or a marking of phenomena. In a sense it corresponds with alon, an indefinite age, generally translated "world." It is chronos St. Paul uses

when he tells us that in the "fulness of time" Christ was born. And it is chronos St. Peter uses to express the duration of time the heaven must "receive" Christ before He can return. From this fact we conclude both apostles meant the same period, the same cycle. To show St. Paul's discrimination between the two worlds we may refer to Romans VIII, 18, where he speaks of the "sufferings of this present time." Here he uses Kairos. St. Peter is equally discriminative.

We now come to the second word, apokatastaseos. The selection of this word is most significant. It is only used this once in the New Testament; but it was a term well understood. In fact it is an astronomical expression. It means the return of the stars to the same point in the heavens from which they in their initial movements in their orbits had started; that is to say, it is the completion of an astronomical cycle. It is the equivalent of the Chaldean word Saros applied to a great cycle. And as will at once be perceived, Saros is connected with the Star Sirius and the Celtic Saer already referred to. St. Paul's term "pleroma" referring to Christ's birth, is also an astronomical expression, only it is confined to the completion, whilst St. Peter's refers to the whole cycle. The third word panton, has reference to the completion of the work to accomplish with Christ became incarnate. The last act He is to accomplish before "the end" is to destroy death (1 Cor., XV, 25, 26.)

One more point remains: to show the exact time of Christ's second advent. Can we find any data on which to base a conclusion as to the time of His coming? I think we can. If we turn to Dan. XII, 11, we are there told: "From the time the continual burnt offering shall be taken away and the abomination that maketh desolate set up, there shall be a thousand, two hundred and ninety days." (R. V.) Our Lord gives us the key to this passage in St. Matthew XXIV, 15: "When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel, the prophet, stand in the holy place, whose readeth let him understand." From this we see that Daniel's prophecy was to be fulfilled in the "Disciples' days." This "abomination" marked the end of the Jewish age.

The days of Daniel are not of course ordinary days of twenty-four hours, nor are they ordinary years of 365 days. Clearly they are days of the Lord, Scriptural or prophetic days. If we could express these days in terms of astronomical years we could solve the mystery. And we can do it. Evidently we must define these days in Scriptural terms.

Turn we then to Psalm XC., verse 4, where we read: "A thousand years in Thy sight are but a yesterday when it is past." That is one complete day. Now we go to II Peter, III, 8. There the Apostle states: "That one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day." Thus both the Psalmist and Apostle, the Old and the New Testaments, use the same phraseology and tell us the length of a day in the Lord's count of time—one thousand years.

If we multiply Daniel's 1,290 days by one of the Lord's days expressed in astronomical years, we have 1290 x 1000 equals 1,290,000 years. Next we find an astronomical cycle, marked off by Sirius at the meridian of Bethlehem in the sign Pisces, the very natal day of Christ, and called by astronomers the precession of the equinoxes. Mathematicians have calculated that cycle and found it to take 25,868 years in completion. It is not hard to arrive at a very close approximation of the date of the set-

OUR WOMEN

Are too Often Wronged by Manufacturers of Weak and Adulterated Package Dyes.

The Story of One Dye Being Equally Good and Efficient for all Materials Intended to Mislead and Deceive.

DIAMOND DYES

Are the Only Package Dyes Providing Special Dyes for Wool and Silk and for Cotton and all Mixed Goods.

Ladies, do not for one moment be deceived by the false statements of some dye manufacturers. REMEMBER THIS FACT—It is impossible to make a dye that will color SILK and WOOL (animal materials) and COTTON and LINEN (vegetable materials) equally well. Any able and competent color chemist will tell you this is true.

During the past year the manufacturers of DIAMOND DYES have received letters from hundreds of deceived and disappointed women who had unfortunately used the one dye for all materials, and as a consequence, had their goods spoiled. These disappointed women in many instances sent money for the DIAMOND DYES to re-dye the blurred muddy and ugly colors obtained from the weak and adulterated dyes they unfortunately used. In every case submitted to us, we gave the advice and counsel of our expert dyer, and have done our best to save the women of Canada from loss caused by worthless dyes, better adapted to color farm fences than to dye valuable dress goods and other materials.

When buying dyes for home coloring, please REMEMBER THIS FACT—That DIAMOND DYES are the only guaranteed package dyes in the world, every color giving perfect results when the simple directions are followed.

Ask your druggist for DIAMOND DYES and refuse all substitutes and imitations. If you cannot get the colors you need from your dealer, send to Wells & Richardson Co., Limited, Montreal, P. Q., and your wants will have careful attention. All colors of DIAMOND DYES 10 cents per package mailed to any part of Canada.



The conditions under which my Pharaoh Cigar

is made are ideal.

We have a contented little community of our own, that is not worried by outside conditions. The wholesome, country-town life that we live, tells in the quality of our work.

Every employee in my factory has his whole heart in his work. From the oldest workman, who started with me when I had a small room for a factory, a big bunch of enthusiasm and a high idea of quality, down to the lad who just joined us the other day, every one is putting the best that is in him into his work.

Under such conditions it is no wonder that my Pharaoh is the best ten cent smoke on the market. We are all working with the one object—to produce the best cigar possible.

I go to Cuba every year and buy the best tobacco produced. I know that every leaf that comes to my factory is right. My workmen see that every roll they give it will help make it a perfect, even-burning smoke. Its a combination that's hard to beat.

None genuine unless branded "Pha-ro." Price 10 cents.

J. BRUCE PAYNE, LIMITED, Granby, P. Q.



A. A. McCLASKEY, 167 King St. East, St. John, N. B.
Travelling Salesman for Maritime Provinces.

D. 70, or 74, according to the corrected chronology. In A. D. 70, (correcting up of the "abomination of desolation" in the "Holy Place," Jerusalem was destroyed by the Romans A. D. 70, according to the corrected chronology) the Christians fled to Pella on the raising of the siege by Cestius Gallus. But the "abomination" must have been set up before this date, else the Christians could not have seen it. If we suppose two years previously, then we get A. D. 68. If we deduct this 68 from 25,868, the cycle of precession, we have the beginning of Daniel's 1,290 days (or in astronomical terms 1,290,000 years), leaving a balance of 25,800 years of the cycle of precession. Now divide 25,800 years into 1,290,000 years and we have exactly 50 years. But 50 years is a jubilee! And in the jubilee slaves were freed and lost inheritance regained. This completion of the cycle of the precession of the equinoxes will be the grand jubilee of the universe, when slaves of sin will be liberated and the lost inheritance of eternal life regained, and "the Sign of the Son of Man" will appear in the heavens. And a won-

drous Sign it will be, for Sirius will be on the same meridian as on the night of the Nativity—a comet (Halley's according to Forbes of England and Serviss of America) will blaze over Jerusalem—meteors will

The Celebrated English Cocoa.

EPPS'S

An admirable food, with all its natural qualities intact. This excellent Cocoa maintains the system in robust health, and enables it to resist winter's extreme cold.

COCOA

The Most Nutritious and Economical.

flash from out space as harbingers of joy as they fall to earth—the planets Mars, Jupiter and Saturn will wheel into position and burn with a united radiance as at the Nativity (Kepler)—and every member of the solar system, unaffected by eccentric cities, will act in harmony and as a perfect whole, as the Archangel stands on the seraphic battlements of heaven, and with his trumpet blows the pean of universal victory! "And then cometh the end!"

The Care of The Feet

When if the feet are lame, sore

and tender, or there are corns and bunions, work is wearisome and pleasure impossible, soak the feet well in warm water and apply

Kendrick's Liniment

morning and evening. Kendrick's cures Chills and itching feet.



17508

PURITY

and freshness are absolutely necessary qualities of the drugs you use if they are to be of the service required. This applies with few exceptions to toilet preparations also.

YOU CAN DEFEND ON

every article we sell as being of standard quality and full strength. To household remedies of proven value we give particular attention and our prescription department has but one motto: "Absolute fidelity and accuracy." And low prices are a feature of every department.

Alonzo Staples

York Street Drug Store

STOCK-TAKING
NEAR IT'S CLOSE

Our Inventory for the past year is almost completed. During our Stock-taking we have carefully gone over our stocks and have placed on sale odd lines of goods, remnants, etc., which we are desirous of clearing out. Cost is not considered in this matter and GENUINE BARGAINS are to be had during this week, in such things as

Men's Fur Caps,

Fur Collars,

Gauntlets,

Overcoats,

Ladies' Skirts,

Suits, Coats, etc.

In fact in every department a clearance out is now in progress. See the Fur Coats we are offering at \$13.50 and \$15.00

CALL ON US THIS WEEK. IT WILL PAY.

M. FICKLER & CO.