

A PAGE OF CHRISTMAS VERSE

NOËL, 1920

BY ÉMILE CAMMAERTS

[*New Witness*]

La neige, le vent et la faim
Ont marché vers l'étable,
La neige, voûtée et vénérable,
Le vent amer s'ifflant un refrain,
Et la faim claquant des dents
Tout le long du chemin . . .
La neige, la faim et le vent.

La faim, la neige et le vent
Ont frappé à la porte:
'C'est pour voir la Mère et l'Enfant,
Voyez les trésors que j'apporte.
— Un soufflet pour Jésus — Une balle
d'argent
— Un pain de pierre pour Marie.'
— 'Entrez, entrez, je vous en prie,
La faim, la neige et le vent.'

La neige, le vent et la faim
Se sont glissés dans la chaumière,
Et Jésus, levant la main,
A fondu leur dure misère.
La neige pleure, le vent soupire, et la
faim mange
Mains jointes, à deux genoux, le pain
des anges
Sur les pieds lumineux de l'Enfant . . .
La neige, la faim et le vent.

A SONG FOR THE SEASON

BY KATHERINE TYNAN

[*The Nation and the Athenæum*]

THE Kings to the Stable
They brought sweet spice,
The gold and the silver,
And jewels of price.

But the Dove by the manger
She would not cease
Mourning so softly:
Bring Him Peace; bring Him Peace!

The Kings from the Orient
Brought nard and clove.
The Dove went mourning:
Bring Him Love; bring Him Love!
What would content Him
In silver and gold—
A new-born Baby,
But one hour old?
Not myrrh shall please Him,
Nor the ambergris,
Who hath sweet savor
Of His Mother's kiss.
There is clash of battle,
And men hate and slay.
From the noise and the tumult
She hides Him away.
But His sleep is fitful
In His Mother's breast;
The Dove goes mourning:
Give Him rest; give Him rest!

HUSH!

[*November 11*]

BY C. M. SALWEY

[*East and West*]

Hush!

A spell is o'er the land,
Let neither foot nor hand
Bestir itself—This is a King's Command.

Hush!

The dead the living meet
In every town and street,
Then noiselessly pass on with silent feet.

Hush!

Kneel, close your eyes, and pray;
For *you* they won the Day;
But winning raised a debt, your Love
alone must pay.

Hush!

When the Christ-Child was born
One glorious Christmas morn
Peace reigned—and Death of Victory
was shorn!

LIFE, LETTERS, AND THE ARTS

A NEW PREHISTORIC SKULL FROM AFRICA

A SKULL which may shed new light on the vexed question of human origin has been discovered in the 'Bone Cave' of the Broken Hill Mine in Northern Rhodesia. The Bone Cave of this mine has long been known as a source of fossil skeletons of mammals and birds, but no trace of human remains has hitherto been discovered. The skull was found at a depth of sixty feet below the water level.

The authorities of the mine have presented it to the British Museum.

Mr. G. Elliot Smith, Professor of Anatomy in the University of London, has made a statement to the *Times* in which he dwells on the importance of the discovery, and declares that it is 'the skull of a most remarkable type of mankind quite new to science.' He adds that in his opinion it is undoubtedly a 'new species' if not a 'new genus.'

In Professor Smith's opinion the skull is undoubtedly much more primitive than the Neanderthal skull.

Although the new skull is bigger than the Javanese skull, and is probably of a somewhat higher form, it presents so remarkable a likeness to it that there is a possibility that it may be a member of the same form or genus; but that, of course, is quite problematical. I think it is very likely to be some primitive form akin to the ancestor of the Neanderthal race of Europe. One of the most striking things about it is the enormous impression of the neck muscles at the back of the skull. The creature must have had a tremendously thick and powerful neck, very much more powerful than any other fossil skulls would suggest to have existed in the types of man they represent.

Another very remarkable feature of this new skull is that some of the teeth are affected with dental caries, a most surprising thing; for in modern man dental caries is

a comparatively recent acquisition and does not date back long before the time of the Pyramids. This ancient man, however, suffered badly from toothache. I do not know of any other case earlier than the Pyramid age of dental caries existing in a human skull.

One of the surprising things about the skull is its extraordinarily good state of preservation and its fresh appearance. It is unfortunate that, owing to the blasting operations which uncovered these remains, the lower jaw is missing. The skull is so well preserved that it is very probable it was there. If it had been found it would have been of enormous importance, for it would have settled the controversy over the Piltdown skull. A good fragment of the upper jaw of a second skull has been discovered which raises the hope that other bones of these interesting people may yet be found if they are carefully looked for by the miners.

Fragments of what appear to be thigh bones have also been sent to the Museum from the same source, and it is said that a collar bone has also been found. It does not, of course, follow that they are actual fragments of the same skeleton — a question somewhat similar to the vexed problem of the relationship of the Piltdown jaw and the Piltdown skull. Anthropologists believe that the Neanderthal man walked in a crouching attitude with bent knees and there are some features about the South African femur which may afford evidence of more pronounced stoop on the part of this new species.

The new discovery lends weight to the theory previously announced by certain anthropologists that the primitive form of humanity is to be sought in Africa rather than in Asia. However, possible future results of the expedition sent out by the American Museum of Natural History and now in the field in China, may bring to light new data in support of the Asiatic origin.