

In 1886, J. James Tissot, a well-known and successful painter of modern Parisian life, then fifty years old, turned from the work in which he had been interesting himself, and went to Palestine with the definite purpose of gathering material for an illustrated life of Christ that should eclipse anything of the kind ever attempted. For fully ten years he continued to make long visits to Palestine. He studied the costumes, architecture, and manners of the people, and made numerous sketches and studies of the land and its inhabitants. Every detail of life in the Palestine of the time of Christ was investigated and noted so far as power lay in a gifted and trained student. Following is the author's own statement of his purposes:

"I wanted to know the truth—to see Jesus of Nazareth as He walked and talked in His native haunts. And then to give back to the millions of my fellow Christians the real conception of the Founder of the Faith. If I spent ten years in the Holy Land, treading in the very footsteps of the Savior, it was only that I myself might better realize all that He was, all that He did. hence I gave it to the world. Day by day, hour by hour, the facts grew dearer to me. I was moved by the consciousness that I was looking at the same rocks, the same trees, that had been reflected in the eyes of the Savior, and as I walked along those paths in which He must have trodden, I could not always restrain the tears.

"I have grouped my pictures in several sections, devoted to the 'Holy Childhood,' the 'Ministry,' 'Holy Week,' the 'Passion,' and the 'Resurrection,' to avoid all confusion and present the career of Jesus on earth in its natural order. My desire was to make Him live again before the eyes of all men in order that Christians might understand Him better and worship Him more truly. So that the greatest possible number of persons might see and even own the pictures, I have had them reproduced in book form.

"I have found it necessary to put aside all of the pictures of Jesus painted by the great artists of various ages, not because they were not great paintings, but because they were not the Christ. It is impossible to go back 1,900 years in the West and try to reproduce

the life of that distant period with accuracy; but in the Orient, where customs change slowly, where progress has been almost entirely unknown, it was not impossible, having before me the descendants of the very people among whom Christ had lived, to paint the pictures of their ancestors.

"There is not a stroke in my pictures, nor a color, which is not based upon good reasons. If I have

painted Jesus in a flowing robe of white, it is because He could have worn no other color, and the all-enveloping garb, traditional states, was necessary if the Christ was to avoid creating the sensation which His shining body would have brought about."

The four volume work which is the result of this exhaustive original research is enduring and remarkable. It is certain that nothing of its kind begins to be as complete and satisfactory. The volumes are illustrated with over five hundred pictures. Most of them are in color, and they record, graphically and beautifully, every incident in Christ's life, every parable, every scene in His youth, ministry, death, and resurrection. The



From Tissot's "Life of Christ."

The McClure-Tissot Co.

book was a tremendous task. One hundred men, in the employ of Lemercier & Co., spent four years preparing the plates. M. Tissot personally supervised this work, and later the printing of the volumes. Many of the illustrations are in eighteen colors. The value of such a piece of work can scarcely be exaggerated. The preservation of so many of the details of the Christ life and legends, in lasting and pleasing form, will always be a source of profound happiness among men. M. Tissot has done a service permanently worthy and truly wonderful.

J. M. S.

[The Life of Our Lord Jesus Christ. By J. James Tissot. Illustrated by over 500 pictures. \$30.00 to \$50.00. New York: The McClure-Tissot Co.]