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CHRISTMAS

This is Christmas time! The very air is vibrant with the Christmas spirit, and the faces of little children are radiant with gladness.

The day we celebrate is just at our threshold—when greetings and gifts, joy and cheer, the tinsel tree, the lights, the fun, the frolic, make Christmas the merriest of days, while carols and hymns lift our thoughts to greater realities.

The celebration of Christmas is not confined to churches, nor to those who call themselves by the sacred name of Christians. But finds expression in a giving kind of love, carried on the wave of generosity, without one realizing what the impulse is.

He must be cold and heartless, who is not moved by the spirit of kindness, gladness, generosity and love with which the very atmosphere seems surcharged—the spirit that came into the world when the Christ child was born.

It is impressive that all civilized people share in commemorating the nativity of Jesus. No other character has ever come on the stage of human history whose birth humanity as a whole unite in celebrating.

Herein is the meaning of Christmas, and its joyous hold on the hearts of humankind.

This joyousness finds expression in giving within our means to friends and loved ones, and it is a pleasure normal people can enjoy. But giving to those whose Christmas season would be drear and gray because of actual need is a moral duty and precious privilege as well.

Their joy in receiving our gift will scarcely measure the increased respect you will hold for yourself. So, may your Christmas be a merry one, and may you help bring a little bit of gladness to some of the less fortunate, and carry with you some of the kindly Christmas spirit and cheerfulness through the days to come.

SPENDING THE RESERVES

Monies being paid into the Government Social Security plan go into the general funds and are not set aside to care for the aged—that responsibility is still being left for future regulation. There is a lot of complaint about the failure of the Government to put into operation a method to pile up reserves, particularly as all insurance companies are held under tight restrictions to keep their fund money chests well filled.

Among a number of Congressional demands for changing and limiting President is a measure by young Senator Lodge of Massachusetts, that would take from the Chief Executive what the Senator calls "the awesome power of peace and war" in administering the Neutrality Act. Congress is resolved to avoid any unnecessary act that would "put us on the side" of any of the Nations at war, whether war has been declared or is simply in existence. Sympathetically, the political powers of our own Government are with China. Bills like Lodge's would prevent showing our sympathies or prejudices.

The older a lamb grows the more sheepish he becomes.

OUR CHRISTMAS SHOPPING AND THE JOY OF GIVING

The joyous season of the year has come. The Christmastide surges through the Christian world. With a wealth of kindly thought it has brought the time of Christmas trade. The universal custom of giving gifts makes everybody richer and nobody poorer. The Christmas spirit is a sacred thing that sanctifies the humble things of life. It kindles generous love in the callous breasts of men. It brightens the dreary homes of earth and hangs the star of hope above the palace and the cabin. It leads to light and life the nobler traits of men. It is the finest asset of civilization.

Christmas shopping is but a kindly way of thinking about friends and friendships—a concrete expression of human love and hope. It brings a sweet and subtle joy to those who give and happiness to whom is given. It builds a fire on the cheerless hearth and re-warms the ties of home and kin. It lifts the burdens of the heavy laden and to every pilgrim reveals the star of Bethlehem. Gifts rightly given enrich the giver.

Out of the over-bending heavens came the spirit of giving. Heaven is always giving. Heralded by angels into the night of Bethlehem came the gift of life and joy—the richest—the rarest gift of earth or heaven. That giving quickened the generosity of rich and poor. It prompted the return of the best that men have to give. The rich gave gold, frankincense and myrrh, but the poor out-rank them far and bring the alabaster box of love.

From that manger cradle the Christmas spirit has wandered far and wide. The spirit of Christmas—the spirit of giving has followed the star down through the ages and the world is vastly richer. Speed, unhampered, the Christmas joy and let the giving of gifts speak the language of human souls. Fare forth to the temples of sale, where dealers are ministering priests at the altars of trade and if you lack the price of jewels remember that nothing is too cheap or poor to bear the warmth of friendship and sincerity.—William L. Gaston.

SANTA WILL PROVIDE AN UP-TO-DATE CHRISTMAS

Santa Claus is a decidedly progressive old chap. He keeps strictly abreast of times, and in his work employs only modern-day methods. Once he went plodding over the fields in a sleigh no faster than reindeers could gallop. It took him a long time, but he managed to make the rounds. Then came the automobile. Santa got a big red one and hitched trailers on behind. He carried bigger loads, got to more homes and made more children happy. When airplanes flew over the North pole Santa got another idea. He believed that planes would be better for his long trips and for skipping from housetop to housetop. He is hardly built for an air pilot, but nobody flies faster nor farther than plump, old Santa.

He does not fancy zeppelins, but he is sure that in another year or two he may be able to broadcast Christmas to the children by radio. As soon as carriers are invented to fly through the air, directed and landed by radio energy, old Santa will sit on his mountain of northern ice and broadcast an up-to-date Christmas to all the world.—William L. Gaston.

The "stitch in time" adage applies forcibly to machine care, according to Ray W. Carpenter, specialist in agricultural engineering for the University of Maryland extension Service. He says that an hour at this time of the year when the machinery is put in storage spent in oiling all polished surfaces to prevent rust, repainting bared wood parts, and checking, ordering and replacing badly worn or broken parts will avoid delays, aggravation and hours of valuable time when the spring season rush is on.

Fascists and Communists cry: "This idea will save you!" And they are right. Look how safe and secure the slaves were.

Questions And Answers

WHAT'S WHAT ABOUT SOCIAL SECURITY

Q. 113 Why should I tell my Social Security Account number to my employer?

A. 113 So that your employer can report accurately your wages by your number as well as by your name, thus giving double assurance your wages will be credited to your individual account and not to some one else who may have a name like yours. No one else has the same number you have.

Q. 114 Will I lose my old-age insurance if my employer doesn't pay the tax he should?

A. No. The amount of your old-age insurance depends on amount of wages and not on the amount of tax your employer pays. But if your employer doesn't pay the tax the law requires him to pay it is likely that he also will fail to report the amount of your wages. If you have good reason to believe your employer is not making the proper reports of the taxes he deducts from your wages you could report the facts to the Collector of Internal Revenue for this section.

Q. 115 What is the age limit for benefits under the unemployment compensation law?

A. 115 There is no age limit for benefits under the unemployment compensation law.

Q. 116 What are now being paid in lump-sum payments to eligible workers who reached age 65 after January 1, 1937 and to relatives or estates of workers who have died since December 31, 1936?

A. The amount of the lump-sum payment is 3 1/2 per cent of the wage received in covered employment between December 31, 1936, and the day the worker reaches 65 or dies. In each case the eligible person must file an application for a claim with the Social Security Board for the sum due him. Get in touch with your nearest Social Security Board Field Office where you will be assisted in filing a claim. There is no charge for this service.

Q. 117 How many States have unemployment compensation law?

A. 117 All the States, the District of Columbia, Alaska and Hawaii have unemployment compensation laws which are a part of the national movement to combat unemployment through the Social Security Act. Each State administers its own unemployment compensation law.

"Come, Let Us Adore Him,"

Happy Christmas Thought

THERE is a magical pause, a mysterious something in the air, an awakening of man's best and sweetest instincts as the Yuletide carols ring out the hallowed words: "Peace on earth, good will toward men." A pause when even the most sullen, forbidding, hard-hearted person feels an urge of the soul within him, to join in the merry festival of Christmas.

Then, too, there is magic in red holly berries, gar green branches of bewitching mistletoe, and the perfume of woody evergreens, melting wax and the burning log. How mysteriously they recall sweet thoughts of long ago to the elders! How they fill the hearts of playful children with joyous delight!

Christmas is the significance of childhood, for almost two thousand years ago the Christ Child brought the redeeming message of love to the world. Love that keeps the little flame of hope burning; love that gives patience and courage to endure the problems of life; love that prompts the giving and receiving of gifts.

When Wise Men of the East, men of profound learning, saw a brilliant star and followed it, they found this little messenger of love in his rude and humble resting place, and they laid their most precious gifts before him. These gifts were highly symbolical. Gold to a King, the King of Love and Humanity, Frankincense to a Divinity, the God of human needs. Myrrh for a man, and for the sorrow that redeems. Thus they recognized in a little Child, the King, the Divine and the Man.

As we commemorate Christ's birth each Yuletide, there is a radiant warmth and spirit of love in the giving and receiving of gifts; we pay homage and reverence to our King, our God and our Redeemer.—Agnes Myers

As the winter advances, homemakers depend more on the cans and jars on the pantry shelf to complete menus. All family has certain preferences in seasoning which the homemaker keeps in mind when canning. Commercial canned foods are seasoned for what is considered the average taste, to which the able cook can add touches of her own, says Margaret McPheeters, nutrition specialist for the University of Maryland Extension Service.

Never fool with a fool; he might fool you.

When a man helps his wife with the housework it takes her about twice as long to finish.

Christmas in the Air

By Martha B. Thomas

OLD MR. SADDLER had the most unique and delightful ideas. Unquestionably he was the happiest man in town, though he hadn't much money, and lived in quite a modest way, in quite the smallest house. People loved to drop in for a chat. Old men came for a smoke by his fire-side. Women brought their children to spend the afternoon when they were busy. Mr. Saddler welcomed everyone as if he were a king in a palace.

One snowy day when every footstep creaked underfoot, and the whole world looked buried under white wool, several people on their way here and there dropped in to see Mr. Saddler. A bright fire crackled on the hearth. A green wreath hung above the mantel-piece. There was a distinct smell of a rich pudding having been recently cooked.

"This place has more Christmas about it," declared one guest, "than any place I've seen. How do you do it? After all, there's only one green wreath."

"Well, I hardly know how to tell you," said the host. "I guess it's just that I feel Christmasy . . . and maybe it sort of fills the room like steam from a pudding. I know," he smiled at them, "you think me peculiar at times, but it's what goes on in your heart that makes the outside you live in, pleasant. And here's another thing. Laugh if you like, I shan't mind. I like to think that all the happy chimneys of church bells at Christmas keep traveling around the world until it's time to ring them again. Why not? And the fine songs and anthems and all the joyous laughter of children. We speak of planets being so many 'light-years' away from the earth . . . and sound taking thus and thus a time to reach a certain place. Well then," he smiled at them, "I guess I just sort of hear those things. Maybe I have a good receiving-set in my head. And perhaps I sort of," he waved a hand around, "broadcast my happiness here in this room."

The guests nodded. "Maybe you do," they said, "Anyhow we feel chock-full of Christmas."

Spirit of Christmas

By Katherine Edelman

SURRENDER yourself to the Spirit of Christmas! Let its joy thrill you—let its peace steal softly across your heart! Open your ears to the magic of its mesmeric voice—open your eyes to the miracles it accomplishes!

Read again Dickens' Christmas Carol, the best known and most inspiring of all the Christmas stories. And don't feel ashamed, if at the end, as Tiny Tim whispers, "God bless us, every one," you find your own eyes wet with tears.

Open the Book of Books, and let Luke tell you about that first Christmas—of the long journey to Bethlehem, of the birth in the humble manger, of the shepherds keeping watch over their flocks. Listen to the heavenly music that was heard upon the hills, to the thrilling words of the angel, "Behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord." Bow your head and give thanks for the Prince of Peace who came, saying with the angels, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."

Let Matthew tell you of the coming of the Wise Men from the East, with their gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh, which they presented to the Christ Child. Then, with the Spirit of Christmas in your heart, go forth and help make Christmas a brighter and a happier day for others! © Western Newspaper Union.

BUYING THINGS



Tom—Has your wife done all her Christmas shopping yet?
Dick—Oh, yes; last month. Now she's started to buy a few things.

Why Not Be Polite?

Jud Tunkins says politeness compels you to wish a man Merry Christmas even in cases where you may not honestly believe he deserves it.

Polishing Diamonds Is Done by Turning Wheel

The process of polishing diamonds has not changed for more than 300 years, with the exception of the manner of turning the wheel. At first this was done by hand, then by horse power, next by steam and later by electricity, notes a writer in the Washington Post.

The composition of the diamond wheel is a secret carefully guarded by those who possess it. It is said that no one in this country knows how to make it. During the war, when it was very difficult to obtain chemists tried in vain to discover the secret.

Experts have analyzed the materials and found that it is composed of a mixture of iron and steel in certain proportions, but after having got the proper constituents and constructed the wheel, they found that it would not cut the diamond as it should.

It would cut a little but not enough to make it worth while to use it. It is thought that the secret of the diamond wheel lies in the method of cooling, but no one is sure.

This wheel, like good wine, grows better with age. This is because the diamond dust gets into the pores of the metal and makes it cut better.

The earliest records obtainable of the lapidary's art is mention of several cut diamonds among the treasure of Louis of Anjou toward the end of the Fourteenth century. The method of brilliant cutting is generally ascribed to Louis de Berquem, of Bruges, who in 1475 cut several celebrated diamonds for Charles the Bold. From that time down toward the end of the last century the industry has been almost entirely connected with the history of Holland. Only within the past generation has any country been able to compete with her, and as yet only in quality of output and not in quantity.

St. Mary-le-Bow, London, Gets Title From Arches

Bow church or St. Mary-le-Bow in Cheapside, London, derives its name from the stone arches, "bows," of its Norman crypt, built about 1090. The church was rebuilt by Sir Christopher Wren about 1680. The crypt probably is a relic of the church built in Norman times and is given in Baedeker as the oldest surviving ecclesiastical structure in the city of London. The church has long had one of the most celebrated bell-peals. John Dun, mercer, in 1472, gave two tenements to maintain the ringing of Bow bell every night at nine o'clock, to direct travelers on the road to town; and in 1520 William Copland gave a bigger bell for the purpose of "sounding a retreat from work."

The Bow bells are twelve in number, states a writer in the Detroit News, eight of which were recast in Whitechapel in 1762. According to legend, it was the sound of Bow bells which inspired the poor boy, Richard Whittington, in the Fourteenth century, to return to London and become its famous lord mayor.

In the Middle ages the term "cockney" was applied to a pampered child, a person petted and made effeminate by over indulgence. Later it was applied to city dwellers by country folk who scorned the soft habits of the town-bred. As in English eyes London was "the city," by 1600 the term cockney had become applicable solely to Londoners, and particularly those born within the sound of Bow bells, in the heart of London. As it would be difficult for anyone to claim birth in that region of city offices and warehouses, a cockney is anyone possessed of the London peculiarities of speech, etc.

Woman Saved Crown Jewels

When Cromwell was Lord Protector of England he sent an expedition to Scotland because the Scots had brought Charles II from exile in 1651 and crowned him. Cromwell also wanted the crown jewels. The wife of the pastor of the church at Kinneff Parish smuggled them through the British lines and her husband buried them in the walls of his church. They remained hidden until Scotland consented to a parliamentary union with England. One of the provisos of the agreement was the jewels were never to leave the country. The jewels were taken to Edinburgh castle and have been on public view since 1817, which action was taken on orders of King George IV.

Minnows Related to Carp

Poor minnows! Because they're little, they're picked on. Cats eat 'em, fishermen catch them by the thousands for bait, and larger fish consider them a chief item of diet. The minnow, in turn, eats minute animal and plant life and gets back at the big fish by eating their eggs. Incidentally, minnows are all related to the carp. There are 200 species of minnows in North America. Their name comes from a common European-Indian word meaning "little," says a writer in the Washington Post.

Named for a Pioneer

Lassen peak, the southernmost in the Cascade range, elevation 10,453 feet, was named after Peter Lassen, a pioneer of the 1840s, says Nature Magazine. It dominates the topography of the area yet is easily accessible to a normally active person. A trail, two and one half miles in length, leads to the top of the mountain.

WHY Closely-Woven Clothing Will Retain the Heat.

Protective clothing is necessary to retain our heat which we obtain from our food, but many people wear far too many clothes.

It is most important to allow fresh air to come in contact with the skin, and the first essential of healthy clothing is that no garment should be too tight. Clothes should be loosely woven, light, and warm. If they are too heavy the slightest exertion will cause perspiration, which will have no chance of evaporating. Clammy, damp clothing is one of the most frequent causes of chills, warns a physician in Pearson's London Weekly.

Closely-woven clothing is bad for the same reason. It does not allow evaporation and so the skin is constantly damp. This leads to dangerous chilling. Tight collars are another source of danger. Warm air rises and the space between the neck and the collar acts as a kind of funnel or chimney. If this is too tight the circulation of fresh air over the body surface is checked.

If your job is in the open air and your work keeps you warm, there is no necessity for piling on clothes just because the weather is cold. Keep your warm things for wear when work is done.

Why We Have "Best Man" at Wedding Ceremonies

The custom of having a best man at weddings is believed to be a survival of primitive marriage by capture, when a man seized a woman and carried her away by force, states a writer in the Indianapolis News. He would naturally, under such circumstances, select a faithful friend or follower to go with him and ward off the attacks of the girl's kinsmen while he stole away with her. Thus the appearance of the bridegroom with his groomsmen or best man at the bride's home really represents a prehistoric marauding expedition.

The term "best man" is of Scotch origin and probably does not date back farther than the Eighteenth century.

Why Venus of Milo Has No Arms

The Venus of Milo did have arms originally, but they have been broken off. The position they assumed is a matter of dispute, but the common opinion is that the goddess was depicted as holding a polished shield, in the mirror-like surface of which she regarded herself. When the statue was found in 1820 in a grotto on the island of Milo, or Melos, there were also found fragments of the upper left arm. How or when the arms were broken off is unknown, but a great deal of ancient sculpture has been similarly or more severely mutilated by time.

Why Places Are Called "Dalles"

"Dalles" is a term applied, in regions which have been under French influence, to rapids where the rocky river bed wears in smooth slabs and consequently especially to rapids produced by the narrowing of rivers between basaltic rocks. The best known dalles are those in the Columbia, the Wisconsin, the St. Louis, Minnesota and the St. Croix, Minnesota.

Why Saints Were Saints

Saints were saints because they were cheerful when it was difficult to be cheerful; patient when it was difficult to be patient; and because they pushed on when they wanted to stand still, and kept silent when they wanted to talk, and were agreeable when they wanted to be disagreeable. That was all.

Why Days Got English Names

The English names of the days of the week are derived from the Saxons, who substituted their own language for the names of the gods to whom the Roman days were dedicated. The Saxon days were Sun's day, Moon's day, Tiw's day, Woden's day, Thor's day, Frigg's day, Seterne's day.

Why Sun Removes Scorch

The bleaching of cloth by the sun's rays is produced mostly by the ultra-violet, violet and blue radiation. The action is considerably greater when material is exposed in a moist condition. The principle is the same as that which fades colored goods.

Why Cat Needs Whiskers

Whiskers enable a cat to determine whether its body will go through a small opening. If the whiskers do more than brush the sides of the opening, it will not permit the passage of the cat.

Why Denver Is "Little Capital"

Denver is sometimes given the nickname, "Little Capital" of the United States, because there are more federal buildings in Denver than in any city outside of Washington, D. C.

Why Nuthatch Is So Called

The nuthatch derives its name from a habit of cracking nuts which it places in a crevice of the bark of a tree and then hammers with the point of its bill until the shell is broken.

Why Camellia Was So Named

The camellia was named for George Joseph Kamel, a Seventeenth-century Jesuit priest and traveler, who first described the flower.