A "Merry Christmas!"

CHRISTMAS BELLS.

O Christmas bells! through coming years,
We hear in your glad sending
The message still of *peace, good will,*—
All jarring discords blending.

O bells of God! ring on our souls,
To grander action serving,
Till all our days are Christmas days
Of loving and of serving!

THE STORY OF THE CHILDHOOD OF JESUS.

REV. GEORGE H. HEPWORTH, in the New York Herald.

WE have very little that is reliable concerning the infancy and youth of Jesus. In some respects this is to be deplored, but on the whole it is a matter of small consequence. Our relations to Him began when He entered public life. Before that He was simply a carpenter, working at His daily task, and the son of a carpenter. Whether he was skilled in His trade or not it is impossible to say, unless we depend for our opinion on the thousand legends which come floating down the stream of time like driftwood. Rumor has it that Joseph was by no means a reliable workman; it goes so far as to declare that he was a bungler, and that on many occasions it was necessary for the youth to go to his assistance and rectify his mistakes. It would seem, therefore, that while Jesus was acceptable to the villagers in Nazareth, Joseph could earn only a scanty pittance.

Joseph died when Jesus had reached His 19th year, and thereafter the little family were dependent on the labors of the young man for their meagre support. It may be a somewhat realistic picture to present, but it by no means offends my reverence for the great Reformer to think of Him with tools in His hands, rising early in the morning as the sun crept over the eastern hilltops and cheerily wending His way to the house of some neighbor who needed His services and was willing to pay for them. I also like to think of Him, the day's work done, returning to the home circle and spending the evening in social intercourse with the family and with such callers as might join them, to discuss the signs of the times, the news from Damascus brought by a passing caravan, or the latest report from Jerusalem, where the Jews were in riotous mood over some new act of oppression.

Then when His great career began I try to think of the new sensations which filled the minds and stirred the hearts of His hearers. The Temple folk became suddenly angry, for this unlettered man denounced their hypocrisy in unmeasured terms, while the common people stared at Him with wonder and amazement. His doctrines were revolutionary, His deeds were miraculous. He was a puzzle, destined to start a conflagration whose flames still flash in the air, though eighteen centuries have retreated into the past.

Why So Little Is Known.

When the muezzin from his lofty tower proclaims the approach of noon, all true Mohammedans, in whatever employment they may be engaged, cease from work and utter their prayers of thanksgiving or their petitions for help. There is a sudden stillness in the air which is awfully impressive, for the sound of the muezzin's voice has recalled them from their secular tasks and reminded them of their spiritual duties. When the prayers have ended, however, the devotees resume their work as if nothing had happened.

Not so with the Christ. The simile is only partly appropos. When that wondrous voice was heard the world listened, some with reverence, some with indignation. The words they heard were the masonry, laid solidly with the cement of God's love for all His children, on which a new system of religious thought was to be built.

But when this voice was hushed amid the pangs of the crucifixion, men did not resume their old tasks in the old spirit. That was rendered forever impossible. The earth has not been the same earth since that hour, and it can never go back to its old customs and ways. There is a new Heaven above us and there are not clouds enough in the firmament of doubt to shroud its glories from our grateful vision.

We should for some reasons, not essential, however, to our spiritual development, be glad to know more of the youth of Jesus. Our curiosity is natural, but after all it is only curiosity. It would afford us gratification certainly to learn from authentic sources about His school days, His companions, His education, His home life, His personal habits and peculiarities, and yet there is this advantage when we look back thro' the mists of time that there is nothing, absolutely nothing, to distract our attention from the great Preacher. All else is veiled, and He stands before us divinely unique.

There are many reasons why we know so little, and they are all good reasons. The family lived in a remote district, a district whose people were looked upon with something of contempt, for the Galileans were of a rebellious temper, and even their language had been corrupted by constant intercourse with the Gentiles. There were thousands of carpenters scattered throughout the land, and there were thousands of carpenters' sons who plied their humble trade in order to meet the family expenses.

When Jesus became prominent by His abandonment of His father's workbench and entered public life as a teacher, making for Himself strange claims, which astounded his multitudinous audiences on plain, hillside and seashore, working such wonders that His name was sent in resounding reverberations from one end of the land to the other, and when, after the people had become accustomed to the thrill of His divine presence, they looked back to discover His antecedents and to gather up the story of His youth, they found as slender gleanings as Ruth did in the fields of Boaz. The veil had already dropped on the past, and no historian's eye was able to penetrate it. The recovery of lost facts was an impossibility, and we must needs be content with knowing that nothing can be known.

A Happy Dream == May Each Child's Hopes Be Realized!

INTERPRETATION.

A CHRISTMAS IDYL—BY DENIS WORTMAN.

Mary and Joseph down to Bethlehem came,
To pay the Roman taxes as assessed;
Wherefore?
To signify the Babe of wondrous Name
Would pay sin's taxes on a name oppressed.

The Babe, not in the inn but lowly manger,
Opened wide eyes upon surprised earth:
Wherefore?
To signify how He, strange little Stranger,
Would love and live with men of humble birth

Some shepherds heard the happy angels sing
Of the dear Child, and Peace to good-willed men;
Wherefore?
Oh, He would be the Shepherd who should bring,
His sheep safe home, so angels sing again!

Three Wise Men came straight to him from afar,
Whilst near-by King and Jewry found him not;
Wherefore?
Full sun shall dawn on who mind light of star:
Infinite God hides in the Infant's grot!

Then Herod for the child made angry quest;
Failing, slew all the Innocents in town;
Wherefore?
He martyrs infant angels in his breast
Who welcomes not the Babe King and his Crown.

Ever God's Star ariseth in some East;
Ever his Babe is in some manger born;
Wherefore?
His noblest sons account themselves but least;
All days of God dawn from a star-lit Morn!

THE TRUE REASON.

Santa Claus, the dear old stupid,
Paid a call last night to Cupid.
Brought him posies, gay old giver!
Silver arrows and a quiver.

Then the wakeful boy, upstarting,
Saw the saint in haste departing—
Seized an arrow, thankless Cupid,
Winged it straight at "dear Old Stupid."

This the way, and that the reason,
Merry maids, this Christmas season,
Find his bounty overflowing—
Reveal in its rich bestowing.

This is why, the country over,
Morning smiled on lass and lover.
This is why the dear old stupid
Claims to-night that *he* is cupid.

ALBERT BIGELOW PAINE.

MADONNA'S SONG.

A baby lay on a mother's knee,
And the stars in heaven stood still, O,
But Mary thought not on where stars might be,
But on Him whom her knee did pillow.

And soft, oh, ever so soft, she sang:
"Sleep thou, my baby-blossom,
Thou who hast come from God's own heart
To rest on a maiden's bosom!

"Oh, I look no more for a far strange God
To come in splendor shining,
In the little babe upon my knee
The Hope of Man divining!"

CHRISTMAS

WILL SOON BE HERE! and every one that will visit our stores, Glass Front, No. 122 and 123, will be convinced that

OUR DISPLAY

for the HOLIDAYS far excells anything that your imagination can picture. The late improvements we have made and the additional

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we have purchased in all Lines makes Our Stores the Greatest Department Store of the town. We haven't room to quote prices on everything. Our name for Low Prices and Quality of Goods is well established. We have many of the

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in Dress Goods, Vicuga Cloths, Teazel Down Cloths, Handkerchiefs, Gloves and Hosiery. Table Linens, Stand Covers, Blankets, Lap Robes, Underwear, Boots and Shoes, Gum Shoes, Ladies 25c per pair, Storm Rubbers 25c., Lamps and a

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Our wonderful sale on them justifies us in branding them the finest on the market. Chocolates of every grade, Rasins, Currents, Citron, Salt Petre, Pure Sage, Pure Pepper, Salt and Brown Sugar. ☞ Come and get a Picture fit to adorn any home. Groveley's Best Tobacco 90c lb., Oriole Tobacco 32c lb., Early Bird 32c lb. The public Respectfully invited to visit our New Stores.

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Dress Skirts from	$1 50 to $5 00
Examine Our Home-Made Interlined Skirts at	$2.50
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MRS. S. A. HURLOCK,

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See our Show Windows for new Styles.

Shoes made to order when we can not fit you out of stock.

We can always show you something new, that you can not get elsewhere.

A glance at Our Stock will convince you, that we are showing the largest and best selected stock that has been shown in Kent Co.

No trouble to show goods.

All goods as represented or money refunded.

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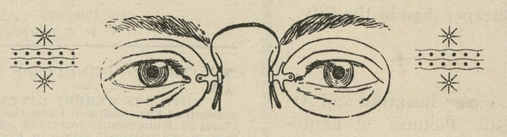
HEADACHES?



Headaches and unaccountable eye aches are often produced by imperfect eyes. It would surprise you to know the comfort that is obtained from having glasses correctly fitted to obviate these defects. Thousands of our customers can testify to permanent cures with glasses adjusted by

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These remedies are specially prepared to give this advantage to all who desire it. The price, 25 cents each, make them in easy reach of every family.

A cold cured in the beginning by two or three doses that would have run into the pneumonia is pneumonia prevented—nursing saved. Sick Headache, usually lasting two or three days, cured in 5 or 10 minutes to say the least, is time saved—passions prevented.

Cut sickness short in first stage, which these remedies do, saves time and suffering, and is economy.

For Headache take	No. 1
" Colds and Lagrippe take	" 2
" Rheumatism take	" 4
" Malaria and Chills take	" 9
" Fevers take	" 10
" Laxatives take	" 12

And so on.

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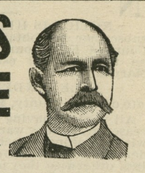

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