

Christmas Mes- sages From The Local Pastors

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THE INCARNATE WORD

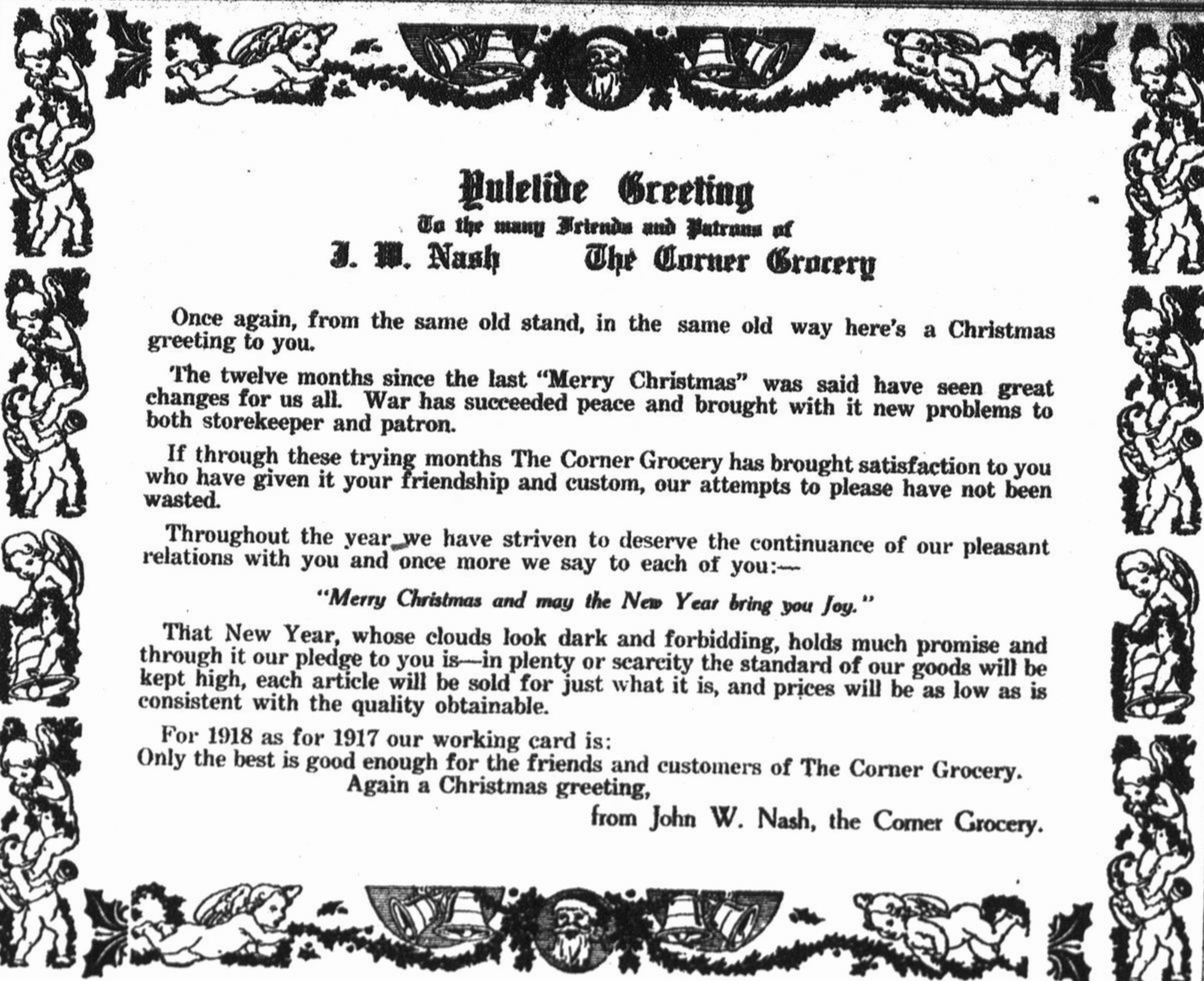
By Rev. Norman G. Oliver.

Matthew tells the story of the King's birth in a way that emphasizes his relationship to the Jewish royal line; Luke the physician explains the birth in a way that shows his knowledge of the feminine heart; but John, the loved disciple, writing in later years to a church that might have forgotten the eternal truth in Him, begins his story of the Wonderful One in language that makes us feel that Jesus was no other than the infinite God expressing himself in human form.

How sorely we need that Word today! In the midst of the thunder of great shells that Word shall whisper peace to men's souls this Christmas tide. Into the darkness of men's doubts He shall bring the light of Truth. When death reigns in stark horror the incarnate Word shall still speak of eternal life and everlasting joy.

John says that this Word is light that shineth in darkness but the darkness tried to overwhelm him then and were it not for such bright Christmas days in men's lives we too might soon smother that light today.

In Him was life but men still lay content in the lap of death while He was here. There is a death more ter-



Puletide Greeting

To the many Friends and Patrons of J. W. Nash The Corner Grocery

Once again, from the same old stand, in the same old way here's a Christmas greeting to you.

The twelve months since the last "Merry Christmas" was said have seen great changes for us all. War has succeeded peace and brought with it new problems to both storekeeper and patron.

If through these trying months The Corner Grocery has brought satisfaction to you who have given it your friendship and custom, our attempts to please have not been wasted.

Throughout the year we have striven to deserve the continuance of our pleasant relations with you and once more we say to each of you:—

"Merry Christmas and may the New Year bring you Joy."

That New Year, whose clouds look dark and forbidding, holds much promise and through it our pledge to you is—in plenty or scarcity the standard of our goods will be kept high, each article will be sold for just what it is, and prices will be as low as is consistent with the quality obtainable.

For 1918 as for 1917 our working card is: Only the best is good enough for the friends and customers of The Corner Grocery. Again a Christmas greeting,

from John W. Nash, the Corner Grocery.

marily in a religious manner. The religious greatness of Christmas lies resident in the fact that it is primarily Christ's own day, the Day of His Birth, upon which He gave to the world the Supreme and Blessed Gift of Himself. It commemorates the Mystery of love manifested in that "entering in of God into Man." The Incarnation of that love, Jesus, is the inspiration and source of our devotion.

The sickening knowledge that millions of people are suffering because of this war certainly should prevent the least tinge of selfishness to mark the spirit of our Christmas giving. Every recognized claim to humanity finds place in answering the pitiful cry from 'across the water.' Would not the intrinsic value of all our other gifts be enhanced if they represented the sacrifice entailed in the first remembrance of those who look to us for so much! In your loving thought for those who are dear to you, should you not recognize a higher claim in doing your share for those who are crying out for relief from the tolls of Prussianism and organized brutality.

In this time of war, and during the reconstruction period to follow, the church is and will be called upon to bear a tremendous burden. Over three years of warfare have demonstrated clearly, the absolute dependence of the State upon the church, to mold and control the hearts and minds of people who must suffer the awful tragedies and sacrifices of war. There is no other agency available and competent. Let nothing interfere with your sacred duty of supporting and maintaining the institutions of Christ. Our nation is fighting to make the world safe for democracy, but the higher duty is upon Christianity of making democracy safe for the world, Democracy with-

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rible than that of the battlefield and many are existing in it now. Will this Christmas tide awaken us to that life in Him?

To as many as received Him to them gave He power to become the Sons of God. All the Riches of God in Christ Jesus will be your Christmas gift from Him this year if you will respond with belief to this glad news of the incarnate Word.

A MESSAGE OF CHRISTMAS

By Rev. Hugh M. McWhorter.

The advent of another Christmas confronts us with its insistent demand for recognition and consideration. The promised Christ is born. Think what that meant in the history of Our Land. No longer prophesied and anticipated at last the great life was a real fact in the world. I was, indeed, only a poor helpless child at Bethlehem, but in its being here was really wrapped up all that that child was to grow to, and to be, and to do. No wonder Christmas day has been so sacred to all those who believed in Jesus Christ, for it has seemed to sum up in itself every association and meaning of His life.

There is abundant need in these days to emphasize most earnestly, ideas and ideals in their primal purity and integrity. We are to call the whole idea of Christmas with a new meaning and to claim for it from the Faithful such a measure of evotion as shall be agreeable to a distinctly Christian interpretation. In our anticipation we are to remember: above all, that Christmas is a Christian Festival making its demand upon and holding the hearts of those "we profess and call themselves Christians." Being such, it is fundamentally a religious Festival to be observed pri-

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out God is chaos. The war cannot be won without God. Christ is the source of the nation's hope, the inspiration of our faith and courage. Unless the hearts of the people are kept pure and dependent upon God, we cannot expect victory.

Our observance, then, of this Christmas Day, is to realize its fullness through our complete identification with Him in Whom is the Spirit of Christmas. Union with Christ is the ideal for which we are to strive. Never has a greater demand been made upon our loyalty or challenged the courage of our convictions.

GOD'S CHRISTMAS GIFT

Rev. J. F. Jenness.

The gods have ever been credited with bestowing gifts upon men. Not all those beings with whom the imagination of men has peopled the skies have been noted for their benevolence. Many of them indeed have been pictured as harsh and cruel in their natures and their gifts to men as pernicious in their influence. Suffice it to say that men have always thought of the gods as givers.

Especially was this true of the one God of the Hebrews. Jehovah was from the beginning a bountiful giver, and all his gifts were good. Not that all were equally pleasant to receive. While some were sweet to the taste and delightful to behold others were bitter to the tongue and repugnant to the eye. But the infinite One who had at heart the highest interest of his chosen people sent only those gifts which would prove to be for the ultimate good of the receiver. So even the drought and the famine and the sword might come to be looked upon

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