

The First Christmas

By Emma J. Knapp, in the Hutchinsonian Forum.

"Merry Christmas! Merry Christmas! Chime the heavy, deep-toned bell. And all the world gives back the answer: Christ is born, and all is well."

OVER nineteen hundred years ago there lived in the little town of Nazareth a humble carpenter and his wife, Mary.

At this time the ruler of the Roman empire, Augustus Caesar, required all persons to pay taxes for the upkeep of the kingdom. Joseph was a descendant of King David. Although he was living in Galilee, the law required him to go to Bethlehem in Judea to pay his taxes.

When it was time to pay the tribute, Joseph took Mary with him on the journey to Bethlehem. It was a tiresome journey. They were very weary when they reached the little town. Joseph went to the hotel to get a room where they could rest. But poor Joseph was disappointed, for so many other people had come to the little town that day the rooms were all taken. No doubt Joseph and Mary felt lonely and discouraged as night came on. At last they went to a stable to find a place to sleep. Here in a manger the Savior of the World was born.

This was a very lowly place indeed for the Prince of Peace to be born. Prophets had been foretelling his coming for many years. People were expecting him to come, but in some very grand way. Some thought he would make the kings leave their thrones and himself be the ruler. But he came as a sweet, dear little babe.

Now, you wonder how the people heard of his birth, in those long, long ago days when there were no telegraphs or telephones? Perhaps you think so important news as this would be announced publicly by the highest officials or the richest people in town and a holiday declared.

But not so. The first news of his birth was told to people engaged in a very humble and lowly work.

Methinks it must have been a beautiful warm night. Far out on the hills of old Judea the shepherds were herding their sheep. No doubt they were talking together about the big crowd in Bethlehem that evening. Suddenly there appeared in the sky a bright light. The shepherds were afraid. An angel spoke to them and said, "Be not afraid; I bring you good tidings of great joy which shall be to all people." Then he told them that Jesus had been born in Bethlehem; that they would find him, a babe, wrapped in swaddling clothes lying in a manger with his mother, Mary.

Suddenly there appeared with the angel a host of other angels singing, "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace, good will to men."

After the angels were gone the shepherds talked over the wondrous news. Then they hurried away to Bethlehem to see if it was true. Sure enough, there were Mary and Joseph and the little babe, Jesus. They then went out to tell others.

God also told the news of his gift to the world by placing a new star in the sky. The wise men saw it and followed its shining rays until they, too, found the "Babe of Bethlehem." These wise men worshiped him and gave him gifts of gold, myrrh and frankincense.

This was the first Christmas.

CHRISTMAS IN THE AIR

By MARY G. BONNER

THE air was keen and cold and invigorating. The snow was falling gently. In every house Christmas presents were being wrapped, cheery messages and cards and letters were being sent. Almost forgotten friends were thought of and remembered by a card, a wish, a small gift.

For Christmas was in the air! (© 1922, Western Newspaper Union.)

The Christmas Wreath



THE TRUE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT

Period of Good Will and Kindly Thought for Others, Most Important on Calendar.

THAT if, as a Scrooge-like cynic intimates, the Christmas spirit comes to us but once a year, not even he will attempt to assert that we are not the better for it. Think what it would mean if that period of good will and kindly thought for others were dropped from our calendar. No blessed interruption to our too generally self-centered lives; no yearly oasis of brotherly sentiment to purge us, however temporarily, of selfishness and cause us, if only for a few days to think of making others happy.

Pre-eminently the children's festival, as of right it should be since it commemorates the nativity of the Christ Child, it transforms us all, whatever our years, into children of larger growth. We experience anew the glad expectancy of childhood, the thrill that far surpasses any realization, and find our greatest pleasure in the simple childish emotions of love and joy.

And this is the noblest Christmas gift, the gift of the true Christmas spirit that captures and takes possession of each one of us. "Except ye be converted and become as little children ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven."—Pittsburgh Dispatch.

PEACOCK PIE FOR CHRISTMAS

Gaily Plumed Bird Formerly One of the Principal Delicacies at Yuletide Feasts.

CHICKEN pie, beefsteak pie and pumpkin pie, not forgetting apple pie and cheese, the great American institution—all of these have a familiar ring to our ears, but who of us has ever tasted the famous English dainty of dainties, peacock pie? Yet at one time, this was a favorite Christmas dish which was brought in with a great deal of ceremony by the lady, most distinguished in all the company for beauty and high position. Many times this dish was garlanded with the head and tail of the peacock in such a way as to appear that the bird was alive. Knights made vows over it to break spear in defense of beauty and distress. It was this ceremony which gave rise to the once popular oath "by cock and pie."

Probably the use of the peacock pie as a Christmas dish arose from the old belief that the flesh of the peacock is incorruptible which of course would make it a symbol of immortality and new life.

To the people of today the peacock is a symbol of vanity.

SOME OLD YULETIDE BELIEFS

Season Supposed to Control the Destiny of Children Born at Gladsome Time.

AN OLD superstition says that it is lucky to be born on Christmas Day.

French peasants believe that in addition to being lucky Christmas Day babies have the gift of prophecy; while in Silesia there is a belief that a boy born on Christmas Day will become either a lawyer or a thief.

Among Vosges peasants, children born on Christmas Eve are supposed to be endowed with what is vulgarly termed "a good gift of the gab," while those born on Christmas Day are supposed to have less tongue and better reasoning powers. A daughter born on Christmas Day will grow up to be wise, witty, and virtuous.

A curious request for the benefit of Christmas Day babies was left by a man who died in 1915. He the terms of his will each child born in the testator's native town on December 25th receives five pounds as a birthday gift.

VERY SLOW

Mrs. Rug — I've done all my Christmas shopping.

Mrs. Snail — Well I haven't and I started out a month ago.

Sad and Solemn Thoughts.

"Even at Christmas, when all the world is gay and glad," said the grey-bearded philosopher, "there come to a man sad and solemn thoughts."

"Yes," agreed the young man who had no watch on the end of his chain, "and the saddest and most solemn are those that come to a fellow when he reads of the marriage of a girl to whom last Christmas he gave a diamond ring on which he is still paying installments."

Christmas Weather.

For Christmas the weather should be of that Pickwickian kind in which the grass is "crisp and frosty," the air has a "fine, dry, bracing coldness," and the day is one "that might induce a couple of elderly gentlemen in a lonely field to take off their greatcoats and play at leapfrog in pure lightness of heart and gaiety."—Fouth's Companion.

CITIZENS' ASSN. TO DISCUSS SCHOOLS TUESDAY, DEC. 19.

J. C. Hanna, from the Office of State Superintendent of Schools, to be Speaker.

Mr. J. C. Hanna, a member of the staff of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, will be the speaker at the next supper and meeting of the Citizens' association at the M.E. church, next Tuesday evening, December 19 at 6:30.

Mr. Hanna will come here, not to tell us what we should do, but to tell us what we can do under the existing laws, to relieve the congested condition and improve the efficiency of our present school system. He is conversant with the laws regarding taxation for schools, with the forming and establishing of new and old districts and has, in more than one instance, advised with communities which were situated similarly to the way we are. His talk, alone, should make it worth while attending the meeting.

Members of the Board of Education have been invited to attend and explain in full detail just what is

lacking and what their plan, for it is understood they have a tentative plan, is for straightening out the tangle.

"Our Schools," is the topic for the evening's discussion. The association is taking up the matter simply to see if some solution, agreeable to a majority of the people of the community, can be arrived at. With this subject up for a talking, there should be a full house at the church next Tuesday. Everyone, whether or not they are at present members of the association, are invited to attend. If you wish to go, simply notify Geo. W. Sweeney, 112 Linscott avenue, and he will reserve a place.

The date of the meeting is Tuesday evening, December 19. The place — Methodist-Episcopal church. The time — 6:30. The occasion — dinner and meeting of the Citizens' Association to discuss the local school situation.

Put this in your note book now.

Maple Tree's Sap Production.

The average maple tree yields enough sap to produce between five and ten pounds of sugar.

Greatest Fishing Stream.

The Columbia river is the greatest fishing stream in the world.

I. O. O. F. - REBEKAH ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY DECEMBER 18

Tree, Candy and Presents for all the Kiddies — Santa Claus for the Older Folks

Santa Claus will be at the annual Christmas party of the local Odd Fellow and Rebekah lodges to be held next Monday evening, December 18 in the lodge hall. This was definitely announced yesterday by Harry Rigbee, Noble Grand-elect, who had just received a special delivery letter from the old Saint at the north pole.

The children did not want their mothers and fathers to ask him to come. They were afraid that just at this time, only a week or so before the big day, would interfere with his plans. But the older folks insisted, we think more for their own benefit, than that of the kiddies. Santa, in a hurry as always, scrawled, "I'll be able to get away for a few minutes with you on next Monday night. I will remember my visit to Downers Grove last year and the good children I met there. I am making big plans for Christmas this year and hope to reach all the good little boys

ANNOUNCEMENT

Where did Cain get his wife? Think its hard to answer? No. Irrefutable proof has been given answering something harder than this. Come and receive a satisfactory explanation next Sunday morning and do not be stuck on this question any longer.

Last Sunday morning 20 men heard the lecture "Did Moses Know?" and it was enjoyed by all.

January 1 we begin a study of the Bible book by book, one book each Sunday in order. The new officers also assume their duties at this time.

Men this is your opportunity! The class is cosmopolitan in personnel and every man is invited to meet with the Mens Bible Class at the First Baptist church. 9:45 a. m. and girls."

The annual Odd-Fellow-Rebekah children's party will be held at 8:15 next Monday evening, after the regular meeting. There will be a tree, candy, nuts and presents for all the little folks whose parents belong to one of the orders and a general jolly time. A short program, with speaking and song by the children, will be a feature of the evening.

Remember Everybody This Christmas!



In our Gift Aisles you will find appropriate items for everybody and anybody—gifts for members of the family and those smaller inexpensive items which make such enjoyable friend to friend gifts. The time is getting short and immediate shopping is necessary if everyone is to be remembered. Perhaps the following suggestions will help you decide.



NECKWEAR

Brand new Collar and Cuff sets of heavy lace, also of wool, with fancy embroidery work. Bertha's, Vestees and many other styles to select from. One never can have too many. They are sure to please.

50c to \$1.75



JEWELRY

Beads, ear rings, fancy combs, cuff links, lingerie clasps, barrettes, beauty pins, metal girdles, pencils and many other jewelry items. These all make giving easy.

50c to \$1.95



PERFUMES

All nicely boxed in many different kinds and sizes. Also a good line of toilet water, toilet sets and other items which make practical gifts.

15c to \$4.50



TOYS

Visit our toyland department, we have ironing boards, jumping jacks, trains, autos, chariots, circus wagons, telephones, kitchen cabinets, pianos, horns, dishes, banjos, games, waffle irons, doll houses, circus tents, books, beads, Tinker Toys, bedroom sets, irons, stoves, golf sets, pool tables, Sandy Andy tables, chairs, cradles, dolls, beds, iron toys, blocks, horses, guns, drums, steam engines, steam boats, tops, musical toys and many other toys. Be sure to visit our toy section early to get the best selections.

BOOKS

Certainly there can be no doubt about a suitable gift when you give books. We have them from the little tots A. B. C. books to the larger ones for boys and girls and for the grown-ups, by the best authors.

35c to 75c

CALENDARS

Hand tinted calendars, cards and booklets by Mr. W. H. Baker, whose work is well known. A very appropriate gift to send to anyone. Many of these are local views.

15c to \$1.00

STATIONERY

It is always a useful gift. We have all the desirable tints in styles to suit every taste. Some are assorted colors to the box in different combinations.

35c to \$1.00

Handkerchiefs

For men, women and children, a very large assortment in linens, lawns, Pongee, etc. Hand embroidered and plain. Inexpensive to select and easy to send.

10c to \$1.25

Hand Bags

Make acceptable gifts. We are showing these in a large assortment of styles and materials from which it will be easy to select from. Regular hand bags, flat purses and vanity cases.

We Expect Santa Claus Here Tuesday, Dec. 19

H. E. McALLISTER & CO.