

TWAS THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS

'Twas the night before Christmas, when all through the house Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse: The stockings were hung by the chimney with care, In hopes that St. Nicholas soon would be there; The children were nestled all snug in their beds, While visions of sugar-plums danced in their heads; And Mamma in her kerchief and I in my cap, Had just settled our brains for a long winter's nap— When out on the lawn there arose such a clatter, I sprang from my bed to see what was the matter. Away to the window I flew like a flash, Tore open the shutters and threw up the shades; The moon on the breast of the new-fallen snow Gave a lustre of midday to objects below; When what to my wondering eyes should appear, But a miniature sleigh and eight tiny reindeer, With a little old driver, so lively and quick, I knew in a moment it must be St. Nick! More rapid than eagles his courses they kept; He whisked and shouted and called them by name: "Now Dasher! now Dancer, now Prancer and Vixen! On Comet! on Cupid! on Donner and Blitzen!" To the top of the porch to the top of the wall! Now dash away! dash away! dash away all! As dry leaves before the hurricane fly, When they meet with an obstacle mount to the sky; So up to the house-top, the couriers they flew; With a sleigh full of toys and St. Nicholas too— And then in a twinkling I heard on the roof The prancing and pawing of each little hoof; As I drew in my head and was turning around, Down the chimney came St. Nicholas with a bound. He was dressed all in fur from his head to his foot, And his clothes were all tarnished with ashes and soot; A bundle of toys he had flung on his back, And he looked like a pedlar just opening his pack; His eyes how they twinkled! his nose like a cherry, His droll little mouth was drawn up like a bow; And the beard on his chin was as white as the snow; The stump of his pipe he held tight in his teeth, And the smoke encircled his head like a wreath of gold; He had a broad face and a little round belly, Which shook when he laughed like a bowl full of jelly; He was chubby and plump, a right jolly old elf, And I laughed when I saw him in spite of myself. A wink of his eye and a twist of his head, Soon gave me to know I had nothing to dread; He spoke not a word but went straight to his work, And filled all the stockings, then turned with a jerk, And laying his fingers aside of his nose, And giving a nod up the chimney he rose; He sprang in his sleigh, to his team gave a whistle, Away they all flew, like the down of a thistle; But I heard him exclaim, ere he drove out of sight: "Happy Christmas to all, and to all a Good night!"

The Sunday School Lesson

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24th

THE WORLD FOR CHRIST Golden Text: I am debtor both to the Greeks and to Barbarians, both to the wise and to the foolish. Rom. 1: 14. Lesson Text: Acts 9: 15, 19: 21; 23: 11, 26; 28: 31; Rom 1: 13-16; 15: 22-24. Exposition - I. God Guides Paul in His Service, Ac. 9: 15; 19: 21. The ministry of Paul is full of manifestations of guidance such as these: God's appointments are our opportunities. He selects His workmen for His work (Ex. 4: 12-14; Jer. 1: 7, 29: 15-16). Paul had his course divinely planned because he was surrendered (1 Cor. 15: 10). At every crisis the Spirit of God directs Paul in the course he is to take. This was as it should be with us (Heb. 11: 6). II. God's Overruling Care, Ac. 23: 11. It required no miracle to defeat the plot of the Jews. But the defeat was of God just as much as if the whole course of nature had been stopped. The plot leaked out and got to the ears of a relative of Paul. This scheme to overthrow God's purposes and word had failed utterly (Prov. 21: 30; Lam. 3: 37). Paul had faith in God but that did not prevent his taking judicious precautions to defeat the wiles of his enemies (Matt. 10: 16). The captains and colonels both had occasion to fear Paul (ch. 22: 25-29). They were both eager to do something to gain his favor. It started Paul on the road to Rome, and brought him to Caesarea, where he had the opportunity of bearing witness to Christ before Felix, Festus, Agrippa, Drusilla and Bernice. It resulted also in that imprisonment to which we owe so many precious epistles. Again God made the wrath of men to praise Him (Ps. 76: 10). III. Paul's Passion for a Lost World, Rom. 1: 13-16. Not of Christians alone does Paul think. He soon runs over the border of the household of faith to an ignorant and unbelieving world beyond. He, the servant and recipient of God's grace, has become every other man's debtor. He thinks of the Greek, cultured but needy and lost in soul, and he longs to impart the eternal culture of God's grace in His Son. His mind thinks of the barbarian, rude, illiterate, sensual, and he longs to convey to him a divine knowledge and a purifying spirituality. He thinks of the learned, he calls them wise and also the unlearned, and into these categories he seems to take all men of every class. He is a debtor to every one of them. IV. Preaching the Kingdom of God and Persuading Men Concerning Jesus, Ac. 28: 28-31. How all the schemes of the enemies of Paul and Christ had turned out to the furtherance of the Gospel (ch. 1: 12). They had brought Paul to Rome at the expense of the state, they had given him a great audience of the leading Jews, but further than this they had given Paul an audience of Roman soldiers. These soldiers would never have come to a service conducted by a Jew, but as they had to guard Paul they had to

hear what he had to say. Many were thus converted (Phil. 1: 13), and as the Roman soldiers went everywhere they became most efficient missionaries in Gaul, Germany and Britain and elsewhere. Paul opened to the Jews the Old Testament scriptures concerning the death and resurrection and reign of the Christ (cf. ch. 17: 2, 3, 26; 22: 23) showing how all this was fulfilled in Jesus. He gave witness to the kingdom of God that is, to the reign of God on earth in the coming Messianic kingdom. All his exposition and testimony centred in Jesus. It was no abstract reign of God in an improved state of society, but a definite person, Jesus. Paul provided his points both from the law of Moses and from the prophets from morning till evening. The preaching of the gospel always causes division those who are ordained to eternal life believe (cf. ch. 13: 45-49; 14: 4, 17; 4: 5; 18: 6-8; 19: 8). Those who believe are saved those who believe not are lost (Mk. 16: 16). But the unbelief of some does not make the faithfulness of God of non-effect (Rom. 3: 3, RV). Paul was not at all shaken in his own faith because so many including scholarly ones had not believed. No rather he was confirmed in his faith for was not this a fulfillment of prophecy? But note how plainly Paul spoke to those rejecters of the truth of God, and we ought to use equal plainness of speech. Paul told them what lay at the root of their unbelief was gross heart dull ears closed eyes. And it is not superior scholarship that lies at the root of the prevailing unbelief in many colleges and theological seminaries. It is no then "gross heart," "dull ears," deliberately "closed eyes." Their eyes were closed because they themselves had closed them (cf. 2 Thes. 1: 7, 9). Though they refused the salvation, it was none the less "of God." If they would not have it, others would (v. 20).

Some Taxes Higher Next Year

Finance Minister Halsey in a recent speech said that, beginning January 1st, the personal income tax would be reduced 25 per cent by virtue of his 1946 budget. About 500,000 persons would benefit pay no taxes, the exemptions having been raised; and people in the higher brackets would have a reduction of about 10 per cent. So he said. But he did not mention that some (perhaps many) families would actually pay more in 1947 than in 1944 that is if working wives keep on working, which they are not likely to do. Ottawa reports that the reason the government is removing the clause whereby, during the war, a wife's income from employment did not remove the husband's right to claim a married man's status, is that it constituted an injustice to farmer taxpayers, most of whom are helped by wives in earning the taxable income, but who are never allowed to deduct a reasonable amount for the wives' work. It never would occur to an Halsey adviser that a simple way out of this difficulty would be to raise the married exemption of the bona fide or dirt, farmer to \$2,250. There are so few small farmers who pay income taxes anyway that the loss to the treasury would be trifling. It would, of course, be creating a precedent in that a first step would be taken in dealing fairly with the vexed problem of farmers' income tax. Precedents must be avoided at all costs. — The Printed Word.

U.B.C. Library Gets Diderot Masterpiece

Famed Encyclopedia Developed Ideas Which Set Off French Revolution

VANCOUVER (CP) A set of encyclopedias which helped launch a revolution and evolved a complete new pattern of ideals has come to rest in the University of British Columbia library after nearly two centuries. The set, recently arrived from London, is one of the few copies in Canada, and one of the best preserved in existence. It was compiled by Denis Diderot, between 1751 and 1777 and outlined new ideas of human rights which had a part in the Parisians' attack on authority in 1789. There are 17 volumes of text only, published despite official persecution between 1751 and 1776. 11 volumes of accompanying engravings, published 1762 to 1772, four supplementary volumes of text, containing extensive revisions, a further volume of engravings with 1765 supplement and two volumes of analytical index. Diderot's troubles began even before he started the work, when he was imprisoned for three months for being too speculative in his philosophical writings. Famous Frenchmen, including Voltaire, Montesquieu and D'Alembert collaborated on the encyclopedia. Its advocacy of freedom of thought, political criticism and evaluation of science led to opposition from government and church leaders and it was ordered suppressed in 1759. Diderot's allies withdrew and for seven years he continued alone. To ensure accuracy, he went to workshops, dismantled machines, re-assembled and operated them himself, before writing articles on them. According to Dr. W. Kaye Lamb, U.B.C. Librarian, Diderot's encyclopedia had a completeness far exceeding anything published in that century. The first Encyclopedia Britannica, published in Edinburgh in 1768, had only three volumes. Subscribers to Diderot's work paid the equivalent of 150 pounds a set. He is said to have made less than that in yearly earnings from his books. The volumes will not be displayed openly at the university due to their monetary and historical value. Students will require special permission to study them.

TRY, TRY AGAIN

EDWARD SASK, 6077 Tony Hill, son of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Hill of this district, suffered a broken leg a year ago when he fell from a house. Reoperated, Tony was getting on the same horse again the other day when he fell again, breaking the same leg.

It's Good Picobac PIPE TOBACCO

Christmas Greetings

To our Customers and Friends With Santa Claus peepin' around the corner, and everybody thinking about everybody else we want to pause long enough to extend to you our very best wishes for a Merry, Merry Christmas.

Watson's DAIRY AND RESTAURANT

A JOLLY CHRISTMAS MAY WE FLASH THIS MESSAGE OF GOOD CHEER "A JOLLY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR"

Baxter's Drug Store

MacSWAIN MOTORS

Deep down in our heart we know of no song, no poem, no truer word to express our sentiments than this sincere greeting Merry Christmas—and God Bless You HOTCHEN'S BAKERY ACTON

"MERRY CHRISTMAS" STILL RINGS TRUER THAN ANY OTHER GREETING WE CAN EXTEND TO YOU AT THIS TIME OF THE YEAR. TALBOT'S HARDWARE

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New Massey-Harris Combine Plant contains over 270,000 square feet of floor space. Main assembly line is automotive type — one of the most modern on the continent. Self-propelled combines are now rolling off the assembly line of the new Massey-Harris Combine Plant at Toronto. This plant constructed at a cost of \$2,000,000 and recently placed in operation, is the company's answer to the farmers of the world who, in recent years, have created the greatest demand in history for power farm machines of all kinds with particular emphasis on the new self-propelled combine development introduced by Massey-Harris. The building, laid out almost entirely on one floor, covers over 270,000 square feet of floor space, is said to be the largest of its kind in Canada, specially designed for the manufacture of a single farm machine. Production in the plant employs the latest ideas in modern production methods of speed and quality of workmanship.