

HOW CHRISTMAS CAME TO HIGHLAND PARK

CHRISTMAS at the Presbyterian Church began a few months ago when the Young Ladies' Society of the church began to make scrap books and to prepare for the making of tarlatan stockings to be filled with candy, etc., for the West Division Mission Sabbath School in Chicago, a mission in which all branches of the church here are interested and are helping.

As a result, 160 pop-corn balls and 210 stockings filled with "goodies" for the mission were sent a few days before Christmas. The pastor of the mission writes: "The 'grade' was far above the 'average'—far better than I ever received. Every child I met on the street to-day simply beamed on me in pure joy. To my question if they had had a 'good time' last night they invariably answered 'Yes, sir!' The good Father in heaven alone knows of the many children's hearts uplifted, of the scores of mothers touched by the gifts to their own darlings. May heaven reward the kind donors in Highland Park."

On Friday evening there were a Christmas tree and exercises for our home school. The teachers and officers and scholars made this a distinctively giving Christmas. Hence, when Mr. Grover, the superintendent, called the classes, the teachers and scholars brought all manner of good and useful things, food, clothing, toys, money, etc., and piled them up around the tree. These things were distributed next day to a number of needy families in and around Highwood, and the rest sent to West Division Street Mission.

The primary department sent over twenty real, "sure enough" stockings filled with good things to Mrs. H. S. Vail, who had charge of the procuring of stockings for the *Home of the Friendless* in Chicago. She succeeded in gathering together over 100 stockings for the needy ones in the Home.

Among other good things that went from the Presbyterian Church to West Division Mission was a wheel invalid's chair for a helpless old lady, cared for in the Mission. This was the gift of a generous lady and her daughter in the church. Everybody was happy in giving.

Our own Sunday School was remembered by gifts of pictures and candy from the school, and there was an interchange of presents among teachers and scholars of some of the classes. But the greatest joy was in the giving to make the needy and the friendless happy. Our Christmas this year was a great success.

Last Sabbath the choir at the Presbyterian Church rendered an excellent program of special music, and the Rev. Mr. Phanstiehl preached a Christmas sermon. Special exercises were held in the Sabbath School.

Trinity Church

The Christmas services in Trinity Church were in every way the best in the history of the parish.

The church was beautifully decked with holly and festoons of evergreen by the young people, under the direction of Miss Ruth Kerfoot, the directress of the Altar Guild, and the altar was banked with masses of fragrant narcissus and hung with white embroidered hangings.

The children's evensong and carol service, with the Sunday School Christmas tree, was at seven o'clock Christmas eve. The children, headed by the vested choir, marched in procession around the church carrying their banners. The service was beautifully sung and the old carols were heartily rendered.

The tree, hung with glittering ornaments and loaded with presents, stood in the choir and was lighted with tiny electric bulbs, which were arranged

by Carl Phanstiehl and Elmendorf Phillips. Sixty children were made happy with gifts and the Christ-of all, by the large number of communicants and by the spirit of peace and good will which prevails in the congregation.

mas light shone in the eyes of the parents and friends who filled the church. Mr. Hipwell was remembered with a framed picture of the church and the choir gave Mr. Sumner, the choirmaster, a handsome umbrella, to which their elders added a generous sum of money as a token of appreciation and good will.

At the end of the service the tree was removed and the church made ready for the Christmas services.

At half past seven Christmas morning the church was filled with a devout congregation who came to welcome the Christ-child in the Holy Eucharist. The rector celebrated, assisted by the Rev. George Shelton. Considerably more than a hundred communions were made. The service was plain, except for two hymns and soft organ music.

At eleven o'clock there was an elaborate musical service consisting of shortened Matins and a festal celebration of the Holy Eucharist. The large choir was reinforced by several volunteers, and Reed's festival service was admirably rendered with Christmas hymns, and Haynes' anthem "Lo, God, our God, has come, to us a child is born, to us a Son is given."

Father Shelton was celebrant, assisted by the rector, who made a brief address on the angelic message, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace."

The offerings at both services, amounting to more than \$600.00, were devoted to the reduction of the small indebtedness remaining upon the church property, which it is hoped will shortly be paid in full.

The day was appropriately ended by a choral evensong at half past four o'clock.

Altogether it was a very happy Christmas for the rector and for the entire congregation, and was marked by the beauty of the church decorations, the large congregations and the excellence of the music, by the generous offerings—a larger sum being given than ever before upon any one day—and best

First Baptist Church

At the First Baptist Church the annual Christmas festival of the Sunday School took place on Friday evening, December 23. There were the usual number of songs and recitations, with a reading from "Bird's Christmas Choral" by Mrs. Ed. Brown.

The most interesting part of the program was a cantata by thirty boys and girls from the Sunday School, assisted by Miss Cheverton, Mr. Sweetland and some older members of the school.

The choruses were admirably sung by the children and each part deserves special mention.

After the cantata a beautiful Christmas tree burst into bloom under a multitude of miniature electric lights. These lights were furnished by Mr. Frazin and one could hardly imagine a more beautiful tree under the glow of these lights. Santa Claus and his attendant appeared in good season and distributed candy and a few toys to the primary department.

A very large audience enjoyed with the little folks the program and Christmas tree.

But the Baptist Church has not centered its Christmas giving upon itself. Christmas trees and packages have been provided for the poor and the rich. The soldiers at Ft. Sheridan were also remembered. One hundred and ten Christmas cards were sent to the boys in the guard house, and a

very pretty card was sent to every sick soldier in the hospital and to the hospital corps. Altogether one hundred and fifty cards were sent to the fort.

Christmas day was observed by a special sermon by the pastor and a service in which all seemed to enter with a spirit of joy and thanksgiving. Altogether the Christmas tide this year has been one of the happiest the church has known for many years and the church looks forward into the coming year with hopefulness and anticipation.

St. Mary's Church

St. Mary's church was thronged with worshipers at all services on Christmas morning. Plants and flowers in profusion with the illumination by electricity added beauty and impressiveness to the scene.

At 6:00 a. m. High Mass was celebrated by the pastor, Father Morrissey, who preached on "The Nativity." A Low Mass was celebrated at 8 o'clock by the pastor. At this service the singing by the children's choir, under the direction of Miss Estella Finney, was an attractive and noticeable feature. The 10 o'clock Mass was celebrated by Rev. Father Porcella, of Buffalo, N. Y., who preached an eloquent discourse most appropriate to the occasion. The music at this service, as well as at the 6 o'clock Mass, was rendered by St. Mary's choir, under the direction of the organist, Mrs. P. Dausch, and was in every way shorthy of the occasion.

All in all the services at this beautiful little church were more attractive and better attended than in any previous year.

The Word of Immortality

WALT WHITMAN occupies a unique place in the world of letters. No writer of verse or prose has been more abused by critics or readers than he, both in his lifetime and since his death.

To the casual reader his lines seem flat and commonplace, without rhyme or reason, and dull and uninteresting, without the human touch. Yet is it not true that an appreciative reader must be in sympathy with the writer? Walt Whitman wrote as he thought, and his moods were set down as they came and went,—beside the camp-fire, in his cabin, wherever he chanced to be, his surroundings influencing his moods,—his moods suggesting the words which he wrote as they now stand in the volumes of his works.

Commonplace his subjects may at times have been. But a touch of the master hand transforms the whole into a symphony of human living impulse. Each man to himself and each woman to herself, is the word of the past and present, and the true word of immortality;

No one can acquire for another—not one,
No one can grow for another—not one.
The song is to the singer, and comes back most to him.

The teaching is to the teacher, and comes back most to him.

The murder is to the murderer, and comes back most to him.

The theft is to the thief, and comes back most to him.

The love is to the lover, and comes back most to him.

The gift is to the giver, and comes back most to him—it cannot fail.

The oration is to the orator, the acting is to the actor and actress, and not to the audience.

And no man understands any greatness or goodness but his own, or the indication of his own.

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