

WHAT AM I

I watched them tearing a building down.
A gang of men in a busy town.
With a ho-heave-ho and a lusty yell
They swung a beam and the side wall fell
I asked the foreman: "Are these men skilled?
And the men you'd hire if you had to build?"
He gave a laugh and said: "No indeed!
I can easily wreck in a day or two
What builders have taken a year to do."
And I thought to myself as I went my way,
Which of these roles have I tried to play?
Am I a builder who works with care,
Measuring life by the rule and square,
Am I shaping my deeds to a well-made plan,
Patiently doing the best I can.
Or am I a wrecker who walks the town
Content with the labour of tearing down.
—Author Unknown.

Maybe Noah Laughed at These

The wife of the poet, Louis Untermeyer delights in telling this about her talented spouse: "We went to a costume party one night. Louis was looking his silliest in a paper hat, tooting a horn for nobody's particular benefit, when a young college girl walked up to him, looked him up and down and turned on her heel, with: "Huh! And you're required reading!"

Frederick Stock, conductor of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, was playing golf and not doing it well. In annoyance, he turned to his caddie and asked, "Can you tell me what's the matter?"

The caddie's diagnosis was immediate: "Mister, you ain't got rhythm!"

A lady, wearing an off-the-face-hat she had just bought, asked her colored cook how she liked it.

"It's a right pretty hat," the cook gave judgement "But it sho' do make yo' face public."

"Does the mule ever kick you?" the young officer asked a Negro mule-driver.

"No suh," was the reply, "He ain't yet, but he frequently kicks the place whar I recently was."

On a tour of the United States, Sarah Bernhardt was interviewed by a young A. P. string correspondent, Sam Davis, for his own paper, the Carson (Nev.) Appeal, the San Francisco Examiner, and for A. P. The actress liked him so much that, when her train was ready to leave, she put her hands on his shoulders, kissed him on each cheek, and then squarely on the mouth, saying, "The right cheek for the Carson Appeal, the left cheek for the Examiner, the lips, my friend for yourself."

Unabashed, Davis exclaimed, "Madam, I also represent the Associated Press, which serves 380 papers west of the Mississippi River alone!"

HOW TO GET MORE EGGS

A judge has recently ruled that when a hen is not necessarily a nuisance just because she is a hen. The decision is in accord with the law and the sentiments of those who happen to enjoy the full confidence of the food producer. Since the chicken for dinner every Sunday era, early in the century, the poultry business has become a major farm enterprise. There are many farms that have from five to ten thousand layers; some hatcheries count baby chicks by the million.

Mass production methods have submerged the personalities of individual hens and something should be done about it. Only those who have a small farm flock or a bevy in a suburban back-yard know the satisfying joys of individual friendships. Each hen is a distinct, rugged individual; each has its own traits of character. Some are extroverts, genial, trusting and keenly interested in local politics and current events. Some are introverts; they are broody in the broad sense and do not mix well with their fellows. Some are careless, gay, and take no thought of the morrow. Some are serious, earnest, and deeply concerned with the responsibilities of hen existence.

One countryman we know contends that hens appreciate cheerful, philosophical conversation. He says a few minutes talk in the morning is a guarantee of an extra egg or two. In fact, after keeping hens for forty-odd years, he says the resemblance between hen and human personalities is so close as to constitute a phenomenon. However that may be, most city folk will be willing to admit the resemblance if they can get a few more eggs—even at six bit a dozen—Christian Science Monitor.

SWORD DESIGNER HONORED BY KING

LONDON (CP)—Cpl. Leslie Durbin, 28-year-old member of the R. A. F., has been made a member of the Royal Victorian Order, an honor conferred for personal services to the King. He designed the gold and silver work of the Stalingrad shield which will shortly be sent to Moscow.

The Sunday School Lesson

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12, 1943

CHRIST'S NEW COMMANDMENT
Golden Text. — A new commandment I give unto you, that ye love one another; even as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. Jno. 13: 34.

Lesson Text.—Mk. 12: 28-34; Jno. 13: 34, 35; 15: 10-14.
Exposition. — I. The First Commandment and the Greatest Sin, Mk. 12: 28-34.

Jesus had silenced both the Pharisees and Sadducees who had sought to entrap Him and confuse Him. A scribe who had listened, was deeply impressed by the reasoning of Jesus. Then he asked a question. Matthew tells us that he did it to tempt, or test Him (Matt. 22: 35). The question was an important one: the answer thoroughly convincing. Man's first duty is to God. God is infinite and man is finite and no number of finites equals infinity: so, if man should do his whole duty toward every member of the human race and fail in his duty toward the One Infinite God, where he failed would be far more important than where he did his duty. Our duty to God can be summed up in one word, Love. What is love? To love another is to have a desire for and delight in his welfare; it is not a mere emotion or affection, but the attitude of the whole man. To love God with all the heart and soul and mind and strength, is to have a supreme desire for and delight in God's glory, so that everything is secondary to that. To do this is to keep the first and great commandment (Matt. 22: 37, 38).

To have failed to do this is to have committed the greatest sin a man can possibly commit, and at some time in our life all of us have failed to do this, and have thus broken God's first and great commandment, so "There is no difference, for all have sinned and come short of the glory of God" (Rom. 3: 23). If at any time in our life we have failed to put God first in everything, in business, in our pleasures, in our study, in our politics, in our domestic life, God first in everything; then we have broken the first and great commandment and there is no hope for us except through the atoning blood of Christ (Heb. 9: 22; Rom. 22-26).

There is a second law like unto the first, not equal, second—not first, like the first. Its central word too is "love." Its object—our neighbor, our fellow men. This Second Commandment requires that we have the same desire for and delight in the welfare of our neighbor as we have in our own welfare. The Second Commandment is really involved in the first, for if we love God, whom we have not seen, we must love our neighbor whom we have seen (1 Jno. 4: 20, 21). It is nonsense for a man to pretend to love God if he does not love his neighbor for love to God involves love to neighbour. The scribe who asked the question was a man of spiritual discernment: He assented to Jesus' answer. There are many to-day who call themselves Christians, who lack the clear moral and spiritual discernment of this scribe. Jesus pronounced this man, "not far from the kingdom of God." To see the truth clearly shows that one is not far from the kingdom; but it does not show that he is actually in it. When one sees the truth, he is near the kingdom; when one submits to the truth, he is in the kingdom. Jesus has silenced all opposers and all questioners.

II. The New Commandment, Jno. 13: 34, 35.

Jesus knows that His stay with the disciples is fast drawing to a close. He leaves them a law of life. That law is the law of love. Moses had said that we should love our neighbor as ourselves. Jesus goes beyond that and says we must love one another even as He loved us. We must not merely put our neighbor on a level with ourselves, but put him before ourselves, be ready to sacrifice our lives for his. That is the Christian law of life (1 Jno. 3: 14, 16-18). It is our Lord's final and all-inclusive commandment, the one unfulfilling proof whereby all men shall know that we are indeed disciples of Jesus (v. 35).

III. Likeness in Jesus Found in Abiding in Him, 15: 10-14.

One of the greatest secrets of the prayer that is omnipotent is found in verse 7. What it is to abide in Him we have seen before. When we thus abide, our prayer itself is a manifestation of the Christ life, it is Christ praying through us and the Father heareth Him always (11: 42). So He will hear all our prayers that are of that sort. But note that there is something else mentioned in this verse besides our abiding in Him—"and my words abide in you." It is through the medium of His words that Jesus comes to abide in us.

It is vain to talk of Christ abiding in us if we are rejecting His words. Meditation upon His word, laying up His word in our hearts, is one of the secrets of mighty praying. Three great things are mentioned as resulting from abiding in Jesus Christ—power to bear much fruit, power to get in prayer whatsoever we ask, fullness of joy (v. 11). This joy that we thus get is Christ's own joy. The world has no such joy as that to give. The secret of loving one another is abiding in Jesus. His love to us is the standard and measure of our love

to one another. How much He loved us is defined in verse 13. He laid down His own life for us. There is no greater love than that possible.

War Christmas

The ingenuity of Santa Claus has been sadly taxed this year. He has done his best to turn out tanks and guns made of wood and cardboard, but there are no clockwork mechanisms. Wooden trains lack the mobility of the streamlined electric of a few years ago. Even dolls this year are so economically constructed as to force the conclusion that Santa's elves and gnomes have been caught by the compulsory transfer order.

It's rather tough on the parents, whose imaginations are no longer equal to creating a land of make-believe without the elaborate props of pre-war Christmases. One can hardly spend the afternoon demonstrating to little Johnny the proper method of running a wooden tractor.

For little Johnny and his friends, the situation is not too serious. One young lady of our acquaintance, forbidden the use of her skipping rope indoors, because of possible damage to mantle-piece ornaments, still skips happily in the living room, swinging an imaginary rope. Almost any evening after school is out one can observe sanguinary engagements being waged against Japs and Germans with weapons that an unsympathetic observer might mistake for broomsticks and garden tools. A battered express-wagon is easily converted into a tank, a naval gun or a dive bomber.

And Santa Claus has given the parents one break. This year the after-dinner nap will not be interrupted by the notes of a tin trumpet.

Talking Turkey

The main thing about your Christmas turkey is that it should be tender, brown and well-stuffed. It matters little whether the breed was a Bronze, White Holland, Borbon, Red, Black Norfolk, Narragansett or Slate. The proof of a bird is in the eating. However, your turkey holds more than gastronomic interest, according to ornithologists of the Royal Ontario Museum. Young as it may be, its history stems back several centuries.

Indians of the American southwest first domesticated the turkey, a species found native only on this continent. Spanish explorers took Mexican breeding stock to Spain from whence it spread to other countries of the Old World. It reached England between 1520 and 1540. It was brought back to America by the early settlers. In the course of time the several varieties mentioned above were developed by breeding. Apparently all originated from Mexican stock. The wild race which was once plentiful in eastern North America seems to have contributed nothing to your Christmas dinner, although your pioneer forefathers feasted on it. Wild turkeys which once roamed the woods of southern Ontario are preserved as specimens in the Royal Ontario Museum.

FOOD PARCELS REACHING OBJECTIVE

Mrs. H. P. Plumpton, director of the Red Cross Enquiry Bureau at Ottawa, states that 597,460 acknowledgment cards were received up to October 15th from Allied prisoners-of-war located in 217 different camps, for Canadian Red Cross food parcels received.

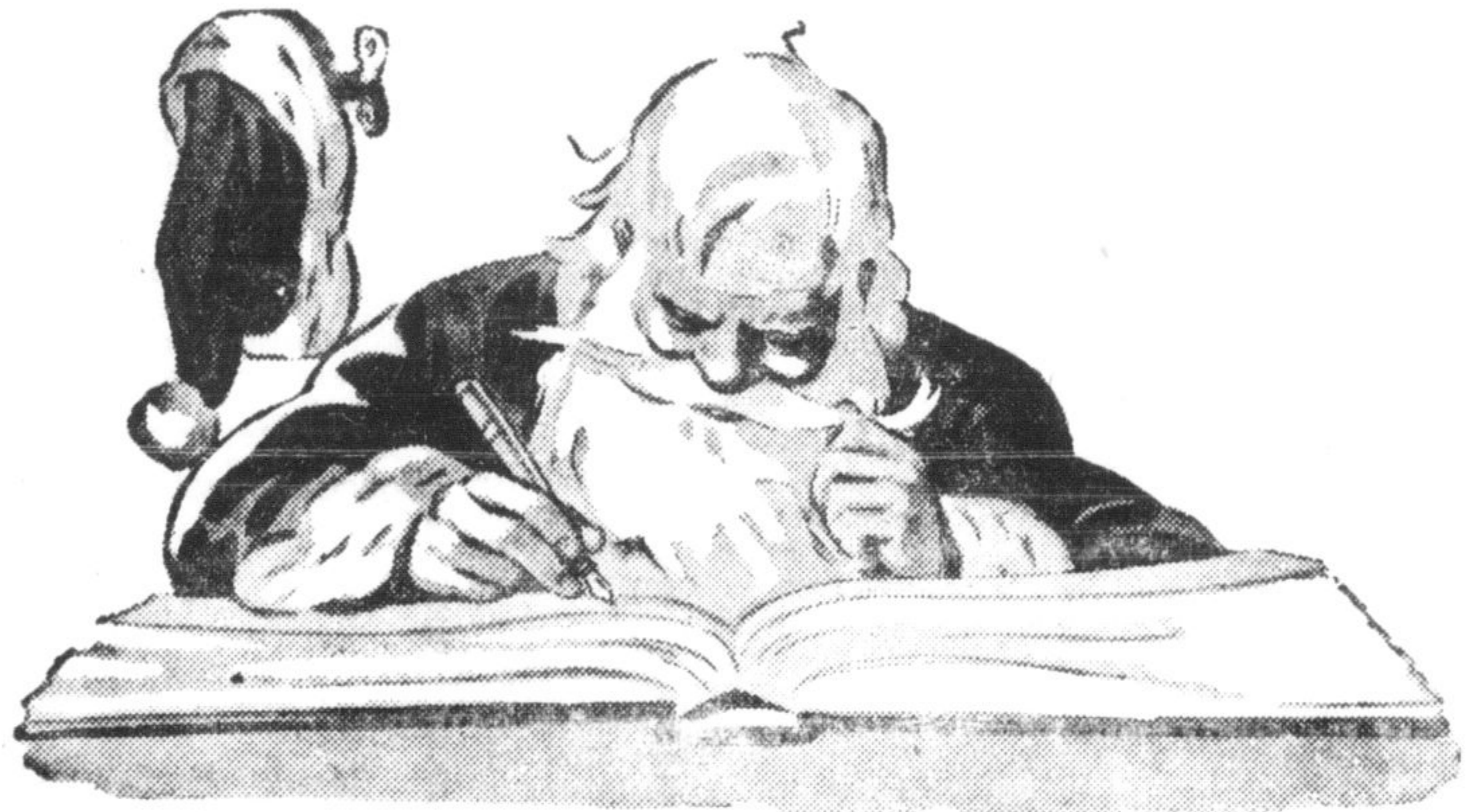
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Now Ready



Of course there'll always be Christmas Shopping and Christmas gifts for friends and loved one. Just where that Christmas buying is done depends on where folks are invited to do their shopping for Christmas.

Everyone has many articles that will make splendid gifts and come in at a most acceptable time. Now is the time to tell about them. After the war new goods, new styles, new trends in living will make many of these present useful articles obsolete. Customers need them now.

To Assist Local Merchants

We have now ready, a big book of layouts and illustrations for Christmas advertising. It is the Chicago Tribune service of illustrations and is up-to-the-minute in every respect. It is full of ideas and helpful suggestions to brighten your local store news. It's yours for the asking. If you can't find what you want we will be glad to assist you in arranging your store news.

There's only one stipulation. Selection of illustrations to be used in your advertising must be made on Monday of the week of publication. We are operating with minimum staffs and can give splendid service if your copy is early.

Just Two More Issues

Before Christmas. Better call now and invite the folks from town and district to shop in your store. If your store is open for business, it's open to sell. We carry your message to all your customers in the most economical way.

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