

# The Liberal



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## A Merry Christmas

This Saturday is Christmas Eve. Christmas bells throughout all Christendom are ringing out the most joyous proclamation of the gospel message:

"Fear not; for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day, in the city of David, a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord." (St. Luke 2: 10-11).

Yes, 1960 years ago, the angels sang, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men," and those that followed the star in the east found the Saviour, Christ the Lord, lying in a manger, in the city of David.

But the first Christmas was a trying and painful time, despite all the manifestations of glory. Was not Joseph summoned from sleep to take unto himself Mary, who gave virgin birth to Christ Jesus? And were not Mary and Joseph summoned by decree from Caesar Augustus to go from Galilee to Bethlehem to be taxed? And were not all men of good will summoned by the angels to go to the manger in Bethlehem to find their King?

Mary and Joseph lived under a dictatorship in which life was cheap. Their income was more than likely in the lower third of the nation. When it came time

for the Baby, they were summoned to make a trip to meet the demands of their government. Whether the Baby lived or died was of no concern to the society in which they existed. As far as their own people were concerned, Mary and Joseph could make out for themselves.

But because God reigned, they were not alone. The Wise Men brought gifts of great treasure. There was great rejoicing.

And so today there is rejoicing and there are visible tokens of Christmas. Most business sections have been bright with Christmas decorations for days past. Holly wreaths are found in many home windows, bells on doors and gaily lit Christmas trees, if not on the front lawn, visible in the living rooms from the street. Everywhere about us, there seems to be a new spirit, a new life, a new hope, a new joy! Christmas Eve children will go to bed assured that Santa Claus is on his way and will come down the chimney, in our respective homes, to deliver a portion of his heavy load. Most of us will banish all thoughts of external troubles and for the next few days concentrate on internal joys.

It is, indeed, a time of Merry Christmas.

## Peace On Earth— Good Will To Men

"It came upon the midnight clear — that glorious song of old" . . . and on down through the centuries since, now feebly, now strongly, as Christian faith has fluctuated in its purity and forcefulness, the song the angels sang to herald the birth of the Christ Child, has been sung in the hearts of countless millions.

It is the old but ever new message of hope and good cheer. For it is the true story of Christmas and its theme is, "Peace on Earth — Goodwill to Men."

The earth today still waits in hushed and expectant wonder each Christmas Eve. The young and the old — the busy mother, the husband and father, the young people and the little ones — they all, as did the shepherds, on that midnight long ago watch and wait for

the dawning of Christmas Day, the birth day of their Saviour and King.

How beautiful a gift God gave us, His earthly children, when He gave to us His own Holy Son. Yet, in His infinite wisdom, how else could He have made His Gift so completely ours — but by sending His only Son to us, as a helpless infant?

He knew that the years of His sojourn here on earth would teach us not only that He grew in grace and favor with God — but with His fellowmen too — drawing us all to Him through understanding, communion and love.

And so to all of you we say, "Merry, Merry Christmas — from all the Staff here at 'The Liberal'". We hope you and yours will all have a blessed and happy Christmas Day."

## Spirit Of Christmas

It is again the Season of Christmas; of warm and gentle hearts; of snow and candle-glow; green boughs and mistletoe; bright lights that blink far off in the night when all the world wears a blanket of white. It is a time of joy; of anticipation; it seems that we have waited the long, long year for the arrival of this magic Eve.

We sincerely hope that the spirit of Christmas will reach into every home

in the community, bringing all the joy, the warmth, and the faith that this great holiday affords.

And, in the midst of the gift-giving and receiving, the feasting and the merriment that has become so much a part of the holiday observance, may each and every one of us find time to reflect upon the true significance of Christmas — on this day, long, long years ago, mankind received the greatest gift of all.



## Facts and Faith

A Weekly Comment On Christian Life and Action — By Calvin H. Chambers —

### LOOK UP AND BEYOND

The sight of the Canadian Rockies is a thrill one can hardly describe. Travelling along in the foothills, suddenly the lofty peaks of the mountains catch your eye. There they stand, strong and silent, with their snow capped peaks piercing the marshmallow like clouds. Nothing seems more enduring, more solid and everlasting, than these gigantic mounds of rock. It is little wonder that the mountains have been a source of inspiration to multitudes of people in every age.

But merely to be enamored by the loftiness of the mountains is to fall into idolatry. This is what often happened to various races in the ancient world. The mountains seemed to be the altars of God, and so on many peaks, shrines of worship were erected to the deities of earth and sky. One of the great sins of the wise King Solomon, was the giving of permission to his many heathen wives to build sanctuaries on the many high hills which surrounded the city of Jerusalem. These mountains, instead of leading the Israelites to a closer walk with God in obedient fellowship were instrumental in corrupting their national life with paganism. There was nothing wrong with the mountains. But man in his search for independence, is prepared to make nature his god, and the works of creation the object of his love and affection.

One of the most beautiful and well known Psalms in the Bible starts off with these words, "I will lift my eyes unto the hills. From whence cometh my aid? My help cometh from the Lord, who made heaven and earth." Notice, that the Psalmist could not help but notice the mountains. Their beauty and majesty touched his soul. He could not take his eyes off them. But this spiritual man, did not permit his heart to remain fixed upon the mountains as though they were the supreme object of his devotion. Looking up and beyond the hills, he chose to worship the Lord God who is the Creator and Upholder of all things, including the lofty mountain ranges. His trust was not in the works of creation, but in the God of creation. He alone is worthy of our worship and trust.

We are living in turbulent times. With the discovery of atomic power, the words of David seem more pertinent than ever. In one of his songs he speaks poetically of "the earth being removed and the mountains being carried into the midst of the seas." We know that this can literally take place today, if man's sin leads us into atomic warfare. How easy it would be for us to trust the solution of our world problems to the great Summit Conferences which are being held today. Important and significant as it is for the leaders of the world to meet in conference, Christian people must never be deluded into a false security that man, unaided by spiritual wisdom can solve the problems of humanity.

Centuries ago, Moses carried down from Mount Sinai the standards which God proposed for His people. But those laws, while they have helped to fashion our concept of justice and righteousness, have also been broken and violated by men in every age. Nineteen-hundred years ago, our Saviour sat on the Mount of Olives and gave us a Sermon, which if obeyed, could transform human life and society. But even here, we have fallen far short of the high standard set before us. In our failure the only place we can turn to now is Mount Calvary, and to the hill called Golgotha. It is there we will find forgiveness and reconciliation to God and our fellows. We must look beyond ourselves, to the One who has solved the sin problem by His death and resurrection. He alone can save us from the idolatry to which we are ever prone. He alone can keep us brave, strong and hopeful when the mountains around us shake and the earth seems shrouded in tragedy. Look up and beyond to God, who is the only true Security of the believer.

**DON ANDREWS**  
PLUMBING AND HEATING  
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**MR. ELECTRIC**  
SAYS:  
Merry Christmas EVERYONE!

**SV. PAXTON**  
ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS  
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## On Christmas Morning

A star may glow in its orbit;  
Moons may wax and wane;  
The wondrous sights  
Of Northern lights  
Shall come and go again;  
But never a shining light  
Has brightened land or sea  
As that which lies  
In children's eyes  
Around the Christmas tree!

— Robert D. Little

## Liberalities . . .

Dottie Walter

Christmas Season is reaching its fine crescendo. The children are tuning up for the holidays. The house preens happily under its fragrant finery . . . And how nice to sit at the sunny kitchen table, with a second cup of coffee and really digest the morning paper.

In a large headline, set conspicuously between the Christmas ads, was a news item that read:

Dateline London, December 1960

"NO ANIMALS THIS YEAR AT SMITHFIELD SHOW" (London's Christmas Fat Stock Show, considered the foremost event of its kind in the world)

I thought I had read an account of that Great Exhibition of animals in an old newspaper, and I took a moment to look it up, I found a copy of "The Illustrated London News", by coincidence dated December 22, 1860. It announced the winners of the day, which no doubt are the ancestors of some of our champions at the Royal Winter Fair.

Speaking of the winner it said:

" . . . The Champion, bedecked with ribbons and preceded by a piper, as a triumph of artistic Scottish feeding, will be remembered for many a long day. We believe a heavier beast of his age has never entered this hall. Some of the most experienced measurers declared 'that he girthed 10' with nipping . . . and 10' 2" with indulgence. We do not remember any predecessor of Modern Times exceeding 9'9".

Staunch as the Smithfield bench is to purebreds, it was compelled to swallow its prejudice and give the cup to a crossbred. The magnificent red and white animal was a combination of Shorthorn and poll, with the fine rat tail that Scottish feeders look upon so especially as an indication of a "thrifer". Congratulations Mr. Heath-Harris, December 22nd, 1866.

And today, a Toronto Daily says: "It is the first time since 1798, that no livestock has come to the Royal Smithfield Show, because of a widespread epidemic of foot and mouth disease."

But as I read the two papers, so many years apart, I like to think that there will be a Christmas Show in that old arena! A Parade of All-Time Champions, led by a ghostly piper piping in the best of breed . . . "Lamp of Lothian", "Matchless 4th" and "Old Moss Rose", of a hundred years ago, down to the young, great of today like 'Bapton Constructor', behind their proud owners, ever hoping for the top ribbon.

And in the shadows, the judges, pondering, comparing and making notes until they choose, from that fine array . . . the All-Time Grand Champion!

And the shops are still worrying about "The People Who Have Everything".

A furniture company regales the readers with gift suggestions of "Interiors" . . . "Not Meant for the Many".

And couched in these tantalizing phrases, smacking of slightly veiled payola, a dress shop suggests: "If you know somebody whose love is deep enough . . . how about an evening suit of bon-bonny blue, paved inside with jasmine mink . . . and only ruby and diamond jewellery will go with this".

A financial paper advertises, "A life-sized stuffed buffalo, for the child who has everything" (except one small thing I could suggest).

And a large ad for a departmental store tells of a clearing out sale of ladies' handbags, regularly \$350.00, reduced to the astonishingly low price of \$233.34 and no telephone or mail orders please.

I'm sure all of these things are beautifully wrought, of the finest workmanship and materials . . . and if none of them outlasts a good book, perhaps it doesn't matter.

But suddenly I wish I could give some of these mythical people Who Have Everything, a brand new kind of Christmas Gift:

I would like to give them a Morning Walk . . . all done up in glistening white snow, with a ribbon of path to follow up to the high pastures. To shuffle a furrow through the soft snow along a rail fence and wonder about the mysterious little patterns etched on the white unbroken surface — the tracks of wild things that look like strange old hieroglyphics . . . miraculously done.

And for the little boy with his giant buffalo, I'd like to give him a puppy . . . like the one that has been happily trying to keep up with me. Now with me . . . now making little side-trips of his own. But bounding back like a little black rubber ball to jump for my gloved hand.

And because I live in the country, I wish I could give them the feeling of standing in a stable on Christmas Eve: to hear a barn-bird rustle in the rafters and a little mouse scamper across the oat box. To hear the patient sound of the horses as they shift their weight in the stalls and the steady rhythm of their munching, as they pull down the hay from the mangers. The air is heavy with peace . . . as ageless as the manger itself.

Far away in the mink-paved jacket. The noisy voices from the "too full house" are hushed by the small sounds of the night . . . In the Peace of a Stable . . . and the Brilliance of a Single Star.

# The Richmond Theatre

Phone Turner 4-12...  
FREE PARKING REAR OF THEATRE  
Continuous Daily from 7 p.m. (6 p.m. on Saturdays)  
Saturday, Children's Matinee 2 p.m.

Friday, Saturday - December 23, 24

**FRED MacMURRAY**  
DANGER SHADOWED EVERY STEP HE TOOK!  
FACE OF A FUGITIVE  
EASTMAN COLOR

also -  
UNDERWATER FURY IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC!  
**JUN HALL**  
Forbidden Island  
with NAN ADAMS  
Written, Produced and Directed by CHARLES B. GRIFFITH

PLEASE NOTE — Friday last complete show 8.30 p.m.; Saturday continuous from 6 p.m. - last show 9 p.m.

Sat. Matinee Only - December 24, 2 p.m.

## "The Forbidden Island"

PLEASE NOTE — During Christmas Holidays matinee every day starting at 2 p.m.

Monday, Tuesday - December 26, 27

TINGLING WITH Laughter!  
BUBBLING WITH Excitement!  
**Walt Disney's Bambi**  
TECHNICOLOR  
5 DELIGHTFUL SONG HITS TO WARM YOUR HEART!  
- Plus -

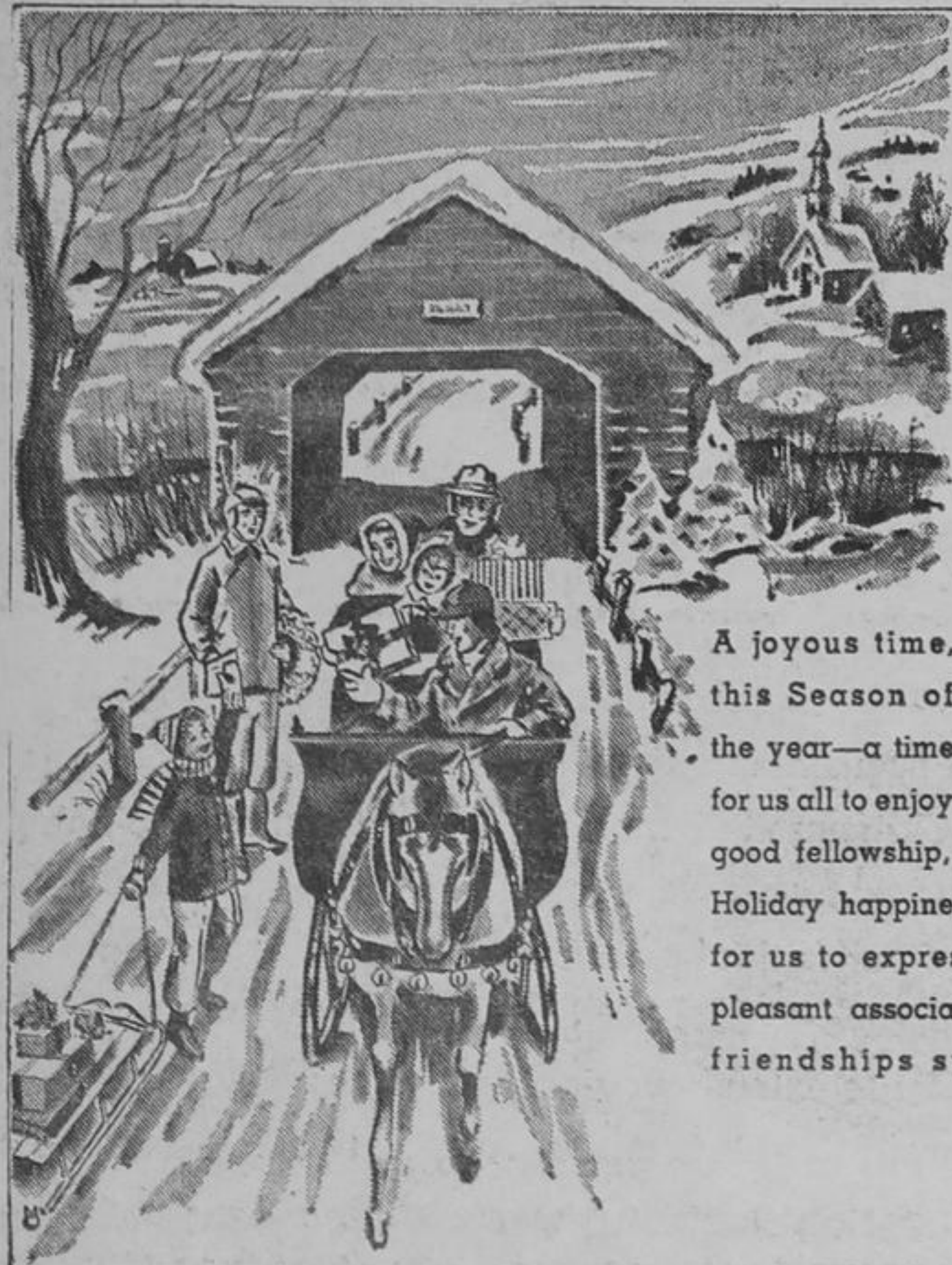
AN ACRE OF LAUGHS AND A BARNFULL OF FUN!  
**The KETTLES ON OLD MacDonald's FARM**  
It's NEW!  
Starring **Majorie MAIN** and **Parker FENNELLY**  
Gloria Talbott - John Smith - George Dunham

Wednesday, Thursday - December 28, 29

**The OREGON TRAIL**  
FRED MACMURRAY  
CINEMASCOPE COLOR BY DE LUXE  
Starring **PEDRO ARMENDARIZ**  
with **CHRISTIANE MARTEL**, **RODOLFO HOYOS**, **TERRY RANGNO**  
and introducing **ROBERT PALMER**  
A REGALSCOPE Picture

**The Little Savage**  
and The Pirates!  
Starring **PEDRO ARMENDARIZ**  
with **CHRISTIANE MARTEL**, **RODOLFO HOYOS**, **TERRY RANGNO**  
and introducing **ROBERT PALMER**  
A REGALSCOPE Picture

PLEASE NOTE: Mon., Tues., Wed., Thurs., last complete show 8.30 p.m.



A joyous time, this Season of the year—a time for us all to enjoy good fellowship, good cheer and Holiday happiness. A time, also, for us to express gratitude for pleasant associations and warm friendships such as yours.

## Armstrong's Jewellers Ltd.

13 Yonge St. S. RICHMOND HILL  
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