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Our Week Off.

As Christmas falls next Wednesday there will be no issue of the WATCHMAN on the following Friday. It has been the custom of this paper to take the weeks of July and Christmas off ever since its establishment and though it may be regarded as a practice only followed by country papers the WATCHMAN wishes it to be understood that it does not pose as anything else. It is a country paper out of the ordinary, however. One that tries to make itself felt and covers its field so effectually that it has come to be regarded as "the cleanest and best country weekly in the State today."

The people of this community are learning to appreciate it more and more as the weeks roll by and the WATCHMAN is striving to merit their appreciation. This old holiday custom does not detract from the interest of the paper in any way and it affords an opportunity for those who must keep up the ceaseless grind here, week in and week out, to take a little time off during the periods when there is most for them to enjoy. A newspaper is not like anything else. It must be issued on the day of publication, no matter what happens or what of interest is going on elsewhere. And for that reason those who are at work on it enjoy this period especially, since it is one when family ties are as closely united as possible and most of the interest of Christmas lies in the good cheer of the home. Therefore, again calling your attention to the fact that there will be no paper issued from this office next week, all of its employees join in the wish that your Christmas season may be bright and joyous as hope pictures theirs and that the New Year may be the dawn of an era in your life that will bring forth most bountiful blessings.

DEWEY will be forgiven for having deemed that house away now that he has fearlessly risen above the Navy Department clique and done justice to the hero of Santiago.

The Philadelphia Record Almanac teeming with one hundred and sixty pages of helpful information, is just out and like all of the Record's undertakings is characterized by its concise, carefully compiled contents. It is of particular value to residents of Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey and Pennsylvania for its digest of elections and officials and to the public in general on account of the vast amount of useful reference matter it contains.

It is possible that we are mistaken in our judgment but it seems that the resolution to hold the next session of the teachers institute at some other place than Bellefonte, that was adopted by that body last week, is an act of discourtesy as well as of ingratitude. Though there were a few exceptions Bellefonters certainly did everything in their power to make the stay of the teachers as pleasant as possible and the fact that the institute cleared \$80.20 above all expenses is evidence that they made it profitable, as well. And this in the face of the fact that there were a number of counter attractions to draw from the evening or pay entertainments at institute.

While it can scarcely be said that the verdict of the SCHLEY court of inquiry was unexpected, yet the fair minded people of the country had hopes that the members of the board would rise above the selfish influences of personal favoritism and render a decision that would in some way do justice to the much maligned hero of Santiago. However the verdict the public will agree with Congressman SHERMAN, of New York, who said: "Who cares whether SCHLEY was two days or three days in reaching a certain point. The fact is that when he was wanted he was there and he did the work and, as DEWEY finds, to him is due the credit for the destruction of the Spanish fleet."

Postmaster General CHARLES EMMORY SMITH has resigned from President ROOSEVELT'S cabinet and HENRY C. PAYNE has been appointed to succeed him. This is the first break in the official family of the new President and it is rumored that it is only the beginning of what will be a general change. Mr. SMITH states that he is desirous of getting back into the harness again as editor of the Philadelphia Press, but whatever may have been the real motive that inspired his resignation the fact remains that the President has not made appointments in Pennsylvania according to his wishes consequently their relations cannot be altogether harmonious. The wonder is that he did not resign long ago, since he is so antagonistic to the regular organization in his own State. He retires from the office with a record of which he may well feel proud. He has been most capable and has done much to improve the postal service.

Quay and Elkin.

The conference at St. Lucie, Florida, between Senator QUAY and Attorney General ELKIN is finished and the Attorney General announces that he is still a candidate for Governor. This may mean either one of three things. That is to say the enemies of ELKIN might claim that it indicated a break between those hitherto good friends and "birds of a feather." The friends of Mr. ELKIN may insist, until the contrary is shown, that it means that the Senator has withdrawn his opposition to the nomination of the Attorney General and has instructed his faithful adherents to proceed with the fight with the assurance of his help "at the supreme moment."

Those who are neither friends nor enemies of ELKIN might interpret it to mean that the old man has said substantially "go in JOHN, I will put nothing in the way of your success at present and if you develop enough strength, I will help you at the convention."

If we were to estimate on the accuracy of these three guesses as to the result of the St. Lucie conference we would put the first last and take the chances of a small wager that it is the correct view. Senator QUAY is incensed at Governor STONE, and justly so. He bought the office that gentleman has disgraced as certainly as he ever bought a toy for one of his children. The consideration for the purchase and presentation of the place was a pledge of fidelity and obedience. That promise has been broken most scandalously. In the deal with FLINN every principle of honor and friendship has been betrayed. As a matter of fact he protested against it not only with earnestness, but employed a reasonable measure of vehemence. It would have been manifestly unfair to punish ELKIN in order to pillory STONE.

It may be assumed that if QUAY believed that ELKIN would be defeated at the election he would compel his retirement, notwithstanding the unqualified pledge given that he should be nominated. But one of Mr. ELKIN'S friends in Philadelphia codified QUAY'S opinion the other day when he declared that though ELKIN will lose a large number of votes throughout the State, "we can make them up in Philadelphia and Pittsburg." Fortunately for the machine the opportunities for election frauds are still unimpaired. After the next session of the Legislature it may be different, but next year the usual harvest of fraud will be gathered and here and there additions will be made. There is a possibility of defeating a Republican candidate next year, because honest minority election officers may be chosen in Philadelphia and Pittsburg in February. But there is only a remote possibility and the chances are that ELKIN is safe.

The Philadelphia Democracy.

Some eminent Democratic leaders will assemble in Philadelphia to-day to settle a long-existing and more or less troublesome dispute between the factions, or we would better say fragments, of the Democratic party of that city. These gentlemen are known as the "HASSON committee," and it may be said that they are just now going about doing good, or harm. They visited Philadelphia last week and found the factions almost in agreement. Thereupon they determined to go back again to-day and aid, if possible, in completing the good work, if the factions had not previously done so themselves.

The HASSON committee was appointed by the last Democratic state convention and invested, it believed, with plenary power to do pretty much as it liked with the Democracy of Philadelphia. In pursuance of that authority it subsequently tore up the old Democratic organization by the roots and established in its place a new and different variety of the plant. But the Dauphin county courts, with characteristic perversity, intervened at that point and practically reversed the HASSON committee. If the old organization had had a better reputation that would have been the end of the affair. But it had been so outrageously maligned and had some members who were so atrociously venal, that the people wouldn't have a thing to do with it even though the sanction of the Dauphin county court was "blown in the bottles."

The Grangers Indignant

The Grangers of Pennsylvania told some palpable truths in a courageous way during the annual meeting of that organization in Johnstown last week. They declared that the Department of Agriculture of the state government has been perverted during the past several years to the use of the political machine and that instead of being a help to the agricultural interests of the State, as was intended when it was created, it has become a menace. In the matter of legislation it was declared that the Department was the greatest barrier to overcome and that in the exaction of the laws enacted for the protection of farmers it was not only inefficient but actually dishonest.

These are grave accusations to bring against gentlemen who have taken an oath to administer the laws with fidelity and to the best of their ability. It is equivalent to accusing the Secretary of Agriculture with perjury. There is no more atrocious crime than that. It implies moral turpitude of the most reprehensible type. But the language admits of no other construction. The Secretary certainly understands the nature of an oath. He clearly knows that he took a solemn obligation to fulfill his duties and that he has been drawing his ample salary with scrupulous regularity ever since under that oath. Yet a considerable body of his fellow citizens arraign him for malfeasance.

We shall watch the farmers who participated in the meeting at Johnstown last week and aided in the denunciation of the Secretary of Agriculture, with curious interest at the next election. It may safely be said that the reason the Secretary of Agriculture so glaringly disregards his obligations to the farmers is that he understands he may do such thing without danger to his party. In other words he has learned by experience that he may destroy the interests and insult the intelligence of the farmers as much as he likes but nevertheless on election day those of them who are Republicans will go to the polls and support the party which is responsible for him with entire unanimity.

The Schley Verdict.

The bureaucrats in the Navy Department have triumphed in the verdict of the SCHLEY court of inquiry. On Friday last Admirals RAMSEY and BENHAM submitted a verdict sustaining the charges that the hero of Santiago had disobeyed the orders of his superior officer, that he had erred in making what was called the retrograde movement, which was merely a return to the nearest coaling station for fuel, and that he had not moved with sufficient expedition in going first to Cienfuegos and subsequently from that point to Santiago. Admiral DEWEY dissented from the judgment of his associates on the court. He declared that Admiral SCHLEY was entitled to the honor of the victory he achieved.

There never was a greater outrage perpetrated in the name of civilized government. Two habitual shore men who spent the hazardous period of the war cultivating the favor of the authorities at Washington have presumed to pass upon the merits of a campaign of extraordinary hazard and uncertainty. Two "carpet knights" who never set a squadron except in dress parade have had the impudence to say that the hero of the most complete victory in the annals of naval warfare didn't know how to conduct his campaign in search of a concealed and dangerous enemy. Admiral DEWEY, who himself achieved a great victory, disagreed with them, but that made no difference. They were playing to the bureaucrats.

The friends of Admiral SCHLEY have heard of this great shame with varying emotions. They have considered many methods of treating the matter. If there was even a remote possibility of getting justice through the instrumentality of a congressional inquiry they would ask for that. But Congress is so completely dominated by the Departments, that such a thing is out of the question. The necessity of "standing together" is so obvious that however manifest the enormity it must be supported. But as we said in the outset of the extraordinary proceeding Admiral SCHLEY has been vindicated by the court of public opinion and the verdict of no conspirators can impair the public confidence in him.

Schley Condemned.

Result of the Court of Inquiry Made Public—There Were Two Reports—Admirals Benham and Ramsey Condemn Schley on Eleven Points While Dewey Makes Separate Finding and Sustains Him in Most Particulars—Credits Him With the Victory.

WASHINGTON, December 13.—The most prolonged, interesting and important naval tribunal ever held in this country came to a close to-day, having in open and secret session lasted three months short of one week, when Secretary Long was handed the findings of the court of inquiry which inquired into the conduct of Rear Admiral Schley during the Santiago campaign. For several weeks the court heard testimony and for fully a month it deliberated upon that mass of evidence, finally reaching the conclusion announced to-day. The result was a complete surprise and it is probable that no prophecy has approached the truth. Instead of one report there were two. Both are signed by George Dewey, president, and by Samuel C. Lemly as judge advocate. This is a form said to be recognized in all courts of inquiry, the signatures of the other members not being necessary. But it is explained that Admiral Dewey signed the second report, a minority report, to express his qualification or dissent from the views expressed by the court, comprising beside himself, Admirals Benham and Ramsey in the first report.

It is said at the navy department that there will be no further proceedings in the celebrated case on the department's initiative. Secretary Long and Judge Advocate Lemly positively decline to discuss the

findings in any phase. The Secretary received the reports at 5 o'clock this evening and he has not yet acted upon them. It is probable that he will simply append his signature with the word "Approved" on the whole record. The court itself recommends no further proceedings owing to the lapse of time.

A representative of the Associated Press conveyed the first information of the findings of the court to Admiral Schley. He was seated in the public reception room of a hotel, chatting with friends and several newspaper men, and evinced no signs of nervousness over the outcome.

When the conclusions of Admiral Dewey were read to him Admiral Schley showed his pleasure, and it was evident from his manner that he regarded the statement from Admiral Dewey as a vindication of the cause. He declined to make any statement concerning the court's findings, and excusing himself from the little company which had gathered about him, went to his apartment, where Mrs. Schley had been anxiously awaiting to hear the court's decision. Later the official copy was brought to the hotel by a messenger from the navy department.

The majority report condemns Admiral Schley on eleven points, while Admiral Dewey sustains him in most particulars. The majority opinion finds in belief that Admiral Schley should have proceeded with the utmost dispatch to Cienfuegos and maintained a close blockade; that he should have endeavored to have obtained information of the Spanish squadron there; that he should have not have made the retrograde movement; that he should have obeyed the department's order; that he should have proceeded to Santiago with the utmost dispatch; that he did not do his utmost to destroy the Colon, that he caused the squadron to lose distance in the loop of the Brooklyn; that he thereby caused the Texas to back; that he led injustice to Hodgson; that his conduct in the campaign was characterized by vacillation, dilatoriness and lack of enterprise; that his official reports on the coal supply were misleading and inaccurate; that his conduct during the battle was self-possessed and that he encouraged in his own person his subordinate officers and men.

Admiral Dewey in his report says that the passage to Cienfuegos was made with all dispatch; that in view of his coal supply the blockade of Cienfuegos was effective; that he allowed the Adria to enter Cienfuegos to get information; that his passage to Santiago was with as much dispatch as possible, keeping the squadron together; that the blockade of Santiago was effective and finally that he was the senior officer off Santiago, in absolute command and entitled to the credit due for the glorious victory which resulted in the total destruction of the Spanish ships.

Admiral Dewey was seen late to-night and declined to make any statement concerning the court's findings. He said that the court was not dissolved and that he was still bound by his oath of secrecy. SCHLEY ASKS THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY TO AWAIT HIS ACTION.

WASHINGTON, December 16.—Admiral Schley was in consultation all this forenoon with his counsel, Hon. Isador Rayner and Mr. A. Teague, also General Felix Agnus, of Baltimore, and Congressman Shirm, of Maryland. After conference Admiral Schley authorized Mr. Teague to make the following statement: "We have been in consultation as to what further proceedings shall be taken. Nothing definite has been determined upon so far as civil or criminal action of any kind against the late Admiral Schley is concerned. MacLay's claim that the findings of the court are a vindication for himself and his book is absolutely spurious. There are no less than half a dozen instances in the book in which, even if he were to accept the findings of the court and incorporate them in the volume, and change it to suit the findings, the book would still be criminal libel." Mr. Teague, during the forenoon presented the following letter to Secretary Long:

"WASHINGTON, D. C., December 16, 1901.—Sir: I have the honor to most respectfully request that you withhold your approval from the findings of the court of inquiry recently held at the navy yard in the city of Washington, of which Admiral George Dewey was president, until such time as I may have an opportunity to file a statement of objection thereto, and I therefore request that you do not dissolve the court until action shall have been taken on such objections. Respectfully, [Signed] 'W. E. SCHLEY, Rear Admiral U. S. N.'"

ISADOR RAYNER, applicant before said Court of Inquiry, To the Honorable Secretary of the Navy. He asked the Secretary to indicate his probable action in the premises. The Secretary replied that the request would be granted and his action on the findings and the dissolution of the court withheld until the objections were received and he had an opportunity to consider them. He stated that he would communicate with Admiral Schley in writing and asked how long a time counsel desired to present their objections. Mr. Teague replied that they would be ready for presentation by Thursday or Friday of this week.

Edward A. Valentine's Works.

A Young Bellefonger Who is Attaining Eminence in the Literary World.—As Poet and Critique He is Fast Coming into Prominence.

In a recent issue of the Baltimore Morning Herald there appeared the following extended account of the work of Edward A. Uffington Valentine, youngest son of Abram S. Valentine, of this place, who has attained a position of considerable prominence in the literary world. Since locating in Baltimore he has been employed by the leading journals of that city. His verses have appeared in Harper's, Scribner's and other leading magazines and he has twice been sent abroad on special missions of literary research.

His latest work is a volume "The Ship of Silence," which stands out conspicuous on the flood of Holiday publications, not as the holiday spirit in any special sense, but that, amid a world of books, good, bad or indifferent, it offers a spirit and a substance that are welcome and wholesome amid such that is ephemeral and of thin and vanishing quality.

"Mr. Valentine's work has been made familiar to readers for several years past by its appearance in the Atlantic, Scribner's and other high-class periodicals. This is the first volume of his collected poems to be printed, and as such it represents a range of work extending over a number of years. The selection has been made with taste and care, and the arrangement of the poems is worthy of attention, passing as they do from the longer pieces of serious merit to the poems of nature, of romantic love and to verses representative of the true lyric type. There is refreshment for the mind and spirit in every page of the volume. Mr. Valentine is a poet in large and not in little. His choice of themes has not been made with a feeling for life and all there is in it, to exalt and make perfect. The title poem is in itself an example of this quality that is particularly striking, containing, as it does, not one alone, but a number of such high notes as this:—

"And though I knew, I shall not know again,
And though I weary, I must ever wait;
And though I pray, yet will it not avail!
Peace—peace beyond comparing—heavenly peace
Dwells like a dove upon thy solemn spars,
And sheds a blessing on the silent crew,
But here, among the noisy tongues of men,
The end is turmoil, tears and burthened eyes,
And ceaseless fret—the March of the World!
My eyes are ever fixed on seaward lines;
And haunting visions have their moor of me;
As here I sit through all the burning day,
Friendless, and stony as those whitened cliffs,
Sails rising from the verge shall melt again,
And many vessels bring their merchant freight
Unto the harbor and the homes of men—
But, Ship of Silence, that wilt never come!
Only in dreams my misty eyes behold,
How far from every port thy blessed prow
Steers onward homeless through untraversed deep.

The hooded helmsman, pale with saintly fast,
Holding the till with steadfast hand of faith,
His withered lips sealed by an awful vow;
And over all the brooding eyes of Christ,
And over all the constant wings of Peace!
"In his love for nature, Mr. Valentine has found a method of interpretation peculiarly his own. He sees her meaning and her purpose through the eyes of an imaginative mind. Her charms have made to him a peculiar appeal, that to which only the spirit of a true artist could adequately respond, and we have as a result in this volume a series of nature poems that are typical of the truest and best that has ever been done in this respect. Nowhere, do we think, has the essence of nature's elusive and spirituelle quality been so closely or so clearly interpreted as in his "Spirit of the Wheat."

"Such times as windy moods do stir
The foamless billows of the wheat,
I glimpse the floating limbs of her
In instant visions melting sweet.
A milky shoulder's dip and gleam,
Or arms that clasp upon the air,
An upturned face's rosy dream,
Half blinded by the sunlight hair.
A haunting mermaid 'mid the swell
And capture of that summer sea;
A siren of elusive spell,
Born of the womb of mystery.
That, airy limbed, swims fancy free,
Glad in the summer's perfect prime,
Full veined with life's felicity
And faith that knows no winter time.
At eve, when firefly luster burns
On that green flood like mirrored stars,
Against the hush her faint voice yearns,
Breathed to a light harp's happy bars.
Till sinks at last in sunset slow
Midsummer's long, luxurious day
And amber red the ripe waves glow,
Ah! then it is she slips away!
For with the blighting dog star's blaze,
The reapers wade within the wheat,
And as they work in harvest ways,
What amorous sights their vision cheat!

For lo, upon some eddying wash
Or hollow of the wind swept grain,
Her wadded fingers foam-like flash,
Her laughing body drifts amain.
It is the sylph's divine farwield;
A sighing ebb along the wheat;
Borne onward by a golden swell,
She fades into the wrinking heat."

The classic spirit in the volume is represented in such poems as "Silenus," "The Hamadryad," in which is this fine passage:
"The large moon snuggles on the misty hills,
A chill wind gathers thro' the desolate earth;
And stirred in moody spasms, the wet leaves
wheel,
Or batlike cling against the easement pane;
Upon the hearth the pipe log's dying fire
Starts up, anon, in eager flash of flames,
Stirred by the passing of the night's wild sounds
While from the ashes comes a burning note,
Continuous; an azure coil of smoke
Lies charmed in sleep, disbreathing from its
dreams,
Warm memories of the balsam-breathing woods;
Athwart the walls the shadows hand in hand,
Swirl in the measure of a mystic dance;
A glazing in the fire: when thro' the flames,
I gazing in vision shows.

Upon one knee,
She crouches 'mid the ashes, a young hand
Upraised against her ear which strains
To catch the sounds 'shrilling without; the other
held
Unto the heaving beauty of her breast:
Along her shoulder falls her hair, cone-crowned
In color, flame-like; deep as dusky glens,
Her lifted eyes and full of mortal pain;
She, kneeling, listens; then her languid lips
Sigh thro' the music of entrancing words."
In many of the nature poems the Greek view of life and beauty is finely transmuted into English speech. "Herod" and

"Mary Magdalene" are poems of special merit in their way. There is distinction in all the work in its purpose. The poems are serious and high in purpose. There is not as much gladness of the world as one might wish, and in time this absence of sunshine in the philosophy of the poet is rather disappointing, but there is much to compensate for it in the quality of the workmanship and the promise that a poet has come with infinite capacity for taking pains. His verses are always ringing true, his ear from music is never at fault, and there is no discordant note in the metrical work to jar upon the mental ear. In time will come sunshine and a lifting of the veil that shuts out the light and joy of life. It is a fault of all writers with great powers of imagination to dream much into life in the way of hardship and gloom that is really not there.

It is especially gratifying to have Mr. Valentine's work collected in a volume of such taste and beauty as "The Ship of Silence," because of his associations with Baltimore, where his efforts to advance real taste in literature are known and appreciated. He has written a notable first volume, a collection of poems of strong expression and vigorous tone. The whole tendency of the volume is to awaken a taste and love for the beautiful. Seldom in recent years has there appeared a book of poems of such obvious literary quality. The book is dedicated to Mr. James Lane Allen, the novelist, with whom Mr. Valentine has been for some time on close terms of personal intimacy. F. McK.

Carnegie Gift Ten Millions for University.

Philanthropist Plans Big Award for College at Washington.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 9.—President Roosevelt will send to Congress a special message, including in it a letter recently written to him by Andrew Carnegie, in which he proposes to give \$10,000,000 to the American people as a fund for the establishment of a college of higher education in this city. Before writing his letter Mr. Carnegie consulted with presidents of various great American colleges, including Dr. Elliott, of Harvard; Dr. Gilman, of Johns Hopkins; and Prof. Andrew D. White, of Cornell, the present Ambassador to Germany.

GOVERNMENT GUARDIAN OF FUNDS.

At a recent White House luncheon the details of the proposition were discussed and met with general approval. Mr. Carnegie's idea in a general way is to turn this sum of money over to the United States to be held in trust for the maintenance and operation of the proposed college, just as the funds maintaining the Smithsonian Institution are now handled. It is not to be a national university, and the government is to be in no way connected with it, except to take care of the money and to be represented by a board of regents, such as now controls the affairs of the Smithsonian Institution that was founded by James Smith with a gift of \$1,000,000 to be used in the diffusion of scientific knowledge.

PROPOSED BY GEORGE WASHINGTON.

If Mr. Carnegie's gift is accepted by Congress it will mean the end of the long-talked-of project for the establishment in Washington of a university as recommended by George Washington and the many other distinguished people since his time. The institution that Mr. Carnegie has in mind is in no sense a national university, but rather a school for the teaching of the higher branches of scientific education, and intended to be supplemental to the great colleges already in the United States. The details of the plan, as set forth in Mr. Carnegie's letter, and very few persons in Washington are acquainted with them. One or two of the leading men of the Senate and House have been sounded on the subject, and favor Mr. Carnegie's plans, which are said to be wise, practical and generous.

The Most Wonderful Railroad Bridge in the World.

At Rockville, a few miles from Harrisburg, the capital of Pennsylvania, can be seen a stone bridge that is five times longer than any other stone bridge in the world. It has just been erected by the Pennsylvania railroad company, to replace an iron bridge of two tracks. The new bridge contains four tracks, and permits two passenger and two freight trains to pass each other at the same time on the bridge. This cannot be done on any other bridge in the world. One end of this bridge rests in Dauphin county and the other end in Perry county. The Susquehanna river flows under it all of the time, and in stormy weather the muddy waters of the Juniata often find their way there also. There are 48 piers and 48 arches. The bridge is 50 feet wide, and is made of a light colored stone, brought from Cambria county. Fifteen quarries were kept busy all of the time, getting the stone out and shipping it; there are 1,000,000 cubic yards of stone in the bridge, and it cost \$1,000,000. Three hundred men worked on it constantly from April 1st, 1900, until the present time when it is practically completed with the exception of the laying of the tracks, which will not be done until next spring.

Attorney General Knox Confirmed.

WASHINGTON, December 16.—The Senate in executive session to-day without the formality of a roll call confirmed the nomination of Attorney General Knox.

ADDITIONAL LOCALS

Measles are epidemic in Rebersburg. The double track between Look Haven and Keating on the P. & E. has been completed.

The high water damaged the foot-bridge over the creek on East Main street, Millheim, on Saturday night.

Weaver's dam at Rebersburg broke under the strain of the recent flood and some of the cellars in that town were filled with water.

"The Village Parson" comes to Garman's on Christmas eve, Dec. 24th. It is a drama that will have its first presentation in Bellefonte.

Mr. and Mrs. Lian McGinley had a Christmas present this week and now there is another little granddaughter for S. H. Williams to adore.

Santa Claus has possibly not heard that Mr. and Mrs. Wagner Geiss have a fine young son and will fail to have a remembrance for him. He won't care though, for he is too young for sweets and his parents are so well pleased with him that their Christmas began Wednesday of this week.