

P. GRAY ABEK, Editor

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Our God—Bless America.

By the Rev. G. W. McIlhenny, pastor of the Methodist church, Spring Mills.

No other festal occasion should have deeper significance to any Christian people than that of Christmas. Surely no people have greater reason to enter upon the celebration of Christmas tide with hearts more truly grateful, than have we.

Jesus Christ is the result of the promise of the Father, and through Him has come to us the blessings of a Christianized nation.

There could have been no Christian land, no Christian church, no Christian blessing, no Christian life, no Christian hope beyond the tomb without Jesus Christ.

No people under the shining sun should be expected to be able to celebrate the great anniversary—Christmas time—more intelligently than can we, for upon us has fallen the brightest beaming of the mid-day splendor of the Son of Righteousness.

No nation whose heart is full of gratitude to God for the gift of His Son, can be able to express that gratitude in any expression of lips or act of life, for our appreciation of the "gift of God's love" should be inexhaustible.

Our celebration of this gracious and glorious event, when "Peace on the earth and good will to men" was proclaimed by angelic voices, should be in the spirit of deep humility and yet with joy and gladness, that we, even we, who are sinful and vile, may participate in the joys resulting from the coming of the "Prince of Peace."

In the giving of gifts let us remember supremely God's greatest gift to men. While we receive gifts from friends let us open wide our hearts to our best friend—Jesus the Lord—that we may receive Him into our hearts and lives.

Far be it from any in this our own gospel land that the spirit of desecration of this great and blessed event should possess them. Shame on any man who would debase himself below that rank of a beast when song of praise and acclamations of gladness should fill his soul and find expression by his lips.

God in Heaven, give to us a spirit of appreciation of thy Son such as we need!

Observance of Christmas Day.

By the Rev. A. C. Lathrop, pastor of the Baptist church, Milesburg.

Christmas Day has become the most noteworthy of the world's holidays. Its observance is more than national, it is worldwide. It is the day of all days in the year most fully planned for and most eagerly awaited.

The Duty of Love and Unselfishness.

By the Rev. H. I. Crow, pastor of the Reformed church, Hubersburg.

Christmas should bring a message of love to each one. The message of the angel is yet being fulfilled. "Behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people."

All people have part in bringing this great joy to others. It is not a question of society, or caste, or position. The angels brought the news to man although man in turn was to occupy a place higher than the angels.

The best things in life are oftentimes overlooked in anticipation of greater things. If we read the lessons of Christmas day aright, we are impressed with the little things which go to make up a joyous and successful life.

The Christmas message which is a message of love, tells good news. It does not maliciously tell what hurts, but what causes to rejoice; not what casts down, but what lifts up.

Christmas Day. By the Rev. I. N. Bair, pastor United Evangelical church, Millheim.

Again we approach another Christmas Day. How grateful each and all should be that God has seen fit to prolong life for us so that we may hail with joy and gladness the approach of another Christmas Day.

Its best observance is obtained in right giving. It is the world's great gift day. It recalls God's great gift of love to us. Our giving is not to be prompted by a desire to get return gifts, but by unselfish love.

Let us remember to make it a day of joy and gladness. As the Father remembered us let us remember him and one another. As he strove to make us happy let us endeavor to make one another happy.

What if the little children do think their pretty toys and books come from old Santa Claus? Let them enjoy the gift as from heaven for they all come from him who ever lives and makes intercession for us.

May this be the world's best Christmas! May it be the "best-observed" by every reader of this paper.

The Angel Message.

By the Rev. Frank Wetzel, pastor of the Reformed church, Rebersburg.

The human heart is selfish. Because of this selfishness, wars and rumors of wars, persecution and suffering have arisen on every hand. One is made to shudder at the record of bloodshed, persecution and wrong caused by this spirit of selfishness.

This spirit has been felt and in a greater or less degree realized wherever this angel message has been preached by laying hold of men's hearts and moulding their lives.

For this spirit of peace President Roosevelt became the acting agent, because the United States as no other nation, stands today for the principles of peace as inspired by this child Jesus.

It made possible the large gathering of ministers, representing thirty different denominations of the church of Christ, which met in the city of New York a few weeks ago.

These are the evidences of the hold this spirit of peace as contained in the angel message, has on man in church and State in this the beginning of the twentieth century.

Christmas is the world's jubilee festival, when it commemorates the entering of this spirit of peace into the human race in the person of Jesus, the son of the Virgin Mary, whom the angel says "Christ the Lord."

Well may and truly does the human heart unite with the multitude of the heavenly host in praising God by singing, "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace, good will toward men."

The Prince of Peace.

By the Rev. Ambrose M. Schmidt, pastor of St. John's Reformed church, Bellefonte, Pa.

Was ever a Prince born amidst surroundings more lovely! Was ever the birth of the child of a King heralded by messengers more holy! A manger cradle in Bethlehem received the Prince of Glory.

Unto the earth He comes, but the wide, wide world is so full of sin that it has no room for the Holy child of God. "Peace on earth," sang the angel choir. "Peace, peace," cried the nations of the earth, but they knew no peace and rejected the Prince of Peace.

Time rolls on. The Kingdom of Peace is established and the good tidings of peace are proclaimed to the world. Once again, in spirit, we stand before the manger-cradle. The Spirit of Peace endures us, and with joy that cannot be restrained we break forth in chanting the "Gloria in Excelsis" of the angel choir.

Would you truly enjoy the Christmas season? Then go to some needy one and in the name of the Christ-child, carry your gifts of cheer and love. Go joyously, and scatter the seeds of good cheer into the dark places of the world.

These words of a fine old poet are applicable to every household in Centre County. Christmas decorations and manifestations

Centre County a Real Christmas Land.

By the Rev. Andrew Carver, pastor of the Presbyterian church, Milesburg.

As the time for celebrating the birth of our Lord draws near, past experience makes me glad I reside in Centre county, Pennsylvania.

Throughout our native land every place has its advantages. There is a difference in comforts and customs of the people to whom this Yule-tide brings happiness.

He likes to linger in our county and find his way to all our homes. He sees thrift and prosperity on every side and as he notices our many schools and churches he expects noble manhood and womanhood of our growing generation of boys and girls.

But Santa Claus has a long journey, as he is wanted farther south and west. Throughout the sunny south-land he finds places of beauty and comfort, but he also finds very many who have fewer blessings than we have.

Some live in sod-houses, one opening serving for chimney, doorway and window. Many are so far away from loved ones that it takes months for letters to pass back and forth.

Then let us who live here in Centre county enjoy the coming Christmas, doing all the good kind things we can. "Love the Lord thy God and keep his charge and his statutes, and his judgments, and his commandments, always."—Deut. 10: 1.

For Christmas Reflection.

By Wm. H. Long, Christian Scientist, Howard, Pa.

You can discern the face of the sky; but can you discern the signs of the times?—Matt. 16: 3. When the wise men beheld the star in the East, and were willing to leave their flocks, (material beliefs,) they were guided to where the young child (new born idea of God) lay in a manger.

This star of Bethlehem has ever been shining, ever guiding all who were willing to leave their flocks (material beliefs) to the Christ Truth, which heals and saves.

Through the gross materiality of this age, the Bethlehem star was but faintly discerned until Rev. Mary Baker G. Eddy again discovered it. The wise men are following it humbly and meekly, and are finding the healing Christ as they did of old.

How much the world is in need of this saying, healing principle as taught by Christ. If the text book of Christian Science (Science and Health with key to the Scriptures) were rightly studied, all contention and strife would disappear.

And why should not inharmonious cease among Christians who profess to love and obey God, when Paul so plainly states that God is not the author of confusion.

These words of a fine old poet are applicable to every household in Centre County. Christmas decorations and manifestations

of social cheer are eminently fitting, provided we keep in mind the object they point to, and of which they are the outcome—Christmas!

"For Jesus Christ our Saviour Was born upon this day, To save us from Satan's power When we are gone astray, O tidings of comfort and joy For Jesus Christ our Saviour Was born on Christmas day."

He saved us from where? For those who ignore this reflection, Christmas is a misnomer; their celebration of it comes from routine. It is a farce. At least, it is the shell without the substance, the bark without the tree, the body without the soul!

"God an infant—born to-day! Born to live to die for me! Born my soul, adoring say, Lord I live, I die for thee, Humble then but fearless rise; See'th the manger where he lies."

An Old Man's Recollections of Christmas

By Charles L. Stremmer, of Phillipsburg, who is now seventy-seven years old and expresses most cleverly in rhyme this pretty legend of the Christmas season.

'Tis well nigh three score years and ten, When just a little boy Beside the wide, old chimney sat, His face with radiant joy, They told him Santa Claus would come Sometime that winter night, With presents for the children whom He knew did what was right.

He gazed and thought how Santa could Mount on that high, house roof, And down that chimney find his way, And what should be the proof That Santa came—and no one say They saw the kind old man; And how he kneed which ones were good, And what should be his plan To visit all, make no mistake In neither house, nor child, And come through piles of drifted snow, The night both dark and wild.

The mother said, "My little boy Hang up your stockings there Beside the chimney, when he comes He'll search them out with care, He'll not forget you, rest assured, So go to bed and sleep, Though dark the night and wild the storm He will his promise keep." How well I call to mind all that, What confidence I had In mother's word, she further said "Today you were not bad."

I soundly slept, I did not dream, When lo! the morning light With faintest rays shone through the room Dispel'ling shades of night, At once I rose and scarce took time To dress myself throughout, And hast'ning where the stockings hung I scarce restrained a shout To see them full, I grasped them quick, And on the floor sat down Before the blazing chimney fire: The happiest boy in town.

There was a ball, a knife, a top A picture book, a new, A little watch, a jumping-jack A poke of candy, too, "I thank you Santa," Father sat Near mother, looking wise, And as I looked at them, I saw The love light in their eyes.

A Christmas Message, 1905.

By the Rev. George Israel Browne, Rector of St. John's Episcopal Church, Bellefonte.

The Hymn which heralded to Shepherds the advent of the Christ on the first Christmas morn, proclaimed, "Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace to men in whom he is well pleased."

He himself declared in the village Synagogue at Nazareth—the purpose of his coming, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because He hath anointed me to preach the Gospel to the poor, He hath sent me to set at liberty them that are bruised."

Later in his blessed ministry he tells the Jews: "If the Son shall make you free then are ye free indeed." Ignoring at this time all the sweeter, deeper, and more far reaching implications of the Incarnation of the God-man, permit me to press home upon my fellow Americans of those who read this paper, the questions: What is freedom? What is Liberty? Are we free? What is it to be free?

Yes, we partake of freedom more largely than other nations, and yet in a deeper, wider sense, ye are not yet free! Even our civil liberties are not yet, nor ever shall be wholly free from insidious enmity and disintegrating assault.

agonously outspoken against all forms of evil and shame and baseness.

American Democracy, as well as the immortal heritage of our individual souls, can only be securely upheld in so far as we are not base slaves of low living and thinking and speaking, but joyous, glad, eager servants and soldiers of the fair, the true and the good.

We in this community need to lay His law to heart that all selfish indifference and shirking, all contented isolation from the fellowship of the good in the world as well as any overt deed which upholds or extends the rule of the dishonest, untrue, unlovely forces of life, in its real nature and essence an attack upon the life of this American Nation, as well as upon the Kingdom of God's dear Son.

Therefore, that man that sells or buys a vote, or otherwise debauches the intent of universal suffrage, the virgin innocence of our liberty, or in any fashion adds the force of his example and practice to the gambling spirit of dishonesty and the rampant disunion of isolated and selfish private willfulness in dealings with God or man, is regarding the advance of our country's well being; is undermining the liberty of future generations of Americans; is in fact a traitor to the State whose very spirit is mutuality, an assassin of freedom in the soul above.

There is no exception to this law—that we must own, enthroned and obey some sovereign ruler, some silent king—over the thoughts and intents of our hearts and either the rule of the good or the rule of the base. Therefore are we not yet all free. The angels sang to the Shepherd: "Unto you is born this day in the City of David a Saviour, which is Christ, the Lord."

The Children's Friend.

By the Rev. Henry Schnyler, Pastor of the Presbyterian church at Centre Hall, Pa.

Christmas is here; Winds whistle shrill, Little care we; Little we fear Weather without, Sheltered about The Mahogany tree.—Theokery.

Does Christmas see any sorrow as it dawns upon the earth with its merry, merry bells? Oh! yes; much of it, too much indeed! But still no one will dispute that Christmas is the happiest day of the year. On that day more people give and receive joy than on any other; and the chief center of all the day's rejoicing is found in childhood. So exclusively has the thought of Christmas merry-making in some households dwelt with the children that in some of them, from which the children have gone forth and in which there are no grand-children to take their place, the day has become common place, differing in no respects from the other days of the year; all in marked contrast to the happy bustle of former years in those same homes. This is no doubt a mistake, but it illustrates the large place children hold in the Holiday festivities.

The prominence given to children in the Christmas joy is typical of the position they have attained to in the civilization permeated by the religion of Him whose birth Xmas commemorates. It is so natural for us to have and appreciate children for their own sakes, their simplicity, their innocence, their trustfulness, their helplessness, that we do not realize that it was not so before Christ was born and is not so now where his spirit does not prevail.

Mothers doubtless must always have had some affection for their offspring, certainly such as brutes have for their young, but otherwise before Christ children were valued less for what they were than for what they might become, soldiers of the State or mothers of soldiers. Hence in some of the most highly civilized States they did not hesitate to destroy babes that had weak or defective bodies, or to offer their children in sacrifice to appease their angry deities.

All that is at an end when the spirit of Christ is in the ascendant. Still, "Man is inhumanity to man" Makes countless thousands mourn; but that inhumanity is never more severely denounced and more quickly repelled than when it lays its fiendish hands upon the little men and women. Christian States are coming to feel a special responsibility for the care and guardianship of children, a responsibility that does not hesitate to take the parent's place when the latter fails in his love and duty. Children's charities appeal to individuals with greater force than do any other; but space forbids the enumeration even of all the evidence that the world never before sought as it does now in Christian lands to make children happy, keep them pure and innocent and free from all that would injure and wrong them. This is all due to Christ, the best friend the children can possibly have.

THAT CHARITY BALL.—We desire to again call the attention of our readers to the fact that the annual charity ball will be held in the armory next Wednesday evening, December 27th. Of course it is generally known, or at least should be, that this ball is for the benefit of the Bellefonte hospital, and that is one reason why it should be well attended. On the other hand, it always proves to be a most delightful evening for all and this in itself should be inducement enough for anyone to go. There is no exclusiveness about it, as everybody is invited, and yet the committee gives assurance that the best of order and respectability will be preserved. The Stopper and Fisk orchestra, of Williamsport, has been engaged for the occasion and this is assurance that there will be good music, not only for the dancing but for the half hour's concert which will precede the grand march. Choice refreshments will be served at 11 o'clock free of charge. The price of admission will be but fifty cents to one and all. Don't fail to go.