

Minister Editors.

Following a custom inaugurated last year the WATCHMAN again gives over its editorial columns for the Christmas number to the ministers of Centre county.

There is a God.

Rev. J. Minor Whittenack Jr., State College. There is a hand that never rests nor works for selfish ends, But in divinest love and care, the weakest child attends.

Jesus, Our Brother.

Rev. Frank Wetzel, Robersburg. For the truly religious family there is no event in its home life that brings to it more and truer joy and happiness than the birth of a child.

The Jewish family rejoiced in the birth of a son. Why? Because of the hope of the Messiah to come.

As the Psalmist says, man is created but a little lower than God, and for every true Jew this would be especially true of the Messiah, for He would be a perfect man.

For the Christian household this joy is equally great, if not more so, for to every child born to them this Messiah, who he believes is Jesus of Nazareth, is not only a Saviour, but a brother.

As a brother He loves us. As a brother He has saved us through His perfect life of obedience to His Father in heaven, and His sufferings and death.

As a brother He makes us the sons of God, for He is His true son. As a brother, God through Him becomes our Father.

Because of this universal relation to man, is His birthday so generally observed; and because of this universal brotherhood do men commemorate the day by deeds of kindness and by gifts of love.

Christmas is the day when the hearts of all men are moved to go out in love to all mankind, because on this day is commemorated the birth of our common brother, Jesus.

This is being fulfilled the angel's song, of "Peace on earth and good will toward men."

Born in the Fulness of Time.

Rev. J. M. Reartzik, Centre Hall. The promise of a Savior was given our first parents in the very spot where they fell. This very strikingly exhibits the intensity of God's desire that all men should be saved.

"The fulness of time" was the first suitable period for the appearance of Christ on earth. The antediluvian age could not have written an interesting and attractive account of the "New Born King."

Democratic Watchman

STATE RIGHTS AND FEDERAL UNION.

VOL. 51

BELLEFONTE, PA., DECEMBER 21, 1906.

NO 50.



MADONNA FROM PAINTING BY FERRUZZI

God is Life and Light.

Rev. F. J. Clerc, Philipsburg. "Wrapped in His swaddling bands, And in His manger laid, The Hope and Glory of all lands Is come to the world's aid."

God is life and light and truth and power; holy, pure and blessed; loving, merciful and righteous. Life, in greater or less degree, is His gift to his creatures.

The identity of nature with man, and His work in all the duties of man, also His person, and human life and ministries are unquestionable; His future coming again into this world, to make and govern it, and to accomplish His own will and purpose from the very beginning, will reveal Him

to all His creatures, as their Lord and Master. To mankind he has given the privilege of membership in Him, as recipients of the grace with which He endowed our race, when He made Himself one with us.

His subjects, and His children by adoption, for all the ages of a never ending existence. The redemption of mankind is His finished work, sufficient for all our race.

How will you "keep Christmas?" How will you "keep Christmas?" A decree of the court was filed on Tuesday changing the time for the holding of the license court for the year 1908, from the first Tuesday in March, 1908, to the Monday of the second week of the December term of court, 1907.

How will you "keep Christmas?" How will you "keep Christmas?"

How will you "keep Christmas?" How will you "keep Christmas?"

How will you "keep Christmas?" How will you "keep Christmas?"

How will you "keep Christmas?" How will you "keep Christmas?"

Bethlehem. Rev. Ambrose M. Schmidt, Bellefonte. "Let us now go even unto Bethlehem and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us."

Bethlehem! Upon thee are the thoughts of the world centered today!

Bethlehem! Thou hast been exalted above every other city or village throughout the whole wide world! Many are the hallowed memories that cluster about this village, nestled upon its high ridge overlooking the wilderness of Judea.

Later, another child is born in the house of Jesus, and this one becomes the poet and king of Israel: the sweet singer of the inspired psalms, King David.

Later, the prophet Micah grasps and unfolds the secret of the ages when he exclaimed, "But thou, Bethlehem Ephrathah, which art little to be among the thousands of Judah, out of thee shall one come forth unto me that is to be the ruler in Israel; whose going forth are from of old, from everlasting."

For centuries there is silence and then across the hills of Bethlehem is heard the angel message: "Behold I bring you good tidings of great joy which shall be to all people: for there is born to you this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord."

The promised Messiah has come! the prophecies of the ages have been fulfilled. The babe in the manger cradle is indeed the one whose "name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The Mighty God, The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace."

This babe of Bethlehem, the virgin's child, through His coming has transformed the world; changed the hearts of men and nations and through the way of sorrow has brought life and immortality to light. Today millions of worshippers bow where once the humble shepherds knelt and the wise men adored.

"O little town of Bethlehem! How still we see thee lie. Above thy deep and dreamless sleep, The silent stars go by; Yet in thy dark streets shineth The everlasting light; The hopes and fears of all the years, Are met in thee tonight."

The Joyous Christmas.

Rev. Chas. L. Streamer, Philipsburg. "Rejoice and be glad, The Redeemer has come."

Most children are glad upon the recurrence of the Christmas season, mainly because of the gifts they are expecting; some of them, no doubt, because of the part they are to take in the service of song, response and recitation.

"Fond recollections recall them to view."

The remembrance of my childish joys on Christmas morning at the great chimney side impels me to strive to make my own children joyful as often as the coming season points to the birth of the Christ Child, nor do I pause to debate in my mind anything that some say is perplexing in relation to it.

Not only do young children enjoy the Christmas festival; but children of a larger growth enjoy it also, and so I say I am glad that thereby others are all made glad. I am reminded of the "Unspeakable Gift" and I am impelled to give, not only to bless my own household; but knowing, as I do, some homes where there is but little light, or warmth, or comfort, I am pleased with a chance to

Somehow the gladness of heart thus infused makes my own heart glad, even though I may not give just for that purpose, and may not be there to hear one spoken word; yet, somehow, sooner or later I do hear, and my own heart is warmed.

Oh, the glad Christmas time, And the cheer that it brings, And the feelings sublime, When the saddened soul sings. And I feel what I once Could scarcely believe, That more blessed it is To give, than receive. Just once do I pass Over life's serious way, Let me do all the good I can put in each day; And then when the living Shall say, "He is gone," Enough, that the Master Shall say the "WELL DONE."

Don't fail to read the editorials in this issue. They were all written by the clergymen of the county and voice some beautiful Christmas sentiments, as well as very timely reference to other matters of public interest.