



What profound emotions of gratitude should swell up in every human heart at the mention of this now well-known universal holiday! But it is to be feared that the vast majority of those who observe it have no true conception of its meaning. Even many of those whose idea of it is that it is a time to bestow and receive gifts do not fully comprehend what is meant by this hallowed and common custom.

Christmas not only commemorates the birth of Christ, who gave His life as a ransom for a sinful world, but typifies the ineffable gift of God, who "so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." Paul tells us that salvation "is the gift of God," from whom, as James says, is "every good and perfect gift." Paul also declares in writing to the Ephesians that when Christ ascended upon high He "led captivity captive and gave gifts unto men."

What are some of these gifts which are thus typified and intended to be commemorated by the custom of gift-giving in Christmas-tide? "Peace on earth, good will to men," is the boon it brings to mankind as a whole.

The coming of Christ was the manifestation of God to men. There is no full revelation of God anywhere save in His incarnated Son. He is the fullness of the God-head bodily. Christ was the ideal man, called by eminence "the Son of Man." In Him we mark the fulfillment of all human capabilities. By Him is reconciliation of sinful man and an offended God. Faith in Christ crucified—the gift of infinity to man—is the secret of salvation from the consequences of sin. The gift of everlasting life is to be had for the taking.

Christmas, as a commemoration of the birth of Christ, without reference to His sacrificial atonement, would be meaningless. True, He taught grand lessons of love and duty, and of self-sacrifice for the good of others, but the sublime climax of all these teachings was His sufferings and death on the cross on account of the sins of mankind. This has been aptly called the tragedy of the world—a tragedy in which every human soul has an interest, because it provides for human wants—a balm in Gilead, a fountain for uncleanness, redemption from sin, and a joy forever.

These personal and spiritual gifts are not the only advantages that have been conferred upon mankind by the coming of Him whose birth is celebrated at Christmas. The world as a whole has had an uplift in direct ratio as the lessons of His life and death have been revealed to it. Genuine and helpful civilization waits on Christianity.

The sign of the triple cross is not, as Ingersoll in his book makes it, the emblem of superstition, hate and cruelty, which he transposes to telegraph poles labeled "for the use of man," but the cross, typifying Christianity, ever precedes enlightenment, invention and all that tends to human progress and human happiness. The later cartoon, representing the Christian church as a woman carrying the cross and the bright light of Christian truth, and thus penetrating the dark recesses of ignorance, tyranny and superstition, which are dispelled before her, while the emblems of civilization, the railroad train, the telegraph, the church, the school-house and the busy city follow her; this cartoon, I say, tells a truthful story of human progress. The most progressive, most enlightened, intelligent and strongest nations of to-day, with the most of happiness among their people, are the Christian nations. Mr. Gladstone, the greatest statesman of this or any other age, lately said: "Talk about the questions of the day; there is but one question, and that is the gospel. It can and will correct everything needing correction. All men at the head of great movements are Christian men. During the many years I was in the cabinet I was brought into association with 60 master minds, and all but five of them were Christians. My only hope for the world is in bringing the human mind into contact with divine revelation." How important, then, is it that in commemorating Christmas we should have a true conception of what it means!

THE GOBBLER'S INNING.



"Help, pop! Old Crismus dinner's a-gobblin' me!"—Judge.

Something for the Boy.
Office Boy—Are you going to give me anything for Christmas?
Boss—O, yes; a few errands to do.—Detroit Free Press.

XMAS PRESENTS

SUITS AND OVERCOATS
FOR
MEN and BOYS
at prices that mean much
to those who are
economical.

For father, brother, grandfather, uncle, cousin, or sweet-heart Buy something useful—something that will be appreciated. Gloves, umbrellas, fine neckwear, silk or linen handkerchiefs, with or without initial. Fine silk mufflers, night robes, large children's bows, smoking jackets, bath robes, Mackintoshes and many other interesting Xmas gifts at prices that move them quickly. Make selections before it is too late. Goods purchased now can be laid away until wanted.

J. M. GIDDING & CO.

Gifts for Christmas.

Our lines of goods suitable for Gifts are full and complete, both in useful and fancy articles; but not at fancy prices, to which we invite all to roam through the store and see. If you should not see what you are looking for, ask for it; we may have it, as we cannot display all the goods we have.

FRAMED PICTURES. The most complete line of these goods shown in the market at the lowest prices. See the big pictures at 95c. Our \$2.00 pictures surprise. All beauties.

TABLE LINENS.

H. J. Clark & Son } The finest line of table linens, towels, (H. J. Clark & Son
—FOR— } napkins and counterpanes we have —FOR—
HOLIDAY GOODS. } ever shown for useful gifts. } Christmas Goods.

DRESS PATTERNS make useful and always acceptable gifts. We have a line of these goods for little money. See the patterns at \$2.50, \$3.00, \$3.50, \$5.00, \$8.00, \$10.00.

HANDKERCHIEFS. The greatest line of plain, embroidered and initial, shown at prices that make buying a pleasure. Our 25c. line of ladies' embroidered is admired by all. The men's line is immense. Those specials, 2 for 25c. meet with approval. Silk initial handkerchiefs, 31c.

HOSIERY. By the pair or box for useful gifts.

UMBRELLAS. A big line from 55c. upwards.

METAL PHOTO FRAMES 19c. All books regardless of cost. See them.

TABLE COVERS. Full lines in Chenille, Tapestry and silk.

LEATHER GOODS in pocket books, bags, music rolls, &c.

CUT GLASS. A line second to none in price and quality. See it.

FEATHER AND FUR BOAS. A most excellent line of these at little prices. 50c. and up.

BLANKETS AND COMFORTS. A full line of both. See the \$3.50 blanket

SILVER WARE. Full line Rogers Bros. goods, both flat and hollow ware.

Clark & Son } Show a large line of goods, both in fancy } Clark & Son
—FOR— } and staple, for you to select your } —FOR—
Holiday Goods. } gifts from. Go see them. } Holiday Goods.

LAMPS. See our lines. See the Banquet lamps.

ONYX TABLES. A line of these. See the \$3.79 table.

A full line of Gentlemen's Night Robes and Hosiery.

COATS at greatly reduced prices.

SKIRTS make useful gifts. Our line is complete. Try those 5 gore "Merritt" lustrous

kid skirts. Can be worn as outside or under skirt.

KID GLOVES are always acceptable gifts, and we have all the latest in kid gloves.

New lines. See the \$1.00 glove.

MITTENS AND GLOVES. In silk and wool. Kid mittens lined. Kid

gloves lined, in ladies' and children's for useful gifts.

Ice wool Squares, Fascinators, Leggings, Caps, Broties, &c.

We sell the "Elghmie" white unlaundried men's shirt, best made.

200 empty pocket books for sale for Christmas gifts.

JEWELRY. Full line rings, bracelets, pins, chains, &c.

Wood cases, screens, tables, stools, &c., for useful gifts.

H. J. CLARK & SON.

HESS BROS.,
JEWELERS AND STATIONERS,
BLOOMSBURG, PA.,

will save you something on every purchase. Come and see that Holiday bargains do exist and that we give them. Our store is full of big hearted bargains at big hearted prices.



Buyers are wanted to move this large stock, and no inducements will be left unmade to sell the goods. You want the best, this is your chance. You can't help being pleased, so come in at once. Plenty of good goods at low prices.

No End to the Great Reduction
Sales at the
**D. Lowenberg
Clothing Store,**
as long as our Enormous Stock
of Winter Clothing lasts.

- Still selling those knee pants,
- Still selling those children's waists,
- Still selling those men's working shirts, } at 15c.
- Still selling those men's mittens,
- Still selling those men's heavy working pants at 49c.
- Still selling those heavy pull down and plush caps at 25 and 50c., etc.
- Still selling those men's fine woolen pants at \$1.75 to \$2.00.
- Still selling those elegant Rochester overcoats at \$5.00, \$6.50 and \$10.00.
- Still selling those long warm storm coats, at \$5.00, \$7.50 and \$10.00.
- Still selling those children's suits at \$1.75.

HOLIDAY GOODS AT LOW PRICES.

- White silk handkerchiefs at 19c.
- Elegant neckwear at 25 and 50c.
- Elegant gloves at 50c. to \$1.00.

Low prices in these hard times is what the people want, and these prices will last all the winter long at

The D. Lowenberg
Clothing Store.

Solid silver watch given away on New Year's day. Every dollar purchaser receives a chance on same.

CANDY, CHRISTMAS CANDY

Seldom have the people of Bloomsburg and vicinity had the opportunity of selecting their candy from as fine an assortment as I now show, which was purchased with the object to please our customers in quality and price. A few of our prices will be convincing:

- Fine French mixture, 5 lbs. for one dollar.
- Fine chocolates, 25c. lb. (always 40c.)
- Best mixtures, 30c. lb.
- We also have mixtures for 10c. and 15c. lb.
- Butter cups, 20c. lb.

Call before purchasing; it will be to your interest.

I. G. DEITRICK,
Market Square



Caleb Crimmins was as sweet on Debby Dander as a bumble bee on honey-suckles. That was a well understood fact among the young folks of Bradbury, a back-country village of the middle west; and although Caleb had the reputation of being very "near" he was known in a number of instances to have "opened his heart" and his purse—slightly—in demonstration of that fact. And when Cale Crimmins "went down into his jeans" (in the mellow flow of the village tongue wagers) it meant that return might be expected on the board in short order. That is to say, "folks was expectin'" of a invite to the weddin' "fore long."

It pained Caleb intensely when he thought of the rapid succession of birthdays, Christmases and money-taking holidays with which the year was crowded, and he resolved that but few of them should elapse before he had the knot tied hard and fast with Miss Debby; and then they would go "kinder slow on the gosh blamed spendin' business." Debby was not at all extravagant in her notions of gift-taking, but she did think it was no more than right that she should be remembered occasionally with some tangible demonstration of affection.

Christmas was at hand, and Caleb was in the throes of a job of guessing what to get for Debby. "There's so tarnaal much nonsense 'bout Christmas presents," said he, "that a feller don't know what to git." But he held to his established rule that it should be "somethin' useful and onextravagant." But what Debby needed most, that was the perplexing question.

Caleb was to take Debby to the "Christmas doin's" at the village church, where there was to be a tree for the young folks, and he thought it would be the proper caper to hang his present on the tree with the others, and have it handed out publicly, to show that he was up and doing with the rest of them. And so it came to pass that among the good things hanging on the tree was a sealed envelope marked, "Merry Christmas to Deborah Dander, from Mr. Caleb Crimmins." This the minister, who officiated as distributor, took down, and, with some sly remarks on its supposed contents, called upon the young lady to come forward and receive it.

As Debby passed up the aisle she was accosted on either side by her young friends, who eagerly inquired: "What



is it, Debby? Open it and let us see!" With burning cheeks she took the mysterious envelope and returned to her seat beside the smiling donor, who advised her to open it. This she did and found within nothing but a slip of paper with some writing on it. She read the words, and blushing still more deeply crumpled the paper in her hand; then turning to Caleb in an agitated manner, she said:

"Mr. Crimmins, we will go home, right off."

Caleb forthwith conducted Debby to her home, where she bade him a frigid "good night, Mr. Crimmins," and left him to sneak off to his own abode, with a sort of "wish I hadn't" feeling rankling in his system.

The match was broken off short then and there, and it was some time before the why and wherefore were known to the wondering friends of both. When the secret did leak out a broad grin overspread the face of all Bradbury, and no wonder. Caleb's Christmas present to Debby was an order on the village dentist for "four dollars' worth of pullin' and fillin'."

A TIP TO SANTA CLAUS.



Jimmy—There, now, dat looks bully; I hope he'll take de hint an' put some new stockings dere fore he does anything else.—N. Y. World.