

MOTHER OF LARGE FAMILY

Recommends Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound to Other Mothers

Windom, Minn.—"I was so run-down that I was just good for nothing. I was to become the mother of my ninth child, and I thought I did not have the strength to go through with it. I took Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound, and it has surely done all I could ask it to do and I am telling all my friends about it. I have a nice big baby girl and am feeling fine. You may use this letter to help other sick mothers."—Mrs. C. A. MOORE, Box 634, Windom, Minn.

My First Child

Glen Allen, Alabama.—"I have been greatly benefited by taking Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound for bearing-down feelings and pains. I was troubled in this way for nearly four years following the birth of my first child, and at times could hardly stand on my feet. A neighbor recommended the Vegetable Compound to me after I had taken doctor's medicines without much benefit. It has relieved my pains and gives me strength. I recommend it and give you permission to use my testimonial letter."—Mrs. IDA RYE, Glen Allen, Alabama.

Quick, Watson!

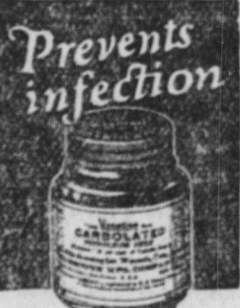
The famous detective gasped as he arrived at the scene of the crime. "Heavens!" he exclaimed, as he looked in the window through which the thief had escaped. "This is more than I expected. It's broken on both sides."

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SPIRIT of CHRISTMAS 1923



Madonna Di Terzoi from Paintings by Raphael

By JOHN DICKINSON SHERMAN

THE spirit of Christmas A. D. 1923 in the United States of America is the same as it was in 1922 and as it has been for many a year. Celebration of the anniversary of the birth of Christ is universal and does not differ except in unimportant details from Bangor to San Diego and from Seattle to Miami—over more than three million square miles of territory and among more than one hundred and five million people.

Yes; even in Plymouth, Mass., and in Jamestown, Va., is Christmas Day of 1923 celebrated in the same way—which fact in itself shows how in three hundred years a fringe of scattered colonies along the Atlantic has grown into a close-knit and homogeneous nation. For time was when the Christmas that was celebrated in Virginia was anathema in Massachusetts and the Cavalier pitied and derided the color-minded Pilgrim and the bigoted Puritan.

The Virginia settlers bothered themselves not at all over religion. They brought the established church of England and all its observances with them as a matter of course. Their great purpose was to extend the life and power of England in the New World and to cut into the power and possessions of the Spaniard. So the F. F. V.'s celebrated Christmas at Jamestown according to home traditions as faithfully as the conditions allowed.

And as the great religious festival of that church was Christmas, the Virginians made much of the day. Moreover, they were just the sort of folk to enjoy it—many of them were gentlemen's and soldiers' sons, accustomed to pleasure and jollity rather than to religious meditation and the saving of souls.

The Pilgrims, on the other hand, had separated from the Church of England, had discarded all that favored of ceremonial and had rejected the social and joyous side of Christmas for the serious and religious side. They came to the New World to worship in peace after their own fashion; they cared little for place or wealth and nothing for how the rest of the world worshipped. What social joyousness of the holiday season that survived in them was gradually built up around Thanksgiving day.

God rest you merry Gentlemen.

1. God rest you merry gentlemen, let nothing you dismay, Remember Christ our Saviour Was born on Christmas Day, To save us all from Satan's power When we were gone.

Chorus: O - ti - ding - oes - fun and joy, O - ti - ding - oes - fun and joy.



Christmas FOOD SHIP FOR AMERICA'S ORPHAN WARDS IN THE NEAR EAST

parliament December 24, 1652, for seven years—but they practically ignored Christmas and made Thanksgiving their day of rejoicing.

So Father Christmas, Santa Claus, Saint Nicholas and Kris Kringle came to the American people by way of Virginia—and the jolly Dutch burghers of New York. And how great the change three hundred years hath wrought! America may still have the well-known and justly famous "Puritan conscience," but state has nothing to do with church and Christmas day is a holiday of national observance, with the same meaning to all the people.

Who has not loved a little child, he knows not Christmas Day—

Most important, perhaps, of all phases of Christmas celebration is the fact that millions of people are thinking of the same thing at the same time. Religion, which, as the world shows, should be a ligament binding men together, seems actually to have been one of the greatest dividing forces in the world. But the Christmas cradle has a humanizing appeal that pulls all men closer together.

Each year back I travel— At least for one night— And enjoy with the children, In fancy, this sight. If peace abides with us, Good will toward men, 'Tis because we are children With child's faith again.

We catch a glimpse of the universal brotherhood of man at Christmas, when the fingers of children pull families, citizens, communities, nations closer together with the same impulse—to make the world happier with a "Merry Christmas!" Little hands, how they tug at the heartstrings! The miracle of Christmas—the God in the Child, the Child in the God—for the moment at least makes the whole world kin.

A photograph reproduced herewith shows Bishop Shipman blessing a 1922 Christmas ship on its departure for the stricken areas of the Near East. To many a child over there Santa Claus is spelled "America." And though the handful of Russians who have grasped the powers of government may wish America ill it is difficult

and under it was a plain gold band. Father seemed as happy as the twins about this Christmas mother. "Santa is a wise old bird," he said. But the Christmas mother did not answer him at all. She was buried under the embraces of the twins. And, anyway, she wasn't father's Christmas present. The Christmas card pinned to her sleeve said plain as day—"A mother for Jane and John. Merry Christmas from Santa Claus."—Ethel Cook Elliot.

"DIPS" INSTRUCTED BY TRAINED MEN

Criminologist Says Pickpockets Are Taught "Trade."

The mental and physical makeup of that world-wide class of minor criminals, the pickpocket, has been set forth with convincing accuracy by the one man in Europe doubtless best qualified to do so, Dr. E. Lewisch, for 18 years chief of the pickpocket section of the Vienna police.

The chief was addressing the delegates to the international police congress. The pickpocket, he said, is essentially a nomad, a rover. He finds his prey on the street, in places of amusement, when an accident draws people together, in the cloakroom of a theater, in short, wherever there is a crowd. He may operate in Vienna today and tomorrow be loitering about a city a hundred miles away. He must be ready to keep moving and give up any idea of a settled home. In Europe he must be a good linguist.

It is reasonably certain, Doctor Lewisch said, that these men are systematically trained in their work, and he believed the best schools are in Poland and Hungary. Beside strength and manual dexterity the pickpocket must have presence of mind, knowledge of men, and a ready adaptability to cope with unexpected and dangerous situations. Unbounded effrontery, self-confidence and a ready eloquence are important assets, and often help him to calm the agitation of his victim, avert suspicion, and even win the confidence and gratitude of the man he is robbing.

The successful pickpocket needs well-formed hands, strong and with long, narrow fingers. He must be able to seize a heavy purse with two fingers as with a pair of pliers, and extract it from a pocket by a quick and sure movement, or twist a watch ring out of its bearings with as easy a grace as if picking a flower from its stem.

In court the pickpocket denies passionately every charge brought against him. He admits absolutely nothing. He has a ready excuse to account for his presence in the city where he was caught. The stolen watch he will swear he picked up from the ground, and as an honest finder he was about to carry it to the police station. Before the judge he will simulate deafness or ignorance of the language of the court. He will fight for time by asking questions on his own account or pretend sickness or even insanity.

It takes time to build a good case against a pickpocket, Doctor Lewisch declared. He must be held while his record, often in other countries, is being looked up. He must be fingerprinted and photographed, and these evidences distributed to the police authorities all over Europe. And when he is found guilty, Doctor Lewisch concluded, give him a long sentence, preferably in the penitentiary.

Nature's Champion Bluffer.

Although the horn-toad, specimens of which have recently reached this country, is one of the most repulsive and formidable-looking of all creatures, it is in reality quite harmless.

No animal is a more thorough "bluffer." It can inflate its skin to twice its normal size, presenting an appearance of extreme ferocity. When it is angry it hisses and rattles its tail, while it is further endowed with the astonishing gift of squirting blood from its eyes! Actually, however, the horn-toad is as incapable of inflicting injury as the ordinary garden frog.

Its ability to emit blood from its eyes without damage to those delicate organs has lately claimed the attention of scientists, who have discovered that the toad squirts blood as a safety valve ejects steam. When the creature is disturbed its blood pressure rises, filling with blood the tiny pockets round its eyes. As the pressure increases the walls of these pockets give way, and the blood shoots forth, frightening away its enemy.

The blood is slightly acid, and causes a certain amount of discomfort to the person or animal whose skin it touches. The horn-toad can squirt its blood fifteen inches, at intervals of from one to two minutes, and has been known to repulse even rattlesnakes by this extraordinary means.

True Economy.

Here's another one about the economical Scotsman:

Ten lads and ten lassies went aboard the S. S. Columbia at New York for a bon voyage party to Mary McCann, a member of the Scots colony in New York, who was sailing for Glasgow. The music struck up and the lassies stepped out in pairs to dance, but the men glumly held to their places along the rail.

"Why don't you lads dance?" "Dancin'," said John Grillee, one of the standees, "wears out yer boots."

All of it. His wife had a cold, and could not go to church. But she insisted that he should go in her place.

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