

Correspondence

(Continued)

HOWARD.

While for your happiness this Christmas leading,
I say "God bless you," and I leave the rest;
How can we tell what those we love are needing?
How can we know what for each heart is best?
I lift my eyes to Him who only knoweth
And pray that He will bless you in His way,
For with the gifts and grace that He bestoweth
Thou shalt be rich indeed this Christmas Day.

In Our Churches Next Sabbath.
Presbyterian—Pastor W. F. Carson will preach at Jacksonville at eleven o'clock, and in Howard at half past seven.
United Evangelical—Pastor M. J. Snyder will preach in Howard at half past ten, and at Jacksonville at half past seven.

Methodist Episcopal—Pastor James Edwin Dunning will preach at Beech Creek at half past ten, at Hunter's Run at half past two, and in Howard at half past seven. On the following Sabbath, Dec. 29, Rev. C. C. Shuey, of Bellefonte will preach in Howard at half past ten, and at Curtin at seven o'clock. This because of the absence of Rev. Dunning.

Santa Claus.
If it be true, as some do say,
That there's no Santa Claus,
What is this Spirit on the way
That never seems to pause.
When Christmas chimes are sounding clear
Upon the frosty night,
In spreading splendid gifts of cheer
In every mortal's sight?
What is this sense of glow divine
That comes to you and me
When watching all that happy line
Of children round the tree?
Whence comes this mantling atmosphere,
So full of sweet release,
That falls about us once a year
And covers us with peace?
No Santa Claus? Oh, mea of doubt,
Whence comes this sorry claim?
Would you so fair a Spirit flout
For reasons of a name?
Dear Santa Claus is everywhere
Where hearts are true and kind,
And where there's love of man, 'tis there
His presence rare we find!

In this true appreciation of Santa Claus, so beautifully versed by that happy poet John Kendrick Bangs, the Howard letter sends its Christmas greetings to its readers, whomsoever they are, and wheresoever they may be; and prays that about them may be "this mantling atmosphere of sweet release" which is the true Christmas spirit of those who rightly celebrate the advent of the Prince of Peace.

Let Us Think it Over.
This vacation season in our schools, short and full though it is, seems to be a good time to take up and seriously consider the possibility of greatly adding to the efficiency of the schools of the two adjoining districts, Howard and Howard township. An opportunity for doing this, such as this community never had before, and perhaps may never have again, seems to present itself at our doors and to knock with more force and persistency than opportunities often bring to bear.
Of course, those who read an article upon this same subject which appeared in this letter in the early fall, will realize that this has reference to certain conditions which exist by reason of the passing of the new low-grade railroad improvement through our valley, in which a portion of the grounds of the "Furnace" and "Plecher" sub-districts in the township have been covered by the company's right of way in such a manner that, though these buildings are left standing as before, they are rendered unfit for school purposes, and that the deficiency thus created must, in some way, be remedied.

It is well known that, temporarily for the present term, the township board of directors has rented the mattress factory, near the station in the borough, and consolidated the two districts under one teacher, the locations and distances being such that this is very easily accomplished, without inconvenience to any one; and that all the pupils of the two districts are attending this school, without trouble or complaint.

It is also well known that during the past year or two the question of an enlargement of our good borough school building by the addition of two, three or four rooms, that our student body may be better or more efficiently graded, and thus give us a real High school in place of the comparatively ineffective one compelled by existing conditions, has been much discussed by the patrons as well as the authorities of the district.

These facts seem to almost automatically raise in the minds of those who have our school interests at heart, the question, Why should not the township and borough school boards take advantage of the situation and proceed under Article XVIII of the school code entitled "Joint Schools," and which gives the fullest and most liberal authority for action in just such a case as presents itself to us. If every school director and every citizen who is not a director but is interested in the progress of our schools will read this portion of the school code, it will surely stir some of them to action. The importance of having our school children gathered into bodies large enough to properly grade them cannot be too much enlarged upon, but lack of space forbids a discussion of it at this time.

While the details of this work would of necessity, be worked out by the two Boards of Directors, the initiation need not be left to them. It is the right, as it is the duty of non-official citizens, whose children or whose neighbor's children are to be benefited for all time by such a development of our lamentably backward schools, to take up the subject, in private and in public, and study and discuss it in such a way as will create a public sentiment which even the proverbial inertia of our school authorities cannot longer ignore.

occasion by blending their trained and complementary voices in the presentation as a duet of Tennyson's Crossing the Bar.
It is announced from Lock Haven that Christmas Day has been selected for their wedding by our good natured young friend Robert Rothrock and Miss Helen Straus. These young people are both well and favorably known here, this having been their one-time home.
On Saturday morning last, little five-year-old Thomas Lucas, son of Clyde Lucas, a former Howard boy, and grandson of Reuben Lucas, one of our oldest citizens, was bitten badly by a rabid dog, and was taken to the Mercy hospital at Pittsburg for the Pasteur treatment.
The Christmas exercises of the Sunday school connected with the congregation of the Christian Chapel will be held in that building in the evening of Christmas Day, Wednesday, 25th. A good deal of painstaking is being given to the preparation for this event and it will be well worth hearing.
A Christmas family gathering of the Dungs will take place at the home of Chas. C., a brother of the Rev. Jas. E., who, with his family will, of course, be there, and the holiday will last over the following Sabbath. The brother, Charles, is a teacher of Science in the Peabody High School in the big steel city.

Farmers' Week.
This week of wonderful opportunity for farmers, at State College, begins this year, the day after Christmas, and closes Jan. 2, and there is not a young farmer within the circle of the readers of the Howard letter, who would not desire more help for the future of his business by attending it for the full time, then by any other use he could make of the same time. Young farmer, don't miss this great advantage.

Pastor Chosen.
Holding meetings in each of the five appointments of the Nittany Valley charge of the Reformed church last Sabbath, the electorate of the charge voted with practical unanimity, to call Rev. H. J. Zechman to the pastorate. The parsonage connected with this charge is a new and comfortable house, but as Mr. Zechman is not married, it is not yet known where he will reside.

Miss Kate Kilg was a westward passenger Monday morning.

Mr. and Mrs. Irvin Schenck were Bellefonte visitors last Friday.

Mrs. D. L. Welsh took Friday for her Christmas trip to Lock Haven.

Charles Taylor, of Mackeyville, was a business visitor in our town Monday morning.

Mr. N. M. Bitner had for Friday's guest, his son, C. A. Bitner and wife, of Westport.

Park Bollinger of Altoona, was the over Sunday guest of his friend, Miss Rebecca Lucas.

Hon. D. F. Fortney took his Sunday dinner with his friends, John A. and Miss Woodward.

Mrs. S. C. Burnside, of Bellefonte, was a Sunday guest of her sister, Mrs. Louise Commerford.

One of the minor accidents incident to butchering days was the serious cutting of his hand by Ray Allison.

Mrs. J. J. Whippo, of Latrobe, with her two bright boys, are holiday guests of Mr. and Mrs. Peter Robb.

Mr. and Mrs. Lionel Walker spent the last Sabbath with the elder Mr. Walker, whose health is quite precarious.

Station agent W. L. and Mrs. Cooke, and Wm. B. Pletcher and daughter Ruth were Lock Haven shoppers on Monday.

Miss Rhea Bulkley, one of the nurse students at the Altoona hospital, had a one-day visit with her parents here Tuesday.

"Sing the song of great joy that the angels began,
Sing of glory to God and of good will to men!"

Miss Nellie Dale, of Lemont, was the guest of her cousins, Mrs. Abraham Weber and H. A. Moore, during a portion of last week.

A car load of Christmas trees, cut from the land of W. Ellory Waite, in Nittany Valley, was shipped from here to Johnstown, Tuesday.

The first skating of the season arrived last Friday in the bed of the old canal on Jackson Kilne's farm, and the boys gave it a good try-out.

"Hark! joining in chorus
The heavens bend o'er us!
The dark night is ending, and dawn has begun."

Samuel B. Holter put in a portion of the late summer and early autumn at a sanitarium in Battle Creek, Mich., and has returned quite improved.

Dr. W. J. Kurtz combined business with pleasure in a trip to Philadelphia, leaving last Thursday afternoon and returned Saturday morning.

It is comfortable to see lumberman John Lyon so far relieved of his persistent rheumatism as to be able to walk fairly well without the aid of crutch or staff.

Miss Mary Johnson, teacher of the third grade, has been absent in attendance upon her sick sister for a few days and her place has been filled by H. Walter Holter.

While shredding cornfodder one day last week George Quay had his hand caught in the savage machinery, and badly gashed. He will probably retain the use of his hand.

Charles W. Smith, who has been enjoying the pleasure of the Southern California climate for several months, returned last week in seemingly good health and fine spirits.

The sermon of Rev. W. Clouser, pastor of the White Deer charge, in the Reformed church here last Sabbath evening, has been quite favorably commented upon by several who heard him.

F. W. Crider spent an hour or so in town last Wednesday, after having given some attention to the disposal of the stock and season's crops from his big farm east of town, which he recently sold.

Miss Nannie Lucas and her niece took the Sunday evening train for Milesburg, to pay a call of condolence upon their uncle, William Miles, who, for some time has suffered from partial blindness.

Norman E. Lighthamer has purchased the Ira C. Leathers property on South Walnut street, at the price of seventeen hundred and fifty dollars, and will move into it at the usual spring moving time.

At the close of the regular prayer meeting service in the M. E. church this Thursday evening, the annual meeting of the Sunday School Board will be held and the presence of every member is earnestly requested.

Taking her mother, Mrs. S. O. Knoll, to spend the winter with her, Mrs. Halfpenny, of McGee's Mills, accompanied also by her daughter Elizabeth, returned home on No. 53, Wednesday, after a visit of but a few days.

A theme suggested by the coming Christmas-tide will be the basis of the sermon by the pastor at the regular evening service next Sabbath evening, in the M. E. church and the music will be in accord with the service.

At the close of the Epworth League service last Sabbath evening pastor and Mrs. Dunning added much to the

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The war-horse drew the peasant's loaded wain."

Jacob W. Meese, a Howard boy in the years "before the war," who entered as a private in Co. A, 45th Regiment, and earned the title of Captain by faithful service, died in New York last week and was buried in the soldiers' cemetery at Arlington. Captain Meese was a brother of Mrs. J. Shuman Fletcher.

Mrs. Dean Bennett came up from her Mill Hill home on Thursday to attend the old fashioned butchering party at the home of her father A. M. Butler, which was one of the many successful ones of the season. The job was completed early in the afternoon, and no less than the goodly number of eighteen guests sat down to the sumptuous dinner.

The three big steam shovels which have been in operation here during the summer and fall, in the construction of the new low grade road around Howard, have about completed their big task, and it is probable that they will all be out of commission before Christmas. This does not mean that the contract will be completed at that time, by any means, for a good deal of trimming and finishing, which will be done by horses and wrens, and hand shovels is yet on hand.

Our young friend Willard McDowell, who has had his locomotion greatly impaired for years by the contraction of the ligaments of a knee, due to rheumatism, and who has tried various remedial treatments, and institutions in vain, visited the State Hospital for injured persons, at Ashland, Schuylkill Co., at the instance of his friend Dr. George Hensyl, of Mahanoy City last week, and placed himself under the care of the eminent surgeon Dr. J. C. Biddle, surgeon-in-chief, as a last resort. On Thursday last an operation was performed, and the leg placed in a plaster cast, with hope of giving him the greatly-to-be-wished-for relief.

Mr. McDowell is one of our popular young men, and his many friends are anxiously hoping the best things for him, notwithstanding he discouraging failures of the past.

I desire to make a change in the announcement of the Odd Fellows banquet to be held in their pretty hall, on next Saturday evening, the 21st. In my last week's items I stated that "It was not for the Odd Fellows alone but the doors would be open to the general public." At our last Saturday night's session, owing to the small size of our hall, it was decided, that the banquet was to be a purely social function, for the Odd Fellows and their families, or any invited guest or guests of any Odd Fellow. As we are not having it for the