

Home Circle Column

Pleasant Evening Reveries for Every Member of the Family

The Week Before Christmas.

It is the week before Christmas. The center of American thought is now far away but is centered in each American home. It glows about father and mother and brother and sister and shines with brighter radiance for it is the self-centered thought of love. The very air is surcharged with kindness to the others. All the thoughts of this week will be about what Mary will be most pleased with and how happy mother will be when she sees that nice—but that's telling and half the pleasure comes from the concealment. Half the good of giving comes from keeping the left hand from knowing what the right hand is doing. Nobody doubts but the pleasure of Christmas morning but the pleasure of the week before is just as intense and is longer drawn out. The morning of Christmas day is rich in its reverence and smiles, but the week before Christmas is about mid-way to the soul and heart. The heart begins to sprout at Thanksgiving and it swells until the week before Christmas when it is ready to burst out into full bloom from the accumulated sap of humane kindness by which it has been fed. The week before Christmas has never had its dues. The brightest week before Christmas that ever happened was some twenty or fifty years ago—it is tedious to count dates. You remember all about it. You were a little thing, but you never in after life were quite so important to yourself. There were whisperings which ceased when you woke up about midnight and found the lamp still burning and your mother still up and working on something that she put under the chair when you turned over in your bed. The old turkey gobbler in the pen was gobbling all night long. His former associates on the outside and eating corn with a glutinous which was to bring its own recompense. You found out for the first time that the business world had been waiting for the year especially to stock up on Christmas gifts for boys and girls. You had your own gifts for the others hidden under even one of Poe's wonderful detectives could not have found them in the middle of the woodpile or hung down in the unused stock well in the field. There is never a week before Christmas to equal those that came then.

Useless Giving.

There is a marked return this year to the real and original spirit of Christmas. People have banded themselves together into societies for the prevention of useless giving. This does not mean that the splendid custom of exchanging gifts with loved ones and friends is to be discontinued or discouraged in the least. It simply means that people are putting love, and less money into their Christmas packages; that they are cutting out the perfunctory giving to people from whom they may possibly receive a present and to whom they give a present simply to be on the safe side. There is none of the real spirit of Christmas in this. Every gift made at this time should carry the heart with it. A gift which is made to impress somebody with our ability to afford things, or that is sent out simply to offset some gift that may be received, is simply an abuse of the most gracious custom and the most blessed day. People are turning time back a few centuries and remembering that Christmas is a day in honor of Him who went about doing good and that a real Christmas gift should carry with it the spirit of Him who gave Himself with every word and deed. This is the check that has long been needed to an abuse of a custom which keeps the world perennially young and makes us remember, just before it is too late, that it doesn't matter half so much how wealthy we are as how many friends we have and how well contented we are with our lot, however humble it may be.

Christmas tide has a twofold interest, material and a spiritual. Some love it because it comes "but once a year, and when it comes it brings good cheer;" others, because it is pre-eminently the season of universal reconciliation of "peace on earth and good will toward men." Families may be scattered during the rest of the year, but at this time their members strive to re-unite, and, where this is impossible, the hearts of the ones turn their faces longingly towards hearth and home. All the world keeps Christmas day. From the land of the midnight sun to the sunny south of perpetual summer is a far cry. But in the long distance there is no land where Christmas is not kept. Its celebration is a part of the universal history of the human race. Whatever may have been its origin and whatever peculiarities may have gathered about it in its adaptation to the different people and different circumstances, it is to us Americans today a practically national feast.

To keep it was at one time, and in our own part of the country, it is true, a religious offense. It was thought a savor of prelaty and to foster unpleasant memories of political servitude. But it has grown with our growth and the broad-mindedness of the American people is seen at its best in the hearty commemoration of the nativity of the Christ from year to year.

FACT, FUN AND FANCY.

Bright, Sparkling Paragraphs—Selected and Original.

It doesn't take an editor to turn down a hard luck story.

The straight and narrow path is generally avoided by the roucher.

Even when a woman is a perfect poem she is seldom averse to flattery.

Before a man can leave footprints in the sands of time he must accomplish some feat.

Huerta is now arriving at the point where the Mexicans would rather fight him than for him.

The man who doesn't know the difference between work and play couldn't distinguish a wheelbarrow from an automobile.

"Some things are better left unsaid," quoted the Wise Guy. "Sure," agreed the Simple Mug. "Every breach of promise suit demonstrates that."

"Man is made of dust," remarked the minister, solemnly. "Yes, but dust settles, which is more than can be said of some men," replied the worldly one.

The woman who hesitates has no secret to tell.

If a woman can't be flattered it's a sign she is deaf.

You can get insured against any accident except marriage.

It doesn't cost a thing to take some stock in the Christmas spirit.

Society is judged by some of the misfits that manage to break in.

A lot of dead ones in every town are holding out on the undertaker.

Occasionally a woman weighs her words, then throws in a lot for good measure.

Step by step the Parcel Post is crowding the express companies off the earth.

Oil may calm the troubled waters, but it does anything else but calm the land. Mexico for instance.

Next thing some cheerful idiot will be forming a new S. S. S., meaning thereby a "Society for the Suppression of Spugs."

Exact Information—"I can tell you," said he, "how much water runs over Niagara Falls to a quart." "How much?" asked she. "Two pints."

A Slight Impediment.—Sister—Why don't you marry her? Brother—She has a slight impediment in her speech. Sister—What is it? Brother—She can't say "Yes."

A Case of Step Lively—An Irish conductor on the Payne avenue line was trying to make room for more passengers in his car during the rush of your one night. As reported by more or less truthful witness, this is what he said: "Will them in front please move up so them behind c'n take th' places as them in front, an' I know them fr them that's neither in front nor behind."

Dangers of Burglary.—Two hard citizens were standing in a secluded spot talking confidentially. One of them suddenly sneaked away while the other stood on guard. Soon the first was seen to emerge from a window and join his pal. "Did you get anything?" whispered the one who was waiting. "Naw, de guy what lives in dere is a lawyer," growled the other. "Dat's hard luck," said his pal. "Did you lose anything?"

Something to Live For.—Three little girls were playing. The mother of one came into the room and engaged the children in conversation. "Marian, what are you going to be when you grow up?" she asked. "I am going to be a famous singer," she replied. "And you, Susie, what are you to be?" "Oh I am going to write stories when I grow up," she answered. "And what is Marjorie to be?" continued the mother. Marjorie, aged five, thought seriously a moment, and then said, "Well, I am not sure, but I think I'll be a widow."

He Gave It Away.—Numberless are the stories told of George Washington. Upon one occasion, while the American army was in camp, Washington heard that the colored sentries were not altogether reliable. He determined to test the matter for himself. One night, therefore, when the password was "Cambridge" the general went out and walked up to a colored sentry. "Who goes there?" cried the sentry. "A friend," was the reply. "Advance, friend, and give the countersign." "Roxburgh," said Washington. "No, sah," replied the soldier. "Medford," said Washington. "No, sah," was the response. "Charleston," said Washington. The sentry lost patience. "I tell you, Massa Washington," he said, emphatically, "no man go by here without he say 'Cambridge'."

True Bravery.—Aunt Ethel—Well, Beatrice, were you very brave at the dentist's? Ethel—Yes, Auntie I was. Aunt Ethel—Then there's the 50 cents I promised you. Tell me what he did to you. Ethel—He pulled out two of Willie's teeth.

It Hurt Sister.—Little Girl—Papa, didn't you whip me once for biting Tommy? Father—Yes, my child, and you hurt him very much. Little Girl—Well, then papa, you ought to whip sister yesterday afternoon, right on the mouth, and I know I hurt her because she put her arms around his neck and tried to choke him.

Complimentary.—When Col. Thomas Wentworth Higginson celebrated his eighty-seventh birthday a young lady, an admirer of his books, called and brought him a bouquet of roses. Col. Higginson asked her name, and then he said: "You live, I suppose, with your parents?" "No, sir," the lady replied, "my parents are in heaven. I live with my husband." "Your husband, too, is in heaven," answered Col. Higginson.

Resolutions Passed.—At a certain meeting in an out-of-the-way town the only attendants were one little chairman and a citizen of large stature. The chairman had some resolutions to pass which began by representing that they were represented to a "large and respectable" gathering of voters. "Hold on," cried the other man, "we can't pass that, for it ain't true. It ain't a large and respectable meeting. There's only two of us here. You keep still," commanded the wily chairman; "it's all right, for you are large and I am respectable. You just keep still." So the resolutions were passed without further demur.

Bill Was Mad.—"Uncle Bill" James, an eccentric but honest old gentleman of a certain county in a Southern state, by hard work and much self-denial, had managed to save up and deposit \$500 in the bank in the tower near his home. One morning, a neighbor, thinking to have some fun, told the old gentleman that the bank had failed. Grabbing his old pistol, "Uncle Bill" was soon at the bank. Presenting his weapon at the cashier's head, he demanded the \$500 that he had deposited. "Certainly," said the cashier, as he began counting out the money. "Uncle Bill" eyed the proceedings for a moment, and then his mouth fell open. "H-h-hold on a minute," he said. "H-h-have you got the money?" "Of course I have," answered the cashier, as he resumed counting it out. "Well," said the old man, "if you've got it I don't want it, by gum, if you haint got it I want it, and I'm shore goin' ter have it!"

OVER THE COUNTY.

Three hogs killed by C. S. Bottorf at Colyer tipped the scales at 1136 pounds.

A flock of five elk was seen by the freight crew near the first tunnel, east of Coburn, one day recently. The animals did not seem to be wild.

Harry Neff, of Tusseyville, has had a severe attack of quincy, and his condition was quite serious for a while. He is now however improving.

The baby girl who at her birth weighed a pound and a half, died at the home of Jesse McCloskey, Liberty township, Friday, aged about two weeks.

E. M. Huyett is having all the buildings on his farm west of Centre Hall repainted. The work is being performed by John Noll and a force of men from Pleasant Gap.

Oscar Homan, for a number of years tenant on the Fisher farm below Penn Cay, will move onto the Emanuel Eungard farm just west of Penn Cay next spring.

Wallace Horner, of Boldsburg, has moved his family to McKeesport, where they will make their future home. He is a butcher by trade and will follow that occupation at McKeesport.

Millheim is preparing to have a big fantastic parade on New Year's day. Money prizes will be given for the most fantastic costumes. F. F. Weisner is chairman of the committee of arrangements.

The James Love property at the base of Nittany Mountain near Centre Hall has been sold to Irvin B. Showers, who has already moved in. He formerly lived in the Strunk property at Centre Hall.

A box social will be held at the residence of Mrs. William Butler, Romola, on Saturday evening, December 20th, the proceeds of which will go towards benefitting the Christian church. All are invited.

A government agent is expected at State College in most any day now to consult with property owners in regards to a suitable site for the new Federal Post Office building soon to be erected at the college.

At a recent session of the Millheim school board, G. W. Stover was elected president and E. B. McMullen was chosen vice president. The secretary and treasurer of the board were held over until the July meeting.

The many friends of Jacob S. Herman, of Lemont, will be glad to know that he is gradually recovering from his recent serious illness from a complication of troubles from which he has been under treatment at the Bellefonte Hospital for several weeks past.

Thomas, the young son of Frank A. Crowschwaite, who has been injured in an accident in Philadelphia and an inmate of a hospital as the result of a broken nose and badly lacerated face, is convalescing nicely. He is at present with his aunt, Mrs. M. R. Sample in Philadelphia.

D. K. Keller, of near Centre Hall, has a cow that gave birth to three calves during the present year, twins having been born recently. Mr. Keller is breeding from a twin sire, and it is his opinion that that fact has more or less to do with the fall of five pairs of twins since he is farming.

On Saturday E. H. Zimmerman, the Millheim lumberman, purchased a 24-acre tract of timberland, situated one mile northeast of Madisonburg, from Charles S. Shaffer, of Madisonburg. Clark Stover will move his mill, now located in the Millheim narrows, on the tract and saw the lumber for Mr. Zimmerman.

The State College boro council has granted a franchise to the Tussey Gas Company who have agreed to build a plant at State College and have it in operation within two years. The maximum charge for gas per thousand cubic feet will be \$1.25. This company is to be merged with the State Electric Company.

Mr. and Mrs. William Stuart, formerly of State College, but now of Tulsa, Okla., are rejoicing over the birth of a young son which happy event occurred December 2. On Thursday, December 4, a son was born to Dr. and Mrs. Ray D. Gilliland, of State College, the latter being a sister to Mr. Stuart.

The Pennsylvania State Grange was in session at Reading last week, and the attendance was the largest in a number of years. Among those in attendance from Centre county were Hon. Leonard Rhone, Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Sharer, Miss Florence Rhone, of Centre Hall; Miss Edith Sankey, Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Corman, Spring Mills; Austin Dale, Boolsburg; Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Gro, Bellefonte.

Papers have been filed at the state capitol for the merger of the Moshannon and Bellefonte Electric companies, the Tussey Gas company and the State-Centre Electric company. The new concern will have a capital of \$75,000 and the men who are interested in the deal are A. W. Lee, president; J. W. Wrigley, A. J. Musser and P. T. Davis, of Clearfield, and John S. Fisher, of Indiana.

REAL ESTATE TRANSFERS.

J. H. Patton et ux to Susie Spotts, tract of land in Port Matilda; \$100.

William W. Stevenson et ux to Chas. G. Avery, lot of ground in S. Phillipsburg; \$257.88.

Harrison S. Stine et al to Nora Cline, tract of land in S. Phillipsburg; \$400.

A. B. Lee, sheriff to Aaron P. Zerby, lot of land in College twp.; \$4100.

A. P. Zerby to Thomas R. Weber, tract of land in College twp.; \$4100.

Angela Hemmes to Matt Hemmes, tract of land in S. Phillipsburg; \$1.

M. I. McCleight et al to George Scott, Sr., tract of land in Phillipsburg; \$6000.

Irvin G. Alexander et al to James M. Alexander, tract of land in Union twp.; \$300.

Irving L. Foster et al to Hillside Ice Co., tract of land in Ferguson twp.; \$1000.

Remember, no subscriptions will be received to this paper after January 1st, for less than \$1.50 per year.

Sneezing?

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KONDON'S CATARRHAL JELLY

RECENT DEATHS.

ROTHROCK.—Mrs. Mary Jane Rothrock, widow of William T. Rothrock, died in Phillipsburg, Sunday, Dec. 7th, aged eighty-four years. Her maiden name was Flegel, and her marriage to Mr. Rothrock took place in Union county in 1849.

WHITEHALL.—Esther, the 12 years old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Whitehall, died at the family home in Houserville Monday evening, Dec. 8th, after a siege of typhoid fever, followed by inflammatory rheumatism, the two causing other complications. The funeral services were held last Thursday, interment being made at the Branch cemetery.

ZEARFOSS.—William Zearfoss died December 6th, at his home in Philadelphia, and on Monday was buried at York. He was a son of Jonathan Zearfoss, and was aged about fifty-three years. He was a photographer and for a number of years traveled with Mr. Bergstresser to fairs and picnics. The deceased is survived by a wife, and two sisters: Mrs. Elizabeth Stump, Centre Hall and Mrs. William Campbell, Mrs. George Shetter, and Robert Zearfoss of York are half sisters and brother of the deceased.

VAUGHN.—Mrs. George Vaughn died at her home in Osceola Mills Friday, December 5th, of cancer. Her maiden name was Woods and she was born in Bald Eagle valley thirty-eight years ago. She is survived by her husband and three small children. She also leaves the following brothers and sisters: Mrs. James Edwards, Mrs. Irvin Cowher and Abram Woods, of Osceola Mills; William and Martin Woods, of Jeffries; George, of Blue Ball; Aaron, of Port Matilda, and Edward, of Bellefonte. The funeral was held on Monday, Dec. 8th, burial being made in the Umbria cemetery at Osceola Mills.

HEATH.—Martha Frances, wife of James W. Heath, died at the family residence in Sandy Ridge, Friday evening, December 5th, the result of a stroke of apoplexy, suffered on November 25th. Deceased was a native of Virginia and at the time of her death was aged 72 years, 6 months and 26 days. She had been a resident of Sandy Ridge since 1865. Her husband and the following children survive: Fannie, wife of Rev. A. R. Lambert, of Ithaca, N. Y.; Charles, William, Miss Lilly, Foster and Maude, William, E. O. Schreckengast, all of Sandy Ridge, and John S., of Homer City. Interment was made on Tuesday afternoon.

BAILEY.—Maude, the eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Scott Bailey, of State College, died at the home of her mother at 1:30 o'clock, Thursday of last week at 2:30 o'clock of spinal meningitis. Miss Bailey was taken ill the day following Thanksgiving and gradually grew worse although the family were unaware of the seriousness of the case until Tuesday of last week after the family physician, Dr. W. S. Glenn, and Dr. M. J. Locke, of Bellefonte, had held a consultation. The physicians held out very little hope of her recovery. The end came at the above stated time. She was about thirty years old and in addition to her parents is survived by three sisters and two brothers.

BAILEY.—Mrs. Anna Bottorf Bailey, wife of Dr. Frank Bailey, who is quite well known about State College and Centre Hall, died at the family home in Milton, Friday, December 5th, after an illness of several weeks. Dr. Bailey is a son of the late John G. Bailey, a former commissioner of Centre county. Mrs. Bailey was twice married, her first husband being Dr. Clark, a prominent Milton dentist, whose business her second husband continued. She was born in Milton on August 25, 1876. Besides her husband she is survived by one sister, Mrs. W. E. Ecker, of Harrisburg; four brothers, J. O. Bottorf, of Philadelphia; Clarence M., of Mahanoy City; Charles and Spencer, of Milton. Interment was made in Harmony cemetery at Milton, Monday, December 8th, the funeral services being conducted by Rev. J. F. Anderson.

GUTELIUS.—Dr. Charles H. Gutelius, a native of Centre county, died at his home in Millifinburg, Monday morning, December 8th, at 5 o'clock, aged 75 years. Death was due to heart failure. Dr. Gutelius was a veteran of the Civil war, Co. D. 156th Reg't Pa. Volunteers, a mason, a true christian, and highly respected citizen. Surviving him, beside his daughter, Lizzie, of Denver, Col., is his sister, Miss Lydia Gutelius, of Millifinburg. Deceased was twice married; his first wife, Lydia Motz, died about 30 years ago. His second wife preceded him to eternity almost two years ago. Deceased began the practice of dentistry at Aaronsburg about the year 1868, in partnership with Samuel G. Gutelius, after his marriage locating at Woodward, then at Denver, Col. He retired from practice about 20 years ago and was well known in lower Pennsylvania. Funeral services were held Saturday forenoon at the home of his sister at Millifinburg.

BOLINGER.—George Bolinger, a former resident of Centre county, died Friday, 5th at his home in Battle Creek, Michigan, following an opera-

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This plan makes a pint of cough syrup—enough to last a family a long time. You couldn't buy as much or as good cough syrup for \$2.50.

Simply as it is, it gives almost instant relief and usually cures an ordinary cough in 24 hours. This is partly due to the fact that it is slightly laxative, stimulates the appetite and has an excellent tonic effect. It is pleasant to take—children like it, an excellent remedy, too, for whooping cough, spasmodic croup and bronchial asthma.

Mix one pint of granulated sugar with 1/2 pint of water, and stir for 2 minutes. Put 2 1/2 ounces of Pinex (fifty cents' worth) in a pint bottle, and add the Sugar Syrup. It keeps perfectly. Take a teaspoonful every one, two or three hours.

Pinex is one of the oldest and best known remedial agents for the throat membranes. Pinex is a most valuable concentrated compound of Norway white pine extract, and is rich in gualic acid and other natural healing elements. Other preparations will not work in this combination.

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tion for gall stones. Born in Ferguson township he was fifty-five years of age. When a young man he was engaged in farming and for a number of years occupied the old Gates farm on Tadpole. While living there he planted a large peach orchard and was quite successful in growing the fruit. Twenty years ago he quit farming and went to Battle Creek, Mich., where he has been located since. He was unmarried but is survived by his aged mother, Mrs. Mary Gates Bolinger, on the old homestead on Tadpole; one brother, John Bolinger, of Lock Haven, and three sisters, Misses Kate and Rebecca Bolinger and Mrs. William Dennison, all at home. The remains were brought to Centre county, Wednesday evening of last week and taken to his mother's home where funeral services were held last Thursday afternoon at 2 o'clock conducted by Rev. L. S. Spangler, burial being made in the Gatesburg cemetery.

Dr. Hobson's Ointment Heals Itchy Eczema.

The constantly itching, burning sensation and other disagreeable forms of eczema, tetter, salt rheum and skin eruptions promptly cured by Dr. Hobson's Eczema Ointment. Geo. W. Fitch of Mendota, Ill. says: "I purchased a box of Dr. Hobson's Eczema Ointment. Have had Eczema ever since the civil war, have been treated by many doctors, none have given the benefit that one box of Dr. Hobson's Eczema Ointment has." Every sufferer should try it. We're so positive it will help you we guarantee it or money refunded. At all Druggists or by mail 50c. Pfeiffer Chemical Co. Philadelphia & St. Louis.—Adv. Dec.

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is just as trying and important as your own and perhaps more tedious—but is her strength as great?

Women who are nervous and fretful and easily fatigued promptly gain strength and natural energy by taking Scott's Emulsion after meals because it is essentially nourishment—not a drug that stupefies or alcohol that stimulates—there is pure, rich medical nourishment in every drop which nature appropriates to enrich the blood and upbuild the latent forces of the body.

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and a

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