

# HARRISBURG TELEGRAPH

A-NEWSPAPER FOR THE HOME  
Founded 1831

Published evenings except Sunday by  
THE TELEGRAPH PRINTING CO.,  
Telegraph Building, Federal Square.

E. J. STACKPOLE, Pres't & Editor-in-Chief  
F. R. OYSTER, Business Manager,  
GUS M. STEINMETZ, Managing Editor.

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Member American  
Newspaper Pub-  
lishers' Association,  
the Audit  
Bureau of Circu-  
lation and Penn-  
sylvania Associated  
Dailies.

Eastern office,  
Story, Brooks &  
Finley, Fifth  
Avenue Building,  
New York City.  
Western office,  
Story, Brooks &  
Finley, People's  
Gas Building,  
Chicago, Ill.

Entered at the Post Office in Harris-  
burg, Pa., as second class matter.

By carriers, ten cents a  
week; by mail, \$5.00  
a year in advance.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 24, 1917

There are nettles everywhere,  
But smooth green grasses are more  
common still:

The blue of heaven is larger than  
the cloud.

—E. B. BROWNING.

## CHRISTMAS

AND she brought forth her first-  
born son, and wrapped him in  
swaddling clothes, and laid him in a  
manger; because there was no room  
for them in the inn.

And there were in the same country  
shepherds abiding in the field, keeping  
watch over their flock by night.

And, lo, the angel of the Lord came  
upon them, and the glory of the Lord  
shone round about them; and they  
were sore afraid.

And the angel said unto them, Fear  
not: for, behold, I bring you good tid-  
ings of great joy, which shall be to all  
people.

For unto you is born this day, in the  
city of David, a Saviour, which is  
Christ the Lord.

And this shall be a sign unto you:  
Ye shall find the babe wrapped in  
swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

And suddenly there was with the  
angel a multitude of the heavenly  
host, praising God, and saying,

Glory to God in the highest, and on  
earth peace, good will toward men.

And it came to pass, as the angels  
were gone away from them into hea-  
ven, let us now go even unto Beth-  
lehem, and see this thing which is  
come to pass, which the Lord hath  
made known unto us.

And they came with haste, and  
found Mary and Joseph, and the babe  
lying in a manger.

And when they had seen it, they  
made known abroad the saying which  
was told them concerning this child.

And all they that heard it wondered  
at those things which were told them  
by the shepherds.

But Mary kept all these things, and  
pondered them in her heart.

And the shepherds returned, glorify-  
ing and praising God for all the  
things that they had heard and seen,  
as it was told unto them.—Luke 2,  
7:20.

## "MERRY CHRISTMAS"

MERRY Christmas! Merry  
Christmas!

The words are on a thou-  
sand tongues this moment and they  
will be repeated and repeated again  
and again wherever folks meet to  
pass the greetings of the season  
this Christmas Eve and to-morrow.

Perhaps, if you have loved ones  
absent or if you feel, as most of us  
do, the unseen but ever-present  
burden of the war, the words may  
have a hollow sound.

But if you give the matter a lit-  
tle thought you will see it in a dif-  
ferent light. For the thoughtful  
man there is always a tinge of sad-  
ness amid the jollity of the Christ-  
mas season. The tragic figure on the  
cross casts its shadow across the  
ages, and Christmas would be a sor-  
rowful day, indeed, were it not for  
the joyous Easter season to follow.  
And so it will be to-morrow. We  
are living under a passing cloud.  
There are dark days ahead for most  
of us. But there is also the promise  
of a glorious Easter season for the  
world, when the war shall end in the  
great triumph of democracy and  
Christianity that is just ahead; for  
democracy is a doctrine of Christian-  
ity, and either is apt to be a mock-  
ery without the other.

Neither is the war a sign that  
Christianity has failed as a civiliza-

ing force in the world. Rather, it is  
that one nation has failed in its  
Christianity, and a militant, righte-  
ously angry Christian, even as God smote  
the wicked nations in the elder  
days. That we must kill and be  
killed in the doing of this takes away  
nothing from the loftiness of our  
self-appointed task nor from the  
rectitude of our purpose. The gentle  
Nazarine himself died a bloody  
death midst a throng of Roman sol-  
diers. Nor is the case of Germany  
hopeless. None are beyond the for-  
giveness of the loving Founder of  
Christmas. The thief on the cross  
repented in time. We do not hate  
the German people. We shall re-  
joice when they see the error of  
their way, as many are doing even  
now. We shall fight them, not for  
our own aggrandizement nor for re-  
venge, but to teach them that the  
world must be governed by the pre-  
cept of the Golden Rule.

The spirit of Christmas pervades  
the whole country. It has gone into  
the training camps and the trenches.  
Read Sergeant Empey's account of  
Christmas along the French front,  
elsewhere in the Telegraph to-day,  
and be convinced of that. And who  
are we that we should be downhearted  
when men make merry even in the  
very shadow of death? Who are we  
that we should be dispirited at the  
moment when the great Founder  
of Christmas is making himself  
felt in the hearts and the minds of  
men as never before?

Let us rather make a truce with  
trouble and an armistice with worry,  
and keep our Christmas as merrily  
as we may. Let us "keep the home  
fires burning 'till the boys come  
home." Let the yule log blaze on  
every hearth, its bright rays chas-  
ing away the gloomy shadows and  
its warmth reflected in our hearts  
and lives.

## LET US HAVE ABLE MEN

THE Philadelphia North Amer-  
ican, in the course of a lengthy  
editorial on the Congressional  
investigation of the Government's  
failure to prosecute the war promp-  
tly and efficiently, says that while  
public men and newspapers have  
known the facts for months "rather  
than risk giving comfort to the ene-  
my or embarrassing the Government  
all have avoided exploiting the con-  
ditions" and the newspaper believes  
that "the policy of reticence in criti-  
cism and avoidance of disquieting  
disclosures will be continued by the  
press in the interests of National  
safety." "However," observes the  
North American, "the revelations  
made by Congressional inquiry fur-  
nish a legitimate subject of comment."

It is in this spirit that the news-  
papers have been publishing in full  
the results of the various inquiries  
now under way at Washington. "The  
subject has been approached without  
any partisan bias or party prejudice.  
He would be unworthy the name of  
American who would use the present  
National crisis for the purpose of  
making political capital. We are  
neither Republicans nor Democrats  
just now, but Americans, and as a  
people have placed the prosecution  
of war beyond any petty feelings or  
ambitions. All we hold dear is at  
stake."

Perhaps we have kept quiet too  
long, but a few months ago, be-  
fore the Liberty Loans were floated  
and before the administration had  
time in which to show its ability,  
would have been too early to speak.  
When the country was entering a  
fight for its very life was no time for  
any of us to be too critical. Fault-  
finding would have been unjustified  
when the President was calling for  
whole-hearted support. But now we  
are in different position. The  
American people have demonstrated  
beyond doubt that they stand solidly  
back of the President in his war  
aims. They have oversubscribed two  
Liberty Loans and are prepared to  
do so again and again. They have  
given generously to the Red Cross,  
the Y. M. C. A. and the Knights of  
Columbus war work. They stand as  
partners with the Government in the  
prosecution of the war. They have  
given the Government their billions  
and they have a right to know how  
the money is being spent. They  
have not been niggardly in their  
giving and they do not mean to be  
niggardly in their accounting. But  
for the sake of the men who must  
bear the brunt of the fighting, for  
the sake of the life of the Nation it-  
self, indeed, they do want to know  
that every penny and every effort is  
working twenty-four hours a day  
one hundred per cent. efficiency for  
the prompt and energetic conduct  
of the war. They have a right to  
this knowledge and nothing less will  
satisfy them.

When Secretary of War Baker  
was in Harrisburg a big audience  
cheered him to the echo when he ex-  
plained away the gun shortage in a  
few eloquent sentences that do not  
square themselves with the testimony  
of men who tell us that the Ameri-  
can troops in France are depending  
upon French guns and that our men  
in the camps are drilling with broom  
sticks. It will not do to leave the  
people under such misapprehensions,  
whether or not the author of them  
meant to deceive or not.

Complicity has marked every  
speech the Secretary of War has  
made. Everything was going more  
than well. The Government was ac-  
complishing wonders. Lots of rifles,  
plenty of cannon and machine guns,  
lots of clothing, Liberty trucks by  
the thousands, aircraft by the scores  
of thousands—everything in unlim-  
ited quantities, no ground for com-  
plaint anywhere! No wonder his  
audiences began to revise their first  
doubtful estimates of the man! No  
wonder they cheered him to the  
echo! No wonder, now that they are  
undecided, they are indignant!

The Government has done a lot  
since the war began. It was and is  
confronted with the biggest task in  
the world and it went about the job  
heroically. But it requires both he-

roice and super-ability to meet a sit-  
uation like the present, and if it is  
developed by the investigations that  
there those in high places in Wash-  
ington who are not fitted for the  
positions they hold—as it would now  
appear—the time has come for them  
to step down and out in order that  
able men may step in. The inter-  
ests of the Nation are above those  
of any individual or group of indi-  
viduals or parties. Nobody asks  
whether General Pershing is Repub-  
lican or Democrat. All the people  
care is whether or not he is the man  
best fitted to lead our armies to  
victory. And the same should be  
true of the cabinet. Who cares  
whether a Republican or a Democrat  
wins this war? And how is the party  
in power going to answer to the peo-  
ple if it does not dismiss the incom-  
petents and replace them with men  
whose only qualifications shall be  
that they are the very best men in  
the country for the great work at  
hand?

The appearance of Japanese troops  
at Vladivostok is a welcome sign that  
our ally of the island empire is pre-  
pared to take a larger share in the  
war, even though later present action  
is doubtless chiefly prompted by self-  
interest. Japan's relation to Eastern  
Russia is hardly less important than  
her relation to Manchuria and to the  
Chinese Republic generally; and the  
menace of Bolshevik rule must lie  
heavily upon Japanese plans for com-  
mercial and other extension. Her  
troops at Vladivostok will serve for  
the present only as a protection to the  
immense stores assembled there; but  
they will be in position for further ac-  
tion if that becomes necessary.

Mr. Burleson denounces the union-  
ing of postal employees, yet he pleads  
for the taking over of the telephone  
and telegraph wherein the employees  
are strongly unionized. However,  
consistency is not exactly one of Mr.  
Burleson's virtues.

## Over the Top in Penna.

"Afraid?" snapped Mrs Roy Col-  
thuis in a western Pennsylvania court  
where she had her husband ar-  
raigned for nonsupport. "Afraid of  
him—well I guess not. Last night I  
threw just as much as he did but  
he was the one that started it. I  
could knock the head off the little  
shrimp if I wanted to; but your hon-  
or, he makes \$12 a week, and that  
ain't to be sniffed at nowadays."

The American Jew is giving a  
splendid account of himself in this  
war. A conservative estimate of the  
men now in service, between 500,000  
and 1,000,000, is that 10 or 12 per  
cent are Jews. Out of a body of  
45,000 Camp Meade 5,000 are  
Jews, and the proportion of them at  
Camp Upton is 42 per cent.

One day a kind old clergyman  
got on the train near Auburn, and  
relates a northern Pennsylvania paper.  
He had a sweet face and silver hair.  
Near him sat five or six thoughtless  
young fellows, who were old man's  
ister kept scoffing at religion and  
telling disrespectful stories. The min-  
ister endured it all without answer-  
ing apparently without being annoy-  
ed. Arriving at his journey's end,  
he got up and said simply:

"Why shall we meet again?" asked  
the leader of the band.  
"Because I am a prison chaplain,"  
was the reply.

No starvation in the historic old  
Cumberland Valley farms. A young  
lady with a sense of humor, in writ-  
ing to a friend, says: "I don't think  
they are Hooverizing here but I  
would not call it painful. For break-  
fast this morning we had nothing  
but cornmeal with real cream;  
homemade sausage, fried potato  
cakes, stewed fruit, hot biscuit and  
two kinds of preserves and coffee.  
Yesterday morning we had a  
cottage pie, and my husband apolo-  
gized for only having waffles, but they  
were bacon and eggs and three or  
four side dishes. We could only  
eat what was each and the lady  
seemed to be piqued. She said our  
allotment was 37."

## THE SALARIED MAN

The farmer should not resent the  
limitation of the price of wheat.  
That is reasonable. It does not pre-  
vent him from making a profit. He  
should resent unregulated, unlim-  
ited prices of the necessities of life.  
All that he buys. He should resent  
paying several times its value for  
wire fencing while the Steel Trust  
pays a 1.50 per cent. dividend. He  
should resent being robbed by for-  
eign vendors. But the farmer is not  
as badly off as the helpless, the hap-  
less, the gouged and ground salaried  
man who is not a producer of ar-  
ticles of commodities and cannot in  
that capacity profiteer, and who is  
not a member of a coal miners' union  
and cannot enter into an agree-  
ment with the coal mine operators  
to split the profits upon a gouge  
of the coal consumer and get away  
with the scheme at Washington, the  
headquarters of price fixers, who al-  
low price raising now and then.

The salaried man is hardly a class.  
He has a 3.60 the price of wheat  
warm up to him for his vote as politicians  
pay him for his vote. He has no  
lobbyists in legislative corridors. No  
dignitaries wait in his behalf upon  
the administrators who regulate the  
prices of commodities. His dollar is  
about half as big as it was last year.  
His bills are enormous.—Louisville  
Courier-Journal.

## THE FLAG'S CHRISTMAS

This morning, as I look and see  
The Flag still waving over me,  
I feel a thrill of pride and joy,  
"Old Flag, a Merry Christmas Day!"  
May every friend of yours be true,  
May every star above be blue,  
Wherever your stars of glory shine!  
Today some give their blood to shed  
To tint your stripes a deeper red.  
And some are giving of their strength  
To keep you fine and splendid true.  
My Christmas gift must be to you  
My heart's devotion, through and through.

"God grant that men shall never see  
The day when you must cease to be!  
The day when you are ceasing to be  
For you a Merry Christmas Day!"  
May children's laughter and their  
song

Of gladness, as you pass along  
Rejoice to hear; may mothers fair  
Rejoice to see you dancing there;  
May all men, under God's great sky,  
Behold and stand as you go by,  
And when these days of care are  
over,  
May every joy be yours once more!  
Oh, finest friend to man, I pray  
For you a Merry Christmas Day!"  
—Edgar A. Guest, in the American  
Boy.

## Politics in Pennsylvania

By the Ex-Committeeman

The Philadelphia Press, which has  
been calling attention to the serious  
situation a continuance of the fac-  
tional fighting in late Republican  
party in this state will lead the party  
not only in Pennsylvania, but in  
the nation, declares that there is a  
general demand for an agreement  
upon a candidate for Governor upon  
whom all can unite. The Press has  
been unwavering in its attacks upon  
the Smith-Vare alliance in Philadel-  
phia ever since the outbreak of the  
September primary day and, while  
demanding that influences which  
brought about such conditions shall  
be cleared out, insists that the party  
leaders get together and name the  
right sort of men.

In its political column yesterday  
the Press said:  
"The cry for peace has gone  
up from every element of the  
party. Peace is being demand-  
ed, and the feeling has taken  
such strength that it will il-  
luminously lead to place his  
political power in the way of it.  
With Penrose and the Vares  
lined up together, the Republi-  
can party could easily defeat  
the Democrats, but if they re-  
main apart possible disaster  
faces the party."

—The Press says Democrats re-  
joice over Republican squabbling and  
says if its leaders unite it can easily  
elect the state ticket. The party,  
it says, "can control its  
strength in such a way that political  
control of the state will remain with  
the party which is founded on prin-  
ciples believed to be synonymous  
with the best interests of the com-  
monwealth. The Republican State  
Committee will call a meeting some  
time in the middle of January. It is  
the duty of this body to unite for  
the gubernatorial fight in such a  
manner that Republican electors of  
the state will have the opportunity  
to conscientiously declare themselves  
next May. United States Senator  
Penrose controls the State Com-  
mittee. The major portion of his oppo-  
sition consists of the forces which  
the Vares in Philadelphia and their  
followers throughout the state who  
will oppose the senior Senator.

"Senator Vare was told that the  
principles of Republicanism were  
based on commercial and industrial  
protection. It was suggested to him  
that if the split in the ranks of the  
Republican party allowed the Demo-  
crats to win the state, some one  
leader would be to blame. The Sen-  
ator agreed that the state is entitled  
to the most which can be granted  
through legislation in the way of tar-  
iff protection. He was then asked  
if he would favor the nomination of a  
Republican candidate for Governor  
who would unite all factions, through  
the State Committee. He admitted  
that Penrose controls the commit-  
tee, but refused to say that the bat-  
tle between himself and Senator  
Penrose would be continued to the  
extent that party principle would be  
sacrificed for personal satisfaction."

—The Pittsburgh Gazette-Times  
has this interesting observation to  
make on the reported intention of  
Governor-elect Henry G. Wason as  
a judge in Allegheny:  
"Wason is credited with having the  
support of William Flinn and Wil-  
liam A. Flinn, who are the most  
powerful men in the county. The  
appointment as a judge is a T. Mor-  
gan, A. Griffith and Judge James  
B. Drew, of the county courts. One  
of the oddities of the Wason can-  
didacy is the fact that he is a mem-  
ber of the Pennsylvania Bar, and his  
backers were opposed to the election  
of Mr. Brumbaugh as Governor.  
Mr. Wason and Mr. Flinn were sup-  
porters of Vance McMichael, who  
lost the gubernatorial election. Mr.  
Wason did not vote against him  
his district and ward were against  
Mr. Brumbaugh. After he was in  
office they became his advisers. Mr.  
Wason became a member of the  
gubernatorial campaign, which resulted in the  
Republican national convention of  
1916. Wason was a candidate and  
there will be no difficulty in secur-  
ing the judicial appointment.  
Mr. Wason expressed the opinion  
to friends yesterday that there  
would be no doubt about his re-  
ceiving the appointment, and appeared  
to be more concerned about his chances  
of succeeding himself in the elec-  
tion of 1919."

—People at Washington say there  
is general belief along the Potomac  
that when the Pennsylvania Demo-  
cratic bosses meet at Washington  
January 2 they will insist on Vance  
C. McCormick becoming candidate  
for Governor. The Democratic  
voters are not to be consulted about  
it.

—City Manager-elect H. C. Hin-  
kle says he will throw out incom-  
petents when he assumes office  
January 7 and the city manager  
praising some people in the Mountain  
City.

—The new Sheriff of Carbon coun-  
ty threatens a shakeup in the office.  
He has a deputy and a clerk to name.

—Gossip is that Stephen Stone,  
son of the former Governor, will be  
nominated for City Solicitor.  
Charles A. O'Brien has taken him-  
self out of it, say Pittsburgh papers.

—Contending that under the rules  
of the courts as construed by the  
Board of Judges, he was without  
power to approve any bond for costs  
in the election contest brought in the  
Philadelphia Town Meeting party,  
an amount less than the \$225,000  
fixed by Judges McMichael and Fer-  
guson in Common Pleas Court No.  
2, Judge William Wilkins Carr on  
Monday gave his formal answer to the  
rule taken on him, says the Inquirer.  
Judge Carr originally fixed the bonds  
in the contest proceedings, attack-  
ing the legality of the election of  
the Smith-Vare combine's candi-  
dates for the three "row" offices,  
at \$5,000 each. The Supreme Court  
has now ruled that Carr is to show  
cause why a mandamus should not  
be issued against him for refusing  
to accept the low bonds when ten-  
dored recently. The Supreme Court  
may not require oral argument in the  
case, but decide the points raised.

—J. H. Niehter, one of Pot-  
tsville's new Councilmen, served on  
the borough Council twenty years  
ago and was one of the first Coun-  
cilmembers when it became a city.

—The Pittsburgh Post says Mayor  
Babcock has "some surprises" ahead  
in the way of appointments.

—Mayor-elect A. T. Connell is de-  
clared by the Scranton Republican to  
have "big opportunities" ahead.

—The annual message of Mayor E.  
H. Filbert, of Reading, will be 500  
words long.

—The Rev. Charles P. Swift, for-  
mer Beasler legislator, will direct the  
Anti-Saloon League campaign for the  
"dry" amendment in Eastern  
Pennsylvania.

## WHEN A FELLER NEEDS A FRIEND



## Is There a Santa Claus?

WE TAKE pleasure in answer-  
ing at once and thus promi-  
nently the communication be-  
low, expressing at the same time  
our great gratification that the  
author is numbered among the  
friends of the Sun:

"Dear Editor: I am 8 years old.  
Some of my little friends say there  
is no Santa Claus. Papa says, 'If  
you see it in the Sun, it's so.' Please  
tell me the truth: is there a Santa  
Claus?' VIRGINIA O'HANLON,  
115 West Ninety-fifth street.

Virginia, your little friends are  
wrong. They have been affected by  
the skepticism of a skeptical age.  
They do not believe except they see.  
They think that nothing can be  
which is not comprehensible by their  
little minds. All minds, Virginia,  
whether they be men's or children's,  
are little. In this great universe of  
ours man is a mere insect, an ant,  
in his intellect, as compared with  
the boundless world about him, as me-  
mory is to the intellect, as the faintest  
impression on the sense is to the  
grasping of the whole of truth and  
knowledge.

Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa  
Claus. He exists as certainly as love  
and generosity and devotion exist;  
and you know that they abound and  
give to our lives the highest beauty  
and the greatest joy. Alas! how dreary  
would be the world if there were no  
Santa Claus! It would be as dreary  
as if there were no Virginias, no  
poetry, no romance, no make toler-  
able this existence. We should have  
no enjoyment, except in sense and  
self.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### HIS EXPLANATION

To the Editor of the Telegraph:

It is not my desire to get into  
print, but I believe it is the duty of  
every one to defend himself, when  
occasion arises.

In this case it is my reason for  
not contributing to the Red Cross.  
I stated that I did not believe in  
any Volunteer unit connected in any  
way with the Army or Navy.

Because of that, a solicitor for the  
Red Cross questioned my patriotism  
notwithstanding the fact that I am  
an ex-soldier, gave 17 months of  
honest and faithful service in the  
Philippine Islands, and was also a  
member of the American Legion,  
whose duty it was to serve its coun-  
try in any capacity that its Govern-  
ment saw fit to designate, and the  
chart of which was turned over to  
Secretary of War Baker.

When I state that I do not believe  
in Volunteer Service, I do not mean  
by that that I do not honor and re-  
spect the Patriots of '76 or the Pa-  
triot of '61. God rest their souls.

But I do mean to say in these days  
of scientific warfare, it is the duty  
of the man that is fighting  
our battles and efficiency, backed by  
our National Government, and not  
by men with little or no experience,  
who are seeking selfish glory under  
the guise of patriotism, and at the  
sacrifice of a mother's son.

In view of the fact, of my con-  
victions on this subject, I did not  
try to influence any one, not even  
my wife, when the solicitor came to  
my home, she willingly subscribed,  
and I myself also have subscribed  
for the Liberty Bonds, and the Y. M.  
C. A. My reason for subscribing to  
the Y. M. C. A. is because I believe  
in its work, and is entirely an inde-  
pendent association, having no con-  
nections whatsoever with the work-  
ings of the Army.

J. G. SCHAEFER.

## LABOR NOTES

Announcement is made that the A.  
F. of L. charter of the International  
Association of Bridge and Structural  
Iron Workers was automatically re-  
stored, following adjustment of dif-  
ferences.

Compensation legislation will be  
attempted at the legislative session  
of 1918 in Georgia, Mississippi, South  
Carolina and Virginia and may pos-  
sibly be enacted in Georgia and Vir-  
ginia.

Telegraphers of the Chicago, Bur-  
lington and Quincy Railroad get an  
increase of \$10 a month, a graduated  
reduction of working hours, pay for  
all Sunday work and one week's va-  
cation a year with pay.

Street-car companies in New York  
City broke last summer's strike of  
the Street Car Men's Union, but it  
cost them \$5,000,000, according to a  
report issued by the Public Service  
Commission.

The following states have no com-  
pensation law for injured workmen:  
Arkansas, Alabama, Georgia, Flori-  
da, North Carolina, South Carolina,  
Virginia, Tennessee, Mississippi, Mis-  
souri and North Dakota.

Thousands of Government work-  
men have been on a campaign through-  
out the Federal Employees' Union, ad-  
vised with the American Federation  
of Labor, urging that a petition be  
forwarded to Congress and the Sec-  
retary of War and Navy, asking  
that Government clerks be given the  
right to buy goods and foodstuffs at  
the Army and Navy commissaries.

## BOOKS AND MAGAZINES

### Love Stories of the Bible, by Billy Sunday

The first book by the  
great evangelist. (Putnam Co.,  
\$1.50 net.)

Those who have heard Mr. Sun-  
day's picturesque eloquence, which  
has drawn thousands up the "sav-  
dust trail," will find that he loses  
nothing of his power when address-  
ing his audience through the me-  
dium of the printed word, and also  
that his vivid personality is felt  
nearly as much as when he in per-  
son stands before his public.

He gives us here, in his own in-  
imitable style, the great love sto-  
ries of the Bible—Esther; Abraham  
and Sarah; Jacob and Rachel; Ruth;  
Isaac and Rebecca, etc. Ten in all  
—and at the end of each shows the  
great lessons which may be learned  
from them.

No one who reads Mr. Sunday's  
versions will ever forget them, the  
vivid manner in which they are pre-  
sented, nor the close application of  
their lessons to everyday life.

## LOVE BESIDE THE FIRE

The pride of autumn fades away on  
the cold winds of winter, and the  
nights are growing chill;  
Then, hey for home, and happy eyes  
and joys that never tire!

We'll face the worst that winter  
brings with love beside the fire.  
Oh, sweet as youth the springtime  
was, and fair were summer's  
bowers,  
And gaily flowed the pageantry of  
perfection and efficiency, backed by  
our National Government, and not  
by men with little or no experience,  
who are seeking selfish glory under  
the guise of patriotism, and at the  
sacrifice of a mother's son.

So bolt the door against the blast,  
And start the cheerful blaze,  
And let us sit, sweetheart, of mine,  
And talk of olden days.  
Of days when first you woke in me  
the dream of young desire,  
When yet I hardly dared to hope for  
love beside the fire!

—Dennis A. McCarthy, "Heart Songs  
and Home Songs," (Little, Brown  
& Co.)

## CHEERFUL OPTIMISM

May heaven prosper the optimistic  
London newspaper correspondent in  
Petrograd who believes the Russians  
will turn upon their Teutonic betrayers  
in the spring.—St. Paul Pioneer  
Press.

## OUR DAILY LAUGH

"That after-dinner speaker must  
be an athlete."  
"What makes you think so?"  
"He's so long-winded."

"Among the brilliant officers who  
have developed in military work  
since the National Guardsmen were  
mobilized at the Mexican border a  
year ago and who are now in France  
is Major Hart W. Palmer, of the  
state of Washington. He is a son of  
Law R. Palmer, acting state com-  
missioner of Labor and Industry.  
From all accounts Major Palmer is  
a vigorous and brainy as his  
brother. He was for many years  
connected with the Guard of the  
western state and at his own  
request spent some time at the  
United States Military Academy. He  
home, just to learn things. The  
suit was that when a chance came  
to go abroad he was taken, and he  
is a major, although he did leave  
a big business behind him at home."

—John H. Mason, former Phila-  
delphia newspaperman, will succeed  
T. DeWitt Cuyper as president of the  
Commercial Trust Company.