

The Star-Independent

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Thursday, December 24, 1914.

DECEMBER

Calendar for December 1914 showing days of the week and dates from Sun. to Sat.

MOON'S PHASES

Full Moon, 2nd; Last Quarter, 10th; New Moon, 16th; First Quarter, 24th.

WEATHER FORECASTS

Harrisburg and vicinity: Snow or rain this afternoon and to-night. Lowest temperature to-night about 25 degrees.



YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURE IN HARRISBURG. Highest, 28; lowest, 19; 8 a. m., 22; 8 p. m., 22.

THERE IS A SANTA CLAUS

Seventeen years ago Mr. Frank P. Church, an editorial writer on the New York 'Sun,' in reply to a letter from Virginia O'Hanlon, 8 years old, who had some doubt about the existence of Santa Claus, proved that there is a Santa Claus, in an editorial that is a classic.

We take pleasure in answering at once and thus prominently the communication below, expressing at the same time our great gratification that its faithful author is numbered among the friends of 'The Sun':

'Dear Editor: I am eight 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 W. 95th St.'

Virginia, your little friends are wrong. They have been affected by the scepticism of a sceptical age. They do not believe except they see. They think that nothing can be which is not comprehensible by their little minds.

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 your life its highest beauty and joy.

Not believe in Santa Claus? You might as well not believe in fairies! You might get your papa to hire men to watch in all the chimneys on Christmas Eve to catch Santa Claus, but even if they did not see Santa Claus coming down, what would that prove? Nobody sees Santa Claus, but that is no sign that there is no Santa Claus.

You might tear apart the baby's rattle and see what makes the noise inside, but there is a veil covering the unseen world which not the strongest man, nor even the united strength of faith, fancy, poetry, love, romance, can push aside that curtain and view and picture the supernal beauty and glory beyond.

No Santa Claus? Thank God! he lives, and he lives forever. A thousand years from now, Virginia, nay ten times ten thousand years from now, he will continue to make glad the heart of childhood.

CLOTHES FOR A THOUSAND CHILDREN

A thousand school children of Philadelphia, now unable to attend the public schools because of lack of sufficient clothing, are to be cared for by the Emergency Aid of that city, with the co-operation of school officials and charitable organizations.

Recent investigations of truant cases in Philadelphia have brought out the fact that children of impoverished families are unable to attend school because they have no undergarments to protect them from the cold winds, and no shoes to separate

their feet from the icy pavements. No less than a thousand such cases are now awaiting relief.

Education of children in the public schools cannot be made compulsory, in fulfillment of the state's laws, if children have no clothing in which to go to and from the school buildings and not enough food to nourish them and enable them to profit by their studies.

The unlucky little boys and girls in all cities who are handicapped in their school work through want of sufficient food and clothing, need to be cared for while they are there more than any other class, for they are the boys and girls who will leave school the first day the law permits them to, in order that they may start to labor for their livelihood.

CAUTION AGAINST STOMACH ACHE

Precautions against excessive indulgence in candies are in order at this time. State Health Commissioner Dixon, in one of his valuable talks on health and hygiene, has warned children and grown-ups against eating too much candy on Christmas, and has advised them that what they do use they should use with or immediately following meals.

As Doctor Dixon points out, pure candies cannot be harmful if eaten in moderation, for their principal constituent is sugar, and sugar is a food, producing heat and energy. Excepting, of course, the candies colored with coal tar dyes, and having other harmful ingredients, the sweets which are to be so plentiful in most homes during the coming days, can do no harm if employed in the capacity of after-dinner dainties.

The trouble is that children, and sometimes adults as well, from the time they get their boxes of sweetmeats on Christmas morning until the boxes are empty, have constant access to them and indulge in the candies at all hours of the day and night.

Candies come with Christmas just as surely as do ornamented trees and animated toys. Many children who get comparatively little candy during the year, except of the penny-a-stick variety, seem to think that they must make up for their lost opportunities on Easter and Christmas by disposing of all the sweetmeats they receive on these occasions without the least delay.

The proper remedy would hardly be to restrain the children after they once get their Christmas candy, for that antagonizes them and makes them more determined than ever to have what is rightfully theirs.

If there is anything that will correct those children who are in need of correction it is for parents to parcel out moderate quantities of the sweetmeats at one time. This has the advantage of making the supply last longer. Or a still better plan is to carry the Christmas spirit to a small extent throughout the whole year, by having candies on the tables at regular intervals.

After-to-morrow it will all be over but the stomach ache. The reindeer are being groomed for the trip. After all, Santa can come in his old fashioned sleigh.

A Turkish court martial has decreed that three of the surviving officers of the Turkish battleship Messudiyeh, which was blown up through the daring exploit of a British submarine, are to be put to death for not having prevented the disaster.

TOLD IN LIGHTER VEIN

THE HEIGHT QUESTION

General Arthur Murray said at a dinner in San Francisco, apropos of the height of soldiers: 'The British Army has raised the height limit for volunteers to five feet, five. Short Britishers object to this—and with reason. For consider the Japanese. They are incomparable soldiers. Yet the five feet five limit would bar most of them out.'

'At one of the London recruiting stations, just after the establishment of the new rule, a short and chunky East Ender who had been registered by the examining surgeons pointed with a scowl toward a taller East Ender who had been accepted, and said: 'Aw, look at 'im! An' I knocked 'is 'ead off last Saturday night!'

BOSTON DIALOGUES

Willie was wiping his spectacles. 'Where have you been, Willie?' his mother inquired. 'I have been making a call on my dear teacher,' the affectionate child replied.

'What was the nature of your errand?' asked the mother. 'I went to my teacher's home to request her to hold the study of geography in abeyance until the authorities truthfully determine the new boundaries of those nations that are at present engaged in a cruel and inexcusable war.'

'And what did she say?' 'I hate to repeat it, mother.' 'Do you hesitate on my account my child?' 'She called me a protoplasmic prig.'

'How intensely shocking!'—Cleveland Plain Dealer. 'Pat—'An' what for wuz yer after doin' that?' 'Mike—'Faith, so that I could see if anything wuz comin' up behind me.'—Exchange.

PRECAUTIONARY

Mike—'Begorra, an' I had to go through the woods the other night where Casey was murdered last fall an' that they say is haunted, an' bedad, I walked backward the whole way.'

Tongue-End Topics

His Christmas on the Stone Pile. For the first time in many years, Joe Toner, a panhandler and police character, will not spend his Christmas behind prison bars.

Preserving Capitol Park Trees. The State having gone into the cord wood business, it has been suggested that outside of the old trees recently cut down in Capitol Park and sold there is a number of others that could be cut down before they fall of their own weight from decay.

Hastings Tree Grows Well. A tree planted in the park by Governor Hastings, in the small plot at the head of the Third street walk while he was in office, has grown to wonderful size, and is one of the ornaments of the park.

The 'Newspaper Tree'. On the Third street side of the park, just in front of the north wing of the Capitol, is a birch bark tree known as the 'newspaper tree,' because it was planted by three Harrisburg newspaper men, two of whom are now dead.

The Simon Cameron Trees. Along the North street side of the park, from Capitol to Fourth, and from North to State streets, are a number of buttonwood trees that were planted by the late General Simon Cameron.

Only One Ohio Buckeye. The only real Ohio buckeye tree in the park stands along the North street side of the park near Third. It is very different from the horse chestnut tree, of which there are so many fine specimens in this city.

JUDGE TALKS ON FRANK CASE

Sulzberger Comments on Manner in Which Trial Was Conducted. Philadelphia, Dec. 24.—Judge Mayer Sulzberger yesterday characterized the trial of Leo M. Frank, convicted of the murder of Mary Phagan, at Atlanta, Ga., as a 'veiled application of the lynch law.'

In speaking of the manner in which the trial was conducted, Judge Sulzberger observed: 'The presiding judge in the case, at a certain point in the trial, called in a colonel of militia and the chief of police to prevent violence that was apprehended. This is, at bottom, the reason why Frank was not brought into the court, because it was feared that should he be acquitted, he and his counsel might be in danger of violence.'

A Floral Murderer. The mossassin plant is a wretched murderer. Its flowers are so snaped as to lure ants and other wingless insects to them. Once inside they have small chance to escape. There they stay, struggling until they starve to death.

At this season our thought is largely that of good wishes and gifts for those we love. We strengthen family ties and back good wishes by the most substantial gift for the family. National Life Insurance Company of Vermont. W. H. CUMMINGS, Gen. Agt. 905 Kunkel Bldg.

RHEUMATISM GOES IF HOOD'S IS USED

The genuine old reliable Hood's Sarsaparilla corrects the acid condition of the blood and builds up the whole system. It drives out rheumatism because it cleanses the blood thoroughly.

AMUSEMENTS

MAJESTIC. To-morrow (Christmas Day), matinee and night, 'A Pair of Sixes.' Monday evening, December 28, free Christian Science Lecture.

ORPHEUM. Every afternoon and evening, high class vaudeville. COLONIAL. Daily continuous vaudeville and pictures.

At the Orpheum. Santa Claus closes his engagement at the Orpheum after this afternoon's show. With his knapsack of nice toys that he presented to the girls and boys each afternoon this week, Old Saint Nick proved quite a hit.

At the Colonial. Treat's Seals, vaudeville's most wonderful animal actors, come to the Colonial to-day, to hold forth as probably the most interesting of the attractions booked to entertain at the 'Busy Corner' over Christmas Day.

At the Photoplay. Most popular 'movie' action, Francis X. Bushman, will appear to-day at the Photoplay in a two-act Esanay drama, 'Every Inch a King.'

Electric Christmas Trees. They Are More Popular Than Ever and Eliminate Fire Danger. Almost 900 Christmas trees that will help make to-morrow the 'big day' of the year in home, church, and territory room and fire house and club room, will be lighted by electricity.

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A Merry Christmas To All. THE Employees of THE GLOBE join in wishing A Merry Christmas to all—for this store counts you all its friends! Our sincerest thanks for your generous patronage which makes this Christmas season stand out as distinct from all others.

There's no way like the old way. Though we've tried to find a new; And so just 'MERRY CHRISTMAS' Is the wish we send to you. Jerauld Shoe Co. 310 Market Street

CITIZENS' BANK THIRTEENTH and DERRY STREETS. OPEN EVERY SATURDAY EVENING. Will Open a Christmas Savings Club. Club Year Reckoned From, and Regular Payments Begin Monday, December 28, 1914, at 9 A. M.

ILLUSTRATED BIBLE EDUCATIONAL CERTIFICATE. PRESENTED BY THE STAR-INDEPENDENT. ABRAHAM LINCOLN SAID: 'NO LIBRARY IS COMPLETE WITHOUT TWO CERTAIN BOOKS—THE BIBLE AND SHAKESPEARE; HARDLY A QUOTATION USED IN LITERATURE THAT IS NOT TAKEN FROM ONE OF THESE WORKS.'

Entitles bearer to this \$5.00 Illustrated Bible. If presented at the office of this newspaper, together with the stated amount that covers the necessary EXPENSE items of this great distribution—including clerk hire, cost of packing, checking, express from factory, etc., etc.