

**Home Circle Department.**

**THE EMPTY STOCKING.**

It is not your own little loved one, or your neighbor's darling, or the child of one of your acquaintances, which reaches dead-eyed and hungry-hearted before its empty stocking, while all the rest of the world is flooded with Christmas gladness.

No; it is the child of the very poor, the fatherless, the outcast, the forgotten child of the dark alley that joy never enters, and the heartless hovels that shut out cheer and hope.

Where in all humanity is there greater longing, dearer expectation, sweeter hope than in the heart of a child on Christmas morn?

In all the earth there is no look so sad, no sob so stabbing as are called forth by the empty stocking.

In our Christmas joy let us not forget why Christ was born. Let us not forget the poor and friendless whom he commends to our loving care. Let us not forget that on this day heaven as well as earth should have some share of joy.

**BE A MAN.**

Young men and old men, how do you expect to spend Christmas? Have you ordered a jug of whiskey and invited a half dozen of your friends to spend Christmas with you in drinking, cursing and whooping like a gang of Italians, or do you aim to get your wife and children some nice little presents and take the little fellows on your knee and tell them about the good old Santa Claus, and about Jesus, whose birth we celebrate? Men, don't spend Christ's birthday in drinking and cursing. Make this the happiest Christmas that your wife and children ever spent. Young man, don't keep your mother in trouble during this Christmas. Make it pleasant for her. When you leave some tell her where you are going and when you are coming back, and then you will leave her with a smile, instead of eyes red from weeping and uneasiness.

**THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS.**

Of all the year's festival days, Christmas is peculiarly the festival of love. Easter commemorates the resurrection of Jesus. It is our festival of life, divine and immortal; for the power that raised Christ from the dead has passed into the lives of the millions. It comes with peculiar appropriateness at the season of the year when nature is awakening to spring, and everywhere are warm winds, sunshine, growth and beauty.

Thanksgiving is our festival of divine providence, celebrating the loving care of God over all that He has made. It comes at the time when, in agricultural communities, the earth's fruitage has been garnered and the year's work draws to a close. It is a good time in all pursuits to close the books with God, and to bring to him the only possible return for his beneficence, the gratitude and appreciation of our hearts.

But Christmas is the climax of the Christian year. It is our festival of love, and as such it is not beautifully fitting that the day should be celebrated by the bestowment of gifts? It is as natural for love to give as for birds to sing and for flowers to grow.

The spirit of Christmas is the spirit of giving. This spirit takes hold upon all classes of people, carrying into very soul the sweetness and purity of love's ministry. It lavishes gifts in riches of wealth, and it finds a way in the direst poverty.

Christmas was the day when God gave His richest gift to man—Jesus the Christ—and that marvelous gift of the day and given birth to the spirit of living among men. And for this reason let us give remembrances to just as many people as we can afford to give, to those of our own homes, to our friends and to the poor. It doesn't need to be much, so that it is a token of friendship. Remember particularly the lives that are cast in hard places. Lift a mortgage, pay a debt, send a check to a brave woman who is bravely fighting for her children. Bring the young man or woman who is away from home to your own fireside. Send a Christmas dinner where you are sure there would be a scant one if you did not send it.

But this spirit of Christmas which is to find its expression in the gift of loving service, is not the spirit of mere benevolence. Kindness that is not inspired by comradeship is not beautiful at all. It may be pity from a proud heart, but that is not the deep brotherly love of Christianity. Men need friends more than they need alms. We all need each other's friendships. We are inseparable, bound together as men of one race and men of all races. The powerful need the sympathy and recognition of the humble, the rich of the poor, the cultured of the unrefined, and for this reason the life which finds its expression in unaffected and universal friendship is the life which has most nearly caught the spirit of Christ and

**of Christmas.** Let us give gifts, and among them that larger gift of living service. Thus will the spirit of Christmas be shed abroad and make the world brighter and better.

**FAMILY GATHERINGS.**

As far as possible let there be family gatherings and reunions during the approaching holidays. Bring the children and grandchildren and other loved ones together. Let them assemble once more around the family board to partake of the joyful feast, after which let there be pleasant and innocent recreation and enjoyment. Tell the little ones of Bethlehem's manger and its illustrious occupant—why it occurred and in what way they can be benefited by it. Such scenes and experiences will help to smooth away many of your cares and refresh your memories with incidents of other days now long past. Some will not be with you at this gathering who were with you a year ago. Some are far from home, in distant lands, perhaps, and among strangers, but they will think of you and the old home and its happy Christmas gatherings and greetings, and you will think of them and miss them, while some have passed to their reward. Above all, let it be a season of peace and good will. If there be any difference, and misunderstandings, any estrangements existing, or any unkind feelings, or harsh thoughts, now is the time to make up.

**PROLONGING THE LIFE OF MINE PROPS.**

**An Enormous Saving in the Cost of Coal Mining Can Be Effected by the Use of Preservative Treatments.**

One of the biggest expenses connected with coal mining is found in the mine timbers used to support the various gangways. Their destruction by decay and breaking costs many hundreds of thousands of dollars annually, and in some cases the loss of human life. Mine operators are fully familiar with these losses. They know also that the seasoning and the preservative treatment of timber add to its life in service in the mine. But it has only recently been established by experiment that effective seasoning and treating with creosote, carbolinum, and zinc chloride as Wood preservatives can be secured at a cost so slight in proportion to the greatly increased life of the props as to effect a material saving. The experiment carried on during the past few months by the Philadelphia and Reading Coal and Iron Company, at its collieries near Pottsville, Pa., under the direction of a member of the Forest Service, has resulted in an economy which demonstrates that the preservation of mine props can be put on a firm commercial basis.

In the loss of mine timbers at least 60 per cent. are destroyed by decay, and the remainder by crush. The percentage charged to decay should be even higher, because many of the timbers which break have already been weakened by decay. Decay is probably the cause of 75 per cent. of all failures in mine timbers.

Insects play a very considerable part in the destruction of mine timber. Many forms are found, including bark borers, ants, and timber worms. Their presence may be due to allowing logs to lie unpeeled for a considerable time after felling. Insect-infested timber is frequently overlooked by the inspectors and allowed to go inside the mines. Ants and cerambycid borers may attack props after they go in the mine. There decay spreads rapidly, and the destructive work of the insects appears to be in no way affected by the lack of light or by presence of gases. Creosote and carbolinum are effective insecticides and stop the work of the wood-borers.

Various materials and methods for preservative treatment have been tried, and up to the present time all have proved inefficient. Only time will show which are the most satisfactory from the practical point of view. Applied with a brush, creosote and carbolinum give an excellent penetration in solid wood, frequently averaging from one-fourth to one-half an inch. Little difference in penetration has as yet been noted between creosote and carbolinum, though the latter seems better on absolutely green timber. All brush treatments were applied hot and in two coats. The second coat absorbed practically as much oil as the first.

Open-tank treatment has succeeded beyond all expectations. This consists of an immersion of the timbers for several hours in preservative and then allowing them to cool to atmospheric temperature. While the feasibility of the open-tank treatment has been demonstrated, there is much yet to be learned. The cost may be reduced by shortening the immersion and thus consuming less fluid. A very heavy treatment is not necessary. The best preservatives approximately double the serviceable life of railway ties, and may be counted on to do the same or better for mine props. Seasoned and treated props, which were put in alongside of the old-style props, unseasoned and unpeeled, are as sound as ever, while the others are already showing signs of fungous growth and decay.

**WEDDING Invitations at THE STAR office.** A nice new stock just received.

**PENNSYLVANIA SERPENTS.**

Department of Agriculture Issues Interesting Volume.

A book of over 200 pages on the snakes of Pennsylvania has been issued by the state department of agriculture, the author being, Prof. H. A. Surface. A part of the Bulletin treats of the myths, fallacies, and folklore of serpents, current in the state. Following are some of the editor's observations:

Snakes are not blind once a month, nor regularly during "dog days."

Snakes do not moult or shed their skin each month.

Serpents cannot blow out or spit poison.

Snakes do not chase and attack people without provocation.

Serpents and other reptiles are not slimy.

No certain kinds of snakes milk or suck cows.

It isn't true that when snakes are killed their tails do not die until the sun goes down or until it thunders.

To kill a snake and turn it over will not bring rain.

Snakes do not sting with their tongues.

Snakes do not charm birds and people.

The green serpents are not venomous. There is no such creature as a hoop snake, which rolls like a hoop.

There is no horned snake with a venomous horn at the end of its tail.

During the past year the following from Bedford and Somerset counties have sent specimens to the state department: Common garter snake—J. E. Suhrie, Crumb; W. H. Hunter, Bedford; R. B. Walls, Saxton. Pilot snake—S. W. Williams, Everett. Grass snake—J. E. Suhrie. Black snake—J. E. Suhrie. Ring necked snake—Frank Beemiller, Bedford; J. E. Suhrie. House snake—L. S. Williams, Everett; J. E. Suhrie. Viper—R. B. Walls. Copperhead—Rev. W. E. Kams, Hopewell. The state economic zoologist desires other specimens and notes of observations.

**DR. DAVIS' PRESCRIPTION FOR HEADACHES.**

When we recommend and guarantee Ake-In-The-Head tablets for headaches and neuralgia it is because we know you must obtain relief or we stand ready to pay your ten cents back. Safe, sure, and always cure. E. H. Miller.

**LARGEST OX EVER KNOWN.**

Somerset County, Pa., Has the Honor of Leading the World in Big Cattle.

The "Centennial ox," bred by Samuel Barclay, of Somerset county, Pa., was the largest specimen of the bovine world has ever seen. He weighed 4,900 pounds the day he arrived in Philadelphia. This mountain of beef was of mixed stock, being Short-Horn, "Native scrub" and Ayrshire, the Short-Horn predominating. After the Centennial exhibition was ended, the giant ox was butchered and exhibited as "show beef" in Philadelphia during the Holidays of 1876.

A Short-Horn steer weighing 4,100 pounds was slaughtered at Detroit, Mich., in 1874.

A. N. Meal, of Moberly, Mo., formerly owned the largest cow in the world. Mr. Meal disposed of her in 1883, the Cole Circus Company being the purchasers. She weighed, on the day of sale, 3,296 pounds.

John Pratt, of Chase county, Kan., was formerly the owner of a cow weighing 3,200 pounds. She was of the common "Scrub" stock, and stood nineteen hands high.

**ANNOUNCEMENT.**

We call your attention to the fact that Dermakola ointment is a positive cure for Eczema, ulcers, wounds, piles, and every kind of skin or scalp trouble. It costs 25 cents if it cures. If it don't we return your money. E. H. Miller. 1-1

**Railway News.**

The latest from Cumberland via Conellsville is—the B. & O. R. R. will carry freight only over the lower-grade, short-route line via Frostburg.

All passengers will be carried, as now, over the longer and more dangerous route, via Sand Patch—this in order that all can stop and see what a tremendous town Cumberland is going to be.

This "differential" will give freight the safer as well as shorter haul at freight rates.

Passengers will get not only the longer but the more dangerous haul at rates much higher than freight.

Other news not so roundabout affords assurance that the Wabash will carry both freight and passengers via Frostburg.

The B. & O. engineers drove stakes, Wednesday, across the upper end of the C. and P. R.'s covered walk.—Frostburg Mining Journal.

**WHEN A MAN TELLS YOU** it does not pay to advertise, he is simply admitting that he is conducting a business that is not worth advertising, a business conducted by a man unfit to do business, and a business which should be advertised for sale.

**KILL THE COUGH AND CURE THE LUNGS**

WITH **Dr. King's New Discovery**

FOR CONSUMPTION Price 50c & \$1.00  
FOR COUGHS and COLDS Free Trial.

Swiftest and Quickest Cure for all THROAT and LUNG TROUBLES, or MONEY BACK.

**THE SALISBURY HACK LINE AND LIVERY.**

C. W. STATLER, Proprietor.

Two hacks daily, except Sunday, between Salisbury and Meyersdale, connecting with trains east and west.

Schedule:

Hack No. 1 leaves Salisbury at 8 A. M.  
Hack No. 2 leaves Salisbury at 1 P. M.  
Returning, No. 1 leaves Meyersdale at 1 P. M.  
No. 2 leaves Meyersdale at 8 P. M.

First class rigs for all kinds of travel, at reasonable prices.

**Murphy Bros. RESTAURANT!**

Headquarters for best Oysters, Ice Cream, Lunches, Soft Drinks, etc.

Try our Short-Order Meals—Beefsteak, Ham and Eggs, Sausage, Hot Coffee, etc.

**Meals to Order at All Hours!**

We also handle a line of Groceries, Confectionery, Tobacco, Cigars, etc.

We try to please our patrons, and we would thank you for a share of your buying.

MURPHY BROTHERS,  
McKINLEY BLOCK, SALISBURY, PA.

**STEVENS**

**"WHEN YOU SHOOT"**

You want to HIT what you are aiming at—be it bird, beast or target. Make your shots count by shooting the STEVENS. For 41 years STEVENS ARMS have the honor of PREMIER HONORS for ACCURACY. Our line:

Rifles, Shotguns, Pistols

Ask your Dealer to list the STEVENS. If you cannot obtain, we will direct you to the nearest dealer. Please specify, upon receipt, the name of the dealer to whom you wish to return the rifle.

Send a 3c. in stamps for literature. Catalogue of complete outfit. A valuable book of reference for present and prospective shooters.

Beautiful three-color Aluminum Hanger will be forwarded for 10 cents in stamps.

J. Stevens Arms & Tool Co.,  
P. O. Box 4096  
CHICOPEE FALLS, MASS., U. S. A.

**Heart Strength**

Heart Strength, or Heart Weakness, means Nerve Strength, or Nerve Weakness—nothing more. It is not a disease, but a condition. It is almost always a hidden tiny little nerve that really is all at fault. This obscure nerve—the Cardiac, or Heart Nerve—simply needs, and must have, more power, more stability, more controlling, more governing strength. Without that the Heart must continue to fail, and the stomach and kidneys also have these same controlling nerves.

This clearly explains why, as a medicine, Dr. Shoop's Restorative has in the past done so much for weak and ailing hearts. Dr. Shoop first sought the cause of all this painful, palpitating, suffocating heart distress. Dr. Shoop's Restorative—this popular prescription—is alone directed to these weak and wasting nerve centers. It builds; it strengthens; it offers real, genuine heart help.

If you would have strong hearts, strong digestion, strengthen these nerves—re-establish them as needed, with

**Dr. Shoop's Restorative**

ELK LICK PHARMACY.

JOHN SCHRAMM. FRANK WAGNER.

**The Quick-Trip HACK LINE,**

SCHRAMM & WAGNER, Props.

Two hacks daily between Salisbury and Meyersdale. Leave Salisbury at 8 A. M. and 2 P. M. Leave Meyersdale in forenoon immediately after arrival of all passenger trains, and in the afternoon at 6 o'clock.

No mails to bother with. Quick and comfortable trips guaranteed. Somerset Co. telephone. P. O. Address, ELK LICK, PA.

IT IS BAD BUSINESS to allow people to look in vain through the columns of THE STAR for an advertisement of your business.

**Cough keep you awake?**

Our White Pine Cough Balsam with tar touches the tickle. It is very unwise to let it run on. Many times a cough is nothing more than a slight cold, and can be stopped by the use of our Pine Balsam.

This is just the season of the year when the cool, blustering wind and nipping air are making coughs and colds pretty fast. If you are one of the victims, you need something, and we have that something. We are pretty positive about that.

**City Drug Store,**  
Paul H. Gross, Deutsche Apotheke,  
Meyersdale, Pa.

Use Beachy's Tonic Powder for horses and cattle.  
For sale at Lichtner's store.

**LAZIER Gas and Gasoline ENGINES**

Are adapted for every purpose where power is required. Perfectly Safe. Strictly High Grade.

Horizontal Type 5 to 100 H. P.

Give more power, last longer and cost less to operate. They are known the world over and in Buffalo alone over 500 are in use. As proof of their simplicity, economy and durability Gold, Medal and First Awards were secured at all large expositions in this country and Europe. We build gas engines 2 to 100 H. P. gasoline and portable work, pumping, etc. both horizontal and vertical types. All the latest improvements. Every engine warranted. We operate a \$50,000 plant and every engine is shipped direct from the factory to you at factory prices. Catalogs and full information sent free.

**LAZIER ENGINE CO.,**  
Vertical Type 2 to 12 H. P. 192 Main Street, Buffalo, N. Y.

**PURE HOME GROUND CHOP!**

That's what we are making a specialty of. We grind grain that is always pure and fresh—the very best grades of corn and oats that can be obtained. We always keep our chop clean and fresh. One sack will convince you that no Western feed equals our own home-ground feeds. Our prices are cheap, considering the quality of grain that we use.

**Great Shirt Bargains!**

We have on hand about 500 nice Dress Shirts that we are offering at sacrifice prices, some for less than cost. One-dollar Shirts, 75c. Fifty-cent Shirts, 40c.

**Purest Groceries!**

Our Groceries are of the purest and best, and we are sole agents for the famous Laurel Flour, on which we have built up a large trade. It is the flour that best meets the demand of the people. Once tried, always used. We also handle a good line of Every-Day Working Trousers and Gloves. We solicit your patronage and invite you to our store. We have come to stay, and we solicit a liberal share of your patronage.

**West Salisbury Feed Co.**

**No. 21 McWhorter Hand Fertilizer Distributer**

It distributes the fertilizer in a furrow, beside the growing crop, as a top-dresser or as a broadcast in any way that may be desired, from a narrow stream up to a uniform spread of over two feet, without removing or adding any parts or loosening a bolt, and in any quantity from a very few pounds up to forty or more pounds to the hundred yards of row.

The fertilizer can be instantaneously divided into two or more streams, and thus be applied beside or on two rows of plants at the same time.

**TOP-DRESSING STRAWBERRIES.**

For this work it is the ideal thing, making a beautiful and uniform spread of the fertilizer on any row or bed of strawberries up to two and one-half feet wide. The distributor is light, yet rigid and strong, and easy and pleasant to use by man or boy.

We make all sizes of Horse Fertilizer Distributers, also Potato Planters, Bean and Peanut Planters, and Paris Green Dusters. Send for Illustrated Catalog.

**McWHORTER MFG. COMPANY, Riverton, N. J.**

**The most popular of all GIFTS**

Articles not alone beautiful, but useful and durable, make the most sensible gift. These good features, together with a moderate price, make the genuine

**"1847 Rogers Bros."**

SPOONS, KNIVES, FORKS, ETC.

an ideal Holiday gift. They are made in a great variety of shapes, sizes and designs, handsomely packed in lined cases, and vary in price from 25c. to \$3.50. Your dealer can supply you. Write us for our handsome catalogue No. 6 to aid you in making selections.

INTERNATIONAL SILVER CO., Successor to MERIDEN BRITANNIA CO., Meriden, Conn.

**"1847 Rogers Bros."**

"Silver Plate That Wears."

Columbia Salad Fork  
Columbia Salad Spoon