The Sun.

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SINT NIKOLAUS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* It may be that in our Babel plus Pentecost brabble of tongues there yet remains here and there one who would find pleasure in a good old Santa Claus ballad of our original Dutch. In the memory of those still living it used to be sung by "kindjes" in the staid old towns along the North River. The text has been preserved with a simple English rendering in Brink's "Olde Ulster":

Sint Nikolaus, goed heilig man!
Doen dij beste tabbard an,
Rijd er mee naar Amsterdam,
Van Amsterdam naar Spanje,
Van Spanje naar Oranje,
En brengt die kindjes wat;
Noten van Muskaat,
Appeltjes van Oranje,
Pruimpjes van Spanje,
Peertjens van die hoogeboom—
Sint Nikolaus zal kom!

Saint Nicholas, good holy man!
Put your handsomest mantle on,
Likewise ride to Amsterdam,
From Amsterdam to Spain,
From Spain to Orange,
And bring the children something;
Nuts from Muscat,
Apples from Orange,
Plums from Spain,
Pears from the high tree—
Santa Claus will come.

There is ample internal evidence that the Christmas song was brought from the Texel to the Hudson and encountered new life in a New Netherlands.

WOUTER VAN TWILLER.

NEW YORK, December 24.

Peace on Earth.

Why does that first Christmas song of "Peace on earth to men of good will" sound like an irony now to so many Christians? Because "quick coming death" is more multitudinously busy in his calling; because pain and suffering and sorrow are massed spectacularly and not scattered, here a household and there a household; because the very virtues whereby men rose from the clan to the State have begotten envies and hatreds in the clash of interest and opinion, shall the consolation and the hope, the sure and certain hope, of Christianity be forgotten?

The peace proclaimed from heaven came to a world longing for it, a world where under cynical patricians, plutocratic land owners and freedmen lay helpless and hapless millions of poor husbaudmen, shepherds, laborers, slaves tortured at caprice. For the mass there was no hope here. They turned, the humblest first, to the immortal hopes of the hereafter. The Roman wolf devoured them here. They trusted in the good shepherd carrying the lamb, the kind symbolic ORPHEUS of the catacombs. An-hungered, their souls partook of the holy Fish. Their tears would be wiped away. The poor in spirit should see GOD. Their peace and joy was the kingdom of GOD. The peace angelically chanted was to every man that worketh good.

Darker and wilder days were in store, days so black that at each century's end the world's end was expected and by many yearned for. Heaven did not open. Earth span on its old way. Man in fear and hope ate bread, when he could get it, in the sweat of his face. Barbarian invasions, the Saracens in multitudes, wars continual save for the Truce of GOD, the Black Death and plagues of many names, condottieri, brutal Free Companies, lanzknechts, the sack of Rome, Thirty Years war, terrible Spaniards, revolts, massacres, rapes, burnings, unending harrying of the poor devils of peasants, Barbary pirates, war on war, robberies, incredible cruelties, witch burnings, autos da fé, justice a jest and law a ruthless if impotent torturer; where was the peace, if it be material and mortal peace, that, sweet with heaven, saluted Bethlehem?

The marvellous art, the incomparable churches and cathedrals that arose, oblation and labor of obscure hands, the windows bright with saints, apostles and prophets, carved Bibles and Golden Legends on the walls—yes, and even more touching, rude, rustic Calvaries black with age, tell the other and true history of those ages. There we can find it, and need not seek it even in flowers of faith and intellect so variously splendid as AQUINAS and DANTE. Every chapel bell rang it. Every priest, and later every pastor, had the great secret. The peace that passeth understanding was not marred by war or pestilence. It was in the soul of the faithful!

Now when brave men are making every day the highest sacrifice and supreme renunciation, without chance of reward or glory; unknown for the most part save to some of their comrades, their officers and their kindred; in absolute unselfishness giving to their country, in LINCOLN'S great phrase, "the last full measure of devotion"; may it not be said that on their part there is something Christlike? To those who lose them does not the peace of GOD come as the one consolation and the one hope?

"In my father's house are many mansions." "I go to prepare a place for you." To some or many of us these are but words. Whether after the high Stoic fashion they live austerely and die, as they believe, into deathless slumber, or whether, holding darkly that GOYA'S "Nothing" is the summary of life, before Night and the shadowy world and PLUTO'S hollow house confine them they take what each day brings and make merry, they are deprived of that peace which the Christian living Christianly has in the Here and looks for in the Elsewhere.

"Peace on earth to men of good will." What has war to work against it? Nay, the war itself is working for it by the quickening of pity, kindness, charity.

Our Neighbors on the North.

There could be nothing more graceful in expression or profounder in significance than the address issued by the Executive Committee of the Canadian Peace Centenary Association yesterday, the one hundredth anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Ghent.

It is a century "since British and American arms have been matched in national strife." In the midst of an earth-shaking war, in which Canada herself is engaged as a unit of the British imperial system, the Dominion points to the unguarded frontier, more than three thousand miles long, dividing her territory from that of this republic, and says: "We are convinced that the dealings of the great empire and the great republic afford a noble example to the rest of the world. They remain as an ideal in international relations."

And the Dominion points to the century of peace, with its constant increment of friendliness and good understanding, and says, "May many more follow it."

May no century except of unbroken peace ever follow it! And, THE SUN begs leave to repeat, let us thank Heaven for our neighbors to the north of us!

How to Treat a Shameless Offender.

Shameless and defiant, CHARLES M. SCHWAB has the audacity actually to boast that this country is selling $300,000,000 worth of its wares to belligerent nations, and that in this tremendous total munitions of war cut a not inconsiderable figure.

How ill this comports with the new neutrality, which prohibits loans to States engaged in war and would make criminal the sale of foodstuffs to fighting peoples, must be apparent to all.

This man SCHWAB, already notorious as one who has been guilty of success in business, deserves to be arrested by JOHN DOWNEY WORKS of California, indicted by GILBERT M. HITCHCOCK of Nebraska, prosecuted by RICHARD BARTHOLDT of Missouri, and—put on trial before a jury made up of merchants and artisans.

Two Imperfect but Highly Estimable Gentlemen.

It would be foolish to say, even under the mollifying influences incident to the Christmas holidays, that JOHN BULL is perfect. He is in fact a pretty intolerant, arrogant citizen, amazingly set in his ways, profoundly convinced that he is right, regardless of anybody else's opinion, and confoundedly irritating in his contempt for the ways and habits of his neighbors. He is inclined to make up his facts as he goes along, and exasperatingly sure that these facts are unassailable and unimpeachable.

Nor would we hold up Uncle SAM for an exact pattern of all the virtues. He is a boastful young fellow, lamentably lacking in reverence, too often betrayed into impoliteness by reason of his disesteem for the conventions, frightfully given to poking his nose into other folk's affairs, and bewilderingly active in enterprises that he never carries to a conclusion. Having the capacity to say sharp things, he, like other quick wits, is morbidly sensitive, and a retort in kind he resents by immediate threats or scarcely less provocative and angry spouting.

Each of these gentlemen, possessed of rich lands and ample fortunes, is blessed with an enormous progeny, in which, as in every large family, black sheep and empty heads are, alas, not uncommon. In the main, however, their children are good tempered, neither abominably skilful nor offensively inept, and fortunately compelled by the circumstances of their material condition to put most of their time and energy into the essential tasks of filling their stomachs and covering their backs. If they lived on tropical isles where food fell from the trees and it was fashionable to be all face, many of them would have time to make trouble, but ever wise Mother NATURE has suited their climatic conditions to their best interests, and thus prevented a deal of disturbance.

This JOHN and SAM, with their growing families, have lived as neighbors without serious disturbance for a hundred years. It is true that the children have set the dogs on each other occasionally, and out behind the barn black eyes and bleeding noses have been administered in purely unofficial and unsanctioned encounters. Once or twice the old gentlemen themselves have betrayed a degree of heat highly encouraging to the onlookers, but always the innocent bystanders have been cheated out of a fight, to their supreme disgust. Nobody will deny that the carefully tended garden of which Mrs. BULL is so justifiably proud has suffered from mischievous assaults by uncontrollable nephews from the other side of the street; Miss COLUMBIA has complained more than once of stones thrown through the windows of her house; but all in all the incidental vexations of community life as they affected these two landed proprietors have been few and inconsiderable.

Whenever serious difficulties arose to strain dangerously the good feelings of JOHN and SAM, the two of them and the grownups in their families have displayed a highly commendable desire to keep their tempers in check, and a really remarkable capacity for deafness to the taunts and reproaches that have accompanied their efforts to compose their differences. This deafness, carefully cultivated by each of the gentlemen in question, has been perhaps the most effective means for preserving harmonious relations for the two and their offspring, good, bad and indifferent, and this despite their possession of a common language, one of the most potent weapons known for stirring up discord.

To which of this highly meritorious pair greater credit should be given for the amicable adjustments that have marked a century of intercourse filled with excuses for violence we confess we do not know. We are oppressed by the thought that possibly neither deserves more than the other, humiliating though the formal admission of such a thing may be. We should like to say that Uncle SAM is the more magnanimous, the more self-effacing, the more modest; but should we do so, our not entirely stupid avuncular kinsman might laugh too heartily at us. So between JOHN and SAM we divide the honors with scrupulous equality; to each we extend our hearty congratulations on his forbearance, general good behavior and common sense; and to-day at dinner we shall toast, in the sincerity that contemplation of the woes of others must induce, what JOHN BULL and Uncle SAM have succeeded in doing for a hundred years, as we hope that they may live another century in increasing peace.

A Beneficent Fulfilment.

When two years ago the Association for Improving the Condition of the Poor adopted the valuable suggestion of Mr. KINGSBURY, the present Commissioner of Charities, to ascertain by practical tests how far the bettering of homes may contribute to the cure and prevention of tuberculosis, THE SUN commented favorably upon this intelligent enterprise of the association. We referred at that time to many other of its beneficent activities and pointed out the successful pioneer work of this philanthropic body in the matter of public baths as a favorable augury for the success of this novel enterprise.

It is gratifying to note the beneficent fulfilment of the Home Hospital promise. Following Mr. KINGSBURY'S wise counsel the association not only secured sanitary homes for sixty-three families in which there were 207 sick persons and provided proper food and clothing and judicious medical attendance, but it supplemented the loss of earnings by financial aid in order to insure contentment. All this was accomplished at the moderate outlay of $61,925, of which $12,315 was furnished by earnings of the families under observation, with the result that the average health of the members was greatly improved, and their earning capacity was nearly trebled.

What lessons may be learned from this philanthropic experiment? First, that the per capita cost of maintenance may be reduced materially. Second, that families need not be disrupted by tuberculosis, no new case having developed in the Home Hospital. Third, that contentment offers a strong curative factor. But the most important lesson is the confirmation of the idea that the destruction of the white plague depends more upon the removal of poverty than upon anything else.

These lessons will doubtless be taken to heart by legislators, municipal authorities and philanthropists. The latter cannot devise a more profitable dispensation of funds than the giving of aid and encouragement to a society which has long demonstrated its capacity for "improving the condition of the poor."

Mr. Britten's Bread Line Reserve.

Army officers will not be enthusiastic about Representative BRITTEN'S bill "to take from the soup houses, the bread line and charitable institutions thousands of able bodied men who are now tramping our cities out of work," and enlist them for four months of training in the army, with the obligation to respond afterward for ten years to a call for reserve duty. If the army is to be increased to 175,000 or 200,000 men the bread line would not make a very good recruiting ground.

Now if Mr. BRITTEN'S purpose is merely to relieve distress, the army, it should be said, is not a charitable institution. From any point of view a four months term of service would never have the approval of the War Department. The United States is in no danger of invasion at this time and can have no use for soldiers who are only partly trained.

Mr. BRITTEN might recast his bill to provide for the expansion of the army with no change in the term of enlistment. He would be rendering a real service to the country and at the same time he would help the unemployed. In the army as now organized there is room for but a few of the able bodied men out of work. The ranks are almost full from month to month. We are sure that neither the Secretary of War nor the Chief of Staff would commend the Britten bill in its present form.

"The White House is laden with hams," says a Washington correspondent. What of it? The State Department and the Navy Department have been in that condition ever since March 4, 1913.

While General SCOTT, the Chief of Staff, was conferring with the Carranza leader HILL to arrange for the withdrawal of his troops from the neighborhood of Naco only one bullet hit the custom house at Naco, where the meeting took place. One bullet to SCOTT is a trifle, and as it was a very quiet day for Naco perhaps there was warrant for his report that "peace along the Mexican border seems in sight to-night."

Vice-President MARSHALL on his travels says that the elections showed a disposition on the part of the people to give the Democratic policies a fair trial. As the Democratic party held on by the skin of its teeth to the House of Representatives the disposition of the people was evidently to reject the Democratic policies. There would have been a clean sweep of the Democratic majority if war in Europe had not supervened to save the party from the consequences of its tariff legislation and baiting of legitimate business.

The most curious thing about the "reign of terror" and "wave of crime" which according to certain more or less eminent citizens of New York now afflict this community is that the average townsman has to be told in thunder tones of their existence.

The dog in war should not be neglected by the chroniclers when they write the history of the struggle in Europe. What would the ambulance corps be without trained dogs? The Belgians make great use of them. The Germans, it is said, employ their keen witted sheepdogs for scouting and for guards in the trenches. There are all kinds of dogs on the firing line, and their intelligence and fidelity are often helpful. ANDREW FOURNIER'S terrier Miquette, which summoned aid when his master, with the rest of an outpost, was buried by a "coal box shell," deserves to be decorated.

The report that Major-General SAM HUGHES, the Canadian War Minister, is to be knighted can hardly be true. He has earned honorable distinction, but will he submit to being called Sir SAM HUGHES? General HUGHES, handsome to the eye as he may be, is a plain man and the incarnation of democracy. The most public spirited, the most energetic, the most popular and the best known man in Canada from Halifax to Vancouver, no mere title would add to his distinction. They may force knighthood upon him, but he will be SAM HUGHES to the end of his days.

That natural satisfaction inspired by the approaching reduction in the army of the unemployed to be brought about through the forcible separation of a number of Democrats from the State payroll is counterbalanced by the knowledge that an equally large number of Republicans will be withdrawn from productive occupations to fill the places thus made vacant.

ALBERT of Belgium is achieving considerable success in his intelligent efforts to restore the king business to the high repute it formerly enjoyed.

We should not take to ourselves too much credit for maintaining peace with England for a century. After all, comparatively few Americans have read the books British travellers have written about us.

It is the opinion of the Army General Staff that when Columbia University's library is threatened with the fate that befell Louvain's, the youthful pacificists of Dr. BUTLER'S institution should be assigned to duty elsewhere.

President WILSON will play Santa Claus to-day.—*Washington despatch.*

Anything on the tree for O'GORMAN or JIM REED?

WRITERS OUT OF WORK.

Will Somebody Establish a Free Literary Employment Bureau?

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* The letter of "Needy Author," headed "Buy a Bale of Manuscript," touches one of the sorest spots of the unemployed problem. Unfortunately its writer does not suggest a practical remedy.

There is in New York a small army of nemployed men and women literary workers, not talented ambitious amateurs craving for an opportunity to shine, but professionals, who have thus far earned their livelihood with miscellaneous literary work and have no other profession. Many are clever more or less well known authors and magazine writers and newspaper men and women.

Since the beginning of the war the daily papers have less room for "special features" and many news and city departments work with smaller staffs than usual. Magazines use much material accumulated during the last few years; corporations and large business houses economize and have their reports, &c., written up by their office force; motion picture manufacturers also use much old material and have it rehashed by members of their regular staff at salaries ranging from nearly nothing to a maximum about equal to the bricklayers' union scale. The policy of retrenchment which has invaded many well to do families has caused many would-be authors who employed professionals to assist them to postpone until better times their ambition to shine in literature.

Hence, to my knowledge, probably considerably over two hundred literary workers are either near starvation or living from the charity of their friends.

They do not want charity. They want work, and work may be procured for many of them.

Under ordinary conditions employment bureaus do not augment opportunities for work. In the case of literary workers one of them would. There are many people in New York who think they have a message to impart or would like to publish their views on how humanity may be bettered and similar beautiful things and who either have not the time or lack the ability to prepare manuscripts for the press. Maybe most of that "stuff" would better remain unwritten, or at least unpublished, but that is not the point. At least some of these people would save their notes put in shape right away if they knew how to become acquainted with a competent person.

A free literary employment bureau would satisfy both the demand and the offer and be a means of alleviating much distress.

In collaborating with some of my colleagues I have for the last three weeks attempted to find a public institution willing to grant desk room and the use of a telephone for the purpose. We have been sent from one public or semi-public institution to another and have failed. We are acquainted with men and women of standing who would be willing to give part of their time free for the conduct of such a bureau. Any helpful suggestion will be gladly received.

C. GRANDPIERRE.

ROSLYN, L. I., December 24.

Allah's Aliens.

Christmas for Russian,
For Briton, for German,
Christmas for Belgian,
For Austrian, Hun,
Christmas hath meaning,
E'en in the trenches;
E'en where the shells burst,
"Thy will be done."

But what of Yuletide
In Constantinople?
Where Allah reigneth
O'er kiosk and dome?
Only Christ's aliens
Festoon the holly,
Dream of the Yule log
Burning at home.

J. A. S.

ENGLISH UNCANNED.

More Illustrations of a Sound Old English Idiom.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Of course if it pleases the amiable Mr. Thomas J. Durell to be "too utterly too too" in his particular preference for "to," there is little to be gained by pointing out that "and" in such expressions as "try and do," "go and bring" is an old established English idiom. When an idiomatic phrase is accepted as standard it is enshrined in the dictionaries, and if the amiable Mr. Durell will consult the New Standard Dictionary, the New English Dictionary, in course of publication by the Oxford University Press, England, and William T. Harris's New International Dictionary he will find the idiom recorded there. If he cares to go further and consult Dr. James C. Fernald's "Connectives of English Speech," pages 206 and 207, he will learn something of this eminent grammarian's point of view. Dr. Fernald says of "and," purposive and resultant:

> In the union of two verbs, especially after "go," "come," "send" and "try," as the result or fulfilment (of an action implied in the preceding verb); as try and find it, go and get it":
>
> May's in all Italian books;
> She has old and modern nooks. * * *
> And will rise and dress your rooms
> With drapery thick with blooms.
>
> —(Hunt, "May and the Poets.")

Many grammarians have been in error in defining "and" in this usage as equivalent to "to," and hence condemning it as superfluous or incorrect. The usage is sustained by the very highest authority, and, when we come to balance the expressions, is sustained also by the logic of linguistic thought. If we change "try and find it" into "try to find it" there is an instant loss of force. Why? Because "try to find it" refers only to a purpose which is antecedent to the trying, and which may never be fulfilled, while "try and find it" contemplates the finding as the sure result of the trying, which may therefore be added to it as an accomplished fact. Instead of being equivalent to an infinite the "and," with its following verb, is more nearly equal to a future tense, "try and (you will) find it." Hence this idiom has a conclusiveness to be attained by no other form of expression.

Still I have a particular reverence for Bible English. Perhaps this may stamp me as old fashioned, but it may serve some purpose to point out that the King James version of the Bible was translated by forty-seven eminent scholars, and that the different books were not all translated by the same men. Yet we find in John i., 38: "They said unto Him, Rabbi, * * * where dwellest Thou? He said unto them, Go and see." Mark vi., 38: "He saith unto them how many loaves have ye? Go and see." In Matthew xi., 4: "Go and show John again those things which ye do hear and see."

Among the men who translated the Gospels, the Acts and Revelation were the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Bishop of Winchester, the Dean of Windsor, the Warden of Merton College, Oxford; the regius professor of Greek at Oxford, the regius professor of Greek at Winchester College and the warden of that institution. It is inconceivable that all these men should perpetrate the same "error," as Mr. Durell calls it, at the same time in the different books in which the idiom is used. The fact remains that speech came first and the grammarian after, and he has been after it ever since. When the grammarian has an aversion to an idiomatic form, as many have to the much abused split infinitive, he invariably embalms it and under some awe inspiring inscription lays it to rest in his grammar, hoping that there it may forever after "rest in peace."

DR. SYNTAX.

NEW YORK, December 23.

THE OPEN MARKETS.

A Plea for Their Retention in the Interest of Reasonable Prices.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* I should like to register a protest against the present attempt to abolish the open markets at 125th street and Fifty-ninth street. It seems to be admitted generally that their existence has reduced by a large percentage the price of foodstuffs in all sections of Manhattan, yet we are told that because they affect the profits of the small store keeper they are illegal and will have to go.

This point of view is interesting. Apparently the profits of the few middlemen are to be considered of more importance than the general welfare of the people as a whole. Have not the middlemen insisted in the past that they have supplied a real service in the distribution of supplies? Obviously it is not much of a service if grotesque technicalities of the law have to be invoked to maintain it contrary to the wishes of the public.

I for one want to see the public markets continued. There is nothing extraordinary about the idea, for every city in Europe has one. I firmly believe that I am only expressing the wishes of thousands of people in the city, and if the present attempt to abolish the markets is successful I am even more firmly convinced that the voters will register an emphatic protest against the activities of those responsible for it.

Our first logical attempt to reduce the cost of living has been successful. We have furnished a place where the people can get fresh vegetables and clean meat at reasonable prices. Shall we be compelled to give this up because of the misdirected energies of a few short sighted politicians?

EDITH MCVICKAR.

NEW YORK, December 24.

Christmas Gratitude to Germany.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* In the midst of this persistent vilification of everything German, the Kaiser, the Government, the army, the professors, the mode of thinking, may I point out that there is one German practice which we should be very loath to relinquish; I mean that of the Christmas tree. This charming custom, so deeply rooted in the poetic fancy of the Germanic people, was introduced into England by the late Prince Consort, and having received the seal of English approval, soon passed over to America, where it has remained ever since to the pleasure of all concerned.

This will be a tragic Christmas for the inhabitants of the fatherland, but I doubt not that trees, large and small, will be lighted as usual in every household, even if countless beloved faces are absent from the family circles.

Can we not, at least on Christmas Eve, give a grateful thought to the nation which has added so much to the joys of childhood, by its fairy tales, its Santa Claus and its Christmas trees?

CLARE BENEDICT.

NEW YORK, December 24.

To Men of Good Will.

From the Christmas Columbiad.

Gloria in altissimis Deo, et in terra pax hominibus bonæ voluntatis.—*Saint Luke, ii., 14*

The warriors crash from land to land,
The cannon crush the living spark,
Nor love nor fear can stay the hand
That drowns the sailor in the dark.

The shepherd cannot watch his sheep,
(The shepherd, Lord, so dear to Thee),
Who, when the world was lost in sleep,
Hailed the fair star that set us free;

The shepherd cannot tend his flock,
The farmer in his barren fields
Sees birds of prey that feed and mock;
His orchard leaden apples yields.

The children call their father's name,
On this the gladdest of all days
They call in vain; in fire and flame
The sun sends forth its morning rays.

The mother puts her boy's gift by,
On earth that child is hers no more,
His kiss her tears will never dry,
His foot will never touch her floor.

The Christmas dawn was of all hours
The happiest in God's great world—
From heaven fall death dealing showers,
Death and despair are downward hurled.

Men said: "The world is purified
By science and the newer way
Which knows not Christ"; their proud lips lied!
We war, and it is Christmas Day!

O Christ the Lord, Thou Prince of Peace,
Our wills have wrought this evil work;
Change Thou our hearts, and thus shall cease
The hates that kill, the lusts that lurk.

MAURICE FRANCIS EGAN.

COPENHAGEN, 1914.

SANTA CLAUS.

Biographical Note of the World's Greatest Figure.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* At this season of the year the question is often asked where the name of Santa Claus originated, who Santa Claus was, where he came from, &c. Though several explanations now and then have appeared in the papers I have never yet seen the right explanation in any paper in this country. Here it is: From 1568 to 1648 there was an eighty year war between Holland and Spain. During those years thousands of Spanish soldiers roamed over Holland and it was not more than natural that several Spanish legends were spread among the Holland people. One of them was the legend of the Spanish Bishop St. Nicholas. It was told that this Bishop had had a very benevolent nature, worked always among the poor, had a great love for children and took a great delight to give presents to them, especially in some surprising or unexpected way. The legend, with many other details, made a deep impression on the Holland rural population and more so on the children, and by degrees there developed the feast of St. Nicholas on the alleged birthday of the saint, the 6th of December of each year. Now the Spanish word for saint is santa, so it was the feast of Santa Nicholas. But as in this country we call James for short Jim, or William affectionately Bill, so in Holland anybody by the name of Nicholas is called Klaas, and it became, therefore, the custom to call the 6th of December the feast of Santa Klaas. This feast on this date is still at present the great children's feast. The children are told that on December 5 a big ship filled with toys comes from Spain and when it arrives in Holland the Spanish Bishop Santa Klaas, dressed in his scarlet robe and his mitre on his head, stands on the front of the ship, accompanied by a black Moorish boy.

When the ship is moored and the toys are unloaded Santa Klaas and his black boy land, they mount the big black horse and the black pony they brought with them from Spain, and they drive, loaded with toys, through city, town and country. During the night the horses climb on the houses and the black boy goes down the chimney, leaves toys for the good children and rods for the naughty ones.

Now I have to go back for a moment to true history again. Out of the eighty year struggle against Spain arose the mighty Holland republic. Holland sailors navigated the seas of the then known and unknown parts of the world. New lands were discovered and taken possession of. This was especially so in the East Indies. Australia (then called New Holland), New Zealand, Java, Borneo, Sumatra and numerous other islands came under the Holland flag. The trade with these colonies was enormous and the Holland East India Company, which controlled this trade, transported untold riches from the newly discovered lands to Holland. On their trip home the ships had to pass the seas of Spain and Portugal. They often suffered enormous losses through pirate fleets of these countries. It was for this reason that the East India Company decided to send expeditions to the north to find a new passage through the Arctic Sea to the East. Notwithstanding several efforts they failed and it was left to Nordenskjold to accomplish this feat more than two centuries later. But during these efforts it happened more than once that Holland sailors, through shipwrecks or otherwise, landed on the Norwegian coast and were forced to remain there during the long dreary winter. Legends from Holland were thus brought to Norway, and so it was with the legend of Santa Klaas. It took hold of the Norwegian people. The first thing that happened was a slight change in the name. The Holland name Klaas is in Norwegian Claus, so it became the feast of Santa Claus. But this was not all. Though the eighty year war was fought by Holland to free themselves from the persecution of the Roman Catholic church and its Spanish Inquisition, the Holland people were never bigoted and did not object to have as patron for their children's feast a bishop in his clerical Catholic attire. It was different in Norway. Norway was the Protestant country par excellence.

The Norwegians robbed the good Bishop of his clerical robe and his mitre and dressed Santa Claus, according to the custom of their own country, in fur lined coat, trousers and cap, but it is remarkable that the scarlet color of the Bishop's robe was preserved in the new attire. Instead of the Spanish horses the new Santa Claus appeared in the conveyance particular to the country, a sleigh drawn by reindeers. The feature of letting the presents go through the chimney was preserved. The Bishop's day, December 6, was not Protestant enough. So that date was changed to Christmas or Yuletide. The Moorish boy was lost in the change and instead the fir tree, particular to the country, was added. In this shape Santa Claus travelled through Denmark to Germany and from there to England and the United States.

So it is clear that the original Santa Claus was the Spanish Bishop St. Nicholas, that the feast of Santa Klaas originated in Holland and that Holland is the only country where it is still preserved with all its original features. In his travels through different countries the patron saint has lost nearly all his characteristics. Only the Spanish prefix Santa, the scarlet color of the Bishop's robe and the distribution of presents through the chimney are the original features left over. But nobody who looks now at Santa Claus will recognize anything of the face, dress and other features of the good old Spanish Bishop, the original Santa Claus, as we find him in many old Holland pictures. Tempora mutantur et nos mutamur in illis.

DR. S. DE JAGER.

PATERSON, N. J., December 10.

Russian's Prayer for His Horse.

From Country Life.

The Russians are in the habit of using the following prayer for their horses before going into action:

"And for these also, O Lord, the humble beasts who with us bear the burden and heat of the day, and offer their guileless lives for the well being of their countries, we supplicate Thy great tenderness of heart, for Thou has promised to save both man and beast, and great is Thy loving kindness, O Master, Saviour of the world. Lord have mercy."

Those also who have travelled over some of the wide spaces of Russia and Siberia will appreciate the simple trust shown in it, for Russians have often to face dangers alone on horseback in their great country even in times of peace.

Long Terms of Pennsylvania Senators.

From the Philadelphia Record.

J. Donald Cameron, at the ripe age of 81 years, is still enjoying comparatively good health on his ancestral estate at Donegal. "Don" Cameron served twenty years in the United States Senate, serving two years of the unexpired term of his father, and was elected to three full terms of six years. That so far constitutes the record for long service in the Senate from this State. But if Senator Penrose shall complete the term for which he has just been elected he will have had a continuous service of twenty-four years, which will be the longest in the 124 years of the Federal history of this State.

To a Warring Nation.

The moon of change hangs in a clouded sky
Above the baying hounds of right and wrong;
Across the road the uncertain shadows lie,
Yea, and the road is long!

Beyond the twilight of the many years
Backward it reaches to primeval night;
Oh, leave the past to darkness and its tears,
Press forward to the light!

So shall thine ancient enemies despair,
Who plot against thine honor and thy name;
And princes of the powers of the air
Shall bear thine oriflamme!

M. E. BUHLER.

MISS RODMAN WANTS JOB TO REPLACE LOSS

Suspended Teacher to Look for Post That Will Pay $1,800 in Ten Months.

SHE MAY WRITE PLAYS

"I am going out at once to hunt for a job," said Miss Henrietta Rodman last night when asked what she would do now that she has been banished from the public schools until the first of next September. "Of course," she added, "I shall remain in the New York schools, as that is my real place, but in the meantime I must find something to do to make up for the loss of ten months salary. It is rather hard to say just what I can do—probably no private schools would consider a teacher with the stigma of 'gross misconduct' attached to her name."

When it was suggested that she might try some of the colleges or other educational institutions Miss Rodman smiled vaguely and said: "It has always been my ambition to write plays.

"We cannot be absolutely sure what the next step in my case will be," said Miss Rodman, "but I think I shall apply for reinstatement after the first of January, when eight members of the Board of Education go out and eight new ones come in. Of course, I have not the vaguest idea that they will reinstate me, but I shall give the new members a chance to say whether they think the writing of a jocular letter comes under the term of 'gross misconduct.'

Appeal if New Board Won't Act.

"If they decide the case unfavorably I shall appeal the case to Commissioner Finley, and if he decides against me, to the Supreme Court. As a last resort, in case the Supreme Court fails me, I shall appeal to the Court of Appeals. We shall not leave a stone unturned, for I feel that my loss of salary, the stigma that has been attached to my name and the severe treatment I have received at the hands of the board are nothing as compared to the effect of this decision on the 20,000 other teachers in the public schools. If my lack of courtesy and judgment in writing the letter can be termed 'gross misconduct,' then there is no protection for any teacher, and the Board of Education would be able to suspend a teacher for anything. As it is, a teacher can be charged with neglect of duty after one day's absence."

Miss Rodman has sent her four-year-old adopted daughter to the country to await better days for the teacher in New York.

"I consider the danger in the autocracy of the public schools more of a menace than the same system can possibly be in any other of the city departments," said Miss Rodman, "for it affects the children and the generation to come. How can we be expected to educate the New York children on democratic principles when we ourselves are ruled under a most severe autocracy?

Doesn't Say Trial Was Unfair.

"I do not say that my trial behind closed doors was unfair. It has always been the policy of the board to hold their trials in private and I suppose they could not waive the rule in this case. Of course the other members in the city departments are given public hearings, but I think this rule is really for the protection of the teachers. Personally I asked for a public trial, as I felt that the public was entitled to hear my side of the question.

"Of one thing I feel almost certain. There will never be another woman discharged from the public schools of New York for the bearing of a child. If my trial and suspension have gained nothing else I feel that public opinion is now surely on the side of the teacher-mothers.

What happened in the meeting of the committee when Miss Rodman was tried last Tuesday is still more or less a secret, but a prominent member of the committee said that Mrs. Norris, the attorney for Miss Rodman, had an apology to the board written out. Miss Rodman refused to sign it. Thence the "difference of opinion" between Miss Rodman and the woman lawyer and her decision to take Gilbert E. Roe, Jacob Bernstein and Mrs. Frank Cothran as her lawyers.

"I consider the punishment rather severe," said Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt, "and think Miss Rodman should either have received a lighter sentence or be completely discharged."

"The penalty was too great for the crime," said Miss Montague of Columbia, but Miss Mary Garrett Hay, president of the Woman Suffrage party, said the letter was very impertinent and she considered the Board of Education was justified in its decision.

Miss Rodman's new job must make up for the loss of $1,800, her salary for ten months.

WOULD STOP B. R. T. CROWDING

Judge Hylan Asks Grand Jury to Make Investigation.

County Judge John F. Hylan in Brooklyn yesterday called the attention of the Grand Jury to what he described as the "disgraceful and unnecessary overcrowding" of the cars of the Brooklyn Rapid Transit system, which seemed to him to be a violation of the penal law.

He said the B. R. T. is to-day operating fewer cars on all lines than when the Public Service Commission came into existence, although carrying hundreds of thousands more passengers than at that time.

"If swine were crowded into the cars," he said, "as people are the Board of Health would have taken action long before this. It is a common occurrence to see from 150 to 200 persons crowded into an elevated car. Girls of tender age are crowded against men in a most disgraceful manner.

"There may be some excuse for overcrowding during the rush hours, but there can be no possible excuse for people being crowded in the cars at other times of the day or night.

"This condition, it seems to me, is within section 43 of the Penal Law and section 1530 of the Penal Law constitutes a misdemeanor."

Judge Hylan quoted court decisions in support of his contention and called attention to the failure of the Legislature to put the Fourth avenue subway section, although practically completed nearly two years.

"I believe," he said, "it is the duty of the Grand Jury to make a thorough investigation of these conditions, and if the law is being violated to bring those who are responsible for such violation to account for their actions. District Attorney Cropsey will, I know, assist you in any investigation you deem proper and justice should be done to any railroad corporation."

Judge Hylan advised the Jury to confer with representatives of the various civic organizations, the Health Commissioner, the Public Service Commissioners. After he had finished George H. Bell, foreman of the Grand Jury, said: "We will give the matter our immediate attention, your Honor."

Governor Delegates Supt. Sears.

Supt. Walter L. Sears of the State Employment Bureau was appointed yesterday by Gov. Glynn as a delegate to the unemployment convention in Philadelphia on Monday and Tuesday next. Mr. Sears will read a paper on employment bureaus.