DREAMS OF A YEAR

Babble of brooks thro' the bosky orush,
Flutter of wing thro' the morning damps,
Cry of loon in the evening hush,
Sob of wind and the song of thrush.
Bright star and firefly lamps.

Spire and spike of the lilacs' plumes,
Droning bees in the purple dusk,
Flicker of bat in the silver moons
That brim the earth in the arms of June
With lily and rose and musk

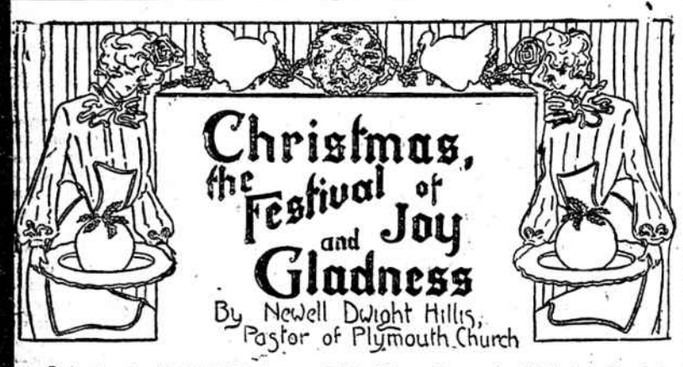
Glint and gleam of the golden-rod,
Leaf and tendril of clematis
Flowers asleep in the scented sod
Where purple asters above them nod
Like swaying amethysts.

Snowflakes over the lily's bed,
Frozen dew on the violet's bloom,
Spikes of frost where the rose hung red,
And the golden heart of the morning shed
Its light through the Summer moon.

Low hung mists where the sun flamed white,
Snow-drifts over the dales and dunes,
Glints of ice where the grapes hung ripe
Shifting gray for the golden light
Of Autumn afternoons.

Heart of hope when the sun shone bright,
Dream of faith in a snow-bound glen,
Whisper of love thro' a world of white,
With the kiss of God on a Christmas night,
"Peace on earth, good-will to men."

GEORGIA B. TITUS.



xt—Luke ii., 10: "Behold I bring you good tidings of great joy." Gloria in Excelsis.

ONCE more the hallowed, gracious Christmas time is upon the earth. At last the long year of toil over tools and arts and industries is all but ended. The ristmas festival, dedicated to happi-s and good-will, has fully come. is morning the whole city has wak-d to quadrupled joy. The very at-sphere of our earth is rosy, stained th the rich colors of the heart. All ndows are bright with holly and ergreen. Parents have discovered t it is more blessed to give than to eive. Youth overflows with animal rits. Suddenly the aged have shed r years and become young again. ore the light had fully dawned the ls had begun to be heard in the ches. And every passing hour behold larger multitudes throng-to these temples of the soul. All that no flowers are sweet enough, ongs bright enough, no gifts rich gh for the Christmas Day. For all strife and enmity have disap-d from the market place. To-day words are sheathed. This morning s have become generous, pessi- have become optimists, while rous natures glow and effulge like un. Verily, Christmas lies like a of sunshine across the face of our earth.

Christmas Children's Day.

To-day, if some visitant from a celestial realm e to draw near to our earth for the time, to go away again when dark-s falls, the angel would carry with the conviction that there is one ny planet among the host of worlds ere all childhood is rich and happy, wing no care or sorrow. And it is tally true that this era of happiness children is distinctly traceable to Christmas event and the Christmas it. All children do well to celebrate Manger Child, because it was Jesus discovered childhood. When rul-and titled men questioned Him, s placed a child in the midst of n and said: "Of such is the king-of heaven." Socrates sneered at grief of a mother weeping for her e. If Plato suggested that every ge should select a distant hilltop build a pen for the exposure of elcome children; if Aristotle urged making the drowning of sick and kly children compulsory on their nts; if Seneca said, "We slay the n-out ox and horse, and it is not th, but reason, that separates k children from strong;" if Cicero ked his friend for grief because he ed the dead babe, then every lover hildhood must rise up to speak for Christ who took a child in His s, whose love brooded over the child as the stars looked down upon the little town of Bethlehem, and who sent through the ages this word, "Suffer little children to come unto Me." Jesus said, "Take heed that ye offend not one of My little children" and "Their angels do always behold the face of My Father," and hope dawned for childhood. From that hour Jesus' disciples began to make life happy for children.

They founded homes for the exposed children who had been left to starve.

They founded schools for orphaned children who had been cast off by poor parents.

They founded asylums for girl babes left in the market place by parents to whom they were unwelcome.

They purchased suffering children from their slave masters.

For children schools began to be founded, books written and colleges established.

For children the wheels of industry turned around.

For children the walls became beautiful with pictures, and shelves were filled with books.

For childhood homes became happy, music became high and sweet.

Gallery and library took on new grace and richness.

All institutions are tested by their power to serve childhood and strength-en youth.

To-day all institutions are beginning to imitate the wise men from the East, who brought to the Divine Child their gold and aromatic spices, their frank-incense and treasure.

Christ's estimate of the value of childhood has conquered the world. His thought of childhood is the very heart and genius of Christian civiliza tion.

Christmas and the Golden Age.

Because Christmas stands for the child, as the father of the man, and for the cradle, as the one point where futurity is vulnerable, it will yet usher in the Golden Age. To produce an ideal world we need only one thing—a Christmas that lasts all the year. When the sun rises it throws its beams of sunshine forward a half hour in advance of the orb of fire. When the sun sets the light lingers long in the clouds. And the Golden Age means that the approaching Christmas will cast its generous beams forward toward July, and that when the Christmas Day has passed its peace and good-will will linger to lend light to those months that end with June. To-day parents give gifts to their children, the prosperous help the poor, the happy stretch out friendly hands toward the widow and the fatherless—the Christmas spirit has transformed selfishness into service. This morning, without changing a single law, economic or political, lo! the Golden Age is come. It seems that to produce an ideal world, without sorrow or strife or sin, it is only necessary that the beams that stream from this bright day should encircle our cold earth, not in robes of frosty selfishness, but with the sweet blossom of the heart.

Little wonder that in the far-off forest and valley and plain, in the frozen North and in the sunny South, in the innumerable homes of this great Republic, all people, young and old alike, through gifts and song and good-will, celebrate this greatest day and the greatest event that has ever befallen our earth. The civilization that advances and rolls forward like a golden flood represents a spirit that set forth from Bethlehem. Universal happiness and wisdom and peace will come to our earth when the Christmas comes to stay all the year.—New York World.

The Santa Claus Letter.

We smiled when little Willie wrote
His note to Santa Claus,
And yet we didn't have the heart
To bid the youngster pause.
For have we not in silence kept
The hopes that we have prized
Without the chance that Willie's have
Of being realized?

Let him who in his day-dreams builds
No castle in the air,
Who never hopes the morn will dawn
With gifts surpassing fair,
Who never made the best of less
Than what he fain would ask—
Let him make bold to stay the child
In his fond, trustful task.

The Japanese Santa Claus.

This has been called the era of children, so much are the little ones thought of nowadays and so completely have the old, harsh, unkind ways died out. Yet the Japanese long ago showed us the way. In a country where all the grown-up people laugh and the babies are treated with wonderful tenderness, they worship a god, "the God that plays with little children in the sky." The image of the god stands by the river at Nikko, and into his lap the passers-by pour little white pebbles, in case the god should forget to gather them and the children have nothing to play with.

THE BOAR'S HEAD.

Ancient Predecessor of the Turkey.

he boar's head in hand bear I,
edeck'd with bays and rosemary;
nd I pray you, my masters, be merry.

EXPLICIT INSTRUCTIONS

Santa Claus—"Ha! Ha! Here's the usual list of urgent necessities, I suppose. Let's see (reading), 'Dear Santy—De inclosed stockin' is mine. Me little brudder Jimmy ain't got any ter hang up er odderwise, but would like a stockin'-full, too, so please use mine ter measure it wit' an' den dump hisn on de floor an' obiige yours trooly, Swipsey Dugan.'"—Puck.

RUSSIA'S GRAND OLD MAN

COUNT TOLSTOI AND HIS WIFE.

THE REPUBLICS OF PANAMA AND COSTA RICA MAY UNITE.

The Republic of Panama has made overtures to Costa Rica looking to union of the two nations, and in the opinion of those in a position to speak with authority a coalition is the probable outcome of the negotiations now instituted. The first definite news of the purpose of Panama to propose annexation to Costa Rica reached the State Department, at Washington, in the form of a communication from United States Consul-General Lee, who reported that Senor de la Guardia, Panama Minister of Foreign Affairs, is about to visit San Jose, the capital of Costa Rica, with the purpose of negotiating a treaty of annexation to that country.

The offer of the Republic of Panama causes no surprise to Costa Rica, and unless accompanied by conditions regarded as impossible by the Costa Rican Government will be promptly accepted by that country. In fact, the desirability of union has long been appreciated at San Jose, although it was deemed good statesmanship to make no suggestion, but to leave it to Panama to realize the advantages to be gained as well as the disadvantages of independence to so small a republic.

MAP OF PANAMA AND COSTA RICA.
Which may be united into a single republic.

A Lively Wild Cat.

It is not commonly accepted that the wildcat is so vicious as to attack human beings, and this section has lately furnished the cat that proves the exception to the rule. Albert Dennis, a guard at the Varn Turpetine Company's convict camp, was attacked by a monster cat in Gillette Creek, not more than a mile from the camp, and had he not used unusual presence of mind would most likely have been torn to pieces. The young man was returning to his quarters at a rather late hour from an evening pleasantly spent with his parents three miles distant, and upon reaching the swamp of the creek was literally held at bay by the cat, which held the pass to the bridge beyond and refused to move when advanced upon by Mr. Dennis. The young man was armed only with a clasp knife, and with his weapon he waded into the brute, kicking him over first. The cat sprang quickly upon him and succeeded in doing the young man's Sunday clothes considerable damage before his throat was cut. Mr. Dennis has killed several cats in his time, but says this one is the biggest he has ever seen. It is said that the female cat is especially vicious during the period of nursing, and the one in question was seen to be carrying young.—Tampa (Fla.) Tribune.

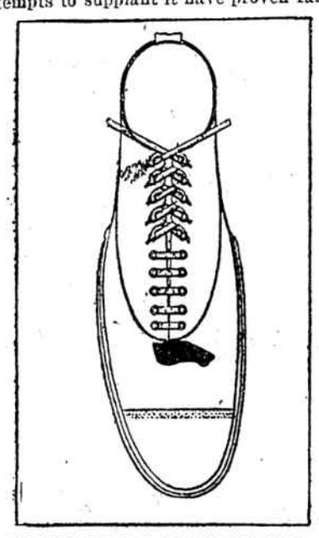
Transvaal as a Magnet.

It was stated in one of the sections of the British Association that the survey of the Transvaal had shown that the eastern part of the country "seemed to be a mass of magnetic iron," judging from the effects of the rocks on the compass needle. Magnetic ore or black oxide of iron is the richest of the ores, containing only oxygen and iron, and yielding seventy-three per cent. of iron by weight. It is found mainly in the older rocks, and in Europe the best form of it is found in Sweden. It exists also in Russia, Canada and several of the American States.

A NEW SHOE EYELET.

Can Be Substituted For the Present Lacing Hooks.

Several new designs in shoe hooks have been patented at different times, but the hook now universally used has proved so practical and useful that attempts to supplant it have proven failures. It would be difficult to improve on its construction, but a Wisconsin inventor thinks he has an improved shoe eyelet which should be popular. In his design the lower eyelets are the same as those generally used, the improvement being in the upper eyelets. These latter are similar to the round eyelets, except that they are open on the upper side to receive the lacing. The eyelets are reinforced by a tongue which is tapered at the end, so that it can be passed through the leather and clinched on the under side of the shoe, a metallic plate being inserted between the outer and inner facings of the leather. This plate corresponds in shape to the eyelet opening in the leather, this consisting of a slot with a bar-shaped mouth. A series of these slots near the edges of the leather form a series of tongues. In lacing up the shoe the lacing cord is drawn through the slots into the eyelets and then across the lacing slit of the shoe to the eyelet on the other side, so that the cord passes under the lower portion of the tongue and over the upper portion. This naturally presses the eyelet against the foot of the wearer and prevents it from being bent out of position. The intervening plate reinforces the leather around the eyelet and prevents it from tearing out, giving rigidity to the fastening.—Philadelphia Record.

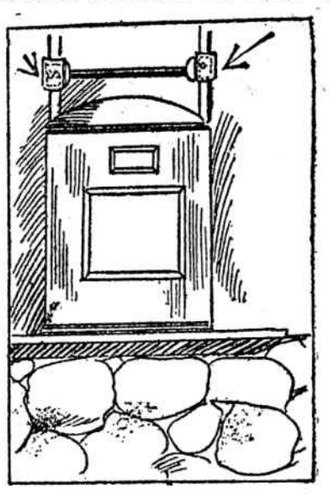


EYELET CUT OUT OF THE LEATHER.

The Shah of Persia says that the French seem to have saltpeter in their veins, the British beer and the Japanese camphorated shimotose.

SEAL ON THE GAS METER.

The temptation to endeavor to beat the gas meter appears to be an innate instinct in mankind, and while manipulations of this character are perhaps infrequent, a demand exists for a device to indicate any tampering with the gas meter. One very simple contrivance for this purpose consists of a pair of projectors in the shape of spanners which are adjusted to the coupling nuts on the inlet and outlet pipes of the meter. These coupling arms are joined together upon adjustment by a leaded or other seal, which indicates at once whether or not the nuts on the inlet and outlet pipes have been surreptitiously handled. By this arrangement it is possible to detect any such attempt. If the gas company's representative should find it necessary to make any adjustment the arms can be resealed with the official designating mark.—Philadelphia Record.



SEAL ON THE GAS METER.

The use of cocaine has become quite common among the negroes in Southern towns and cities. They derive exhilaration and stimulation by sniffing it, but in a year or two they are physical and mental wrecks.

WAR BEGUN ON FOOTBALL

Death Makes High Record in the Game as Now Played.

NINETEEN KILLED THIS SEASON

The Most Fatal Year in the History of the Popular College and School Sport—Girl Slain in Contest With Other Girls—College President Takes a Bold Stand—List of Fatalities.

New York City.—All records for football brutality were smashed during the season just closing.

Nineteen lives were sacrificed, exceeding by eight the black record of 1903, while the number of casualties greatly surpassed that of any previous year. The list of dead appears elsewhere.

The first death on record of a feminine football player occurred during the season, the victim being Miss Bernadette Decker, eighteen years old, daughter of a leading politician of Cumberland, Md.

The list of dead is:

James Bryant, struck in stomach in game at Florence, Col. Died instantly. Miss Bernadette Decker. Died of injuries received in scrimmage at Cumberland, Md. John C. Donders. Died of cerebral hemorrhage caused in game at Jewett City, Conn. Arthur W. Foote. Death caused by scrimmage injuries at Salem, Mass. G. C. Ficken. Death caused by kick on head in game at New Orleans, La. William J. Kelley. Died of injuries received while tackling opponent in contest at Buffalo, N. Y. Scott Kerr. Fatal injuries received in game at Newcastle, Pa. Horatio T. Knight, at Exeter, N. H. Meningitis induced by injuries. Joseph Latimore, at Mukwonago, Wis. Rubber-down for the Northwestern University team. Died after game. William Moore, New York, Union College. Fractured skull. Howard Montgomery, at Farmville, Va. Injuries to spine. John Meehan, at Pacific Grove, Cal. Fracture of spine. Herman G. Norgaard, at Council Bluffs, Ia. Injuries caused abscess of brain. Carl Osborn, at Belmore, Ind. Died from heavy fall. Rib penetrated heart. James Squires, at Alton, Ill. Injury resulted in blood poisoning. Football abandoned in school as result of death. John S. Summergill, at Chester, Pa. Kicked in stomach and head. Clarence Van Bokelon at San Jose, Cal. Fractured skull. Leslie Wise, at Milwaukee, Wis. Died in scrimmage. Vernon Wise, at Oak Park, Chicago, Ill. Broken back.

Because of these nineteen deaths and 137 cases of serious injury due to football this season, two of the largest universities in this country announced their entrance into the crusade to eliminate the cruelty and barbarity of the game as it is now played.

The University of the City of New York, through its venerable chancellor, Henry M. McCracken, and the University of Pennsylvania now stand committed on the elimination of brutality on the gridiron, even if it means the abolition of football as a college sport.

The long list of football injuries also stood forth as an imperative reason for reform of the game which for a quarter of a century has held the front rank in college sports.

Chancellor McCracken addressed a letter to the presidents of all the leading universities and colleges of the country asking their co-operation in the reform, or the abolition of football. It seemed plain that the chancellor would prefer the elimination of the game.

From the University of Pennsylvania he received word of stringent rules against brutality that were being adopted. The rules made it impossible for a brutal player to maintain his place on the team.

President Nicholas Murray Butler, of Columbia; Eliot, of Harvard, and other presidents of universities, colleges and schools are expected to reply to Chancellor McCracken.

For the first time since the agitation against brutal football began a decisive movement either to stop the game or to abolish its brutal features is under way, and it bids fair to sweep through all of the institutions of the land and accomplish results.

BURTON CONVICTED.

Kansas Senator Will Again Ask For a New Trial.

St. Louis, Mo.—United States Senator Joseph Ralph Burton, of Kansas, was convicted for the second time on a charge of using his influence as United States Senator in behalf of the Rialto Grain and Securities Company, of St. Louis, to prevent a fraud order being issued against it by the Post-office Department. Attorneys for Senator Burton will file a motion for a new trial, and if this is denied will move for an appeal to the Supreme Court of the United States.

The maximum penalty which the court can impose is two years in prison and a fine of $10,000 on each of the six counts.

GALE SWEEPS BRITISH COASTS

Cross-Channel Service Suspended and Liners Kept Out at Sea.

Dover, England.—The worst gale that has been experienced in the past three years swept the British coast. The Admiralty pier here was partly submerged and the London boat train was unable to reach her pier owing to the huge seas.

The cross-Channel service was suspended.

No Hope For Mrs. Rogers.

The Supreme Court of the United States at Washington, D. C., affirmed the decision of the United States District Court of Vermont in the case of Mrs. Mary Mabel Rogers, who is under sentence of death in Vermont for the murder of her husband.

Baron Rosen Speaks.

Baron Rosen spoke on Russian freedom at the American Academy of Political and Social Science at Philadelphia, Pa.

American Secretary Assaulted.

The Second Secretary of the American Embassy at St. Petersburg, Russia, Robert Woods Bliss, was attacked by rowdies in one of the principal streets of the Russian capital and badly beaten in the early morning hours before the police rescued him.

Russian Editor Lands in Jail.

A new satirical journal, called the Mitrailleuse, appeared in St. Petersburg. The first number was confiscated by the police, who closed the offices of the paper. The editor, M. Chibonieff, was landed in prison.

BITS OF NEWS

WASHINGTON.

The report of the Superintendent of the Mint showed that coinage of silver dollars had ceased under the law of 1890, and would not be resumed without action by Congress.

Advocates of the Darien Canal route are expected to revive the project before Congress.

Postmaster Wilcox consulted President Roosevelt and Postmaster-General Cortelyou relative to better postal facilities for New York.

President Roosevelt has appointed Judge Charles E. Wolverton, of the Supreme Court of Washington State, as United States District Judge of Oregon.

William H. Michael, former chief clerk of the State Department, has been appointed Consul-General to Calcutta.

Cuban Minister Quesada reported to Secretary Root methods taken by his country to preserve its sanitary condition.

The Department of Agriculture announces an increasing market for the guinea fowl as table birds.

The President has announced a long list of appointments in Kentucky as a result of recent conferences with Republican leaders in that State.

OUR ADOPTED ISLANDS.

Rear-Admiral Train, with the battleships Ohio and Oregon, has arrived at Cavite, Philippines.

Attorney-General Lorrin Andrews, of Hawaii, has resigned to become attorney for American firms involved in the Chinese boycott at Shanghai.

Clarence Allen, Principal of the public school at Ormoc, P. I., was stabbed and killed by a fifteen-year-old Filipino boy, a pupil in the school and a member of a prominent family of the town.

Having occasion to secure twenty-five additional officers for the Philippine constabulary, the places paying $1100 per annum to begin with, Captain McIntyre, acting chief of the insular bureau, invited 100 State military institutes and agricultural colleges to name candidates for the places from among their graduates. Less than twenty applications were received.

First Lieutenant Hugh Kirkman, of the Eighth Cavalry, has been arrested at Fort McKinley, Manila, P. I., on the charge of forgery. It is alleged that he is short of troop funds to the amount of $500, and that he raised the money by forging names to a note.

DOMESTIC.

Lieutenant-General Chaffee has received from France the insignia of grand commander of the Legion of Honor, but must wait until Congress votes it to him.

Passed Midshipman Harold D. Childs, of Vermont, has resigned from the Naval Academy owing to ill health.

The Steel Trust has bought 2500 acres of land in Indiana, on the shore of Lake Michigan, for manufacturing purposes.

Because he rolled a cigarette for his own use, eighteen-year-old Patrick Raymond, of Chicago, Ill., has been sent to jail for twenty days in Lincoln, Neb., under the new Nebraska law prohibiting the manufacture of cigarettes.

The body of Midshipman Branch was exhumed at Annapolis, Md., the medical board finding "such evidence as was desired."

Two marines who were left behind by Prince Louis were arrested at Stamford, Conn.

Thirty passengers and the crew of twenty-two were rescued by means of the breeches buoy from the steamer Argo, which went ashore in a storm on Lake Michigan.

August Belmont was appointed Treasurer of the National Democratic Committee by Chairman Taggart, at Indianapolis, Ind.

A plan for a monster World's Fair to celebrate the 300th anniversary of the discovery of the Hudson River, was heard by the Tercentenary Committee, in New York City.

Ten men who had gone out in a rowboat to welcome the arrival of friends on an Italian steamer were upset into the North River, New York City, and narrowly escaped drowning, but all were rescued.

Jacob H. Schiff sent a check to the Jewish Defense Association, in New York City, which is preparing to send arms to the Jews in Russia.

Butler County, Nebraska, declared a boycott on the Burlington and Union Pacific Railroads for refusal to pay taxes.

Alone and helpless, Mrs. Panette Clark, seventy-four years old, was found dead in Chicago, Ill., with her head resting on the burner of a gas stove.

Ten more indictments have been returned at Peoria, Ill., against Newton C. Dougherty, the bank president, accused of stealing school funds.

About $15,000 in cash was obtained by burglars from the Japanese Bank at Los Angeles, Cal.

Despondent over the death of her sweetheart, Miss Mary Ross, a society woman, killed herself at Madisonville, Ky.

FOREIGN.

Sixty Remington rifles have been seized at San Juan de Martinez, Pinar del Rio Province, Cuba, where fifty anti-Government plotters were meeting.

An ammunition factory in Cuba was seized. Rumors of plots and uprisings continued all over the island.

Positive denial was made at St. Petersburg, Russia, that Count Witte had suffered a paralytic stroke or was otherwise ill.

The warships of the allied Powers, for the demonstration against Turkey, reached Mytilene.

Reports from all over Russia indicated that the riots caused by the failure of crops were spreading alarmingly.

The Semitic Museum at Cambridge, Mass., has been given 125 Syriac manuscrips on parchment and vellum by Professor U. R. Harris, of England.

Two rival leaders in Macedonia united to work for autonomy and against all foreign encroachments.

The Executive Committee of the Interparliamentary Congress, meeting in Paris, France, adopted a plan for a world legislative body, practically on the lines suggested by Congressman Bartholdt, of St. Louis, Mo.

The King and Queen of Italy paid an unexpected visit to the scenes of the earthquake desolation in Calabria, and were received with many demonstrations of affection by the people.

The 75,000 Russian prisoners in Japan are to be sent to Vladivostok in German steamers.