

# The Freeman

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## Christmas for Everybody.

Henry Wallace: Christmas has a different meaning to people of different ages in every age. The most pleasant music we ever heard is the patter of little feet as the happy youngsters rush downstairs, half clad, and eager to look into their stockings to see what Santa Claus has brought them. What expressions of surprise, of real heart gladness! What delighted and delightful chattering goes on, until it is time to dress and sit down to breakfast. Let them enjoy themselves. Mar not the pleasure of the youngsters by telling them there is no Santa Claus. Let them cherish the dream of a kind-hearted, jolly, little, old man, who knows the heart of the little child and brings it what it wants. They will find out for themselves in time. Meanwhile, let them exercise their imagination. Children naturally love mystery, and half of the pleasure of life would be lost if the veil of mystery were torn aside. For each of us has a Santa Claus, though we may not call it by that name—something or somebody who will give us the great desire of our heart—friend or lover, fame or fortune.

The little feet that pattered down the stairs in the dim light of the old-time Christmas dawn are now clad in No. 9 boots, and the sweet, childish treble has now changed to manly bass. They are scattered, far scattered, long scattered, now; but as they listen to like music in their own homes, they think back to the old home, to the time when Santa Claus was a real person to them; and they tell their little children the same old story. For the story of good, old "Santy" will ever be real to the heart of the little child.

Christmas has its meaning for the boy. It is the time when the first pants should come from some mysterious source; or in our own early days it was red-topped boots—the joy of the boy; or a brand-new ball, or something else dear to the boyish heart. Well do we remember a mulier (then called a scarf) that came to us one Christmas day, a marvelous creation of many colors, warranted to keep us from catching cold in any storm. We thought that Joseph's coat of many colors, that his father Jacob gave him, must have been colored after the pattern of that scarf. We did not rest until we had gone over to "grandma's"—carefully concealing it with our coat until the time should come when we could most effectively flash it upon her astonished vision. Wise old lady she was, holding up both hands and exclaiming, "La, me! did I ever see the like of that? Where did you get it?" We strongly suspect it came from that very grandmother herself.

As the boy grows, Christmas takes on another meaning—freedom from school, a rabbit hunt, a sleighing party, skating, coasting, tobogganing, singing, school, a church or school festival of some sort, but always with fellowship of his own age and class; for the pleasure is not in the game and sport alone, nor even mainly, but in congenial fellowship, the joy of living, the quick response of heart to heart, mood to mood, the music of heart-beats.

As we grow older, other thoughts come crowding in on Christmas eve. What love token will he send or bring? A letter, if distance separates, in which one may read between the lines? Or will he bring or send flowers, a book, perhaps a ring? Possibly there will be a sleigh-ride or invitation to a party; or, better still, an evening of fun in the family circle, where the old folks may form their opinions. Will she send a dainty note, or a tie, or a book she likes, an unconscious revelation of her own tastes. And so, like children, we peer into the unknown, waiting for the good things to come, the "summm bonum," the thing supremely worth having, which Solomon sought so long in vain. Happy are we if it does not in the end prove to be but vanity and bitterness of spirit.

As the years pass and we have children of our own, we live our own youth over again in their lives and joys. By this time we have learned something of the elusiveness of life, and the good for which our heart yearns come, but not in the way we expected, but often proves to be a little better than we dreamed or hoped. The sweetheart was a delicious, palpitating dream; but

## CHOPPED TO DEATH BY MOB

Negro Slayer of White Man Cruelly Punished in Maryland.

### POLICE ARE WITHOUT ANY CLUE

Trouble All Started Over a Game of Pool in a Saloon.

Baltimore, Md., Dec. 26.—King Davis, a negro, who last Saturday night shot and killed Frederick A Schwab, (white) at Fairfield, Anne Arundel county, was taken from the Brooklyn, Md., jail early yesterday and killed by a mob. Davis was chopped to death with hatchets.

The lynching was conducted with secrecy, the town authorities having no inkling of it until Chief of Police Irwin was notified by a newspaper carrier who discovered the body as he was delivering his papers.

No guard is kept at the jail at night, and there is as yet no clue to the perpetrators of the deed. The front door of the jail was found to have been burst open and the lock had been cut off the door of the cell in which Davis was confined.

The trouble which caused the shooting of Schwab started in a saloon at Fairfield, over a game of pool between Frank Schwab, a brother of the dead man, and Davis. Schwab claimed the negro called him vile names.

After the party left the saloon, Frederick Schwab took up his brother's quarrel with Davis, who drew a pistol and sent a bullet through Schwab's heart. Davis then fired two shots at Frank Schwab without effect.

The negro fled, but was arrested an hour later. He claimed he shot in self defense, declaring that Frederick Schwab had struck him.

### German Town to Tax all Unwedded.

Berlin, Germany, Dec. 26.—The little principality of Reuss, the elder line, which has a population of about 73,000, has passed a law to tax bachelors and maiden ladies. The tax begins with the thirtieth year, and is levied on the incomes of the persons subject to it. It starts with a salary of \$720. Between that figure and \$1,440 the ordinary income tax will be increased by 5 per cent, and on higher earnings, by 10 per cent.

The Dutchy of Oldenburg is also preparing to adopt a similar tax. Various countries have tried a tax on bachelors, but Reuss is the first state to apply the tax on unmarried women.

The wife with our baby in her arms was better than any sweetheart could be. The husband was not exactly what we had expected, but reveals many qualities and sterling worth that never entered into love's young dream.

As age creeps on, grandchildren come. We enter into their joys and live our own youth over once more, at the same time leaning for support on the strong arms of their parents, the patter of whose feet was in the long ago music sweeter to us than the loveliest strains of Beethoven or Mozart, or the deepest notes of the organ in the aisles of some grand old cathedral.

And at last, when old age overtakes us, we sit alone or together on Christmas eve at our own fireside; and all the joys of all the former Christmas times come floating through memory as we look backward, and, like children, we look into that greater mystery, the life to come, with something of the same joyful anticipation with which our grandchildren look for the gifts which Santa Claus will bring. If we are wise, we, like Abraham of old, will expect some better thing than can come within the range of our human imagination; for that wise old man knew something of the elusiveness of life; knew that we were, so to speak, tholed on in life's journey with things that seemed greatly to be desired from the present point of view, something that we will never fully realize, but that behind it all is some better thing. Though he went out into the promised land, a land flowing with milk and honey; yet he knew that beyond this there was a far better thing; for he looked for "a city which hath foundation," solidly, permanently established, whose "builder and maker is God."

Try a local in this paper.

## REYES GIVES HIMSELF UP

Broken and Defeated Military Head Lays Down His Arms.

### PLEADS FOR HIS MEN.

Is Given Freedom of Linarez Upon His Pledge Not to Leave.

Linarez, N. L. Mex., Dec. 26.—Defeated and stripped of former arrogance and pride, Gen. Bernardo Reyes, Mexico's one time greatest military leader and more recently leader of a revolt that threatened to tear the country from border to border, surrendered here yesterday, but later was given his liberty on his word that he would not leave the city.

Riding into Linarez yesterday alone, the gray haired rebel gave himself up to Lieut. Placido Rodriguez, commander of twenty-five rurales, the sole military guard here. Permission was obtained to telegraph a formal capitulation to General Trevino, commander of the Third military zone at Monterey. He frankly admitted his dream of another successful revolution had come to an end, and placed himself at Trevino's disposal.

"I called on the army, I called on the people," telegraphed the general, "and none responded. This attitude I regard as a protest and I am resolved not to continue this war against the government. I place myself at your disposition."

Reyes asked no guarantee for himself, but pleaded for mercy for the little group of men who have helped him in his wandering throughout a large area in this state and in the state of Tamulipas. He requested consideration for them. They are yet fugitives and will be hunted down by Trevino's men until they, too, surrender voluntarily.

To Reyes' message, General Trevino replied that General Reyes would be kept in Linarez pending instructions from the central government.

That he will be taken to the capital to answer for his offense is considered by Reyes as the natural result of his surrender.

## CHRISTMAS FEAST TURNS TO TRAGEDY

Flint, Mich., Dec. 26.—A Christmas feast was converted into a tragedy here yesterday when Z. Tuczka was shot and instantly killed in the presence of five companions, who were watching the spreading of a banquet table after the six men came from early mass at All Saint's church.

The conversation had turned to hunting and Tuczka had volunteered to show a trick about loading a gun. Fred Matz went to his room and brought a gun for the demonstration.

"Is it loaded?" asked Tuczka. "No," replied Matz, but as he was breaking it to show that it was empty, the weapon was discharged and tore a wound through Tuczka's left lung. The victim was a married man, 33 years old.

Matz was taken into custody by the police, but was released when the incident was investigated.

## FOUR MORE VESSELS REACH CHINA'S SHORE

United States Watching Conditions in Empire.

Washington, D. C., Dec. 26.—The arrival of four more United States vessels of the United States Asiatic fleet at Shanghai yesterday made it apparent that the United States is keeping a close watch on the situation there, where is being held the peace conference between the revolutionary delegates, headed by Dr. Wu Ting Fang, and the imperialist representatives headed by Tang Shao Yi.

With the arrival of the cruisers New Orleans, Cincinnati, Albany and the destroyer, Dale, the total of American naval vessels in the waters around Shanghai is raised to eleven.

## HUNDREDS MASSACRED

Reported That 500 Persians Were Killed Sunday.

### W. M. SHUSTER IS DISMISSED

Cabinet Notifies American Treasurer-General of End of Service.

London, Dec. 26.—A massacre has been going on in Resht since Saturday, according to official Persian telegrams received in London yesterday. These state that on Sunday 500 Persians were killed by the Russians, many of them being women and children. The people, it is said, have been exhorted not to fight and not to give the slightest provocation but the massacres still continue.

Resht is the capital of the province of Ghilm and has 40,000 inhabitants. The government house has been bombarded and many government officials and police have been killed. Private houses have been demolished.

According to other dispatches, the Russians killed four unarmed Mohammedans in the Armenian quarter of Tabriz, during the fighting in that city.

"The people of Persia," says one dispatch, "are stupefied at the attitude of Russia and especially as these outrages have followed immediately on the acceptance by Persia of the second Russian ultimatum, and when Persia has shown every desire and disposition to conciliate Russia and establish friendly relations."

Teheran, Dec. 26.—The cabinet yesterday notified W. Morgan Shuster, the American treasurer general of Persia, of his dismissal from that office. This follows the decision of the national council and the ministry to submit to the demands contained in the Russian ultimatum. The cabinet intimated to Mr. Shuster that they would communicate to him later their plans for turning over his accounts to a successor.

An indignation meeting was held after announcement of Mr. Shuster's dismissal against the so-called coup. The crowds were dispersed by the police without disorder. Fresh demonstrations are expected.

All the opposition newspapers have been suppressed and martial law has been proclaimed.

The Russian consul, who has assumed the government of Resht, reports the town quiet at the present time but looks for further outbreaks.

It is reported from Shersia, capital of the province of Fars, that Persians fired on a body of Indian troops who were proceeding to meet the British consul, one of the Indian soldiers being killed.

There has been considerable trouble at Shiraz on account of the boycott instituted against the Indian troops by the Mullahs.

### New Style Thieves Work in Harlem.

New York, Dec. 26.—Graduates of the newer school in burglary operated on a safe in a 5 and 10 cent store in Harlem yesterday and got away with nearly \$4,000 in cash. The men entered by way of the skylight, drew electricity from a live wire to operate their drill and with nitroglycerin easily blew off the safe door. Beside the safe were found kid gloves, which the burglars had evidently used to avoid leaving finger prints, which recently have led to the arrest and indictment of several alleged burglars.

### Lye is Mixed With Coffee.

Cedar Rapids, Dec. 26.—His lips, mouth and throat severely burned with lye, Harry Meeker, an employe of the Rapid Transit company, is confined to his home, the victim of a peculiar accident that befell him last night.

Meeker is employed on the night shift at the car barns of the Interurban company and carries his lunch with him to his work. Yesterday afternoon his mother was scouring the coffee pot with lye and left some lye and water standing in the pot. His sister, Miss Hazel, boiled coffee for his lunch without cleaning out the coffee pot and Harry was the victim of her mistake.

He sat down to eat his lunch at midnight, and took a big swallow of coffee. There was enough lye in the coffee to cause bad burns, and the young man suffered much pain before he obtained relief.

Try a local in this paper.

# Our Holiday Business

Has been most gratifying, and we wish to

## Extend Our Thanks

To our friends and customers for their liberal patronage, and wish you a

# HAPPY NEW YEAR.

# LOUIS FRANK,

THE LEADING CLOTHIER.

IN THOUSANDS OF CASES, HAS READY MONEY PROVED THE MAKING OF A FORTUNE. MOST OF US CAN RECALL INSTANCES OF WHERE A COMPARATIVELY SMALL AMOUNT OF READY CASH WOULD HAVE MADE A HANDSOME PROFIT IN A SHORT TIME.

WHILE YOU ARE ACCUMULATING SUCH A FUND, WE WILL PAY YOU AN INCOME ON IT, AND IT IS AVAILABLE ON SHORT NOTICE.

## FIRST NATIONAL BANK

WEBSTER CITY, IOWA

## BINGHAM RAILROAD STATION ROBBED

Thieves Rife Cash Drawer While Agent is Absent.

Bingham, Dec. 26.—While the Wabash agent at Bingham was out of the office checking up a freight train yesterday a thief sneaked into the office and stole \$69 out of the postoffice cash drawer.

The thief was seen to board the freight bound for Shenandoah in company with another man before the robbery was discovered and the authorities at Shenandoah were notified, but not in time to intercept them when they got off the train. They were traced up town there, where they went to the Burlington depot started down the tracks south to the Five corners, where they branched off into the fields and all trace of them has been lost.

Two suspects were arrested, but were turned loose when it was found they were not the guilty ones. It is thought the robbers are in the country south of Shenandoah somewhere and a search is being made for them.

### Anson Makes Thrilling Rescue.

Chicago, Dec. 26.—Adrian C. Anson, known to every baseball fan in the country, rescued two boys from drowning in a park lagoon after they had broken through the ice while skating. Anson interrupted a Christmas golf match to effect a thrilling rescue.

### Are Stranded on Island.

Savannah, Ga., Dec. 26.—Menaced by death from violent seas, Capt. F. J. Davis and his crew of eleven men abandoned a dredge in tow off the South Carolina coast Saturday noon.

In small boats the sailors made Daufuski island, and yesterday Captain Davis reached Savannah, after traveling through miles of lonely swamp country. An expedition left here yesterday afternoon to rescue the hungry sailors stranded on Daufuski.

Captain Davis told a thrilling story of his adventures. He was in command of the International Dredging company's new dredge, which was in tow of a tug from Philadelphia to Galveston. Off Hatteras the sea became menacing. As the storm grew worse, Captain Davis realized the small boats offered more chance than the pounding dredge.

### Is Killed by His Wife.

Waco, Tex., Dec. 26.—His face covered with blood, and a bullet through his body, Joe B. Sims, 38 years old, a hotel clerk, staggered into a corridor from his room yesterday and fell dead. His widow was taken to a sanitarium with knife wounds in her neck. She said Sims had stabbed her and she had shot him. Jealousy of Sims by his wife is given as the cause.

### Youth Takes His Own Life.

Ottumwa, Dec. 26.—Timothy Leary, aged 18 years, committed suicide by taking poison here Sunday. Unrequited love was the cause of the tragedy.