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SANTA CLAUS.

We should praise you without measure, Santa Claus, for you've brought us heaps of pleasure, Santa Claus. On a thousand Christmas nights you have brought us rare delights, making of us happy wights, Santa Claus. When the night wind had an edge, Santa Claus, you have come with deer and sledge, Santa Claus; and fond recollection tells how we heard your talking bells as you journeyed down the delta, Santa Claus. Oh, you brought us knives and dolls, Santa Claus, trams of cars and rubber balls, Santa Claus; and you brought us dates and figs, steeds of tin and wooden pigs, Noah's arks and thimblejigs, Santa Claus. There were treasures in the pack, Santa Claus, that you carried on your back, Santa Claus; there were candles rich and rare, there were toys beyond compare, hippopotamus and bear, Santa Claus. But the best thing that you brought, Santa Claus, and the thing that hit the spot, Santa Claus, was the joy that filled our hearts as we knawed our figs and tarts, and that merry n'er departs, Santa Claus. Oh, we often, often wish, Santa Claus, now that we are old, odes fish! Santa Claus, that together we might stray to an old-time Christmas day in the land of Far Away, Santa Claus! Oh, the days when we were young, Santa Claus! And the carols that were sung, Santa Claus! Have you brought the old times back in your large and heavy pack, as you track, Santa Claus?

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COUNTING THE STARS.

Nearly two years ago Greenwich observatory began a census of the stars. A few weeks ago the British Astronomer Royal announced that the count was almost complete. The work probably will be finished by January, when the results of studying more than fifty million stars will be published. S. Chapman, of the Royal observatory, in an interview in the London Standard, said:

"Of course, we are not counting each individual star, that would take a hundred years. We are counting various areas of the sky which, in the aggregate, amount to one-tenth of the total area, and then the amount will be multiplied by ten. The counted areas have been selected on a system which should yield a fair average, so that the final figure—probably a total of something over fifty millions—will be approximately correct."

Mr. Chapman explained that the counting is carried out by means of photography. The whole sky has been photographed, 206 plates, each 16 inches square, being necessary. Each plate records from 60,000 to 800,000 starry images, the result of two hours' exposure in the southern hemisphere, or 2 hours 20 minutes in the northern hemisphere. By using a specially designed ten-inch chromatic lens, stars of great faintness, down to the sixteenth and seventeenth magnitudes, have left an impression on the plate. The star images are then counted under a high-power microscope. Here again a short cut to an average is taken. To count every image on a single plate would take two assistants a fortnight, so only sample areas on the plate are examined, and the average for the whole plate is arrived at by a simple proportion sum. The plates are ruled into sections by "reseau" lines one degree apart, then a small square is marked out at the center of the plate and other squares and rectangles of a definite area marked out by measuring in progressive stages of three degrees starting from the center to any part of the plate. The stars in each area are counted, then the numbers and the areas are totalled, giving the basis for the finding of the average total on the whole plate.

"The density of the star clusters varies enormously," continued Mr. Chapman. "In some places we find a hundred stars in an area of forty square minutes, while in other places it takes an area of eight hundred square minutes to get sixty stars. But our average should be reasonably accurate, as when we have finished we shall have counted the stars in five thousand separate regions of the sky."

Before the work is completed the total number of photographs taken will thus be 618. The standardizing photographs for the northern hemisphere are being taken at Greenwich, but the work has been delayed through lack of clear weather. The original plates of the southern hemisphere, now being counted, were mostly taken at the Cape of Good Hope and Johannesburg.

The counting and comparing is done under Mr. Chapman's careful supervision and correction by two boys of about 17, who work according to a definite code of simple rules, their entries being made in specially designed books. The photographs were originally the property of the well-known astronomer, Franklin-Adams, F. R. A. S., who died recently. All the original photographs of the northern hemisphere were taken by him and his two assistants at his observatory on Mervel Hill, in Surrey, and those of the southern hemisphere were taken abroad in accordance with arrangements made by him. He first proposed to count the stars himself, but decided that the task was too much for him and handed his unique collection of negatives to the Astronomer Royal.

THE MORGAN INTERESTS.

Speaking of the possibility of creating a panic, Mr. Wilson, in his speech before the Southern Society of New York, said:

"The machinery is in existence by which the thing can be deliberately done. Frankly, I don't think there is any man living who dares to use machinery for that purpose. If he does, I promise him, not for myself, but for my fellow-countrymen, a gibbet as high as Haman's."

Mr. Wilson added that he did not mean "a literal gibbet," but a gibbet of public disgrace which would endure "as long as the members of that man's family survive."

"America," the speaker said, "with her eyes open isn't going to let a panic happen. But I speak as if I expected that—as if I feared it. I do not." But the question is as to the existence of machinery through which a panic might be precipitated. Immediately following the speech of Mr. Wilson we were favored with the facts in regard to the consolidation of the money power in this country. They are not new, but they were massed in such a way as to appeal strongly to the imagination.

Through a vast system of interlocking directorates the Morgan firm directly controls \$25,325,000,000. This control centers in five institutions—J. P. Morgan & Co., the Guaranty Trust company, the Bankers' Trust company, the First National bank, and the National City bank. Morgan's house has 63 directors in 39 corporations with total resources of \$10,036,000,000. Eighteen corporations and individual firms, closely affiliated with the Morgan firm, have 746 directors in 134 corporations, with resources or capitalization amounting to \$25,325,000,000. The total annual revenue of the five great nations of the world amounts to but \$4,950,000,000. In this controlled group are banks, trust companies, insurance companies, railroads and industrial corporations. The Morgan group is therefore more powerful financially than the governments of the United States, Great Britain, France, Germany and Italy combined.

Here undoubtedly is the machinery through which a panic could be brought about. We think that Mr. Wilson is right in saying that it will not be brought about, for self-interest will prevent it. But it is quite conceivable that this vast power, centered in a few hands, a power which may be wielded by Morgan alone through his great influence, might be used in such a way as to harm the public. Perhaps we shall insist before long that a bank shall be nothing but a bank, a railroad nothing but a railroad, etc. But for the present it is enough to know that we have a not unequal strife with the government itself. The facts are as important as they are interesting. They throw a good deal of light on the Roosevelt plan for an industrial commission and on the advocacy of it by Perkins and Gary.

A DICKENS CHRISTMAS.

This, the centenary year of Charles Dickens, will be commemorated by a "Dickens Christmas," as near like the Christmas that he has described in "Pickwick" and a number of his other stories, as may be possible. A party of London enthusiasts have taken the celebrated Bull hotel at Rochester, where they propose to spend Christmas in Dickensian style, with the eating and drinking fashioned after the style of the early nineteenth century. They are to drive down in coaches and furs from Staple inn, Holborn, London, in the costumes of the Pickwick period. The festivities are to accord with the old-fashioned types, to conclude with a Dickens ball at which, doubtless, Dr. Slammer, Alfred Jingle and other noted persons will be present. The party is to be limited to forty in number, at a cost of 5 guineas each. The coachmen, guards, musicians and people at the inn are all to be of the Pickwickian period, and everything will doubtless be pictured in the London illustrated papers.

CHRISTMAS SONG

"The Mission of Christ"

By J. D. Gillilan, D. D.

"Ring in the Christ that is to be."—Tennyson.

When we've searched the world for ease, finding n'er a downy pillow, But, instead, tumultuous seas or the vale where weeps the willow; When our strength has failed entirely and the sun seems set in gloom— There will shine from out our sorrow Light to help us on the way, Bidding us to meet the morrow With the lessons of today, And to bury all our grieving in the Savior's empty tomb.

As, when Galilee was stormy, the disciples rowed with fear, For the wind was hard against them, they were lost and none could steer— Every soul was filled with anguish, every heart was sore dismayed— Bright appeared upon their vision, Stopping lights from wave to wave, He who had no earth one mission, And one only—man to save— Calling to his friends disheartened—"It is I; be not afraid!"

As in earth's primeval chaos, when the world of Nature lay Dark, immovable and passive, waiting break of Time's long day; He whose Spirit, grand, eternal, was alone upon the deep, Spoke: and from creation's midnight Burst the rosy light of dawn, To that fiat, "Let there be light!" Quick as fire from steel is drawn, Came the first glad day of mortals bounding, His command to keep.

Later, when the first, fair Eden by man's hand had been despoiled, And God's creature (in His image) had by sweat of brow long toiled, And, by his imaginations thought to find truth's path the while, He with each year's returning Was found farther from the Way, His desire for sin so burning, Error's night eclipsed truth's day Till the world in moral darkness was most desperately vile.

Then it was that man's condition was the object of God's care, His extremity becoming God's time opportune and rare, That the "fairest among ten thousand" (He the climax of the plan) Was to earth in mercy given, That the fallen sons of men Might not perish, but a heaven And eternal life obtain.

Thus there came that dual being, Son of God and son of man, Boise, Idaho, Christmas, 1912.

The Evening Chit Chat

By Ruth Cameron.

"Christmas Jollity! New Year frivolity! All of a frolicking, rollicking quality! Moping is nothing but treason! I hope that you'll blissfully, mirthfully, kissfully Enjoy your holiday season."

JUST reading that made me feel cheerful so I pass it on to you and wish that it may truly describe your holiday season. Furthermore I hope that you received all the Christmas presents that you wanted, and wanted all that you received.

I hope you weren't disappointed in anything and still more that you didn't show your disappointment if you were. For while it is a comparatively small and easily-healed hurt to be disappointed in a gift, it is a very deep and slow-healing wound to see that someone is disappointed in a gift that you tried hard to make please. I hope that you weren't so worn out with buying and making Christmas gifts that you couldn't give those about you the all-important gift of sweetness and good cheer on Christmas day. I hope that in addition to the mirth of the holiday season,—or, if it need be, in place of it, you also had in your heart that serene undercurrent of hap-

MANY WESTERN MEN LINING UP FOR JUDGE KING

More Information About the Conference in Which National Committeeman Elder Participated.

The fight in the northwest, or in fact, the entire west, over the secretary of the interior portfolio, is waxing warm and Idahoans who are backing their "favorite son," James H. Hawley, will have to hurry in order to get the western endorsement, judging from reports that reached here today.

John Pattison, Democratic national committeeman for Washington, has wired to President-elect Wilson his official endorsement of Judge Will R. King of Portland, for secretary of the interior. Pattison took this action following a conference with R. H. Elder, national committeeman of Idaho; W. H. Cochran, Spokane Democratic county chairman, and Charles G. Heifner of Seattle. With Pattison's endorsement is that of Mr. Elder of Idaho and John E. Sanford, Democratic national committeeman of California, it is claimed. The Utah and New Mexico party organizations are said to have given Judge King assurances of support.

Says Choice Is King.

"My choice of Judge King," Mr. Pattison said, "was influenced by the fact that he has lived in Oregon 40 years, has served four years on the supreme bench of that state and has the acquaintance and ability together with knowledge of practical western needs that make him an extremely valuable man to have in charge of the interior department. Since it appears impossible for Washington to get the appointment I am anxious to see the interests of the two and of Idaho are the same."

Neither Mr. Pattison nor Mr. King is dismayed by the selection of John E. Osborne, former governor of Wyoming, reported in a Washington dispatch. They allow the possibility of Bryan and McCombs in the cabinet, but accept the whole thing more as a feeler or conjecture, since it was unauthorized by Wilson, and the latter has declared that he will name his own appointments when the time comes.

Mr. Pattison thinks there is every reason to believe that Mr. King will be named for the interior portfolio with the weight of official endorsement he has attracted.

Heifner Disappointed.

Mr. Heifner was disappointed, but stated that Judge King, Governor Osborne, Governor Burke of North Dakota, F. B. Lynch, national committeeman from St. Paul or any other progressive Democrat would suit him if he himself was not selected.

"I am more interested," he said, "in seeing Wilson's administration such a success that it will head a long list of Democratic presidents than I am in securing any office for myself. In seeking the appointment I have the support of Hugh C. Todd and John W. Troy, chairman and secretary of the Democratic state committee, and 31 out of 39 members, Governor Lister, Mayor Cotterill of Seattle and all but one man on state and congressional tickets, besides numerous county committees."

Mr. Heifner declared that he believed the Democrats of Washington would be entirely satisfied with King if the latter is appointed. He denied the report that there is any combine contemplated between the five Democratic congressional candidates to control the patronage of this state.

pleasure that comes from knowing you have really done honor to the Lord of Christmas by making Christmas happier for someone less fortunate than you.

I hope that if by any chance that is not true, you will go straight out and do something like that right now, even as you lay this paper down. Remember the eleventh hour was not considered too late.

And now a word for the future. Last year I received a letter from one of my reader friends containing this paragraph:

"I have sent out several gifts to friends whom I hold in high esteem and have received gifts from them and acknowledged them at once, but it is now about four weeks since mine were sent, and I have not received a word yet. This I consider to be a great breach of courtesy. Last year it was the same thing with the same people. I think the matter ought to be called to the attention of any who are so negligent."

As this letter came to me rather too late to be timely for last year I put it aside for this year.

To some people the necessity for acknowledging Christmas gifts is a very bitter drop in the cup of Christmas cheer. I wonder if their habit of procrastinating the duty does not make it loom much larger and more difficult than it really is. I have one friend from whom I always receive an acknowledgment of my gift the day after Christmas. This note is brief but very cordial, and I look forward to it as a bright spot in the let-down of the day after. This woman has a large circle of friends and a busy life, and yet she finds time on Christmas day to do this.

"Can't you do the same? Or, if not on Christmas day, at least in Christmas week?" Don't try to write a long or elaborate letter, just make it a word of thanks. If it is genuine and hearty, that will be quite enough and will probably be far more welcome to the recipient than a longer letter so much delayed that she is beginning to be anxious as to whether or not you really received her gift.

Baggage Transfer. Call us if in a hurry. Peasley Transfer & Storage Co. Phone No. 73. Adv.

The Evening Story

Where His Courage Came In

By DONALD CHAMBERLIN

During the civil war occasionally federal officers would send for their wives and perhaps their daughters to come down to visit them in camp. Colonel Carpenter, commanding a brigade during the winter of 1861-2, wrote his wife that the army was in winter quarters and he would like to have her join him, bringing with her their daughter, Adele.

When Mrs. Carpenter and her daughter appeared in camp the colonel was surprised to see a young man with them. He was in citizen's clothes and no more at home among soldiers than a fish on dry land. He would start across a sentry's beat, and when the sentry brought his gun to a charge and called on him to halt he would stop so short as to almost fall over backward.

"Who is he and where did you pick him up?" the colonel asked his wife. "He's Adolphus Leslie," replied the lady. "He seems to have been attracted to Adele, and she can't get rid of him. As soon as he heard we were coming down he said he was coming with us, and no hint to the contrary availed to stop him."

"I wish we would have a fight," replied her husband. "I'd suggest his going into the front rank. That would send him home, I warrant. Del, why don't you shake him?" "What's the use? He's been trying to get out a proposal of marriage for a month and can't do it. Time enough to send him off when he succeeds."

"That's all very well, but he'll prevent the officers here from showing you attention. There are a number of fine fellows on my staff and in the line who I dare say would like to make your visit pleasant for you, but with this whippersnapper dangling about you, how can they?"

"If they haven't the pluck to drive him away I expect he'll have to stay. I can't send him off till after he has proposed."

"I wish he'd screw up his courage," grunted the colonel. "Then we'd be rid of him."

Adolphus Leslie spoiled the visit—that is, for the colonel. Mrs. Colonel and the officers. As to Adele, she acted strangely about it, complaining that the young man was in her way but she didn't know how to get rid of him. Her father lost patience with her and concluded that, since the situation was attracting attention from its absurdity, she had better go home. Besides, the spring was coming on, and there were indications of a move on the part of the enemy.

When the two ladies started for Washington, attended by Leslie, the members of the staff looked at one another, and an aid remarked, "They should have provided a baby carriage for the rear guard," taking care that the commander did not hear him, though the colonel's chagrin at the outcome of his daughter's visit was well known.

But the party had not been gone half a day when some lively skirmishing commenced that led up to serious fighting. That same evening Colonel Carpenter's flank had been turned, his men were giving way, and it looked as though a gap had been opened that would be the ruin of the corps, if not the whole army. The colonel, amid a shower of shot and shell, looked about him for one of his staff to send for reinforcements. Some of them had been killed and some of them had gone back to escape the galling fire.

But who is this coming in a pepper and salt suit, his horse plunging, frightened at the explosions and shrieking shells? What is a citizen doing where only a soldier should be? The rider made straight for the colonel, who was amazed to recognize Adolphus Leslie.

"What in thunder are you doing here, sir?" roared the commander.

"I'll tell you, colonel, if I can get my breath. I proposed to your daughter on the way to Washington, and she said I might ask you."

For a few moments the colonel stared at the young man as if not knowing whether or no to believe his senses. Finally words came as from a rapid fire gun:

"Go and bring me reinforcements and you may have the whole family."

Leslie looked about him, not knowing which way to turn, but he saw Colonel Carpenter pointing and dashed off in that direction. Meeting a regiment hurrying to another part of the field, he rode up to its commander and ordered him to go to the gap where he was so greatly needed. When Leslie rode back with the re-enforcing column Colonel Carpenter threw his arms around him and embraced him. The gap was plugged.

Mr. Leslie went back to Washington bearing a laconic scrawl from the colonel to his daughter: "This young man may be a coward with a woman, but he's a rattler in a fight. Don't come down here for a husband."

In reply to this Miss Carpenter wrote her father: "I sent Dolphie back to you to get rid of him, but I see he has converted you. I asked him what he did to make such a change in you, and he said he didn't know. He thought it might be the appearance he made on horseback. This made me laugh. I suppose I'll have to take him or he'll plague the life out of me. If I find I don't like my bargain I can send him down to you, and you can see that he gets killed. But I expect he'll suit me pretty well."

Birthday Calendar



DECEMBER

If This Is Your Birthday Keep yourself steadily at work, and be keenly alive to your own advantages. Carelessness at this time may cause disaster, while cleverness will bring you great success.

Those born today will have serious natures, religiously inclined, and will have little interest in the accumulation of money. With some object which seems to them worthy, they are tireless workers, and are capable of accomplishing much. Their early education should be broad, lest they become superstitious and fanatic.

CHRISTMAS CANDIES

Why buy cheap Candies when you can buy pure sugar candies at 15 cents per pound in 5-lb. lots, at Nerwood's Grocery.

515 MAIN ST., BOISE.

Children's Skates for 10c at WHITE CITY RINK Every afternoon during vacation except Sunday and Christmas.

SPECIAL PRICES On tailor made garments here in Boise. Men's suits \$15 up and ladies' tailoring fine made and best quality; sale only 30 days.

WESTERN TAILORS, 315 North 8th St., Boise, Ida.

Include in your list of Christmas presents a Booklovers' Catalogue. It may be the means of getting them that \$500 in gold—first prize in Booklovers' contest. YOU CAN ENTER NOW.

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