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THE CHRISTMAS LETTER

It takes time to write the Christmas letter—perhaps that is why it is all the more appreciated by its recipient. The days before Christmas are strenuous ones, but the woman who will plan to lay aside a small portion of her time each day or each week for the writing of Christmas letters to friends and loved ones at a distance will find that she is more than repaid for the sacrifice of time and effort which it may cost.

One woman who found herself unable at Christmas to remember her friends with gifts such as she had been accustomed to, began several weeks before Christmas and each day devoted a half hour to writing Christmas letters. She made them as new-sy and chatty as she could. Her friends wrote her afterwards it was like receiving a real visit from her on Christmas morning. She put into them all the pleasant, loving thoughts which came to her—for this woman did not believe in waiting to show love and appreciation to friends and loved ones until after their death, and she was not chary with her expressions of love and appreciation and good will. She also made them as "Christmas-ey" as she could—using holly bedecked paper and sealing them with the bright Christmas seals, and sending them out so that they were sure to arrive exactly on Christmas morning, so far as human planning could arrange it.

Besides the letters—instead of sending cards—she wrote brief notes to other friends and acquaintances, including any she knew especially appreciate a word of cheer at that time, a word that was really written to them, not a printed sentiment intended to go out to thousands unknown to the one who originated it and sold it as part of his day's business.

"You wouldn't believe what a happy Christmas it was, or what a rich harvest those letters and little notes yielded me," she told a friend afterwards. "Friends with whom I had not been in touch for years responded at once heartily and made me feel anew the blessings and happiness of the old friendships. Others told me afterwards how much good my little notes did them just at that time when a warm, personal message meant so much to them, and how deeply they appreciated them. I wouldn't have believed they would have taken so, but they did. Next year I am going to begin earlier and write even more."

A letter is the closest representative of one's own self. Written words and sentiments are the nearest substitutes to spoken ones. "The gift without the giver is bare." Unless we really give of ourselves, with our gift, it means nothing but a business transaction, a performance of a duty, matter of barter and exchange. That is why the Christmas letter means so much. It gives more of ourselves than



Capt. O. B. Steele

CAPT. STEELE MAKES RACE FOR AUDITOR

Capt. O. B. Steele, of Baton Rouge, who has served as state treasurer and auditor, will next week, announce his candidacy for state auditor.

For some weeks there has been a report current that Captain Steele would be a candidate for auditor, for which position Paul Capdeville, the present state auditor, is a candidate for re-election.

Announcement that he would make the race comes from Captain Steele himself, who says that he will make his formal announcement next week.

The Louisianaian of New Orleans, edited by Mrs. Trousdale, comes out for Captain Steele, and in advocacy of his candidacy says:

"It is not only with pleasure, but with pride that 'Louisiana' presents with this issue such a man as Cap. O. B. Steele as can-

the costliest gift could do without the true Christmas spirit back of it. It is the thought the love of our friends, that counts most to all of us at Christmas-time—evidenced by their gifts and, even more so, by their words and expressions of love and friendship and thought, showing us most plainly that they have us in their memory.

If you should be away from home this Christmas, don't fail to write a good Christmas letter to the old folks or to the sisters and brothers who may be separated from you by distance. Be sure to send them a warm, cheery affectionate letter at this time. No matter how handsome a gift you may send, it will seem bare and cold without a warm, loving, personal letter from you—the only substitute you can send for yourself. Send the gift, by all means, if you can, but send with it a letter which will warm the hearts of the old folks, of the distant brother or sister, of the old friend—tried and true. It will give them the feeling that they have had the next thing to actually seeing you and talking with you, on Christmas morning—your letter. They will feel and know that you are really together again—in spirit if not actual presence—as in the happy days of old.

Take time to write as many Christmas letters and notes as you can. You will find that it will bring you a rich return in love and friendship and appreciation, and you will have the feeling that you have the feeling that you have brightened others' lives and warmed their hearts by your expressions of love and thought and good cheer.

plate for state auditor to its readers.

"As a man, as a citizen, as a soldier, as a servant, his record runs clear and true from the beginning to this day. No man in public life in Louisiana has had a more uniformly successful career than he.

"While a mere boy in short trousers he enlisted in the Confederate service, going as a bugler, gay, confident, unafraid, fired even at that tender age with the courage that flamed in every southern heart. Promotion came rapidly; the boy bugler, almost before he knew it, was lieutenant, adjutant of artillery, serving in this capacity in Breckenridge's famous division, commander of the war a full-fledged captain. He won his title fair and clear and in one of the none-too-many 'captains' of today to whom it belongs to the right supreme.

"Returning home, this young captain of the Lost Cause plunged at once into the pursuits of farming, and later of combined farming and store keeping in the parishes respectively of Union and Morehouse, in both of which undertakings he met with the success that has attended him throughout his life.

"His first public service after the War was in the campaign of 1876 in which he took a conspicuous part in the restoration to the state of her sovereignty and the election of Francis T. Nichols as her chief executive. He served a term as member of the house of representatives and was then promoted to the upper house. In both houses he took prominent part in the state's finances.

"Nominated and elected, he was state auditor under the McEnery administration; was re-nominated, elected and served in the same office under Governor Nichols.

"In 1892, Captain Steele was presidential elector and cast the vote of Louisiana for Grover Cleveland for president. With the election of Governor Foster, he took charge of the state treasury's office and though not treasurer, he had complete control of that office during Governor Foster's first term. It was he who discovered the famous Burke defalcation and it was largely through his knowledge of the state's fiscal affairs that the tangle was unraveled and the genuine baby bonds separated from the spurious bonds.

"He was elected state treasurer again and without opposition, when Governor Sanders came into power and served a full and successful term in that capacity. These many years of official connection with the state's affairs and the handling of the details of the revenues and expenditures have made Captain

AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT

Karl Treas, Director

The Raising and Feeding of Hogs, Profitably, in the South

By J. E. Godfrey

The southern people are great consumers of pork, but they produce very little of the pork which they consume. Consequently, millions of dollars are spent annually for pork, of which a large amount is consumed by the farmers and farm laborers of the south. If the farmer raises his own meat, so not to be compelled to sell all of his cotton, so soon as he raises it in order to get money to buy provisions with. He can hold his cotton for better prices.

The experiment stations have shown that the south can raise hogs as well as any other section of the United States. And that the hogs of the south are subject to no more diseases than those of other sections. There are several reasons why the south is even better suited for raising hogs than other sections. First—Pasture crops can be had for hogs at all seasons of the year. Second—We have no high priced hog houses to construct.

In raising hogs, one should decide on the breed which he likes best. Then pick out the best stock. He should select his

brood sows with great care. So as to get those which are likely to be most prolific. He should also pay attention to the old maxim, which says that, "The male is half the herd." He should obtain one which has all the points that are characteristic to the breed.

The next thing to discuss, is the problem of feeding hogs profitably. It is a big mistake with most farmers, to feed hogs on corn alone. For this method of feed is not profitable, as a hog requires a variety of food. This corn can be feed along with some cheaper feed, and give the hog access to a good pasture and in this way make it profitable to raise hogs.

The farmers of the south suffer great losses in their hogs, because of vermin. Lice cause hogs to be less thrifty, and many young pigs are killed by them. When hogs become infested with lice, all the bedding should be burned. The houses thoroughly sprayed, and all the hogs dipped. Char coal should be kept where the hogs can eat it, in order to keep them free from worms, which is another cause for losses among the herd. The beds should be kept free from dust at all times, which is easily prevented by spraying.

Steele an expert whose services at this particular critical juncture are almost invaluable in the solution of the state's fiscal policies and its money affairs.

"In the business world Captain Steele has also 'made good'. He was one of the organizers and first vice presidents of the Bank of Baton Rouge, and the remarkable success of that great financial institution is in no small measure due to him. He has been its vice president since its organization. He was one of the promoters of the Baton Rouge Electric Light and Street Railway companies. Under his management as its president the Louisiana Fire Insurance company of Baton Rouge is today an undisputed success.

"And right along with all this Captain Steele has been an enthusiastic farmer. He is a farmer for the love of it, his greatest pleasure has found in making his part of the earth to blossom and bear fruit. Only a man of great versatility, of unlimited resource and boundless energy

could have done all these things, and not failed in either undertaking. As a citizen, he is worthy the name, for he is full of public spirit and has found time to identify himself with every movement for the uplift and progress of his own home town, the home of his adoption and his affection, Baton Rouge. Progressive, enthusiastic, optimistic, energetic, he is all that and more.

"Captain Steele's friends feel that at this critical hour, we will repeat, that the state needs such a man—needs his fine talent and experience, his services seem absolutely indispensable. Where is there another man in the state who has at his finger tips every branch, every detail, every fate and every figure as he has?

"His high character, his experience, his rugged honesty, his splendid enthusiasm and dauntless energy all conspire to point him out, clearly and distinctly, as the most desirable man to have in charge of the important affairs of the auditor's office.

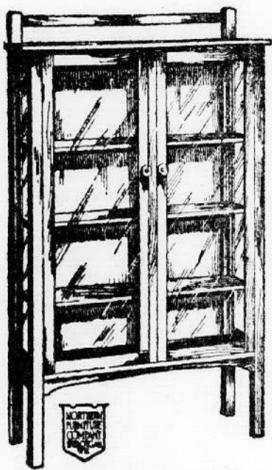
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