

THE CELINA DEMOCRAT

Office—Hiley Building, second floor, entrance 1104 East Market street.
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THE DEMOCRAT will feel obligated to any subscriber who fails to receive his paper regularly and promptly, if complaint will be made to the office.

FRIDAY, December 22, 1911

What Christmas Means.



Christmas means hope and its realization. The child grows eagerly expectant as the time approaches for the visit of Santa Claus. While this action remains unquestioned, the imagination opens new and wider worlds, and ideals become so much a part of the mind that the prosaic and commonplace can never crush them. Until the youth reaches manhood and independence, Christmas is the happiest day of the year. Its gifts and hearty good cheer impress family affection, parental thoughtfulness and brotherly love. The dullest and most irresponsible of fathers and mothers are uplifted to a vision of higher life by the interchanges of souvenirs and the merry meeting with children and grandchildren at the table and fire-side. Few can escape and all enjoy the meaning of the festival, the lessons it conveys and the inspiration it gives, and we enter upon a brighter future and a fuller appreciation of the beneficence of the practice of faith, hope and charity. The loved ones who have crossed to the other side, the loved near and far who are still with us, the old homestead with its precious memories, the old church whose sacred associations tie together childhood, maturity and age, love, marriage and death; the schoolhouse where the beginnings of education were so painful, and the ever-increasing pleasures of the pursuit of learning through the high school, academy and college are recalled and recited, and there is exquisite delight in these oft-told tales, and new experiences enliven this blessed anniversary.—Leslie's Weekly.

First Christmas Observance.



Christmas gets its name from the mass celebrated in the early days of the Christian church in honor of the birth of Christ, its first solemnization having been ordered by Pope Telesphorus. This was in or before the year 138, for in that year Pope Telesphorus died. At first Christmas was what is known as a movable feast, just as Easter is now, and owing to misunderstandings was celebrated as late as April or May. In the fourth century an ecclesiastical investigation was ordered, and upon the authority of the tables of the censors in the Roman archives December 25 was agreed upon as the date of the Saviour's nativity. Tradition fixed the hour of birth at about midnight, and this led to the celebration of a midnight mass in all the churches, a second at dawn and a third in the later morning.

President Taft, now seeing the handwriting on the wall, frowning lowering the duties on wools and woolens. The sacred tariff is to have a hole punched in it at the behest of its friends. The old fraud ought to have been kicked off the earth long ago, along with every other special privilege. The world do move.

There seems to have been a great amount of sneering at the Socialist party of Los Angeles, Calif., for getting so unmercifully licked at the recent municipal election in that city. The sneering smacks not a little of common old hysteresis. But the reason is self-evident. What are the facts? The Socialist at this election cast 52,000 votes. Their previous high vote was 11,000. Most parties would think they were setting the prairies afire if they were to make such gains at any election. In the face of unloading the crimes of the McNamara's

on the public two or three days in advance of the election (for which the Socialists no more than any other party were responsible, and perhaps less, although it was worked to their detriment), it seems stupendous.

In his authorized interview given to the Press on Thanksgiving, President Taft confessed a number of things that may prove troublesome later. Thus he said: "My chief objections to a needlessly high tariff is that it nourishes monopoly. It holds forth a constant temptation to the formation of little trusts which often are more directly oppressive to the consumer than big ones."

Mr. Taft admits then that standpatrists who deny that the tariff is in any way responsible for the high cost of living or the existence of trusts are guilty of prevarication. The confession comes late, but better late than never. The limitation of admission to "heedlessly high tariffs," (as though there were any other kind), and to "little trusts" is not important. It is usual with culprits, who have much to confess, to begin by conceding the truth of only a very small part of the charges against them.

The Stanley steel investigating committee of the House will continue its probe of the steel trust. The efforts of Wall Street to bring the investigation to a halt have failed.

It being obvious that the House will not need the command of special privilege to stop the investigation, it is even doubtful now whether the proposition of forcing the investigating committee to abandon its inquiry will ever come up on the floor of the House. But if the matter does come up, it is certain that the House will stand by the committee and order it to go on with the hearings.

This marks a new order of things. In the past the steel trust has been able to have bills sidetracked, delayed, and finally chloroformed in committees of the House. All this is today impossible.

In politics, in matters of involving faith, morals, or Catholic rights, the clergy are the leaders and teachers of the Catholic body, and their instructions will be obeyed.

In matters purely political, such as the Initiative and the Referendum, the clergy have no divine authority to guide the laity. One citizen's opinion is as good as another citizen's of equal ability, experience and sound judgement. A voter must follow, in regard to them, his own reason and conscience, and to what is best for the public weal.

In questions, entirely secular, the clergy have no wish to interfere as clergymen. They have a right to their own views as citizens. But they have no desire to impose their opinion on any one else.

And in such question, indeed, if any one attempted to give instructions, he would find himself without a following.—Catholic Columbian, Columbus, O., November 24, 1911.

At a Single Tax Conference held in Chicago on Nov. 24, 25 and 26, a good story was told by W. A. Douglass, of Toronto: A local School Board of a Canadian town ordered the British flag hung on the wall of every school room. An equally loyal teacher called the attention of her pupils to the flag and asked if they could tell why it was there. There was no answer for a while, when finally a bright youngster at the head of his class, held up his hand saying: "Please, teacher, I know." "Very well, tell us,"

Notice to Farmers and Timbermen

We are wanting during the Winter season of 1911-1912, a large quantity of Second Growth White or Rock Elm Butts for hubs. Our agent, M. A. Stockwell, will receive and pay for same on Saturday of each week at the L. E. W. Railroad Station, Celina, Ohio. Get a price card.

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answered the teacher. "It's to hide the dirt," was the reply. This was surely a case of "wisdom from the mouth of babes." The youngster's sage remark could be properly applied to uses made by sham patriots of the flag of other countries than Canada.



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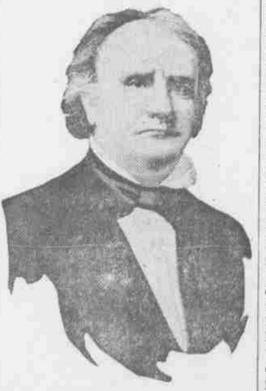
Will You Do Your Part?

THE WAR FIFTY YEARS AGO

Comotion Over the Seizure of the Persons of J. M. Mason and John Sidel, Confederate Commissioners to Great Britain and France—They Were Taken From Under the Protection of British Flag While on Board the Steamer Trent on Voyage from Cuba to England—Seizure Made by U. S. Steamer San Jacinto, Commanded by Capt. Chas. Wilkes, an Experienced Naval Officer.

By JAMES A. EDGERTON. (Copyright by American Press Association, 1911.)

DURING the week ending Nov. 19, 1861, the one event that blotted out all other topics in the public mind was the Trent affair. The report of this was printed in the New York papers on the morning of Nov. 17 and was not known generally throughout the country till that day or later. It produced the most unbounded excitement, the north exulting over the arrest of two of the chief men of the Confederacy, James M. Mason and John Sidel, commissioners respectively to Great Britain and France. Outwardly the south was indignant, but secretly it was as exultant as the north, hoping that the incident would precipitate war between the United States and England, the two commissioners having been seized on board an English vessel.



J. M. MASON, CONFEDERATE COMMISSIONER TO ENGLAND.

San Jacinto, the American sloop of war that had made the seizure, arrived at Fortress Monroe on the 15th. Four days later the vessel reached New York, where Mason and Sidel and their two secretaries were placed in the custody of United States marshals and ordered confined in Fort Warren, Boston harbor.

The San Jacinto was in command of Captain Charles Wilkes, who had already become a world celebrity by leading an expedition of exploration, and discovery into the south seas and the antarctic circle. Prior to his encounter with the Trent Captain Wilkes had been on the west coast of Africa and on his return to American waters cruised about the West Indies, looking for the privateer Sumter, commanded by Captain Raphael Semmes. It was then he heard of Mason and Sidel and decided to capture them, after which he designed joining the Union fleet and participating in the attack on Port Royal. The fight there was over, however, before he came up with the commissioners.

Bearding the Lion. Messrs. Mason and Sidel had managed to elude the Federal blockade by leaving Charleston in a small steamer on a dark and rainy night. They had

been received with honors by the British consul in Cuba and took passage from Havana to St. Thomas in the British mail steamer Trent, commanded by Captain Moir. Before their departure the San Jacinto ran hurriedly to Key West, seeking some other Union vessel to help in the search, but, failing to find one, put back to the Bahama channel, through which Captain Wilkes believed the Trent would pass. There, just before noon of the 8th, the English vessel was sighted, and the San Jacinto prepared for action. A solid shot was fired across the bow of the Trent, but to this she paid no heed. A shell followed, and Captain Moir evidently saw the point of this argument, for he gave to his bad humor. Captain Wilkes sent a boat in command of Lieutenant D. McNeill Fairfax, executive officer of the San Jacinto, who boarded the Trent and demanded to see her passenger list. This Captain Moir refused, despite the fact that Great Britain was the one nation that had maintained the right of search and had refused to give it up even after we had beaten her in the war of 1812, fought over this very issue.

Lieutenant Fairfax then asked for Mr. Mason, Mr. Sidel and their secretaries, and Sidel, hearing his name mentioned, answered. Fairfax was related by marriage to Mason, who was also located. Upon a demand being made that the commissioners and their secretaries go aboard the San Jacinto these gentlemen emphatically refused, stating that they would yield only to force. Thereupon Lieutenant Fairfax sent for marines, who boarded the Trent amid a great hubbub made by the passengers. Commander Williams, the British mail agent aboard the Trent, protested as "a representative of her majesty's government."

Making the Arrest.

In the midst of the commotion two of the San Jacinto's men took Mr. Mason by the collar and led him to the boat, assisting him on board, the same operation being performed in the case of Mr. Sidel and the two secretaries, Eustis and McFarland. The families of Sidel and Eustis were on board, and the officers of the San Jacinto offered to accommodate them if they desired, but the invitation was declined. Commander Williams after his return to England told a story of Miss Sidel having struck Lieutenant Fairfax repeatedly in the face, but this was afterward denied by Fairfax, who said the only basis for the story was that a lurch of the ship had thrown the lady against his shoulder.

There was one phase of this affair that seems little less than providential. Captain Wilkes, in writing, had instructed Lieutenant Fairfax as follows: "Should Mr. Mason, Mr. Sidel, Mr. Eustis and Mr. McFarland be on board you will make them prisoners and send them on board this ship immediately and take possession of her (the Trent) as a prize."

An Incident That Averted War.

This part of his instructions Fairfax chose to ignore. Not only so, but he was careful to give no unnecessary offense to the commander of the Trent. At one time, when that vessel was drifting into shallow water and Captain Moir warned the Americans to hurry or he would not be responsible for the ship's safety, Lieutenant Fairfax signaled for the San Jacinto to draw away, so that the Trent might go more into the channel. Upon returning to his own vessel with the prisoners Fairfax told Captain Wilkes what he had done and urged that the Trent be not taken as a prize, advancing as an argument that it would delay their movements and divide their crew, thus making it impossible for the San Jacinto to participate in the attack on Port Royal, as was then planned. This argument seemed to convince Captain Wilkes, and he consented that the British vessel go on her way. On such small incidents does history sometimes turn. Had the Trent been taken as a prize it is scarcely possible that war with Great Britain could have been averted.

It is surprising that Captain Moir did not insist on the Americans taking command of his vessel and thus have forced the issue. He himself said later that the British admiral was "very much disappointed and displeased" that he had not done so. His reply was that it had never occurred to him, Lieutenant Fairfax having been so courteous and having engaged him



JOHN SIDELL, CONFEDERATE COMMISSIONER TO FRANCE.

no in conversation about other matters that he had "failed to see what afterward was very plain."



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The arrest of Mason and Sidel was almost universally applauded in the north. One reason for the acclaim was the prominence of the prisoners. Both men had been members of the United States senate, and one of the secretaries, Eustis, had been a congressman and had married the daughter of a prominent Washington banker. As for Captain Wilkes, he became the hero of the hour. The secretary of the navy wrote him a commendatory letter, Boston gave him a public dinner, the New York Historical society elected him an honorary member, the officials of New York city tendered him a reception, and the congress of the United States gave him a vote of thanks.

Lincoln's Prophetic Vision.

Yet through all this chorus of joy there was a note of misgiving. The New York Tribune on the very day the news became public commented on England's possible attitude regarding the arrest. It cited the international law on the subject and stated that most of the authorities supported a view that would justify Captain Wilkes' act. It also dwelt upon the fact that England had uniformly insisted on the right of search even in times of peace; therefore her government could not object to the arrest of the two commissioners without justifying her own record. Yet the most fearless men of the time feared that Great Britain would seize on the incident as a ground for declaring war. There was a threefold motive for so doing. She could thus break the blockade, which was seriously interfering with the cotton trade on which so many of her mills depended, she could be avenged for past defeats at the hands of the United States, and she could strike possibly a deathblow at



LIEUTENANT D. M. FAIRFAX, U. S. N., WHO MADE THE SEIZURE.

republican institutions. It was the thought of these things that gave pause to our level headed statesmen. On the surface at least all Washington (Continued on Eighth Page)

Notice of Teachers' Examinations

Meetings for the examination of applicants for teachers' certificates, for either common, high or special, will be held at the West School Building, in Celina, on the first Saturday of each month of the year. Examinations for pupils who wish to graduate from the elementary schools will be held in Celina on the third Saturday of April and the third Saturday of May. A. O. E. PERKINS, President; J. W. ROGUE, Clerk; S. COTTERMAN, Secretary.

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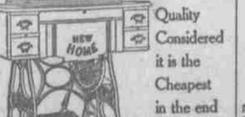
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for Women		for Children	
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Auto Hoods	\$1.00 to \$2.75	Crib Blankets	50c to \$1.00
Aprons	25c to \$1.00	Coats	\$1.25 to \$5.00
Belts	25c and 50c	Caps to match	50c to \$1.00
Bath Robes	\$5.00	Fur Sets	\$1.00 to \$7.50
Bath Robe Blankets	\$2.50	Gloves and Mittens	25c to 50c
Bags (Mesh)	\$2.00 to \$7.50	Handkerchiefs (box of 3)	10c
Bags (Leather)	\$1.00 to \$6.00	Knit Togues	25c and 50c
Bags (Velvet)	\$1.00 to \$6.00	Knit Sets	\$1.25 to \$4.50
Bags (Beaded)	\$1.50 to \$5.00	Sweater Coats	\$1.00 to \$2.00
Corsets	50c to \$3.00	Toy Animals	\$1.50
Cloth Coats	\$7.50 to \$25.00		
Corset Covers	25c to \$1.00		
Corset Cover Patterns	\$1.00		
Fur Scarfs	\$3.00 to \$25.00		
Fur Muffs	\$2.00 to \$25.00		
Fur Sets	\$5.00 to \$100.00		
Gloves (Kid)	50c to \$4.00		
Gloves (Cashmere)	25c to 50c		
Handkerchiefs	5c to \$1.00		
Initial Waists	\$1.00		
Kimonos	\$2.50 to \$5.00		
Lace Waists	\$5.00		
Neckwear	25c to \$3.00		
Petticoats	\$1.00 to \$5.00		
Ribbons, specials, yd.	10c to 50c		
Silk Scarfs	50c to \$5.00		
Silk Hose	50c to \$2.50		
Sweater Coats	\$2.00 to \$3.50		
Skirts (Dress)	\$5.00 to \$15.00		
Silk Waist Patterns	\$3.00 to \$5.00		
Silk Waist	\$5.00 to \$6.00		
Umbrellas	\$1.00 to \$5.00		
		Bed Spreads	\$1.00 to \$4.50
		Blankets (Cotton)	\$1.00 to \$3.00
		Blankets (Wool)	\$3.95 to \$6.00
		Comforts	\$1.00 to \$3.50
		Curtains, per pair	\$1.00 to \$12.50
		Table Linens, per yd.	50c to \$1.50
		Linen Table Cloths	\$3.50 to \$4.50
		Napkins, dozen	\$1.00 to \$5.00
		Towels	10c to \$1.00
		Rugs (small)	\$1.00 to \$7.50
		Rugs (room size)	\$10.00 to \$37.50
		Portiers	\$3.00 to \$12.50
		Portiers (Rope)	\$3.00 to \$6.00
		Burnt Wood Boxes	25c
		Drawn Work	25c to \$10.00
		Doilies (hand crocheted)	50c

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NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT.

Estate of Sophie Leiser, deceased. Henry Leiser has been appointed and qualified as administrator of the estate of Sophie Leiser, late of Mercer County, Ohio, deceased. Dated this 7th day of December, A. D. 1911. P. F. DUGAN, Probate Judge, November 24, 1911. 28-21

J. E. Mallory Auctioneer.

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