

Christmas is Here.

Warm hearts responsive swell. Kind deeds their secret tell. Hark! 'Tis the yuletide bell! Christmas is here!

How much pleasure life brings us because of its special days, which we have happily exalted because they focus our thoughts about some past event or stand for some principle which endures, regardless of the fact whether it is we ourselves, some ancestor or those who shall live long years after we have left the earth, who commemorate or idealize it.

After the harvests are gathered and the year's work approaches completion, Thanksgiving is announced, and the nation ceases from its work to render thanks to the Giver of all good, and families are brought together under the home roof.

But these are days that affect only our national life. But when we say "Christmas is here!" there is a fullness in the message that makes all others seem small. It's the only day in all the year that is large enough to take in everybody.

It's the birthday of a king! and nowhere in all the earth does He receive more universal homage than in our own democratic America. Those wise men who journeyed from the far east many years ago, led by the star, brought gifts beautiful and costly, and gave them to the sweet babe that lay in Bethlehem's manger.

Although it is very familiar to us in its general aspects, it is nevertheless unique in its activities. If you will but stop to consider, you can but notice what a complete reversal it brings about of our usual way of doing things, our usual way of thinking, our ambitions and desires.

Ordinarily men are busily engaged in some line of work which will help them to get on in the world; they are absorbed very largely in the struggle of life and their minds are centered upon an accumulation of wealth, the pursuit of knowledge or the dream of fame.

But what a change! When the Christmas season approaches there is a different order of things. It is a time not of getting but of giving. There is, in the throngs which crowd the stores making purchases, such an abandon of the conventionalities of life as to be laughable—and yet it is a revelation only of the nobler impulses which, with an unconsciousness of the looks of things, born of a self forgetfulness while thinking of and for others, that stirs within one's heart a profound admiration for the better qualities of human nature.

Christmas tells the story. In churches or in homes, in various ways, the secret of these hitherto mysterious missions are made known. The loud shouts of glad surprise, as in the early gray of the morning, when they peer into the long stockings crowded with goodies and gifts, tells that the child is the king of hearts and holds supreme sway.

Yes, Christmas is children's day. It's mission is to bring joy and delight to childhood and bring back our lost youth to us older folks. How small and insignificant at such a time seem wealth and power and fame!

Stretching across two full centuries, all this has been made possible because of the advent of the babe of Bethlehem, whose coming shepherds watched with reverence and angels sang "Peace on earth, good will to men."

There is no room for pessimism or discontent at such a time as this. Life is worth loving. Some one has said, "Friendship is the sunshine of life." He is richest who dwells most securely in the heart of his friends.

In giving gifts, don't spoil your own happiness and that of others by overdoing. If you do you miss the very beneficence which Christmas ought to bring to you.

The world grows young again. Holly and mistletoe make life redolent with brightness and good cheer. Forget not to brighten the lot of the obscure, the poor, the suffering. Spread sunshine everywhere. Be merry all the day.

The famous Raskin colony which has been the object of so much comment, has finally met the fate which usually awaits those socialistic schemes for settlement—the property has been placed in the hands of a receiver and sold. The colony was founded in Tennessee in 1894 and for several years gave promise of great success.

Ex-Senator John M. Palmer of Illinois is going to publish a book of Recollections. He is now in Washington collecting material for it. He has spent more than 50 years in public life, having been prominent as a union general during the civil war, and afterward was governor of Illinois and United States senator.

The suggestion that the democratic candidates for 1900 be Bryan and Hogg, leads the Raleigh, N. C., Observer to favor the nomination of McKinley and Root by the republicans. The Observer observes that the campaign slogan could then be "Root, Hogg, or die."

The democrats fondly imagine that the financial bill recently passed by the house furnishes them an issue for the coming campaign. The number of democrats who voted in its favor, however, indicate that it presages another split in a much split up party.

One of the funny contradictions in human nature is that a man who couldn't be hired to run a block on a strictly cash payment of 50 cents, will chase half a mile after a 15-cent chicken for his Sunday dinner that may have escaped from its coop.

TUESDAY TOPICS.

F. W. Olinger of Tekamah is in town. Ed. Beels is driving Walker's feed wagon.

Judge Powers was in Omaha last evening. Miss Lois Childs returned last night from Omaha.

W. D. Mason of Pierce was in the city yesterday. The roof of the Turf Exchange is being reshingled.

Mrs. Gearhart of Pierce was a city visitor yesterday. Mrs. Burt Mapes returned from Omaha yesterday.

M. J. Moyer, of Madison was a city visitor yesterday. Miss Gear of Madison is visiting friends in the city.

Sheriff E. J. Kenny was up from Stanton yesterday. Mrs. Wm. Gerecke of Stanton was in Norfolk yesterday.

Commissioner Winter was a morning passenger for Madison. O. A. Williams, court reporter, went to Madison this morning.

Frank Masters of Sioux City spent Sunday with his parents. Attorney A. W. Gross of Madison was in the city over night.

The county commissioners are holding an adjourned session today. J. H. Seabury of Plainview spent Sunday with Norfolk friends.

Miss Emma Heath of Foster was shopping in the city this morning. Chester A. Fuller is doing business at the court house in Madison today.

A. B. Richardson and daughter of Emerick were shopping in the city. Rev. W. H. Eaton is in Tilden this week assisting in a revival meeting.

Mr. and Mrs. John Sutherland of Battle Creek were shopping in the city today. Workman commenced lathing the ceiling of the new opera house this morning.

Aug. Kiesau returned from Sioux City yesterday, where he had been on business. Attorneys W. M. Robertson, M. D. Tyler and E. P. Weatherly are in Madison today.

Mrs. C. Joslyn and Mrs. R. A. Eastbourn were shopping in the city yesterday from Carroll. Last evening a bouncing girl came to the home of Mr. and Mrs. Leu, living on north Tenth street.

E. A. Laurence of Madison is here today. He is still with the Singer company and doing well. Dr. Wilkinson, a specialist of Omaha and editor of the Medical Record, was a city visitor over night.

Frank Stack, who has been employed as baker by E. J. Schorrogge, left for his home in Iowa today. A disable engine on the morning train from Verdigre delayed the arrival of the same about an hour.

Richard Requa has some very interesting snap shots of lighting which he took during a recent storm. Miss Hattie Chapman of Fremont is visiting her sister-in-law, Mrs. C. J. Chapman, at South Norfolk.

Mrs. Charles Buckmaster, wife of a prominent farmer living southwest of Creighton, died last Saturday. Mrs. H. McBride and daughter Annie and Mrs. P. Stafford went to Omaha yesterday, returning last evening.

Mrs. Geo. Fox returned last evening from Omaha, where she had been to attend the funeral of Durland Brome. Arthur Pilger went to Madison this morning to look over his future field of labor in the county treasurer's office.

Messrs W. H. Ahlman and Aug. Brummund went to Madison this morning to serve as jurors at the term of district court. Mrs. Pheasant telegraphs that she has arrived safely at Elberton, Washington, where she went to spend the winter with her sister.

Commissioner Hughes came down from Battle Creek last evening and went to Madison this morning to attend a meeting of the county board. The children are now counting the weeks that will intervene before the time of Santa Claus' appearance.

B. S. Wyatt, formerly with the Singer Sewing Machine company at Grand Island, is now a business visitor in the city. Manager Sprecher of the telephone company went to Madison this morning to consult with the county commissioners in regard to putting a telephone in the court house.

The merchants have been enjoying a very good trade, especially in holiday goods, and some have found it necessary to replenish their stocks of goods for the holidays, which have become depleted. Sunday morning at an early hour, a ten pound girl arrived at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Platt to accompany them through life's journey. Mr. and Mrs. Platt are very happy over their firstborn.

The windows and doors for the new opera house were received yesterday and at least the windows will be placed in position at once. The building is being rapidly enclosed and it will be but a few days now until Mr. Warrant can snap his fingers at the weather.

The members of the Second Congregational church at South Norfolk will hold their Christmas exercises at Railway hall next Saturday evening. The program for the evening will consist of a cantata entitled "Doubtful Johnnie," and a Christmas tree presided over by a real Santa Claus.

The session of district court did not open yesterday, owing to the fact that the new judge, Douglas Cones, had not yet received his commission. A telegram from Governor Poynter, however, stated that the commission had been sent, and arrangements were made to convene the first session of court this afternoon.

The Nebraska Beet Sugar association will hold a special meeting at the Lincoln hotel, Lincoln, Wednesday, December 20, commencing at 7 p. m., to discuss subjects of importance connected with the promotion of the industry and arrange program for the next annual meeting. All members and others desiring to join the association are invited.

For three days commencing at midnight yesterday a record is being kept of the number of telephone calls at the central office. From 12 o'clock yesterday morning until 12 o'clock this morning the number of calls answered was 1486. The record is taken once each year in a similar manner, so that the company may know the volume of business being done.

The dance to be given by the fire department of Marquardt's hall on the evening of December 28, will be largely patronized for two reasons. In the first place those who attend are promised a good time, and again it is given for a worthy purpose, that of raising funds to help defray the expense of the annual meeting of the State Volunteer Firemen's association which meets here on January 10.

Something of a novelty for this country is the horse power wood saw which has been at work today cutting up a pile of wood in the rear of Freythal's bakery. The merry clang of that saw, to the person who has ever lived in a timbered country, revives old memories and gives a feeling that he would again like to see the tall forest with its accompanying lumber, wood and shingle mills.

During the coming few days Norfolk merchants would appreciate it mightily if people living in the city could manage to do their shopping in the forenoon, as their time in the afternoon will be largely taken up by attending to the out-of-town customers. Not only will this be a benefit to the merchants but the city customers will receive better and prompt service if they will call in during the forenoon.

It was rumored in the city yesterday that Senator Allen had forgotten to resign the judgeship before leaving for Washington. This is not true. At the time Mr. Allen received the appointment as senator he had several cases under advisement and he withheld his resignation a short time until he could dispose of those cases. He sent in the resignation in ample time to save any complications as to future terms of court.

It is reported that Myrtle, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Webber, who left here about two years ago to make their home in California, is to be married on New Year's day. The lucky man is said to be a rancher by the name of Frank McDermont. The Webber family now resides at Fullerton, Cal., but it is understood that the couple intend to make their home near El Dorado. Myrtle has many friends in Norfolk who will unite in extending congratulations.

See the large assortment of popular bargains in holiday goods at the Variety store. Letter List. List of letters remaining uncalled for at the postoffice December 18, 1899: H. D. Anderson, Chas. Bernel, Edith Daniels, Mr. F. L. Hager, Mrs. Ed. Hammel, Wm. P. Keith, G. W. Kinney, Mr. Geo. Lyman, John Petterson, Miss Emma L. Swartz, S. G. Scranton, Mr. E. C. Teter, H. H. Wolf.

If not called for in 30 days will be sent to the dead letter office. Parties calling for any of the above please say advertised. P. F. SPRECHER, P. M.

Popular bargains in dolls, doll buggies, toys, chinaware, games, toilet cases and many other holiday goods at the Variety store. Less Than 5 Cents Per Copy. The St. Louis Sunday Star, with beautiful colored cover of humorous matter, artistic music folio of new and original songs, the 24-page magazine in book form, containing short stories, fashion plates, articles on timely topics by leading authors and handsome illustrations. All the news from pole to pole. Mailed to any address, three months for 50 cents. Address St. Louis Star, St. Louis, Mo. Sample copy can be seen at this office.

To Cure Cold in One Day. Take Laxative Bromo Quinine Tablets. All druggists refund the money if it fails to cure. E. W. Grove's signature on every box. 25c.

WEDNESDAY WRINKLES.

Mrs. Jas. McDonald is still very sick. C. F. Way was in town yesterday from Columbus. Sheriff Nile Branard was here yesterday from Neligh.

Dr. Hamilton of Coleridge was a city visitor yesterday. Attorney A. A. Welch was in from Wayne yesterday. R. B. Nelson was in the city yesterday from Chadron.

O. R. Eller of Long Pine is visiting friends in the city. Mrs. J. H. Story was in the city yesterday from Pierce. H. E. Owen has returned from his business trip to Omaha.

E. Wolf of Neligh transacted business in town last evening. Miss Marie Miller has been quite sick for several days past. Mrs. D. E. Owen is expected home tomorrow from Illinois.

Geo. W. Palmateer was in the city from Creton yesterday. Mrs. Andreas Schwank of Madison was in the city yesterday. Mrs. D. C. O'Connor, who has been quite sick, is reported better.

C. C. Swanson of Dakota City had business in Norfolk yesterday. Mrs. D. H. Ronlfe of Madison was shopping in the city yesterday. Richard Requa made a trip to Pilger yesterday on telephone business.

Mrs. W. W. Riley was in Norfolk from Pierce yesterday afternoon. Mrs. Edwin Booth was shopping in the city yesterday from Warnerville. There were 1,405 calls recorded yesterday at the telephone central office.

A. E. Campbell is serving on the jury before the district court at Madison. Mrs. C. J. Trent and Mrs. Frank Barnes were in the city yesterday from Stanton. The Nebraska Sheriff's association will meet in Omaha tomorrow for a two days' session.

Mr. and Mrs. Herman Werner were in the city yesterday from Battle Creek buying holiday goods. J. H. Hutcheson will leave tomorrow to take charge of a train on the Albion branch for a few days. Miss Hattie Chapman, who has been visiting in the city, returned to her home at Fremont yesterday.

Mrs. Jeannette Smith, mother of Dan Smith at South Norfolk, has returned from an extended visit at Groton, S. D. Mrs. L. M. Bouk of Omaha, deputy supreme commander of the Ladies of the Maccabees, was a city visitor yesterday. Guy Alexander, who was burned at the High school last Friday, was out yesterday for the first time since the accident.

Mr. and Mrs. W. Haverman, who reside in Lindeman's addition are the parents of a bouncing boy, born yesterday afternoon. Mrs. Lee Brubaker, who has been visiting relatives and friends here for the past month, returned yesterday to her home in Laramie, Wyo.

W. E. Findley, who has been superintending the raising of the residence of Chas Hyde, at South Norfolk, has returned to his home in Omaha. Miss Valley Garlinger of this city will read a paper before the State Teachers association which meets in Lincoln the 26th, 27th and 28th of this month.

Miss Edna Stafford, who has successfully taught a four months' term of school near Battle Creek, will return home at the close of this week for the winter. Officer Martin Kane and wife welcomed to their home yesterday a lusty young son who will probably insist on the popular night watch doing duty as well as night.

M. F. Harrington of O'Neill was in town yesterday. He is one of the attorneys employed to prosecute what is known as the stock yards case before the district court. Superintendent Reynolds, Superintendent of bridges and construction, Birchard and Road Master Stafford returned yesterday from an inspection trip to Long Pine.

The work of raising and otherwise improving the residence of Chas. Hyde at South Norfolk has been completed and painters are now putting on the finishing touches. Mrs. W. H. Speece and Mrs. Ray Speece, who lived five miles south of town, departed this morning for their new home in Jasper, Mo. Their husbands departed with their household goods last Monday.

A new street lamp was put up at the city hall corner yesterday, which is expected to give better service than the old one. This is all right so far as it goes, but there is room for an even hundred more street lights in various parts of the city. Robt. Ellis, the sick representative of Shenkburg & Co., of Sioux City, was very sick last night and it was thought he could not recover. He passed the crisis safely, however, and this morning was reported better. His sickness is pneumonia. C. E. HARTFORD, Pres. W. F. Moldenhauer was today half-

soling the small boot worn by Fred Boche. The size is but 15 and the boots were made over a special last. The half-soling is also done at a special price as it makes a considerable hole in a "side" to cut them out. Fred Henkel, who recently disposed of his farm to Fred Kell, has departed with his family for North Dakota, where he will make his home. He has been there for some time and is actively engaged in the real estate business and is also postmaster of his town. He returned recently for his family. M. C. Hazen returned from Ponca, where he has been reporting a term of court, last evening, court having adjourned. Editor Harris of Laurel has been bound over to district court under quite a heavy bond, but the opinion of the people there is that he will be cleared of the charge filed against him without any difficulty. C. E. Doughty came up town this morning with his eye brows and mustache badly singed, but numerous inquiries failed to bring an answer as to what sort of a fire he had run up against. His friends are now gambling on whether he tried to light the fire with gasoline, whether the lamp exploded or whether he had been experimenting with acetylene gas. Judge Cones opened his first session of district court yesterday at Madison, and his initial experience was very satisfactory to all interested. A number of equity cases were decided and jury trials begin today. The Eble case was dismissed because the complaining witness failed to appear. Information was filed in the cases of the state against Berry and Collins, charging them with grand larceny. Nothing was done with the stock yards cases. The Baptist people are arranging a very fine Christmas service for Sunday evening, December 24, entitled "What Christmas Means" or "The First Christmas Night." There will be speaking by some of the Sunday school children and while Pastor Eaton tells the story of "The First Christmas Night," E. E. Adams will throw pictures upon a screen with the stereopticon, illustrating the scenes connected with the birth of Christ. There will be singing appropriate to the occasion. Frank Gillette, of whom it was reported several days ago that he was very sick, died last Saturday afternoon at 2 o'clock at his home in New Plymouth, Idaho. Mr. Gillette was formerly a well known resident of Norfolk, at one time being part owner of the Steam Laundry. Previous to his departure for Idaho he held the position of clerk in Hardy's coal office. Their many friends will sympathize with the bereaved family in their hour of affliction. A fire was built in the west furnace of the opera house this morning and its heat was used to dry the lath that are being placed on the ceiling. The fire didn't make an oppressive heat in the building because there are too many outlets in the roof, but this will be rectified when the roofing material, which is expected every day, arrives. The ceiling is almost lathed and the plasterers expect to begin operations the last of this week or the first of next. The masons are today venerating the fire walls on the south side of the building. Warnerville. Mrs. G. W. Hills returned Saturday from a week's visit at Silver Creek. L. K. Hills is very sick with kidney trouble. Dr. Mackay of Norfolk is attending him. One of Frank Barney's children has been seriously ill, but is somewhat better at present. W. H. Speece started for Jasper, Mo., on Monday with a car load of horses and farming implements. Geo. Tannehill is laid up with a badly sprained ankle, the result of trying to control an unruly team of horses. Becoming Famed for Bad Sidewalks. Post Office Inspector Sinclair of Nebraska district has been in Norfolk for a couple of days looking over the fitness of the city for a free mail delivery system, and after a careful investigation, informed our neighbors that before they could hope to put on any metropolitan airs with a carrier system, they would have to get a hustle on themselves and repair their sidewalks, number their houses and light the city up properly.—Madison Chronicle. Music Album Free. Subscribe for St. Louis Sunday Star and you will receive with each number a new song, regular sheet music size, with lithograph title; handsome 24-page magazine in book form, with beautiful illustrations; the colored cover of funny matter for the little folks, and all the news. Send 50 cents for three months trial subscription. Address St. Louis Star, St. Louis, Mo. A copy of the paper can be seen at this office. Notice. Notice is hereby given that from good authority it is learned that some one is reporting around town and country that the firemen are not going to have a holiday dance, and for that reason we take the liberty to announce to the citizens of Norfolk that such is not true; that all arrangements are made for such dance on December 28, 1899. C. E. HARTFORD, Pres. W. L. KEEN, Sec.