An Obliging Conductor.

"Miss," said the conductor, severely, "if you are going by this train you must get aboard at once."

"Oh," gasped the dear young thing, who had been chatting with another damsel ever since the train arrived, "do let me have a minute more; I must kiss my sister."

"Get aboard, miss; get aboard!" said the conductor, obligingly, "I'll attend to that for you."—New York Central Magazine.

Had a Job in Mind.

"My dear," said the banker to his only daughter, "I have noticed a young man attired in a dress suit in the drawing room on two or three evenings every week of late. What is his occupation?"

The little miss blushed prettily, and her dark eyes flashed mischievously, but there was keen pride and joy in her voice as she answered:

"He is at present unemployed, father, but he is thinking seriously of accepting a position as life-companion to a young lady of means."

Physical Endurance.

"Some of those old-time statesmen patiently wrote out their speeches and other documents with pen and ink."

"Yes," rejoined Senator Sorghum. "But they had the strength left. It wasn't so customary in their day for a man to get out in a campaign and shake hands with the whole world."

The sturgeon's air bladder is the principal source of isinglass.

W. N. U., SIOUX FALLS, NO. 52--1920.

Good Highways

IMPROVED ROADS IN INDIANA

Order Issued by State Highway Commission Requiring Standardization of Plans.

Uniform road construction is expected throughout Indiana as a result of an order issued by the state highway commission requiring the standardization of road plans and specifications for county highways which are subject to the approval of the commission. The regulation became effective July 1 and covers all county road projects submitted to the commission for approval.

The regulation is similar to the federal order requiring the use of standardized plans and specifications by the state for all roads for which government aid is expected. The action of the commission extends the use of the approved standards to the roads which will be built in Indiana under the provisions of the county unit road law, by which the state shares the cost.

Improved Road in Indiana.

Officials of the commission have compiled the standards for the Indiana roads, which are identical with the requirements made of the state by the federal government. The standards will apply to all county-aid projects proposed under the state highway law, the county unit road law, and the free gravel road law.

Many counties of the state already have adopted the commission standards voluntarily to keep their road construction up to the specifications prescribed by the federal and state engineers.

Members of the commission, in discussing the regulation, declared that it will have the effect of standardizing road construction throughout Indiana.

ROMANS AND GOOD HIGHWAYS

Roads Built Two Thousand Years Ago Are Still in Active Service—How Constructed.

Two thousand years ago the Romans built roads, some of which are still in active service. These roads have lasted through the centuries simply because of their massive construction.

The Romans built four successive courses or layers on the earth subgrade, carefully prepared and drained. First came the statumen or foundation, then the rodus, next the nucleus, and finally the pavimentum or wearing surface, says a writer. The statumen consisted of large flat stones, while the two intervening courses were built of smaller stones laid in lime mortar.

To carry the chariot and packhorse traffic of Roman times, these roads were seemingly ridiculously heavy, yet the wisdom of the builders was amply demonstrated by the 800 years during which the Roman road system formed the backbone of the transportation system of what was the greatest empire of all time.

We can learn a mighty profitable lesson from the Romans, and if we take the lesson to heart now, standing as we do on the threshold of a new highway era, we shall save ourselves much pecuniary sorrow.

HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENT SURE

Both Republican and Democratic Parties Pledged to Assist in Good Roads Development.

Regardless of which party wins out in the presidential election this fall, American motorists can rest assured that highway development will be continued. In their platforms, both the Republican and Democratic parties have placed themselves flatly on record as favoring liberal federal appropriations to assist in good road work.

The definite action of both parties proves conclusively that motor transportation has been recognized as a definite factor in the nation's economic fabric and that everything will be done to utilize its value to the utmost.

Care Received by Colt.

Bear in mind the care received by the colt the first 18 months of his life will be a big factor in his worth at maturity.

Destroy Lice on Horse.

A thorough scrubbing with any ordinary tar dip such as creolin or creosote, will kill lice on a horse.

Force Fowls to Exercise.

All whole or cracked grain should be fed in the litter so as to force the fowls to exercise by scratching for it.

CHRISTMAS, the Day of Gladness

By REV. THOMAS B. GREGORY.

CHRISTMAS, both in its ritual and in its sentiment, is almost as old as Humanity itself. As far back as you can go we find something very like the Yuletide festival—a season of rejoicing, attended by a somewhat boisterously joyful celebration.

About Christmas there is nothing that even approximates sectarianism or any kind of mental or social narrowness or littleness. Its spirit is as broad as humanity, and all men of whatever race, creed or geographical status, are invited to, and are entitled to, take part in its glad festivities.

Very pitiful is the human being who, in the midst of the Christmas season, feels like flocking off by himself, like Dundreary's bird. It is a season, not for isolation and loneliness, but for fellowship and universal brotherhood, as though we were saying to one another, "ALL HANDS AROUND!" with nobody left out.

When we pause to think of the way in which the Christmas originated it becomes easy for us to understand why the season is everywhere made to be the occasion of deep rejoicing and multiform gladness.

* * *

Beyond a doubt the festival had its birth away up in the frozen North, in the region of the aurora borealis, where the battle between the cold and the heat, the darkness and the light, is the longest and the most terrible; and it was quite natural that at the turn of the sun, when the light and warmth began to return, men should turn themselves loose in a sort of paroxysm of joy.

And by degrees the festivities of the men of the far north worked their way southward; for even there the return of the sun meant life to men, meant the sunshine and heat without which the human race must perish.

The hyperboreans had their Christ, Baldur by name, Baldur the good, the gentle, the compassionate, who, taking pity on them, destroyed the Frost Giant and saved them from death. We cannot very well blame the hyperboreans if, at first, their religion was largely of a material type—the worship of the sun, for Baldur was no more than the sun idealized.

Christ—not the petty Christ of the professional theologian, but the Christ of Humanity—stands for OPTIMISM. All is well. Let not your hearts be troubled. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof. In reality there is no evil, the thing we call "evil" being but good in the making. "I am come that ye might have life, not death; confidence, not despair; gladness, not weeping and wailing."

* * *

Away with all grouchiness and greed, all doubt and despair! This is the season of love and good will, of hope and gladness. Joy is always and everywhere "orthodox" and in order.

If you are able to do so at no other time of the year, during the Christmas time resolve to have the full courage of your noble self, and to let your worthiest and bravest sentiment assert itself to the full.

Let joy be unconfined! Again be is said, "ALL IS WELL." The Sun is not going to be conquered by the Frost King; the anarchists are not going to overthrow the Constitution of the United States and the government that was inaugurated by our venerated Washington; in spite of the little politicians who are ready to "give up to party what was meant for mankind," the ways and means of bettering the condition of mankind will surely be found; the life of men and nations shall not have been in vain; and as for Old Death, who awaits us at the end of the little earthly way, for all that we to the contrary he may turn out to be our best friend.

Those who have crossed the north Atlantic in winter need not be reminded of the uplifting and joy-giving influence of the gulf stream. Those who have felt it can never forget it. Once fairly upon the mysterious "river of the sea," the chill and numbness of one's body and soul depart, the rigid muscles relax, the pent-up feelings let themselves loose in singing, and chat, and all-round sociability and enjoyment, and all the world seems to be refashioned for the better.

And such is Christmas, with its good will and good cheer, its brave confidence and spontaneous gladness. It is the gulf stream of life, warming us into the sentiment of a common humanity, with its unselfishness and comradeship, and imparting to us all the glad sense of security and victory.

If Every Day Were Christmas

TEXT—Romans 14: 5—"One man esteemeth one day above another; another man esteemeth every day alike. Let every man be fully assured in his own mind."

WHAT if every day were Christmas? The suggestion at first blush is perhaps not altogether agreeable. One can imagine numerous protests against the idea because of the excesses to which many go on Christmas holidays. Let it be granted freely that Christmas is misused, that it is often a season of excesses and extremes; even so, who of us would do away with Christmas? For despite all the excesses of the holiday season and the hardship it works on many, is there not a rainbow of glory over every recurring Christmas celebration?

Christmas is a season of prophetic idealism and a rebuke to selfish living. At the approach of the anniversary of our Lord's birth, men and women whose thoughts have been mostly of self are moved to think of others. The idea of serving others and making others happy affects even the blase and the indifferent. Somehow, the idea that it is more blessed to give than to bargain finds lodgment in minds unused to tender and benevolent thoughts. For a brief period, cruel competitions that so sorely grind human society are lessened if not forgotten. For the time being, all humanity seems to be one family. There is a delight in seeing everybody joyous. The foreigner is made to feel at home. Artificial barriers are broken, and there come even into hard faces some softened lines. The spirit of Christmas penetrates even behind stone walls, and the prisoner is made to know that he is still remembered and that society has not abandoned hope in him.

Christmas is the one season of the year when we are especially reminded to take Jesus seriously. The Sermon on the Mount seems practicable then—the Beatitudes possible in daily life. Even the great words, "Peace on earth, good will toward men," actually appear workable at Christmastide. The old text so precious, so peculiarly appropriate, John 3: 16 finds lodgment in our heart of hearts: "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have eternal life." There comes into our minds the conviction that we have not taken seriously the lessons that our Lord taught, but that now we take Him at His word; we share, we give, we sacrifice, we find a new joy growing out of these very practical and beautiful ministrations.

PERSONAGES OF HIGH FAME

Celebrated Nine Worthies Left Deep Impress on the Pages of Ancient and Modern History.

The Nine Worthies were famous personages who are often alluded to and classed together in a rather arbitrary manner, like the Seven Wonders of the World, or the Seven Wise Men of Greece. The Nine Worthies have been counted up in the following manner: Three gentiles of ancient times, Hector, son of Priam, king of Troy, who was killed during the famous siege, described by the Grecian poet Homer; Alexander the Great, king of Macedonia, who carried his conquest to what is now British India; and Julius Caesar, who made himself ruler of the Roman world, and practically laid the foundations of the empire; three Jews, Joshua, the conqueror of Canaan; David, the second king of the children of Israel; and Judas Maccabaeus, a patriarch who fought against foreign domination; three Christians, King Arthur of the Ancient Britons; Charlemagne, who built an empire in western Europe after the Western Roman empire had fallen to pieces; and Godfrey of Bouillon, a valiant knight of western Europe during the Middle ages.

REDUCED TO PLAIN ENGLISH

Page Boy's Abbreviated Complaint Left No Manner of Doubt as to His Meaning.

At one of the big London hotels there is a page boy who in his spare moments is much given to the study of the best English literature.

A few days ago he was paid his wages with a small fine deducted for some breach of regulations. Indignant, the boy said to the manager:

"Sir, if you should ever find it within the scope of your jurisdiction to levy an assessment on my wage for some trivial act alleged to have been committed by myself at some inopportune moment in the stress of one's avocation I would suggest that you refrain from exercising that prerogative. The failure to do so would of necessity force me to tender my resignation."

The manager, tottering, reached a chair and in gasps asked the boy what he meant.

"In other words, if you fine me again, I shall chuck the job!" said the lad.—Tit-Bits.

A Change for Company.

In a North side meat market a woman and her little boy stood at the counter awaiting the preparation of an order of lamb chops. While the cutter was frenching the chops and getting them ready for their little white pantalettes the boy pulled his mother down to whisper into her ear. "Mamma, aren't you going to get some weinies?" "S-s-h, Lawrence," she admonished, "we have to have something different for company."—Publishers' Auxiliary.

A Poor Guesser.

"And you think you love my daughter, do you?" asked the father of the sweet young thing.

"Well, I just guess I do," was the young man's reply.

"You've never won a prize at guessing, have you?"

Not Too Thrifty.

"How much do you charge a feller to take a wash?" asked a grimy looking individual of the cashier at a public bath house.

"Fifty cents a bath, or 12 for $5," replied the cashier. "It would pay you to buy a $5 ticket."

"Nothin' doin'" answered the grimy individual, decisively. "How do I know I'm going to live 12 years?"—Toledo Blade.

Sad Suggestion.

"I hate to go in a barnyard where a lot of roosters are."

"Why so?"

"Because there are cocktails all around and not a one to drink."