

The Christmas Spirit



THE CHRIST
From Painting by
Hoffman

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VERY one who is capable of self-analysis knows that there are seasons of the soul. There are times when we feel unusually patriotic; times when we feel unusually thankful; times when we become unusually conscious of the reality and glory of a spiritual world.

Christmas is the time when we are conscious of an unusual desire to be kind. One day every year the world suddenly becomes different. Physically speaking, it is the same world. The sky is the same. The streets are the same. The houses—barring a touch of holly here and there—are the same. But you and I and our neighbors are different. We are more just in our judgments, more thoughtful in our attention, more unselfish, more kind. It is probably true that these seasons of the soul, however fleeting, leave their mark. We are, perhaps, a bit more patriotic than we would be were it not for the annual observance of Memorial day; a bit more consciously grateful than we would be were it not for the annual observance of a Thanksgiving day; a bit more religious than we would be were it not for the recognition of Lent and the observance of Easter day. And one would like to believe that we are a bit more kind than we would be were it not for the observance of Christmas.

The very approach of Christmas has certain noticeable psychological effects. In 1914 it resulted in a temporary cessation of hostilities. On that first war Christmas the booming guns gave way to Christmas carols, sung in three languages, as British and French and German soldiers fraternized between the lines. In 1918, as the day drew near which would commemorate the birth of the Prince of Peace, a war-weary world dared to hope that foundations would be laid for enduring peace. The heart of the world is wrung by the suffering of China, the tragedy of Armenia, and the pitiful pleas of the starving children of central Europe. Is there any man anywhere, not a degenerate, who is not conscious of a desire to diminish by ever so little the world's distress?

Seasons of the soul, however fleeting, do leave their mark. But in seasons of many of us how faint that mark is! How faint it is to disappear! If only the kindly dispositions at Christmas time could be perpetuated, how permanently different the world would become!

It is of us become faint of heart when we think of rebuilding the life of the world. To build a world without extremes of wealth and poverty, it is how difficult. To build a world without any domestic tragedy, how difficult. To build a world without any industrial friction or international strife in it, how difficult. People are ready to say that it is impossible. Perhaps it is. Yet it would not be if only men and women would keep on cultivating the dispositions that are born at Christmas.

What is needed for the rebuilding of the world?

Spirit of Play

AND BEHOLD, another Christmas is with us. It seems such a time that we had a Christmas. They come and go. We have to be thankful for and where they enter into the spirit of this day of all days. Let Peter

of the world? Better instruments? Yes, undoubtedly. For the removal of disease, better scientific instruments are needed. For the removal of certain domestic difficulties, better housing accommodations are needed. For the removal of industrial friction, a better economic system is needed. For the removal of international strife, a new world organization is needed. A world that has been organized for war must be organized for peace. For the rebuilding of the world better instruments are needed. But what is supremely needed is a better spirit! If only you and I and all our neighbors would persistently cultivate the Christmas spirit, our children's children would live in a far better world. For then it would be only a question of time until we should discover the instruments needed for the fashioning of a fairer civilization, and we would be willing to use these instruments as soon as they could be developed.

What a pity, then, if Christmas this year should come and go and leave none of us permanently different.

We need to perpetuate the Christmas spirit in our homes.

It is a solemn moment when two human lives are united for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, till death do them part. As Jane Welch Carlyle once said, "If ever one is to pray, if ever one is to feel grave, if ever one is to shrink from vain show and babble, it is just on the occasion when two human beings bind themselves together till death do them part."

There is nothing that more nearly resembles the heaven of our dreams than does a happy home. Is there anything that so surely suggests the hell of our secret dread as does an unhappy home?

What is needed to build a home? Money is needed, but how much more than money! Money can build a house—a wonderful and wonderfully furnished house. Only love can build a home.

We need to perpetuate the Christmas spirit in industry.

For generations, now, the motive of profit has been the motive appealed to both in the case of men who had money to invest, and in the case of men who had strength or skill to invest, in the industries of the world. This motive of profit has been given a long trial. And it has failed—tragically failed. Its fruitage is a world catastrophe, and, at this present moment, world-wide unrest.

Why not try the experiment of appealing to a different motive? The mo-

I can come into our homes for the day. The spirit of play! It is appalling that so few of us have kept the spirit of play in our hearts. All the spirit of childhood and youth seems gone, even in young people. Your responsibilities have absorbed you, you say. But try going on with play in spite of your worries and your anxieties.

Days Seem Longer. Although the days are becoming shorter, kiddies waiting for Santa haven't noticed it.

tive of Him who said: "I am come not to be ministered unto but to minister."

What if every man who goes into business should say to himself: My primary object is to render service. Incidentally, I expect this business of mine to earn me a living. But my first concern shall be to serve my community.

What if every man who learns a trade should say to himself: As a carpenter, or bricklayer, or type-setter, or molder, my primary object is to render service. I am entitled to a just proportion of the product of my labor, and I hope to get it. But my first concern shall be to serve my community.

Do you think that men are incapable of responding to any such motive as that? How, then, do you account for the martyrdom of history? How do you account for the men who have given their lives to the pursuit of truth? Or for the women who have given their lives to the dissemination of knowledge? How do you account for the world's scientists and for its school teachers? And the men who made a rendezvous with death at Belleau wood and the Argonne forest—how do you account for them?

There is a divinity in human hearts to which heroic unselfishness makes powerful appeal. Why not try the experiment of appealing to the nobler side of human nature? The motive of profit has tragically failed. Why not appeal to the motive of service?

We need to perpetuate the spirit of Christmas in international relationships.

The nations of Christendom have been motivated far more by Nietzsche's will to power than by Jesus' will to serve. Their conception of greatness has been a pagan, not a Christian conception. The great nation has been thought of as a nation able to lord it over other nations, not as a nation eager to serve other nations. The proud symbols of the Western world have been swords and scepters, not basins and towels. But

"Lo, all our pomp of yesterday
Is one with Nineveh and Tyre!"

Surely the meaning of this present hour is clear: Nations must do unto others as they would have other nations do unto them. Nations must enter into the world's life not merely to get something, but to give something, and, in some international association, even to risk something in the interest of world justice and world peace.

For the first time in history the nations of the world are looking consciously into the eyes of Jesus and know it to be true that He alone has the secret of life.

OLD SANTA'S CONVEYANCE.

The substitution of an automobile or an airplane for Santa Claus' sleigh and reindeer may be up to date, but it jars most horribly.

A Busy Month.

"I want a nice, clean, neat sort of Christmas tree. What would you recommend for suitable decoration?" "Why not try sort a spruce kind? That ought to be a trim sort of tree."

FOCH IS MADE LEGION MAN

Distinguished Marshal Recipient of Ceremonial Badge From George Washington Post, No. 1.

Marshal Ferdinand Foch became a member of the American Legion the day he landed in America on his recent visit. He signed the application for membership immediately upon his arrival at Washington, D. C. The Marshal was met at the train by officials of George Washington Post No. 1 and escorted to the President's Lieut. H. S. Fisk room in Union station. Here he was presented by Lieut. Howard S. Fisk, U. S. N., commander of the post, with the American Legion ceremonial badge. George Washington post No. 1 is the original American Legion post.



EX-SERVICE MEN RUN BUSES

Former Soldiers and Sailors Are Re-Employed by the Fifth Avenue Coach Company.

The Fifth avenue bus in New York is a national institution. It is as famous as Broadway, Fifth avenue, Brooklyn bridge and the Woolworth building. The busses which ply through one of the most congested thoroughfares in the world are manned largely by ex-service men. This fact was discovered recently when employees of the Fifth Avenue Coach company, operators of the busses, applied for a charter for an American Legion post.

"We have found the ex-soldier and ex-sailor to be excellent bus men," said John A. Ritchie, president of the coach company, in a recent interview. "The ex-service man may have been a little restless when he came out of service, but wasn't everybody a little restless after the war?" asks Mr. Ritchie.

Mr. Ritchie re-employed every man of his organization who had gone to war and in putting on new employees has given preference to ex-service men. His company recently started a "civility" campaign, the purpose of which was to bring about a more friendly relationship between the patrons and employees of the bus. The campaign has resulted in virtually eliminating complaints of passengers, and, according to Mr. Ritchie, proves that "there are two sides to nearly every complaint."

IS STRONG FOR AMERICANISM

St. Paul Newspaper Editor Lauds the First Task of the American Legion.

"Good American citizenship means making the most of ourselves and our opportunities as Americans, and helping our neighbors to do likewise," declares Harrison Fuller, the first department commander of the American Legion in Minnesota, who was selected by Legionnaires of that state to represent them on the recent "pilgrimage" to France and the battlefields.

"Americanism," continues Fuller, "as conceived by the American Legion, has for its first task the education of all elements of our population in the principles of American government and in the opportunities offered by our system to the humblest resident of our land."

Fuller is city editor of the St. Paul Dispatch and Pioneer Press. During his term as state commander, he organized 472 posts of the Legion in Minnesota.

RIFLES FOR LEGION POSTS

Arms and Ammunition for Use at Funerals Will Be Supplied by the Government.

American Legion posts wishing to stock up on obsolete rifles and blank ammunition for use in funeral ceremonies may obtain them from corps ordnance officers, United States army, under the provisions of an act of congress. No more than ten rifles and their equipment will be supplied to one post.

Legion state commanders must approve the application for the loan of rifles and the sale of blank ammunition. Upon receipt of the application bearing the endorsement of the state commander, the corps ordnance officer will supply a bond covering the penal value of the property. This bond, when properly executed, must be approved by the state commander and returned to the ordnance officer. Transportation must be paid by the post.

Corps ordnance officers are located as follows: First area, 99 Chauncey street, Boston, Mass.; second area, Governor's Island, N. Y.; third area, Fort Howard, Md.; fourth area, Fort McPherson, Ga.; fifth area, Fort Benjamin Harrison, Ind.; sixth area, Fort Sheridan, Ill.; seventh area, Fort Crook, Neb.; eighth area, Fort Sam Houston, Tex.; ninth area, 804 Santa Fe building, San Francisco, Cal.

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Fools try to convince a woman, but wise men persuade her.

WOMEN NEED SWAMP-ROOT

Thousands of women have kidney and bladder trouble and never suspect it. Women's complaints often prove to be nothing else but kidney trouble, or the result of kidney or bladder disease.

If the kidneys are not in a healthy condition, they may cause the other organs to become diseased. Pain in the back, headache, loss of ambition, nervousness, are often times symptoms of kidney trouble.

Don't delay starting treatment. Dr. Kilmer's Swamp-Root, a physician's prescription, obtained at any drug store, may be just the remedy needed to overcome such conditions.

Get a medium or large size bottle immediately from any drug store.

However, if you wish first to test this great preparation send ten cents to Dr. Kilmer & Co., Binghamton, N. Y., for a sample bottle. When writing be sure and mention this paper.—Advertisement.

He Desired Peace.

In a vaudeville house the other day a man in the audience went to sleep. His energetic neighbor punched him. "What's the matter?" the would-be sleeper growled.

"The program's begun," the other returned.

"Program be hanged," snorted the other; "I want to sleep."

"Sleep in all this noise!" The other voiced his amazement.

"Noise nothing," the other closed his eyes. "This is quiet. My wife's on a jawing spree at home."

Decorated Sufficiently.

"Say, pa, this magazine says Mme. Curie got another medal for discovering radium. Why didn't my ma ever get a medal?"

"Why should she? She meddles enough as it is."—Science and Invention.

Less said, fewer the apologies.

THE SCHOOL HERO CHANGES

No Longer Does the Freshman Win Football Games Single Handed—Style Improved.

There has been a noticeable slump in the demand by boys at libraries for the school story, with the hero who always won the big football game and who knocked the home run with three on bases when, as a substitute player, he brought the baseball honors to Tusculumville prep school. Boys who have tried to go out and win football games single handed and who have sought an opportunity to make home runs at crucial moments in school baseball series, have found out what rot has been handed them in fiction. They know that boys simply don't do such things—not as "frosh," anyway.

The school hero still maintains, but he is traveling at a slower pace. Prexy does not kowtow to the gifted youth as suddenly as in the heyday of such fiction. Librarians say that the big improvement in school fiction has come through saner plots and more careful work in characterization. The author must really show his own interest in a school character if he is going to get the hero "over."—Arthur Chapman in the New York Tribune.

Surrender! Never!

"Why don't you get rid of that horse, if he's so vicious?" asked one farmer of another.

"Well, you see, Jim, replied the other, "I hate to give in. If I was to sell that horse, he'd regard it as a personal victory. He's been tryin' for the last six years to get rid of me."

The only pure white monkey known to exist was recently brought to London.

"Idle curiosity?" The blame thing works day and night.

When a Federal Bureau reminds you that children should not drink coffee or tea—why not think of your own health?

The Federal Bureau of Education includes in its rules to promote health among the Nation's school children, the warning that children should not drink coffee or tea.

The reason is well known. Coffee and tea contain drugs which stimulate and often over-excite the nerves, and so upset health.

The harm is by no means confined to children, as any doctor can tell you.

If health is valuable to childhood, it is valuable always. If harm to health should be avoided until bodies grow up, is it worth taking a chance with health when bodies have grown up?

You can have that delicious and satisfying cereal beverage, Postum, with any meal, and be safe—you, and the children, too. There's charm without harm in Postum.

Postum comes in two forms: Instant Postum (in tins) made instantly in the cup by the addition of boiling water. Postum Cereal (in packages of larger bulk, for those who prefer to make the drink while the meal is being prepared) made by boiling for 20 minutes. Sold by all grocers.

The road to health is a good road for anybody to follow