

# Significance of Christmas

Exchange.  
For thousands of years men had struggled and fought together. As they advanced in intelligence and watched the coming and going of the seasons, the onward sweep of the constellations of stars at night, they watched men advance from childhood on to intelligence that sometimes shook the earth and then so quickly withered and passed away; as they stood beside one open grave after another and asked helplessly: "Is this all?" no matter how intently they listened no voice replied. Then having no God, they invented gods. Reasoning in their own narrow round, they gave to these gods such attributes as they understood. These gods had human passions, they were moved by such emotions as mortals are moved by, so when they seemed angered they carried to them gifts to propitiate them; they offered obligations to them when they wanted favors; they carried to their altars gifts in gratitude for mercies vouchsafed, and so the years drifted into centuries, and while men advanced in knowledge, their hearts were not much changed. Prisoners of war were sold into slavery; women, though petted when young and beautiful were, after all, chattels; wars were incessant; the history of the early world was little more than continuous war bulletins and man's future home was no more tangible than is the Indian's who "sees God in clouds and hears Him in the wind" and whose utmost dream is of phantom, happy hunting ground on heights yet to be discovered.

Still men continue to turn and ask: "What is this life for? Where does an immortal mind find a resting place at last? Why were we given to live and to enjoy so much, if it all ends here? At last the men of Israel prepared a hypothesis for a plan of redemption and fixed a place for the soul which is to be superior to death and decay and on that hope some more centuries were unwound.

And finally came the mighty announcement that a Messiah was born, and the simple story as it was reported has within it more dramatic power than any other story ever told, and without discussing its truth, there are some facts which cannot be put aside. From that era mankind really began to live, to hope, since the assurance had been given them that this life is but a phase of eternity. Civilization really dates from the birth of Christ. Even those who have their doubts of the divinity of the Nazarene, concede that there at Bethlehem was born besides Tim, an inspiration that has transformed the

earth, that has spurred on learning, and art, and invention, so that now as never before in the history of the world, the coming of the kingdom draweth near.

In the American family, Christmas is the great day of the year, and from millions of hearths this morning will gleam the reflection of the star. It is the humanizing force, drawing blessed ties closer, and pointing to higher ideals and a purer life.

But, too, perhaps from one in the family there shines out a clearer sense, a realization that there are different forms of happiness, and that in truth to make mamma, or little sister or little brother happy is sweeter than to be the one directly blessed. From one Christmas day's experience with a family of children he who carefully watches can get the key to the character of each one and can make shrewd estimates how it is to be with each one, and at night will find himself looking forward and predicting where, if life is spared to all, each one will be found when one takes up a life work and begins to impress the people whom they will be with.

**Hand-Made Gifts.**  
New York Sun.

Once upon a time the person who received a hand-made gift at Christmas was justified in assuming that the donor had sewed, painted or embroidered it especially for him. Those days have gone by. The hand-made gift is still appreciated, but people have grown wise and no longer spend time and work in making these little remembrances. They buy them in the shops.

For a friend who likes leather things one may find portfolios, book covers, desk appointments and hand-tooled boxes, card cases and picture frames.

If candlesticks be a hobby there are plenty of them to choose from. There are hammered brass sticks, beaten silver standards, carved wood-on sticks for the hall fireplace and quaint saucer sticks. There are sets of copper scones, too, just the thing for a brown dining room. An accompaniment to any of these would be a box of the home-made bayberry candles. These grayish green dips have a peculiar lustre when lighted and their fragrance is pleasing.

Variety is found in hand-made baskets. They are of all kinds and sizes, from large wood baskets of twisted twigs to little work baskets of the finest weaving in intricate design and of nice coloring.

If needlework is the special preference the shops offer towels, large and small, with borders and inset motifs of fancy work and lace; little embroidered boudoir pillows, dresser covers and centerpieces.



**FLIGHT INTO EGYPT.**

**Away In A Manger**

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.  
The stars in the bright sky looked down where He lay—  
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,  
But little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes.  
I love Thee, Lord Jesus! look down from the sky,  
And stay by my cradle till morning is high.

—MARTIN LUTHER.

# At The Toy Counter

Roswell (N. M.) News.

The tide of Christmas shoppers had ebbed and flowed up and down the toy counters, trying with many a squawk and snap the mechanical devices that modern skill has given to the child, chattering gaily with light hearts as they left with armfuls of burbling bundles, to be smuggled into many hiding places till the dim light of Christmas morning is lit up with the gleam of little eyes and made musical with the childish shouts of glee.

Silently a man and woman stood watching the stream that of itself was a whole sermon in the perennial beauty of human love. There were shots of gray in his closely cropped hair, and line about her eyes that told a mute story of Gethsemane and lilies, but on her face was a tender smile as one by one she watched a little mother select playthings and go out into the night, knowing the happiness that lay behind it all, the mother-love that is as strong now as in the time when the maid looked down into the manger and smiled with holy joy over the blessed man-child. The man saw them, too, but there was no light in his eyes, but rather a stern despair that was without light.

Then the woman's hand followed her eye and from the heaps of toys, she picked up a soiled and tumbled Teddy Monkey that was weary with the handling of two seasons, and whose value was glaringly less than when he was new of person and first on the market. Her hand trembled a little as she raised the toy, and in her dark eyes were the midst of unshed tears. In his eyes there was the flash of awakened memory, and he turned away unsoftened, so that his eyes fell upon an Irish Mail, gay in red paint, seemingly waiting for the thrust of little legs and the pull of boyish arms, to be spinning over the walks, while corn-tassel hair flattened to the breeze.

The man was thinking of little Boy Blue as his expanding heart called for the agents of growing muscles and the dawning instinct of the man to come, and there were stern lines about his mouth as he looked beyond the long aisle and its now thinning ranks of buyers.

She saw only the baby that lay on her arm, rosy and round and cooing back the sweet content of the child that is loved and blessed with its mother's bounty. Beyond that she saw not, for the memory was to her of a child that sprang from her heart in the days when the world was bright with the glories of the dawn, and before the sable wing had left the cradle empty and hearts in which the long sweet song was changed to a dirge until God could bring the rosemary and rue and sweet forgetfulness, and the boy was a baby

still, as it will be so long as the angels see that the holy peal rings on.

He was thinking of the boy that would have cherished his old age, she of the babe that blessed her young womanhood, for such is the way of man and the way of woman, and both understood. Without a word the Teddy Monkey was laid tenderly down and they walked out together under the stars that are soon to gleam as brightly as they did over the stable at Bethlehem.

For theirs was the lot of man and woman who love each other. It has been so since the morning stars sang their glad refrain.

**Sweetest Christmas Music.**  
Rock Hill Record.

The Christmas season, instead of being the gladdest time of the year, would be an intolerable bore but for the poy of the children. The exchange of presents and greetings among grown-up folks is far from what it is "cracked up" to be. It is a merely formal observance which most people are glad to be done with.

If there were nothing else in Christmas-giving than this, the happiest part of the Christmas time with nine people in every ten would be the day after. The signs of relief on that day would be sincerer than all the smiles of the whole week before.

But the joyous laughter of the delighted children is the Christmas music that sets the heart-strings in quick vibration.

We call the Christmas bells sweet, but they would sound solemn and mournful but for their accompaniment of joyous shouts and laughter of the little ones.

The joy of a child is the only perfect happiness in the world. And it is so easy to cause.

This is why Christmas, the day on which we all unite in giving joy to the children, is the nearest approach mankind can make to a foretaste of heaven.

Let us remember that Christmas is supremely the day for the children, and that the day for the children, and that our own best joy must lie in making them as happy as we can.

What a glorious feast of universal gladness the day would be if every man and woman in selecting gifts took care first of all to make at least one little child supremely happy!

God knows there is opportunity enough. If the children of your own friends are all supplied, there are plenty of children of the friendless.

They swarm in the alleys, where the dollar that, if spent on some grown-up friend would bring scarcely a smile of pleasure, will, divided into a dozen gifts, bring shouts of joy from a dozen hearts to which joy is rare.

It is the sweetest music in the world.

**BEDSTEADS**  
Yes, strong ones, too.

Will hold anything from a bed bug to the largest man or woman in the State. See them, that's all.

# GREETINGS

FROM THE

## Lancaster Hardware Company

**CHAIRS**  
I guess yes, good ones

Any kind of a chair you may want we have it and at a big reduction. Come look them over quick.

**We Wish to Thank Each and Every One of Our Customers**

for their patronage in the past, and sincerely trust that each and every one feels toward us as we feel toward our customers. We have had a good business this year, and to show our appreciation of same we are reducing our great stock of Furniture for your benefit alone. We need more room in our store, and by giving the people a chance to buy Furniture at such low prices we feel that we are helping not only ourselves but giving the people the greatest chance of their lives to buy this stock cheap. You could not present any one with a nicer Xmas gift than a piece of our Furniture, Rugs, Art Squares and China Ware. We also want to call your attention to the Diamond Ring in our show window that we are going to give away free, December the 24th. With each and every purchase you get a ticket, so hold this ticket and the one that has the lucky ticket gets the Diamond Ring free. Don't forget to ask for your tickets when you make a purchase.

**THE LANCASTER HARDWARE SAYS:**

Here's your chance to combine luxury and economy in the purchase of one of our Library Tables. They combine utility and convenience, the delight of handsome embellishments and lend an air of distinction and refreshment to your home.

Come look them over, a great chance, at low prices. Come get them quick, they are here for you, so get them in a hurry. That is what the people are doing, so if you don't get any of these bargains don't blame us. Fair warning! Last call.

Wishing each and every one a Merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year, we are

Yours respectfully,

## Lancaster Hardware Company

**THE LANCASTER HARDWARE SAYS:**

That besides the utility of a China Closet it lends a cheer to the dining room and adds to its home like appearance, and what woman has not among her possessions some choice pieces of china that she is only too proud to put in a conspicuous place in order to display them to the best advantage and at the same time keep them under cover.

We kindly ask each and every one to visit our store in the next 10 days and look over our enormous stock of Furniture and China Closets, and be convinced as to their quality, and see the ridiculously low prices. These are great bargains. Come and see for yourself.