

A CHRISTMAS CONFESSION



I didn't hear old Santa come—he never made a sound,
Just left for me a Christmas tree, with presents all around!
And tho I like each thing he brought, my books and all the rest,
I'll tell you confidentially: I love my dolly best!

—By MARTHA HART, in Successful Farming.

First Christmas Tree

WHEN Ansgarius preached the White Christ to the Vikings of the North, so runs the legend of the Christmas tree, the Lord sent his three messengers, Faith, Hope, and Love, to help light the first tree. Seeking one that should be high as hope, wide as love, and that bore the sign of the cross on every bough, they chose the balsam fir, which best of all the trees in the forest met the requirements. Perhaps that is a good reason why there clings about the Christmas tree in my old home that which has preserved it from being swept along in the flood of senseless luxury that has swamped so many things in our money-mad day. At least so it was then. Every time I see a tree studded with electric lights, garlands of tinsel gold festooning every branch, and hung with the hundred costly knickknacks the storekeepers invest year by year "to make trade," until the tree itself disappears entirely under its burden, I have a feeling that a fraud has been practiced on the kindly spirit of Yule.

Wax candles are the only real thing for a Christmas tree, candles of wax that mingle their perfume with that of the burning fir, not the by-product of some coal-oil or other abomination. What if the boughs do catch fire? They can be watched, and too many candles are tawdry, anyhow. Also, red apples, oranges and old-fashioned cornucopias made of colored paper, and made at home, look a hundred times better and fitter in the green; and so do drums and toy trumpets and wald-horns, and a rocking horse that need not have cost forty dollars.

Washing Windows.

If windows are washed when the sun is shining on them they dry before there is time to polish them, and look streaky. Always dust windows before washing them. Add a little ammonia to the water to make the glass shine and polish well.

MERRY CHRISTMAS

WHETHER we shout it or sing it, we must be sure to mean it; for if we really mean it when we say, "Merry Christmas, everybody," we will do all in our power to make Christmas a day of unsullied joy for all those within reach of our influence.

Christ came into the world to bring light which brings joy. He came to bring deliverance to men; to solve their difficult problems; to inspire a higher hope in the spirit of men. That is the cause of the deepest joy to mankind. Yes, Christmas is a joyful day as well as a sacred day.

It is a day for doing good deeds, as well as thinking good thoughts. It is not a day for receiving gifts only. There are so many opportunities for doing good, that we may receive joy a hundredfold, with the expenditure of just a little time and thought. There are many who have little; many who do not know the meaning of this day as you know it; many whose spirits are crushed by disaster. Remember them!—Boys' World.

Story of the Christmas Stocking

YEARS and years ago stockings were not hung on Christmas eve as we hang them now. No one ever heard of such a thing as hanging up a stocking for Christmas gifts. And if children had thought of such a thing they would have said, "What a foolish idea! A stocking wouldn't hold half the things we want." So the children throughout the world placed crocks, big brass basins, and copper kettles on the hearth on Christmas eve and left notes in them telling Santa to fill them to the brim. Each year the children left larger vessels to be filled, children left larger vessels to be filled.

Up in the great white north Santa's reindeer no longer pranced and pawed, impatient to be off on Christmas eve, as they once had done. They hung their heads and a tired look came into their big brown eyes, for they remembered how heavy the loads had grown and how many more trips they were forced to make year by year.

St. Nicholas no longer rested now through the summer months, as he once had done, but labored every day throughout the year, and often he built toys late into the night, for a great many gifts had to be made to fill the baskets that the greedy children left. The twinkle left his merry eyes, and he no longer sang about his work, for he was sad and thought of the time that would come when he could no longer build enough presents to go around.

Late one December day St. Nicholas stepped from his workshop into the deep snow. Facing the south, he stretched out his tired arms and called: "Hear, oh hear, children of the earth, my loved ones, can you not see you are becoming selfish and that your greedy demands are too great a task, even for St. Nicholas, king of the Christmas spirit? Can't you see, my children, that you are killing the spirit of Christmas?"

His chin sank upon his chest and tears glistened in his kindly eyes. A soft white snowflake fluttered down and nestled against his cheek, and a tiny voice whispered into his ear: "Santa, I will help you."

"Who are you?" asked St. Nicholas. "I am a snow fairy," answered the tiny voice. "As my sisters and I have danced about the air we have often swirled about your sleigh on Christmas eve, and have seen the great loads you have always carried and how tired you have looked."

"What, O what, shall I do?" asked Santa. "Just go about your work as usual," answered the fairy. "I and all my sisters will help you."

"Oh, thank you—thank you," cried St. Nicholas. And the fairy floated out among the other snowflakes.

As the children went about the snowflakes whirled around them, and it seemed as if they heard the chanting of tiny voices, and as the snowflakes nestled against their ears they seemed to sing: "Just a stocking—hang a stocking up on Christmas eve."

"Just a stocking—just a stocking," rang through the hearts of the children on Christmas eve. And in place of leaving the great vessels as they once had done they just hung up their stockings.

Some children were too selfish to hear the song of the snowflakes and left the great baskets as they always had done. But when they saw the great joy the unselfish children had in their gifts and how contented and happy they were these selfish ones were ashamed, and they, too, began to hang up only their stockings when Christmas eve came round.

When St. Nicholas found stockings in place of the great baskets and barrels the twinkle came again into his laughing eyes, his cheeks grew red, and he sang as he drove through the merry sea of snowflakes.

With just stockings to fill St. Nicholas had time to rest, and he grew strong and well, and the spirit of Christmas lived. So this is why nowadays we hang up our stockings on Christmas eve. All this we are told by a writer, who learned it from a Christmas fairy.

Santa Fetched Her



THE FEAST OF LIGHTS

THE lights on the tree are said to be of Jewish origin. In the month of Kislev, of the Jewish year, corresponding nearly to our December, and the twenty-fifth day, Jews celebrated the feast of dedication of their temple. It had been dedicated on that day by Antiochus. It was dedicated by Judas Maccabeus, and, according to Jewish legend, sufficient oil was found in the temple to last for the seven-branched candlestick for eight days, and it would have taken eight days to prepare new oil. Accordingly the Jews were wont on the twenty-fifth day of Kislev in every house to light a candle, on the next day two, and on the eighth and last day of the feast, eight candles twinkled in every house.

It is not very easy to fix the exact date of the Nativity, but it fell most probably on the last day of Kislev, when every Jewish house in Bethlehem and Jerusalem was twinkling with lights. It is worthy of note that the German name for Christmas is Weihnachts (the night of dedication), as though it were associated with this feast. The Greeks also call Christmas the feast of lights, the name given to the dedication festival, Chanukah, by the Jews.

WHY THE CHRISTMAS KISSES?

Osculation, Allowed by Custom, Celebrates One of Most Charming Events in Tradition.

WHY should men kiss girls who stand under mistletoe?

Because they like it and because custom allows it. Every kiss under the mistletoe, however, is a kiss which celebrates one of the most charming events in Christmas tradition.

The romance goes back to the days of the gods of Scandinavia, when Baldur the Beautiful was shot by Locke, the Spirit of Evil, with an arrow of mistletoe. But his mother, Venus of the North, restored him to life by saluting with kisses all who passed beneath a branch held aloft in her hand.

Thus it became an emblem of love and happy celebration. Ancient races held the plant in great veneration, particularly the Druids, who went in procession into the forests to collect it.

After New Year's day it was distributed among the people as a sacred and holy plant. If any part of the mistletoe touched the ground it was regarded as an omen of impending evil.



A FULL STOCKING.

Hock—Santa Claus apparently has gifts to please everybody.
Rock—Yes, it seems that there is nothing he doesn't keep in stock. He brought one woman of my acquaintance a divorce with alimony and the custody of the poodle."

If you want to buy or sell anything use The Herald Want column.

DR. THOMAS BLACK
DENTAL SURGEON.

Graduate Dental Department University of Maryland. Member S. C. State Dental Association.
Office opposite postoffice. Office hours, 9:00 a. m. to 5:30 p. m.

J. F. Carter B. D. Carter
J. Carl Kearsse

Carter, Carter & Kearsse
ATTORNEYS-AT-LAW
Special attention given to settlement of Estates and Investigation of Land Titles. Loans negotiated on Real Estates.

S. G. MAYFIELD

ATTORNEY AT LAW
Practice in all courts, State and Federal.
Office Opposite Southern Depot.
BAMBERG, S. C.

Read The Herald, \$2.00 per year.

C. W. RENTZ, JR.

"SURE INSURANCE"
Life, Fire Health and Accident, and Bonds of All Kinds.
Office in Herald Building
BAMBERG, S. C.

J. WESLEY CRUM, JR.,

ATTORNEY-AT-LAW
Bamberg, S. C.
Offices in Herald Building
Practice in State and Federal Courts.
Loans negotiated.

Funeral Directors and Embalmers
Motor Hearse
J. COONER & SONS
Bamberg, S. C.



OWEN BROS. MARBLE AND GRANITE CO.

DESIGNERS
MANUFACTURERS
ERECTORS

The largest and best equipped monumental mills in the Carolinas.

GREENWOOD, S. C.

FRUITS, NUTS, FIREWORKS

At Prices During Christmas So Low That Anyone Can Afford To Buy

We realize that times are hard and its our intention to give the trade

LOWEST PRICES POSSIBLE

We take this opportunity to thank you for your patronage in the past and solicit your further business.

A Merry Christmas and Happy and Prosperous New Year to all.

CASH AND CARRY

Bamberg J. FRANK FOLK, Owner. South Carolina.

Absolutely Free!

THE SOUTHERN AGRICULTURIST

Nashville, Tennessee

The Herald has made arrangements with the Southern Agriculturist, one of the best farm papers in the south, whereby we can offer for a limited time only this excellent farm journal free of charge to subscribers of The Herald.

All you have to do is to renew your subscription for one year, or, if you are not now a subscriber to The Herald, send us \$2.00 for one year's subscription, and you will be given one year's subscription to the Southern Agriculturist, the subscription price of which is \$1.00 per year.

The Herald has only a limited number of subscriptions it can give its readers, and the first come will be first served. When our quota has been exhausted, the offer will be withdrawn. This offer is intended for our farmer friends only, and your name will be sent in to the farm paper only if you request it. We do not wish to send the farm paper to anyone not interested in farm matters.

Every farmer or farm owner ought to have a good farm paper. The popularity of the Southern Agriculturist may be judged by the fact that it has 375,000 subscribers. It is distinctly a southern farm paper for southern farmers.

Fill out the attached coupon today and forward to The Herald, Bamberg, S. C.

THE BAMBERG HERALD, Bamberg, S. C.

Date.....192.....

Bamberg Herald,
Bamberg, S. C.
I beg to enclose herewith two dollars (\$2.00), for which please (Renew—Enter) my subscription to The Herald for one year. I am also to receive the Southern Agriculturist without cost to me for one year.

Name

Address

R. F. D. No.....