

The Christmas Season

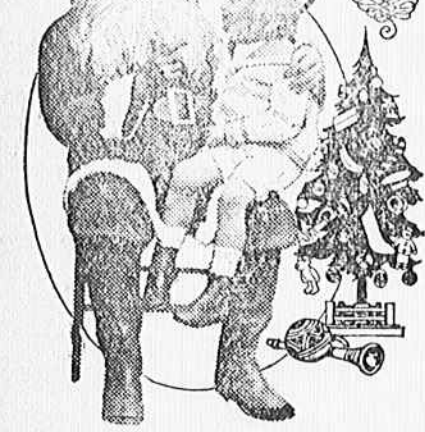
Not a Day but Weeks Needed to Manifest Its Spirit.

CHRISTMAS proper is never a day. It is really a week or about a month. When the almanac says December has come, then all hearts begin to feel the presence of that midwinter festival. Each day adds to this feeling.

The Romans perceived that one day did not contain all the import of the midwinter gaiety. Their Saturnalia continued seven days. It began as a one day celebration and was observed Dec. 10; but, as it was soon found that brief period was a cup too small to contain the wine of pleasure, it was extended to three days. At last it was enlarged by the Emperor Claudian so as to take in the 26th. In form the festival has now been changed back into the one day shape, but in reality Christmas is much larger under our presidents than it was under Claudian and Caligula.

It is a great midwinter period and may well be looked upon as a type of the public happiness or the public misfortunes of a given date. In the early Christian church it became a single day, because being asked to stand for the birth of Jesus it had to be a formal day rather than a week, but no such limitation could keep it from having adjacent times which partook of its spirit as dawn partakes of day.—Professor David Swing.

The Old Christmas Story



The Story of the Magi.

The story of the Magi, as it is given by the evangelist Matthew, is astonishingly brief and unadorned. He tells us without preface that when Jesus was born in Bethlehem certain foreigners arrived at Jerusalem.

He does not tell us how many they were nor of what race nor of what station of life, although it is fair to infer from the consideration with which they were received at the court of Herod and from the fact that they carried treasure boxes with them that they were persons of distinction.

The most important statement in regard to them is that they were Magians—that is to say, disciples of Zoroaster and members of the sacred or priestly order of Persia, which was then widely scattered among the oriental nations and included men of exalted rank. They came from the east, a word which to the dwellers in Palestine could hardly have any other meaning than the ancient region of Chaldea, lying beyond the Jordan and the desert.

Their explanation of their journey to Herod was that they had seen an appearance in the heavens (whether one star or many or a comet they did not say) which led them to believe that the King of the Jews had been born, and they had come to do reverence to him. Herod was greatly troubled at hearing this and sent for the chief priests and scribes to inquire where the prophets had foretold that the Messiah should be born.

They answered at once that Bethlehem was the chosen place. Then Herod, having asked the Magi how long it was since they first saw the appearance in the sky, sent them away to Bethlehem, promising that when they had found the young Christ he also would come to do reverence to him.

Having set out on their journey, they saw once more the celestial sign, and its motion was such that it guided them to the place where Jesus was. Coming into the house—for Joseph had now found better shelter than a stable—they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and prostrated themselves before him in worship. Opening their treasure chests, they presented to him gifts of gold and frankincense and myrrh. Then, being warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they took another road into their own country.

The conjunction of the planets Jupiter and Saturn is one of the rarest of sidereal events. It occurs only once in 800 years. This conjunction, all astronomers agree, happened no less than three times in the year 747 A. U. C., shortly before the birth of Christ.

It may be that we have here, in this "fairy tale of science," a confirmation of this beautiful story of religion, a hint and trace of

The light that led the holy elders with their gifts of myrrh.—Rev. Dr. Henry van Dyke in Harper's Magazine.

Cupid's Christmas Frolics.

Christmas would be almost as incomplete without its love superstitions as without its holly and plum pudding, and the maid who cannot forecast her matrimonial fortune at least once a year is scarcely worth a lover at all.

She ought to know, whether she does or not, that if she wants her husband to be to reveal himself in her dreams she has only to eat the egg of a black hen on Christmas eve and any fears or hesitations she may be troubled with will soon be dispelled when once her head is cozily pillowed. If she wishes to make the spell as potent as possible she will boil the egg hard, remove the yolk and, after she has filled up the cavity with common or table salt, will eat egg, shell, salt and all. If she doesn't dream of her lover then it will certainly not be the hen's fault.

If she is not partial to eggs our curious young lady may peel a St. Thomas' onion, wrap it in a handkerchief and place it under her pillow on Christmas eve, reciting these mystic lines as she does so:

Good St. Thomas, do me right
And see my true love come tonight,
That I may see him in the face
And him in my kind arms embrace.

It is just as natural for a maid to speculate as to the ardor of her swain's affection as to wish to settle the young man's identity, and if she will she may know to a nicety how far his infatuation for her has gone. This is what she must do to gain this desirable knowledge: When she retires to bed she must place three pails of water in her bedroom and attach three holly leaves to her nightdress. Then let her slumber in full assurance that her lover in dream form will present himself and touch one or other of the three pails. And all depends on what particular pail he touches. If it is No. 1 it is a sure sign that his affection is but skin deep; if No. 2, he worships the very ground she treads on, but if he touches the third pail, alas, for her expectations, for he loves her not at all!

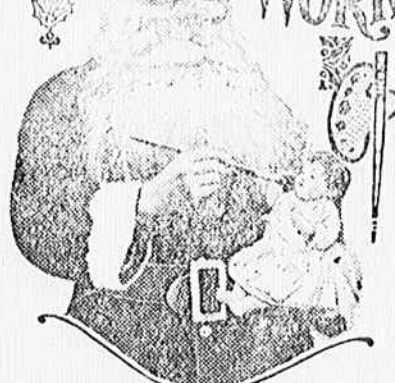
But Cupid has no monopoly of Christmas superstitions. Do not shake, speere himself lend his sanction to the belief that the cock by its crowing on Christmas night keeps all evil influences at a respectful distance?

Some say that over 'gainst that season comes
Wherein our Saviour's birth is celebrated,
The bird of dawn singeth all night long,
And then they say no spirit dare stir abroad.

Because a Little Child Was Born.

Because a little child was born
The earth is filled with peace;
Old wrongs, old sorrows are forgot
In suffering's sweet surcease.
Oh, men that strain for empty gain,
Oh, hearts with hatreds torn,
There is no room for strife today—
A little child is born!
—Teresa Beatrice O'Hara in Ladies' Home Journal

SANTA'S at WORK



Christ and His Birthday.

As to his birth, Christ gave no thought to the manner of its celebration by his disciples. They do not appear to have remembered it during his life. Had he ever any knowledge of the adorable stories begetting his crib for us? It is hardly probable. And, behold, that forgotten, neglected birthday has conquered a place of honor! It is celebrated in conditions in which the Saviour might recognize his own purposes. To speak of one aspect only, Jesus loved children as no one has ever loved them. "Let them come to me," he said to the lofty apostles, anxious to guard him from that merry, unruly crowd suspected incapable of edification. No doubt those most serious ancestors of our traditions had occasion that day and often in similar circumstances to believe the Master touched with insanity.

No matter, the intentions of the Son of Man have been largely realized. His birthday has become the day of the children. No earthly day has shed more brightness upon their path. No church festival gives more life to the immeasurable truth of the promise, "I shall be with you to the end of the world." None makes it sweeter to the heart.

Christmas has a charm beyond them all. It was the Christian soul, filled full with Jesus, created this festival. Every generation has given it something of its own. There has been a rivalry of good will. In the Eucharist, according to a doctrine the abuse of which must not make us forget its true and sorrowful profoundness, Christ dies from age to age for our sins and will suffer until the last sinner is saved. In the radiance of Christmas Christ smiles eternally upon the little ones * * * and the grownups who can make themselves children again.—Charles Wagner, Author of "The Simple Life."



Fleming Bros.

Christmas Gifts

That Appeal to all



IT is well to begin now to think of gift giving and receiving, and what to buy and where to buy is the all important question. It is well to suggest Fleming Bros. store: First, because of our capability to serve you with the newest and best, and Second, because the prices are always consistent with the value of the goods---the best obtainable. Our stock is second to none and you will marvel in our splendid selections of the Jewelers Art.

Engraving and special designing can now be done with more satisfaction than at the time of the Christmas Rush and we suggest that you call and enjoy that leisurely inspection which is now possible with you.

THE FOLLOWING SUGGESTIONS FORM BUT A SMALL PART OF OUR IMMENSE STOCK.

- Diamonds.**
 - The gift of a fine jewel is a pleasure to the recipient of today—a treasure to the inheritors of tomorrow.
 - We sell only the most perfect stones—the blue white stone. Our reputation for selling only the very best stones is statewide.
 - DIAMOND RINGS
 - DIAMOND BARS
 - DIAMOND BROOCHES
 - DIAMOND BRACELETS
 - DIAMOND LOCKETS
- For the Lady.**
 - Watch Bracelets
 - Gold Watches
 - Bracelets
 - Brooches
 - Necklaces
 - La Vallieres
 - Locketts
 - Chains
 - Friendship Circles
 - Bar Pins
 - Vanity Bags
 - Silver Bags
 - Card Purses
 - Umbrellas
 - Toilet Sets
- For the Gentleman.**
 - Gold Watches
 - Sent Rings
 - Scarf Pins
 - Cuff Buttons
 - Gold Knives
 - Card Cases
 - Secret Order Emblems In Gold and Silver
 - Military Sets
 - Coat Chains
 - Gold Studs
 - Gold Fobs
 - Match Safes
 - Eyeglass Cases
- Enduring Gifts of Silver**
 - There is nothing so acceptable as an artistic gift for the adornment of the home. The pleasure it brings is permanent.
 - Special attention is called to our display of
 - SILVER TEA SETS
 - SILVER TRAYS
 - SILVER VASES
 - TABLE SILVER
 - and many other elegant and useful productions.

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NOTICE OF THE COUNTY TREASURER

The Books of the County Treasurer will be opened for the collection of State, County and Commutation Road Taxes for fiscal year, 1915, at the Treasurer's office from October 15th to December 31st, 1915. After December 31st one per cent will be added. After January 31st, two per cent will be added, and after February 28th, seven per cent will be added till the 15th day of March, 1916, when the books will be closed.

All persons owning property in more than one Township are requested to call for receipts in each of the several Townships in which the property is located. This is important, as additional cost and penalty may be attached.

age are liable to pay a poll tax of \$1.00 except old soldiers, who are exempt at 60 years of age. Commutation Road Tax \$1.50 in lieu of road duty.

The Tax Levy is as follows:
For State purposes7 mills
For Constitutional School Tax 3 mills
Ordinary County Purposes 3 1/2 mills
For Interest on Railroad Bonds 1 mill
For Road and Bridge Bonds 4 mills
Total18 1/2 mills

Special Schools—Laurens Township.
Laurens No. 117 1/2 mills
Trinity-Ridge No. 18 mills
Maddens No. 24 mills
Nannie No. 35 mills
Bailey No. 44 mills
Mills No. 52 mills
Oak Grove No. 62 mills
Ora No. 124 mills

Special Schools—Youngs Township.
Youngs No. 34 mills
Youngs No. 24 mills
Youngs No. 47 1/2 mills
Youngs No. 54 mills
Fountain Inn No. 3B11 mills
Lanford No. 103 1/2 mills
Ora No. 124 mills
Youngs No. 13 mills
Central No. 62 mills
Youngs No. 78 mills
Special Schools—Dials Township.

Green Pond No. 17 mills
Dials No. 28 1/2 mills
Shiloh No. 34 mills
Gray Court-Owings No. 512 1/2 mills
Barksdale No. 65 mills
Dials Church No. 74 mills
Fountain Inn No. 3B11 mills
Merna No. 82 mills
Dials No. 44 mills

Special Schools—Sullivan Township
Mt. Bethel No. 23 mills
Princeton No. 18 mills
Poplar Springs No. 34 mills
Hickory Tavern No. 178 mills
Brewerton No. 74 mills
Sullivan Township R R Bonds 3 mills
Merna No. 82 mills

Special Schools—Waterloo Township
Waterloo No. 144 mills
Mt. Gallagher No. 16 mills
Bethlehem No. 24 mills
Ekorn No. 34 mills
Cetnerpoint No. 42 mills
Oakville No. 54 mills
Mt. Pleasant No. 62 mills
Mt. Olive No. 75 mills

Special Schools—Cross Hill Township
Cross Hill No. 137 mills
Cross Hill No. 12 mills
Cross Hill No. 22 mills
Cross Hill No. 42 mills
Cross Hill No. 54 mills
Cross Hill No. 63 mills

Cross Hill No. 32 mills
Special Schools—Hunter Township
Mountville No. 169 mills
Hunter No. 24 mills
Hunter No. 34 mills
Clinton No. 56 mills
Hunter No. 83 mills
Wadsworth No. 42 mills
Hunter No. 12 mills

Special Schools—Jacks Township
Odells No. 63 mills
Hurricane No. 153 mills
Shady Grove No. 23 mills
Jacks No. 35 mills
Jacks No. 43 mills

Special Schools, Scuffletown Township
Langston Church No. 33 mills
Scuffletown No. 12 mills
Lanford No. 106 1/2 mills
Ora No. 124 mills
Scuffletown No. 24 mills
Scuffletown No. 44 mills
Prompt attention will be given those who wish to pay their Taxes through the mail by check, money order, etc.

Persons sending in lists of names to be taken off are requested to send them early; and give the Township of each, as the Treasurer is very busy during the month of December.
ROSS D. YOUNG,
County Treasurer.