

General Business News

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Christmas Thoughts

Tender Babes so fresh they have life, that can't take themselves, that can't help little feet that can't walk, Sot of God's love?

It is a very good thing.

Eastern importers keep for us.

When babies are slaughtered One by day in the town,

on the cross & will be known.

Kids His infant vanity clear.

In the thoughts for tomorrow.

Golden straw the pretty kept.

Now it is all out in the world.

Thanks an' kindly now so

the best business well.

He made with His hands & twine

now & the Lad of names

is here.

31 Young Priests

Sa Their First

Masses in Rome

Yesterdays

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The Origin of Christmas Giving

Edward Schaefer, in an article in December Columbia University's "Little Text That Can't Be Put Down," traces the origin and the various manifestations of the custom of giving Christmas gifts, writes:

"In England we owe the origin of the custom widespread at Christmas, of giving presents, we owe it to King Henry VIII."

"He died in 1546. About a thousand copies were printed, and this was considered a very large sale. Now the carols are produced by the hundred."

"Our own Christmas giving, Americans begin our early life time. Here and there something distinctive arose. Formerly the taste for giving presents was confined to the rich."

"It was served at festive feasts, and admitted as a specialty."

"The custom is long, because it is an old, generally adopted, and seriously patronized."

"A Frenchman noted by Day took away the following chapter from the "Almanach Catholique" in 1853: 'There is nothing to give to the poor, but a little oil and young in their pockets. Another Irish custom connected with Christmas giving is feeding the wren.' The young people of a village get together on St. Stephen's day, obtain a wren, place it in a cage, perch the cage on the chimney-piece, and go from door-to-door collecting money for the relief of the unfortunate straying bird. The same day, another is used to carry the wren to the church on New Year's Day."

The Christmas Stocking

We are so busy in these winter days by over our heads without causing us to look up, and when we bring no more of a 1,000-mile jaunt than our father thought of a 50-mile journey.

Our countrymen may be sophisticated little images of themselves; who know a great many things we did not know that they are.

Nevertheless, there is a lure in the old Christmas stockings that will appeal to children as long as children exist. Do not allow your own grown-up feelings to interfere with the Christmas stocking. Give the children the pleasure you had years ago when you dug candles, made little roses, and a big fat orange—until its depths. Roll each article separately in paper. Tie some of them with string. Make 15-6 Christmas stockings—useful, maybe. These will keep eyes sparkling for half an hour.

And let the children eat the orange as soon as they wish. Alternative foods such as this are great to be needed on holidays when the ingredients are in order. The big orange taken from the toe of the big stocking borrowed from mother is a mighty good first bite for any kiddie in Santa Claus' day.

The Cathedral Door

Often have I seen, at some cathedral door,

A laborer, pausing in the dust and heat,

Lay down his burden and with reverent feet,

Enter, and cross himself, and on the floor,

Kneel to repeat his "Pater Noster" over;

Far off the noises of the world retreat;

The loud vociferations of the street become an undistinguishable roar,

So, as I enter here, from day to day,

And leave my burden at this minister-gate,

Kneeling in prayer, and not ashamed to pray,

The tumult of the time, disconsolate,

To inarticulate murmur dies away,

While the eternal ages watch and wait.

—H. W. Longfellow.

Christmas in Heaven

It may be an idle legend,

Yet it has its truth, I know.

This quaint-old tale which lingers yet

From the dreams of long ago:

That the great Lord Jesus once a year,

As our bells for His Birthday ohme

Data crown and sceptre aside to be a child for the Christmas time.

And through all the season of Christmas week

With the baby saints He dwells,

And shares their laughter and plays their games.

Or perhaps a story tells

While St. Mary peeps through the nursery door

And joys once more to see Her mighty Son a child, as when

He stood beside her knee, W. In The Catholic Virginian.

Listen In

Oh, listen in at Christmas, and you'll hear from all the earth

The carols and the Christmas bells,

The melody and mirth!

Oh, listen in at Christmas—let your hearts be listening too,

And you'll hear the Christmas wishes that my heart is wishing you!

—Denis A. McCarthy.

Dickens' Christmas Advice

Our Christmas day all should be welcomed with good cheer and true hospitality.—Charles Dickens.

A CHRISTMAS LEGEND

PAINT and curl is one of the old monastic stories

about the first Christmas, one

of the charming legends relates

that at the moment of the Nativity

everything and everybody

stood still. The trees bowed

for an instant in mid-air

caused for the time to grow—in

short, all the movements of men

and things everywhere were sus-

pended for a brief space. The

spells of witches and wizards

suddenly came according to an

idea which was, no doubt, at

the poet of Shakespeare's refer-

ence to Christmas eve or being

so holy that then no fairy

takes, nor witch hath power to

charm...

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