

Christmas

CLOCKS IN STEEPLES

By VINCENT DePAUL FITZPATRICK

We wish we lived across the street from a tall steeple with a clock in it.

That is a peculiar wish, isn't it? But then from boyhood we have liked steeples with clocks in them, especially when the clocks are alight at night and looking down at the streets below.

We have a penchant for lights—lights gleaming from the skyscrapers in New York and other cities; candles gleaming through the windows of private homes; lights strung along the water with their faint shimmering here and there on the dark waters. Such things turn us to thoughts of Christmas, especially in the autumnal time and the nights of December.

If ever we go back to London we shall go to a certain hotel and ask for the room from which we looked down on the cheerful clock which stands above one of the gates of Buckingham Palace. We sat looking at that clock one night until after midnight—after we had stood a long time on the banks of the Thames looking up at the clock high above us in the tower of Parliament House. We did not sleep long that night; we were up again before dawn, gazing down again on the clock on the Buckingham Palace gate; we watched London getting ready for another day.

That clock and we became friends. As we sat looking at it our thoughts went back to some scenes of the past. We thought of Dickens and Marley and Old Scrooge who never looked up at the clock in London's steeples. That is why Scrooge found so little happiness in life until he was converted from his sour, dour ways. Marley's eyes looked down at the gold in the money chests and Scrooge's eyes looked down at the cold, chilling figures in the ledgers—figures which brought joy or sorrow to God in a messenger. The steeples point to a God in glory.

"But still," you protest, "what have the clocks to do with these words of yours?" We shall let one of the clocks speak for us:

"So, there you are again, old friend, just sitting there in the dark and looking up at my lighted face. You have put aside the work of the day. Fixing the clock, you see the light. Thus all men can see the light, even when they sit in darkness, if they will but look up to the light.

You could be indulging in the revelry of the night and the spendthrifts, who are making merry or who think they are making merry tonight. They can not find time enough for their pleasures or for their plottings against the peace and security of the world.

"There you are, just resting yourself and letting time go by, without a regret. You are not thinking of me and of Christmas. Really, you have a contented look. You know you can do naught to stay the passing of the minutes, the hours, the days, the months and the years. You know you are unimportant; few will miss you when you are gone and your name will not be preserved in history. And yet you are content. You know you can do naught to stay the passing of time and you would not if you could.

"You are like me, you take 'Time as it comes and goes' as it goes. I never am hurried. Through the years I remain here looking down upon the sorrows and joys of men. I see millionaires in their offices, their heads furrowed and their eyes sparkling as they see some of their millions slipping away from them. I see the Carmelite nuns and other nuns, and I see the Brothers in the religious life, with me a penny to their names. Their names are unremembered and hope shines in their eyes. The world discusses the names of the millionaires and the papers give them headlines. But few are remembered as these nuns and Brothers and priests are no longer known.

"Men called them wise, but they were fools. Wise men long centuries ago followed the Star to Bethlehem, men who had no money and others who did have money but who did not idolize their worldly riches.

"If men who think they are wise could only sit some night and look up at me they might be prompted to cry out from the depths of their hearts: 'We think we are wise men, the great men of our nation. We sit in chancelleries, we seek new territory for our nation, we seek more commerce, more power, more gold—we are selfish—we are murderers.'"

of all riches which were to last for Eternity and which financial depression and bankruptcy could not destroy. They saw the little hands of the little Babe and they knew the little hands would unlock the bonds of time to give them and everyone who wanted to be like them, everlasting freedom and everlasting life.

FOLLOW THE LIGHT
Time had been so long to them but now and forever more. Time would be so short. They knew that all they sought here in this world would be turned away from the Light. And Pontius Pilate would say: "Who is Truth?" not realizing to the full that He Whom he had condemned was the Light and the Truth. Judas hanged himself and Pontius Pilate killed himself, because the Light turned away from the Light by avarice and the other by political ambition.

Men who have made gold their god instead of making the Babe of Bethlehem their God have killed themselves when despair came to them. Despair came to them when they failed to seek the Light. And men, whose ambitions have been blinded have killed themselves because they could not become as humble as the shepherds. Through the centuries men have failed to realize that Time is short and that on the morrow their trials and disappointments would disappear because they could not become as humble as the shepherds. Through the centuries men have failed to realize that Time is short and that on the morrow their trials and disappointments would disappear because they could not become as humble as the shepherds. Through the centuries men have failed to realize that Time is short and that on the morrow their trials and disappointments would disappear because they could not become as humble as the shepherds.

"You have said much about the Light, but what has all this to do with the clocks in the steeples at night? That is what you ask us. We reply: 'The steeples echo the Gloria in Excelsis Deo. They point to Heaven where God is, as the Star once pointed down to Bethlehem where a God lay—The Star pointed to God in a messenger. The steeples point to a God in glory.'

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"So, there you are again, old friend, just sitting there in the dark and looking up at my lighted face. You have put aside the work of the day. Fixing the clock, you see the light. Thus all men can see the light, even when they sit in darkness, if they will but look up to the light.

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"Men, such as we have plunged the world into wars in the past; they have mangled the bodies of millions and have mangled the hearts of millions more. And we are following in their footsteps. Why? Because we have turned away from Bethlehem's Star, we have turned away from the Light. We think Time is so important and Time is nothing. We have forgotten Christmas and we have forgotten that the angel's song over Judas's plain was one of glory to God and an oath with Peace to Men of Good Will."

We know the clock is right. And now we'll go to bed.

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

Best Wishes at Christmas and may Good Times and Good Fortune be with you at Christmas and follow you throughout the year.

PHONE 6118

For Our Xmas Special

GENERAL ICE CREAM CORP.

Elmira Division
ELMIRA, N. Y.

1935 GREETINGS

It's with sincere pleasure and cordial good will that we wish you a Merry Christmas.

SHEEHAN, DEAN & COMPANY

Holiday Gifts and Apparel at Attractive Prices
ELMIRA, N. Y.

1935 Christmas Good Wishes

As Christmas comes again, it re-awakens the appreciation of pleasant association—rekindles the warmth of friendships—and may it find and keep you rich in happiness.

The New **ROTHSCHILD'S**
ITHACA, N. Y.

1935 JOYOUS Christmas

Year after year it's the same old greeting, but time makes that greeting no less sincere, and so we again send our message wishing you a

Merry Christmas and Abundant Happiness.

J. W. SMITH DRY GOODS CO.

Seneca Street
Geneva, N. Y.

1935 Christmas Greetings

We know no truer word—no song—no poem that expresses our sentiments better than a simple Merry Christmas.

CALEY & NASH

Automobile Painting and Trimming
Auto Bodies of "Special Design"
General Blacksmithing
1478 EAST 11th, ROCHESTER, N. Y.

1935 WISHING YOU Christmas happiness

Business is not always business. In dealing with you it has been a pleasure. We hope this pleasure has been mutual, and extend our hearty greetings for every happiness.

Ithaca Savings Bank
ITHACA, N. Y.

1935 Greetings

May this Christmas be the brightest you have ever known—may it be a season of plenty and joy.

Gosper-Kelly, Inc.

SHOES—HOBBIERY
One—Sixty-Ninth
ELMIRA, N. Y.

1935 X-MAS WISHES

Just a Simple Greeting—But it's laden down with cheer and sincerest wishes for a real old-fashioned Yuletide.

BROWN'S ICE CREAM BROWN'S PHARMACY

HORSEHEADS, N. Y.

Happy Christmas

Like a warm, true hand, our thoughts at this Holiday season reach out to you in wishing you all the joys and peace of the Christmas Season.

Indice with Heartiest Wishes

Frear-Tiro Sales Co.

Tires—Auto Accessories
208 S. Cayuga St. Ithaca, N. Y.

Christmas Good Wishes

Greetings on your arrival in the happy hour of Christmas. May each good cheer await you at this season of joy and as you set out on travels that for the future may bring you the best of wishes from us.

P. J. CONBOY

Auburn, N. Y.

1935 1936

Our Heartiest Wishes

As you go home in your own fireside at Christmas, try every wish among the many good wishes that you have received, for our message of friendship and good cheer.

DOANS MARKETS

14 North St., 18 South St., 37 E. Seneca St., 44 W. Seneca St.
AUBURN, N. Y.

108 FALL ST. AUBURN FALLS, N. Y.

Tons of Finest Stock Poultry for Your Happy Home Dinners

We Extend Our Best Wishes

PETER BORRENA

Lumber and Cleanliness Supplies
1015 High Gate West
AUBURN, N. Y.

21 East Seneca St. Auburn, N. Y.

Christmas

Whether it's White Christmas or Green Christmas, May it be a Merry One.

Greene Lumber Co.

15 HULBERT ST.
AUBURN, N. Y.

Christmas

GOOD WISHES

May this Christmas tide bring you the blessings of happiness, and may the golden riches of friendship bind us in happy association throughout the coming year.

MACK MILLER CANDLE CO.
SYRACUSE, N. Y.

Yuletide Greetings 1935

Because we cannot see each of you personally we take this way of sending you Christmas Greetings and Best Wishes for a Happy Holiday Season.

FRED RONDINA

Everything to furnish your home complete
66-61 STATE ST.
AUBURN, N. Y.

CHRISTMAS

As Christmas tide around us there are many good wishes for those who have made possible our joyous season. We extend our heartiest greetings.

Wm. B. Hislop & Co.

Auburn's Leading Department Store
AUBURN, N. Y.