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and

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What of "Peace on Earth?"

***** and on earth peace, good will toward men."

SKEPTICS scoff at the familiar words—the angel's refrain heard by simple Judean shepherds as they watched their flocks by night. And, sometimes, even those who would believe are tempted, as they look out upon a distraught world, to doubt as empty words the promise which accompanied the Christ Child's birth.

Is man born to war, as the Italian dictator, Mussolini, so blatantly declared to his people? Is peace an unworthy dream, or is death in the service of Mars man's most desired end?

Is there nothing but puerile emotionalism, as the German Fascists would have us believe, in a religion which teaches "Love thy neighbor as thyself?"

In war-torn Spain down-trodden masses have rebelled not only against the State, but against the Church as well. Here was a Christian country. What of "peace, good will toward men?"

Other nations which call themselves Christian are rapidly arming . . . "for defense" is the excuse in every instance. When will love supplant distrust—ever?

Doubt arises on every hand, and a divided world gives grim testimony for the unbelievers.

But man, deep in his heart, knows that the Angel's words ring true. And to support the promise of the Christ Child's herald there is plenty of evidence if one will but look.

Peoples whose ancestors were barbarians at the time the bright star shone over Bethlehem have come a long ways in two thousand years, which in the history of man is a brief span indeed. The teaching of "love thy neighbor" has spread around the world. That man still disregards this teaching does not weaken its truth one bit. It is steadily gaining foothold, though at times we seem slow to learn.

Governments which, though they paid lip service to Christianity, were in fact founded on opposing doctrines, are giving way to a new order. Democracies which not only teach but practice that "all men are equal in God's sight" have come to stay. Downtrodden peoples may overthrow oppressive governments, by peaceful or warlike means, and they may set up in their place other governments which pay little heed to the creed of Christ. But, if one takes a long view of the history of the past and the history of the present, he cannot escape the realization that the principles of Christianity are coming more and more into practice among the people of the earth. They may be known through some other name, even Christ may be denied . . . but the fact is inescapable that the world, though it may go through many painful transitions, is steadily moving toward realization of the angel's promise—" * * * and on earth peace, good will toward men."

There is no gainsaying that the spirit of respect for the rights of others has progressed far since Joseph and Mary fled with their child before He-

"Hello Everybody"

—by A. B. Chapin



rod's slaughter of the babes of Bethlehem.

There is little doubt that the peoples of the earth have advanced, slowly but surely, in the art of self government. And now there are definite signs that the world is beginning to learn another lesson—that no nation can live to itself. The spirit of forbearance, forgiveness and cooperation is definitely gaining, despite some signs to the contrary.

The very fact that the world is impatient for the fulfillment of the angel's promise, so impatient that it sometimes doubts, is itself an unanswerable truth that "peace on earth" will come to pass.

"O Star beyond all stars, the darkness still

Is slow to comprehend! O light of men,
The glare of earth has kept us blind so long!

Forgive us as we lit our eyes again
And make us brave to live to the angel's song!"

BRUCE BARTON Says:



HATS OFF TO MINISTERS' SONS

Three years ago a little New England school sent three boys to one of the big eastern universities, and this last year all three of them were elected to Phi Beta Kappa, the honorary scholarship fraternity. This is an amazing record. I wrote to the headmaster to congratulate him. In answering my note he said:

"Our boys have made a very satisfactory record in all of the colleges, but these three have been outstanding. All three are sons of ministers and come from families without means."

Subtract the sons of ministers from the history of the world and you would leave a mighty vacancy. Here are a few examples:

Cleveland, Clay, Buchanan, Arthur, among statesmen. (In the presidential election of 1916 both the candidates, Wilson and Hughes, were preachers' sons.) Cecil Rhodes and Harriman, financiers; Agassiz, Jenner, Linnaeus, scientists; Sir Joshua Reynolds among the artists, and Sir Christopher Wren, the architect; Hallam, Froude, Sloane, Parkman to represent the historians; Tennyson, Ben Johnson, Cowper, Goldsmith, Addison, Matthew Arnold, Emerson,

and a multitude of other poets and writers.

Preachers' sons have good books, they hear good conversation, they spend their childhood in an atmosphere of idealism. If the church did nothing in a community but support a preacher and so enable him to raise a family, it would justify all its cost.

One other advantage the preacher's son has is that he has to work, he has to save, he has to live frugally. When it comes to raising the right kind of children, money seems to be about the last thing that counts.

WATCH THE PAPER SCALE

I recently attended a meeting of men interested in the manufacture of paper. Charts were exhibited to show the trend of the business since 1929. They were very interesting.

They were interesting because there is probably no better index of general business activity than the consumption of white paper. When business is slow men write fewer letters; they make fewer memoranda; they set down fewer plans; they prepare fewer booklets;

they lessen all printing and typewritten sales effort.

Looking at the charts which registered carloads and trainloads, I was reminded of a remark my father made years ago. He said, "There is no greater contrast between my childhood and the childhood of my children than the lavish use of paper. When I was a boy paper was scarce and expensive. We used it with almost painful frugality. We wrote on both sides of every sheet. We saved old envelopes for memoranda. The idea of making a few scratches on a clean white sheet and tossing it into the waste basket would have seemed almost sacrilegious."

He added that paper was so scarce in Abraham Lincoln's boyhood that the future president worked his arithmetic problems on the back of a wooden shovel and then carefully scraped off the pencil marks to provide a clean surface for the next night's work.

The return of prosperity so far as paper is concerned, has been realized. We all have all we need at prices that are very cheap, and it was good to see those charts. Real business prosperity is not handed down from on high. It springs up out of millions of minds all figuring out and disseminating ideas by the use of paper.

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Shrubbery Needs Careful Pruning

Since shrubs renew themselves by new growth from the base of the plant, it is necessary that home gardeners plan a regular pruning schedule to keep their shrubbery attractive.

If not attended to, shrubs will become thick, ragged, diseased, and unsightly, says Glenn O. Randall, floriculturist at State college. In most cases this practice is not due to carelessness but to a lack of knowledge of how to prune and care for shrubs.

A common mistake made at time of planting, points out Randall, is that of not pruning the tops to offset the roots which were lost when the plants were dug in the nursery. The top should be reduced to about one-third when the plant is set.

In the early stages of development one of the main objects of pruning is to promote a bushy growth, Randall declares. This will have the effect of producing a well-shaped plant.

To produce a great profusion of bloom in flowering shrubs, old canes should be thinned out and those stems left should be pruned slightly. The plants should never be sheared back so that all canes are cut at the same height, the floriculturist points out.