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The Last Christmas of the Century.

Baltimore Sun, December 25.

This morning the Christmas chimes are ringing all around the world for the last time in the nineteenth century. Much has happened of late to shake our faith in the speedy coming of that "peace on earth" of which Christmas is the prophecy and promise. Great wars have occurred, and, as we have already shown, the invention of death-dealing implements has increased to a marvelous extent. Still, it would be manifest exaggeration to say that the influences and conditions that make for peace among the nations are weaker to-day than they were on Christmas day, 1800. On the whole, the intervening 100 years have largely added to the forces that restrain nations from war and constrain them to friendly relations. We must not forget the fact that "arbitration" is not merely one of the new words, but one of the closing facts of the closing century. It has twice, at least, within thirty years prevented war between our own country and Great Britain. The twentieth century may see it universally substituted for war; and if it does, the two great precedents by which the Alabama claims and the Venezuelan boundary were peacefully settled will greatly assist in bringing it about.

It is most deplorable that the two English-speaking nations which created those great precedents for the abolition of war by arbitration should be the only two nations to spoil the pacific character of the century's last Christmas with two unjustifiable wars of aggression and conquest, in defiance of the principles of liberty and justice which they both profess. At the same time we may fairly anticipate that neither in South Africa nor in the Philippines are the really permanent and enduring forces of Anglo-Saxon civilization being exhibited. Let us at least hope and believe that these are only temporary departures from the higher and better ideals of national policy which, taking the whole century through, have completely dominated America and have largely prevailed in England.

The United States, at least, will surely recover from this wave of war and violence and return to the safer and saner paths on which the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution shed their splendid light. We may not seem to be getting back to those old paths very fast at this moment, but we shall surely do so in the end. This Republic, born as a protest against injustice based on armed force, and dedicated by its founders to human liberty and equal rights, is surely not destined to become in the twentieth century a great, aggressive military and naval power, pursuing a policy of colonial expansion by arms and forcing its rule upon alien and resisting peoples at the bayonet's point. That cannot be. The American people will presently hark back to the counsels of the Fathers and forbid it. To doubt this would be to doubt the whole Christmas message and abandon the cheering belief that:

Through the ages one increasing purpose runs,
And the thoughts of men are widened
With the process of the suns.

Nothing can be more appropriately remembered today than that America owes it to mankind to help transform the Christmas vision into reality and to make the dream of "peace and good will" come true. The precepts of Christianity are at the root of our republican institutions. The Declaration of Independence is a Christmas carol in majestic prose.

When the stomach is fired out it must have a rest, but we can't live without food. Kodol Dyspepsia Cure "digests what you eat" so that you can eat all the good food you want while it is restoring the digestive organs to health. It is the only preparation that digests all kinds of food. Hare & Son, Hood Bros., Benson Drug Co., J. R. Ledbetter.

Wine has drowned more men than water.—Syrus.

the teachings of Christ: "His moral doctrines relating to kindred and friends were more pure and perfect than those of the most correct of the philosophers, and they went far beyond in inculcating universal philanthropy not only to kindred and friends, to neighbors and countrymen, but to all mankind, gathering all into one family, under the bonds of love, charity, peace, common wants and common aids." Macaulay echoes Jefferson in his masterly criticism of "Bentham's Utilitarian Philosophy," in which he says: "Do as you would be done by: love your neighbor as yourself: these are the precepts of Jesus Christ. Understood in an enlarged sense, these precepts are, in fact, a direction to every man to promote the greatest happiness to the greatest number." And that is the whole aim and purpose of republican or democratic government, as proclaimed and understood, though not absolutely attained, in these United States.

So, then, the celebration of Christmas should strike a higher note of human hope and faith in the future under the flag of our great Republic than under any other. Here, as in no other land, men are free to think, to speak, to act. Here, to a greater degree than elsewhere, men have an approximately equal opportunity in the pursuit of happiness. Here, at least, no barriers of caste or class, or rank or creed, divide one body of citizens from another. Here, too, in a measure not realized in other countries, the common resources of all are lavishly drawn upon—as in the matter of education—to secure equal benefits to each. And all this is so much gained toward the full realization of the Christmas ideal—the perfect brotherhood of man.

London Growing Anxious.

London, Dec. 27.—The paucity and obscurity of the dispatches from South Africa give rise to renewed anxiety. Apparently the disturbed are of Cape Colony extends further south than it did last December, and Lord Kitchener does not appear to have had much success as yet in driving back the invaders. The War office had received no news last evening of the reported capture of Yeomanry near Britstown, a burghersdorp dispatch has a mysterious reference to "an unfortunate mistaking of the enemy for Brabant's Horse," which resulted in the sounding of "cease firing" and enabled the Boers to occupy all the commanding positions, the British retiring from a difficult predicament. General Clement's success against the Boers in the Malaglesberg region is also doubtful, the last dispatch reporting "that it was considered advisable not to force the Boers from their positions."

The British press continues in the main optimistic; but the condition of affairs brings home the enormous difficulties that will face Lord Kitchener in patrolling and policing such immense tracts of country even when the Boers shall be finally subdued.

The Daily Mail, which makes a strong appeal to the government to "face the facts and send Lord Kitchener more troops," says: "There is a real risk in being lulled to sleep by carefully censored messages."

New York coffinmakers and gravediggers have organized as a preliminary step toward a national union of the mortuary trades.

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A Great Event of The New Year.

Baltimore Sun.

With the dawn of the twentieth century will be born the Commonwealth of Australia, embracing an island continent about equal in area to the United States without Alaska, though its population numbers little more than 3,500,000. The act by which the federation was accomplished was the most notable performance of the last British Parliament.

To mark the importance of the occasion the Duke of York, who will be accompanied by his wife, has been specially commissioned to open the first Parliament of the new Commonwealth in the name of Queen Victoria, his grandmother.

The Earl of Hopetoun is to be the first Governor-General of the Commonwealth, with a salary of \$50,000 a year. The governors of the colonies, which will be known as states after federation goes into effect, will retain that title, not becoming lieutenant-governors, as in Canada. While Lord Hopetoun is expected to reside principally in Sydney, the Federal Parliament will sit at Melbourne until it can meet at the new seat of government. New South Wales was anxious that Sydney should be selected as the capital of United Australia; Victoria was equally desirous that Melbourne should be chosen.

As a compromise the framers of the Commonwealth act, with the District of Columbia in mind—as, indeed, the United States was much in view in many of its provisions—stipulated that "the seat of government of the Commonwealth shall be determined by the Parliament, and shall be within territory which have been granted to or acquired by the Commonwealth, and shall be vested in and belong to the Commonwealth, and shall be in the State of New South Wales, and be distant not less than 100 miles from Sydney. The territory is to be not less than 100 square miles in extent. The government of Australia will be practically vested in a Senate and House of Representatives, chosen like the corresponding bodies in the United States, except that the senators will be elected by popular vote. The executive officers will be the premier and governor-general, as in Canada.

Want it a Territory.

Washington, Dec. 35.—Two Porto Ricans (F. Degetau and P. J. Besosa) are here to urge Congress to pass a bill declaring their island a Territory of the United States. Senor Degetau was recently elected a resident commissioner in accordance with the provisions of the Foraker law.

He says that the only thing necessary to make Porto Rico one of the most productive countries in the world is American capital. When suitable and stable laws are given the island millions of dollars will be invested. Porto Ricans want to be admitted as plenary citizens of the United States. The people, almost irrespective of party, realize that their future lies in the direction of American Statehood, and to that end everyone is striving.

Senor Degetau said: "There are 100,000 people in the island, according to the last census reports, and this certainly entitles us to consideration. Our industrial resources are without limit, and all that is needed is money for development. The future of our great country cannot be overestimated."

The Best Plaster.

A piece of flannel dampened with Chamberlain's Pain Balm and bound to the affected parts is superior to any plaster. When troubled with lame back or pains in the side or chest, give it a trial and you are certain to be more than pleased with the prompt relief which it affords. Pain Balm also cures rheumatism. One application gives relief. For sale by Hood Bros.

Lepers in the Philippines.

Washington, Dec. 26.—An appended report to General MacArthur's review of the civil affairs of the Philippines for the past fiscal year gives some rather startling facts regarding the introduction and prevalence of leprosy in the islands. According to the estimates of the Franciscan Fathers, says Major Guy L. Edie, the writer of the report, there are no less than 30,000 lepers in the archipelago, the major portion of these being in the Visayas. Leprosy was introduced in 1633, when the Emperor of Japan sent a ship with 150 lepers on board to the Philippines to be cared for by the Catholic priests. Thus the seed was planted, and as no practical methods were ever adopted to eradicate the disease, or prevent its spread, it has taken firm root, and spread into its present formidable phases.

A house to house inspection inaugurated last January found more than a hundred lepers concealed in dwellings. These were sent to San Lazaro Hospital, in Manila, but many others escaped into the surrounding country. A commission is now engaged in the work of selecting a suitable island, or islands, for the purpose of isolating all the lepers in the archipelago.

Chinese Killed, Villages Burned.

Paris, Dec. 26.—A dispatch to the Havas Agency from Peking, dated December 25th, says a detachment of French troops commanded by Gen. Bailloud were recently attacked by Chinese regulars and Boxers at Thi-Tcheou, south of Pao Ting Fu. The punitive expedition took the village after a lively combat, and many cannon and a quantity of provisions and ammunition were secured. On account of the hostile attitude of the population Gen. Bailloud burned the village, and also those villages in the neighborhood. The Chinese loss was 1000 (?) men. Gen. Bailloud's force sustained no loss. Christian Chinese families have been maltreated by the Chinese regulars.

The World's Work For January.

The aim of The World's Work is to give expression to every important phase of American activity. This aim finds illustration in the number for January in articles of such widely different characters as "Going Back to the Soil" (with many beautiful illustrations), which deals in a hopeful spirit with the lot and prospects of the city toiler seeking a home and livelihood on a small farm, and in "Great Tasks of the New Century," an inspiring review of the most important material undertakings likely to be accomplished during the next two or three decades. Bishop Lawrence, of Massachusetts, contributes a stimulating and timely paper on "The Relation of Wealth to Morals," and Winston Spencer Churchill, the English war correspondent, a penetrating, first-hand study of Lord Roberts. The wonderful results this country has achieved in recent years in parkmaking and landscape-gardening are adequately treated in a profusey illustrated article. There is a graphic account, with many illustrations, of a day's work on a snow-plough in the Rocky Mountains. Cyrus C. Adams tells what has been accomplished in the field of exploration during the warrent century, and a kindred article deals with Ewart Scott Trogan's recent journey across Africa from South to North, in its way one of the most remarkable feats of recent times. An editorial interpretation of current events, covering the progress of the world; a concise guide to the newest books of value, and the record of American achievement under the title "Among the World's Workers," complete a number of unusual interest and value.

I am receiving a car fresh salt this week. I desire to sell this car quickly and offer it at the same old price. W. M. Sanders.

SELMA NEWS.

Mr. Ned Ford, of Louisburg, is visiting friends here.

Richard Oliver is at home from Bethel Hill Academy.

Misses Nora and Annie Hall, of Durham, are visiting Miss Mary Hatcher.

Master Roy and Miss May Atwell are visiting their aunt, Mrs. T. V. Owens.

Mrs. John W. Robertson, of Clayton, is on a visit to her sister, Mrs. W. H. Hare.

Mr. Addison Driver, of Georgia, with his wife and children, are on a visit to his brother, W. B. Driver.

Mr. and Mrs. N. E. Edgerton returned from Raleigh Wednesday, where they have been spending Christmas.

Miss Stella Passmore is spending Christmas with friends at Cary, and Prof. Candler with friends at Princeton.

Misses Maggie Whitley and Hazel Irene Waddell are at home from Louisburg Female College, and Miss Daisy Oliver from Littleton.

Mrs. and Miss Dean, of Wilson, are here to see Dr. Vick, Mrs. Dean's brother, who is very sick. Dr. Cobb, Sr., was to see him Monday.

Mr. M. C. Horner and daughter Miss Mabel Horner, left Monday to visit friends and relatives in Richmond. They will be absent some days.

Mr. M. C. Winston returned from Richmond with a load of horses and mules Thursday, which he will sell cheap. This is the fourth load received by him this year.

Dr. and Mrs. R. J. Noble celebrated the 20th anniversary of their marriage last Friday night. Quite a number of their friends and relatives were present and spent a most delightful evening. They received a number of beautiful and useful presents.

N. M. Moore, our champion rabbit hunter, together with our county treasurer, John W. Futrell and A. R. Ellington, went rabbit hunting one day this week and bagged forty-two rabbits, sixteen partridges and six squirrels, and our champion said it was not a good day for rabbits either. If you want to have fun rabbit hunting just go with our champion and John Futrell who is a good second.

Do You Intend to Pay?

Occasionally when we try to collect subscriptions a subscriber will tell us that he did not subscribe for the paper and does not feel under obligations to pay for it. This is always a surprise to us for we have made it a rule all along never to put anybody's name on our list who does not subscribe. We know and have always known that we would get into endless trouble by putting names on our books who were not subscribers and never would do it.

Another trouble we have had is with some who claim they wanted the paper stopped. Of course we are anxious to hold all the subscribers we can but do not wish to try to hold any against their choice. When we are asked plainly to stop a subscriber's paper we always do so. But as soon as we want the money from some people they tell us they did not want the paper and have tried their best to stop it.

Do you intend to pay for THE HERALD? If not please write us a postal card and tell us so and the paper will be discontinued at once. We cannot afford to send it to any one free of charge. We keep on our lists no "dead heads" if we know it. So if you do not intend to pay for THE HERALD for any reason let us know it at once.

Don't forget that I am still selling the Standard Sewing Machine. If you want the best machine at a much reduced price, come to see me. W. M. SANDERS.

Johnson--Lassiter.

At the home of the bridegroom in Elevation township Wednesday morning at 10 o'clock, Miss Lillian Lassiter and Mr. John W. Johnson were united in marriage, Rev. R. W. Henders, of Wendell, performing the ceremony.

The attendants were Mrs. Lassiter and Miss Daisy Johnson, bridesmaids; Mr. A. K. Hardee and Mr. Coats, Mr. — Maynor, Lucy Johnson; Mr. —borough and Miss Delson.

Immediately after the ceremony the bridal party went to the home of Mr. W. B. Johnson, father of the groom, where a bountiful dinner was served.

As soon as dinner was over the party came to Smithfield, where the happy young couple boarded the 1:40 train for Columbia, Tyrrell county, the home of the groom.

The contracting parties are both well known and have many friends who wish them all success and happiness. The bride is the eldest daughter of Mr. W. A. Lassiter, who by her many charms, has won a lasting place in the hearts of all who know her. Mr. Johnson is the efficient principal of Columbia High School where he is meeting with well-merited success.

A Delightful Entertainment.

On last Thursday evening Miss Nancy Leigh Whitehead gave a most enjoyable entertainment at the home of Mr. and Mrs. H. A. McCullers. The features of the evening were solos, recitations and plays by Misses Erma, Mary and Gretchen McCullers, which were marked by both talent and good training.

Misses Mary and Nancy Whitehead rendered a good play which was enjoyed by the audience.

After the exercises the guests repaired to the dining room, which was artistically decorated, where refreshments were served.

Among the guests were Misses Mary and Lillian Whitehead, of Raleigh, Mrs. Martha McCullers, of Smithfield, and a number of young people from Clayton and surrounding country.

We congratulate Mr. and Mrs. McCullers upon having such an able teacher to develop the talents of their three brilliant daughters and thank them as well as Miss Whitehead for the pleasant evening spent there. VISITOR.

Christmas Tree at Princeton.

PRINCETON, N. C., Dec. 26, 1900. The Methodist Sunday School at this place gave its members and the public a delightful concert and Christmas tree last night. At 7 o'clock the church was crowded to its utmost capacity and many were unable to obtain entrance, but in spite of the lack of room it was a good-natured, well behaved company.

The programme had been prepared by Mrs. J. W. Perry, ably assisted by others of the ladies. They deserve much praise for the creditable manner in which the children performed their parts. The music, particularly, under Mrs. Perry's superintendence was unusually good and appropriate. And in regard to decoration, there was something of which to boast. The whole church was trimmed with holly, ivy and mistletoe, and there was a beautiful illuminated star at the centre of the back, set in a bank of evergreens, which was the appropriate theme of all the exercises; but it was in the decoration of the tree itself that Princeton would be found unique. It was covered with great quantities of material brought specially from Chicago, as a gift, by Miss Sarah Hemenway, and put on under her own direction. It made a lovely sight when the tree was lighted, and could be enjoyed, because the presents were not to be taken from off the tree, but from under it. The good behaviour and evident enjoyment of the whole company attest how much to be commended are the good people who prepared this Christmas festival for the children.

A VISITOR.