

What's in the Bag for Us?



"A Little Child Shall Lead Them"

CHRISTMAS is the apotheosis of enfeeblement. It is the exaltation of childhood. It is the glory of the little child.

We celebrate this festival in bleak December, the uncrowned month in our northern zone, fighting its dull skies by the eternal fires of love in human hearts.

There is not in all this land a house where the rain beats through the roof, where the mother and father gather the children more closely to shelter them, but the Christmas truth is shining, "Blessed are the poor."

There is not a homeless boy who in the December night creeps out of the snow into an empty dry goods box in the alley, not a little fellow up under the rafters of the poor house on the county farm, not a foundling left in a basket at the rich man's door, not a shivering, tiny girl unfitted for a fight with the storm, but the new truth of the Christmas spreads its wings over them.

"When I am weak, then am I strong." Who is weak? Who is infirm upon his feet and walks with a crutch? Who is afraid of the northeast wind? Who says: "I am better; yes, I think I am getting better. But somehow I do not get my vigor back?" Who leans up against the bale of goods in the half-hidden counter and knows that she came back to work too soon? Who was born blind?

To all of you the Christmas has its meaning. There never was a conqueror like the child in the cradle. God hath chosen the weak things to confound the mighty. For 2,000 years the history of the world's civilization has been the story of the gentler virtues, the poem, the song and the triumph of suffering well. The race is not to the swift nor the battle to the strong. Every letter of that sentence is eternally true.

The grandest things that were ever done on earth were done by men and women who had the spirit of the child. The sublimest work of the Creator is the sweet-faced little child. It is everything for the child, heaven please—all harvests, all gold, all schools, all trade, all government, all the coming better times. Christmas means, "And a little child shall lead them."—Emory J. Hayne in New York World.

Few Christmas Toys Then.

Throughout the colonies in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries toys were an almost unknown factor, but wherever Christmas observances were not frowned upon by religion feasting and good cheer were abundant, and rich and poor, old and young, shared in the games, abundant food and genial atmosphere. In the eighteenth century toys began to make their appearance in the colonies. Some of them were brought from overseas and had the enchanting quality of novelty. Little girls who had helped to mother their younger brothers and sisters were delighted with dolls that were all their own, to fondle and cuddle. A toy was a thing to be cherished in those days.—Churchman.

Christmas on Christmas Island.

They never have any "white" Christmases on Christmas Island. The thermometer never falls below 70 and never rises above 90 in the shade.

Christmas Island lies about 250 miles southeast of the western extremity of Java. It is in the Indian ocean and belongs to Great Britain, having been annexed in 1888. This interesting little bit of land in midsea appears to have been originally a coral reef, which by volcanic forces has been raised so high that at its highest point it sticks out of the water 1,600 feet. In shape it is an irregular quadrilateral. It has an area of about twenty square miles.

The Three Wise Men

ONE Christmas mystery remains unsolved. Who were the wise men of the East—the magi who followed the star of Bethlehem from afar to do homage to the new-born Saviour?

It is fair to assume from the fact that the visitors were received at court by King Herod and that they carried gifts of value that they were in their own country men of royalty or close to it. Herod evidently deemed it well to treat them with deference, for disquieted though he was to lead them to the birthplace of the Redeemer he dissembled and told them that when they had found the new born he would return to worship with them.

Much of our information about the early days of the Christian era comes from the monks of the fourteenth century, who delved deeply into historical sources since lost to the world. Their story of the three wise men has received wide credence. According to these monks, the wise men were three great kings called Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar. Caspar was the oldest and from the North. At the time of the birth of Christ he was sixty years old, and for more than two-thirds of that time he had ruled in Arabia. Balthasar was black, a native of Saba, from the East, and forty years old. The youngest was Melchior, from the South, whose country was Tarshish. He was twenty years old.

Impelled by some mysterious power, they dropped all the cares of the state and followed a single star thirteen days and nights, without eating or sleeping, till it led them to Jerusalem.

Then the story follows that of the Bible until they returned to their own countries.

The story does not stop here. It tells circumstantially the after life of the three wise men. The good Apostle St. Thomas journeyed to their country and baptized them, and all three went out to preach the doctrine of the Christ.

They were slain by barbarous gentiles, and later the Empress Helena, mother of Constantine, recovered their sacred bones and took them to Constantinople. Thence they were carried to Milan and finally found an ultimate resting place in Cologne, where they now are.—New York Post.

Christmas and the Children

The little folks are talkin'— they talk like anything 'Bout Santy Claus a-comin' an' what he's goin' to bring. An' the mother never scolds 'em or tells 'em 'bout the noise. They're just the sweetest little girls, the best of little boys!

Because they know that Santy Claus knows everything they do An' while he's loading up his sleigh he's watchin' of 'em too! An' them that minds their mothers, they gets the most of toys. They're just the sweetest little girls, the best of little boys!

They've just been writin' letters to Santy Claus each day An' tellin' him just what they want an' showin' him the way. To where the house is, so he'll know just where to leave the toys. Fer just the sweetest little girls, the best of little boys!

They're gittin' mighty anxious fer the days an' nights to go, An' all of 'em are happy, an' they make their mothers so! She never has to scold 'em or tell 'em 'bout the noise 'Cause they're just the sweetest little girls, the best of little boys!—Frank L. Stanton in Atlanta Constitution.

Working in the Name Of the Christ Child

SOME thirty years ago there lived in the city of Washington a young girl, the daughter of Richard T. Merrick, a distinguished lawyer, says the Survey. A serious injury, due to an accident, had left her an invalid, confined to her couch. The Christmas season was fast approaching and amid the preparations for the holidays, which the happy family were busily making, this young invalid, reared in luxury, conceived the desire of clothing in the name of the Christ Child some poor babe who was to come into the world in poverty. She made a simple but complete layette, sent for a friend who she knew could find the very mother who needed such assistance, and one small child was clothed in the name of the Christ Child.

The Christ Child, society, founded 27 years ago, distributed 139 layettes last year. Not one request has ever been refused to an applicant indorsed by its visitors. And from this has developed the material relief department, which clothes and shoes children, furnishes a fortnight's outing, a brace for a crippled leg or a book from the library. There are no religious qualifications. Active members contribute a definite number of hours' work each week, and anyone may become a member by promising to answer the Christmas letter of a poor child. Washington numbers 1,000 members, and there are more than 4,500 in all, including the branches in 22 cities.

From her couch, where she has lain for more than 25 years, Miss Merrick directs and leads all the society's work.

St. Nicholas Day and Christmas.

A writer in the Pall Mall Gazette thus speculated concerning the amalgamation of Christmas eve and St. Nicholas eve: "Perhaps the amalgamation of the two festivals was brought about by motives of economy, the giving of presents on December 5 and again on December 25 constituting too heavy a toll on parental purses. That this was the case appears to be proved by the custom prevailing in Catholic Germany, where St. Nicholas duly appears in each home on December 5, and, inquiring into the conduct of the children, rewards the worthy with fruits and cakes and lectures the unworthy on the duty of obedience. He then asks the Christ Child to bring them at Christmas, and on the morning of that day they usually find the desired articles in the shoes which they placed overnight on the hearth. This variation of the original Nicholas eve custom, for so long obsolete in England, probably accounts for our possession of Santa Claus in his present form. He is supposed to have been an importation from America about 40 years ago (as a little earlier we had derived the Christmas tree from Germany on the initiative of the prince consort, husband of Queen Victoria.)"

On Christmas Eve.

Oh, little babe, oh, gentle babe, That in a manger lies, A-listening to the choral sweet Which floats a-down the skies, We, through the year, who only hear The world's harsh thundering, Listen that we, dear babe, with thee May hear the angels sing.

Oh, little babe, oh, gentle babe, Who lookest toward the star And see'st when they bear their gifts, Those wise men from afar, From wandering wide back to thy side, Weary and worn, we flee; But hearts that bleed and hands that need Are all we have for thee.

Oh, little babe, oh, gentle babe, Our hearts were hard and cold; The star we loved, the star of fame, The song the song of gold. At the manger's side this Christmas tide We listen and we long To see that star shine from afar And hear the angels' song.—Richard F. Souter.

MORTGAGE SALE VALUABLE LAND.

Under and by virtue of the powers contained a mortgage deed executed by H. W. Johnson to Rufus Sanders, and recorded in Registry Johnston County, N. C., Book J. No. 12, page 48, and duly transferred to the undersigned, also another mortgage executed by the said H. W. Johnson to T. L. Gerald and duly of record in the Registry Johnston County, Book 2, page 126, default having been made in payment of the notes secured thereby, I will offer for sale for cash to the highest bidder before the Court House door in Smithfield, N. C., at 12 M., on Saturday the 22nd day of Dec., 1917, the following described property, to-wit:

Beginning at a maple in B. Johnson's line, L. L. Jernigan's corner, and runs said line S 4 1/2 W 137 poles to a stake; thence N 6 1/2 W 10 poles to a stake in the center of the Smithfield and Fayetteville Road; thence with the said road S 41 W 8.6 poles to a stake; thence N 55 W 33 poles to a stake; thence N 1 E 116 poles to a stake in B. Johnson's line in the dismial; thence with the said dismial E 58 poles to the beginning, containing 39 acres more or less.

T. L. GERALD, Mortgagee, and owner of debt and notes. This 21st day Nov., 1917.

NOTICE. The undersigned having qualified as Administrator on the estate of Jacob Finch, deceased, hereby notifies all persons having claims against said estate to present the same to me duly verified on or before the 16th day of November, 1917, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery; and all persons indebted to said estate will make immediate payment. This 14th day of Nov., 1917. J. E. HOCUTT, Administrator. A. M. Noble & W. L. Watson, Attorneys.

NOTICE OF SALE. North Carolina, Johnston County. Hattie S. Naron, Administratrix, vs. Turner Boykin, Lizzie Boykin Ingram, Former Wife of Turner Boykin. Under and by virtue of authority contained in a decree of the Superior Court of Johnston County entered in the above entitled action at the December term, 1917, of said court, the undersigned commissioner will offer for sale at public auction at the court house door in the town of Smithfield, N. C., on Monday, January 14, 1918, at 12 o'clock, M., for cash to the highest bidder, the following described tract or parcel of land in O'Neals township, Johnston County, adjoining the lands of C. D. Bailey, Enly Boykin, and others, and bounded as follows, to-wit:

Beginning at a stake in Enly Boykin's line, head of a pond; runs thence E. to a stake in Blackberry Branch; thence up said branch to a post oak; thence N. to a pine, C. D. Bailey's corner; thence N. to the head of Dark Branch to Enly Boykin's corner; thence along Enly Boykin's line to the beginning, containing 40 acres, more or less. Reference is made to Book Y No. 7, page 148, Registry of Johnston County, and also to mortgage deed executed by Enly Boykin and wife to John A. Naron, Atty., recorded in Book F No. 11, page 146. The foregoing lands are subject to the life estate of Jacob Boykin. Otherwise the title is good. This 14th day of December, 1917. F. H. BROOKS, Commissioner.

NOTICE OF SALE OF REAL ESTATE.

That whereas, by virtue of a certain mortgage Deed dated December 18th, 1911, and given by S. V. Wall and wife, India Wall, to John H. Parker, to secure an indebtedness due the said J. H. Parker, and the said mortgage Deed having been recorded in Book W, No. 11 at page 103 in the office of the Register of Deeds of Johnston County, and the conditions of the said mortgage Deed having been broken, I will on Saturday, December 22nd, 1917, between the hours of 12 M. and 2 o'clock P. M., in front of the Court House in the town of Smithfield, North Carolina, offer for sale the following described real estate: Adjoining the lands of J. H. Parker, Robert Sanders and others, and bounded as follows: Beginning at a Ditch, now J. H. Parker's corner, and runs with the said line South 54 1/2 Degrees West 18 Poles to a stake; thence South 36 Degrees West 10 2-10 Poles to a stake; thence North 86 1/2 Degrees West 25 4-10 Poles to a ditch; thence with the said ditch North 35 1/2 Degrees East 21 4-10 Poles to the beginning and containing 211 acres, more or less. Terms of Sale: CASH. This November 20, 1917. JOHN H. PARKER, Mortgagee. Ray & Cockerham, Attorneys.

NOTICE. The undersigned having qualified as Administrator of the estate of J. D. Roberts, deceased, hereby notifies all persons having claims against said estate to present the same to me duly verified on or before the 16th day of November, 1918, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery; and all persons indebted to said estate will make immediate payment. This 13th day of November, 1917. W. B. ROBERTS, Administrator. RAY & COCKERHAM, Attorneys.

NOTICE. Under and by virtue of authority contained in a decree of the Superior Court of Johnston County, rendered at the April term, 1916, in the Civil Action entitled H. D. Ellington and wife, Ethel J. Ellington, against Exum Johnson, as well as decree entered at the February term, 1917, of the Superior Court of Johnston County in the same cause setting aside a former sale made by the undersigned commissioner, the undersigned will offer for sale at public auction at the Court House door in the town of Smithfield, N. C., on January 14, 1918, at 12 o'clock M., for cash, the following described tract or parcel of land, to-wit:

Beginning at a large white oak in the Jas. T. Wood division; thence E. H. Johnson's corner and runs S. 87 E. 15.20 chains to a pine (dead); thence S. 32 W. 14.50 chains to a stake a corner of Lot No. 3; N. 87 W. 18.80 chains to a stake in line of Lot No. 2 in said division; thence N. 3 E. 10.40 chains to a stake in A. Gower's line; thence 43 E. to the beginning, containing 26 acres, more or less. This Dec. 12, 1917. JAS. A. WELLONS, J. R. BARBOUR, Commissioners.

NOTICE. The undersigned having qualified as Administrator on the estate of J. Tommie Starling, deceased, hereby notifies all persons having claims against said estate to present the same to me duly verified on or before the 16th day of November, 1918, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery; and all persons indebted to said estate will make immediate payment. This 13th day of November, 1917. C. T. EASON, Administrator.

NOTICE OF SALE. North Carolina, Johnston County. In the Superior Court Before the Clerk Jacob Boykin, et al, vs. Martha Naron, Hackney Boykin, et al. Under and by virtue of authority contained in a decree of the Superior Court of Johnston County in the above entitled cause entered on the 28th day of November, 1917, the undersigned commissioners will offer for sale at public auction to the highest bidder, on the premises, beginning at 10 o'clock A. M. on Saturday, December 29, 1917, the following described tract of land in O'Neals Township, Johnston County, being known as the lands formerly owned by L. H. Boykin, deceased, to-wit:

Beginning at a maple on the bank of Contentna Creek; runs S. 5 W. 3541 feet to a stake in a pine stump; thence S. 87 E. 598 ft. to a stake in a fence row; thence as hedge row S. 4.15 W. 3251 ft. to a stake near a large pine; thence N. 84.15 W. 1658 ft. to a stake, N. Naron's corner; thence S. 2.40 W. 824 ft. to a stake on the Harris Branch; thence N. 84.15 W. 958 ft. to a stake; thence N. 6.25 E. 1630 ft. to a stake in the edge of a field; thence N. 87 W. 297 ft. to a pine stump, the Crocker heirs' corner; thence as their line N. 31.35 W. 1022 ft. to a stake; thence N. 39 W. 914 ft. to a stake, said Crocker corner; thence N. 6 E. 2104 ft. to a stake in Steep Hill Branch, Godwin corner; thence down the various meanders of said branch to a stake in spanish oak stump; thence N. 25 E. 320 to pine; thence N. 28, 35 lks. 309 to a stake; thence N. 38 E. 843, to blackgum on said branch; thence down various meanders of said branch to Contentna Creek; thence down the various courses of said creek to the beginning, containing Five Hundred Fifty-seven acres, more or less. This tract of land has been subdivided into eight tracts by the commissioners under order of the court, the first five tracts lying on the North side of the Wilson Road and the last three tracts lying on the South side of the Wilson Road. Lot No. 1 contains 65 8-10 acres; Lot No. 2 contains 83 1-10 acres; Lot No. 3 contains 90 76-100 acres; Lot No. 4 contains 77 4-10 acres; Lot No. 5 contains 80 8-10 acres; Lot No. 6 contains 31 7-10 acres; Lot No. 7 contains 63 4-10 acres; Lot No. 8 contains 63 8-10 acres. Plot of the land and further information can be had by applying to either of the commissioners.

Terms of sale will be one-half cash and the balance in six and twelve months, with interest at 6 per cent on the deferred payments. 10 per cent of purchase price will be required to be deposited with the commissioners on the day of sale and the balance of the one-half cash payment to be made upon confirmation of the report of the commissioners, which will be twenty days after the sale, if there is no upshot bid made on any lot or parcel of the land so sold. This Nov. 28, 1917. ASHLEY BOYKIN, R. F. D. Selma, N. C. F. H. BROOKS, Smithfield, N. C. Commissioners.

NOTICE OF SALE OF LAND.

That under and by virtue of a judgment of the Superior Court of Johnston County and State of North Carolina, entitled: R. C. Wallace, Administrator of A. D. Wallace, deceased, vs. Mrs. M. A. Wallace et al., the same being number — on the Special Proceeding Docket, I will on Saturday, December 29th, 1917, between the hours of 12 m. and 1 o'clock, p. m., in front of The First National Bank, in the town of Selma, North Carolina, offer for sale, for cash, that certain tract of land: Adjoining the lands of Dr. J. B. Person, W. B. Driver and others, and containing between 18 and 20 acres. To the highest bidder for Cash. This farm is within one mile of Selma, North Carolina. Nearly all of the land is cleared and under cultivation. Anyone desiring to buy a farm, it would be well to investigate this property. This November 27, 1917. R. L. RAY, Commissioner.

RESALE OF VALUABLE LAND.

North Carolina, Johnston County. In the Superior Court, Before the Clerk. Walter Eason, Dan Eason, Stella Radford and her husband, Rufus Radford; Hugh Eason, Enoch Eason, Ora Eason, India Eason, and Emmett Eason Heirs at Law of Elijah Eason, and the last three being Minors appeared by their Guardian Ad Litem, A. M. Noble, Ex-Parte. The bid having been raised the second time for this farm the same will be resold at the Court House door in Johnston County, at 12 o'clock M., Thursday, December 27, 1917. The same terms upon which it was sold Nov. 8, 1917.

By virtue of the judgment of the Superior Court rendered in the above entitled matter the undersigned Commissioner will offer for sale on the 8th day of November, 1917, at the Court House door in Johnston County, at 12 o'clock M., the following described tracts of land: Beginning at a stake Benjamin Eason's corner, and runs N. 102 to a stake on the Smithfield road; thence N. 57 1-2 W. 125 to a sweet gum on Mill Swamp; thence down said stream to Neuse River; thence down Neuse River to the Slaughter Branch, C. Radford's corner; thence up said branch and a Northprong of the same to a stake; thence South 2 E. 60 to a black gum C. Radford's corner; thence N. 70 E. 36 to a stake, Benjamin Eason's corner; thence East 52 to the beginning, containing 104 3-4 acres. See Book "E" 88, Registry of Johnston County. This farm is between Selma and Smithfield. A good farm within three miles of Smithfield and two miles of Selma, on public road—sand-clay. J. W. JONES, Commissioner. This December 12, 1917.

NOTICE OF ELECTION.

NOTICE is given that an election is hereby called for Bentonsville Township, Johnston County, to be held at the usual voting place in said Township, on the 15th day of January, 1918, on the question whether Bentonsville Township shall issue not more than Twenty-Five THOUSAND, THIRTY YEAR, FIVE PER CENT COUPON BONDS, interest to be paid semi-annually on the first day of January and July of each year, said Bonds to be issued for the purpose of building, repairing, making, constructing, and otherwise improving the Public Roads of said Township; also for the purpose of ascertaining whether the Board of County Commissioners of Johnston County shall be authorized to levy and collect a special tax of thirty cents on the \$100 valuation of property, and Ninety cents on the poll for the purpose of raising the funds with which to pay the interest on said Bonds and to provide for the payment of said Bonds at maturity in accordance with Chapter 122 of the Public Laws of North Carolina Session 1913 of the General Assembly and the amendments thereto.

All who favor said Bonds and special tax and who are entitled to vote in said election will cast a ballot upon which shall be written or printed the words: "FOR ROAD BONDS," and those opposed to the proposition shall vote a ballot upon which shall be written or printed the words: "AGAINST ROAD BONDS," and only one box shall be provided for the reception of said ballots.

An entire new registration for Bentonsville Township is hereby ordered and the registration Books of said Township will be open from Friday, December 14th, 1917, to and including Saturday, January 5th, 1918, for the purpose of giving to all those who are entitled to do so an opportunity to register for said election.

Albert M. Rose is hereby appointed Registrar and Lindley Cox and J. N. Rhodes are hereby appointed Judges of Election for said Election. This Nov. 12th, 1917. SAM T. HONEYCUTT, Clerk Board of County Commissioners.

FOR A BIG FAMILY BIBLE, CALL at The Herald Office, where you can get a nice one for \$3.50. Big type so that old people can read.

SALE OF VALUABLE LAND.

Pursuant to the Decree of Sale in the special proceeding entitled "Alonzo Parrish and wife, Nellie Parrish, J. H. Godwin and wife, Eva Godwin, Julius Lee and wife, Nellie Lee, against G. C. Bryan and wife, Lillie Bryan," now pending in the Superior Court of Johnston County, I will sell at public auction, to the highest bidder, for cash, the following described lands located in the Town of Benson, County of Johnston, and State of North Carolina, described as follows, to-wit:

FIRST: One lot of land in the Town of Benson, and running back 300 feet from Harnett Street, composing lots Nos. 8, 9, 19 and 11, in Block "34," according to the revised plan of the Town of Benson, made by Riddick, Mann and Hales. SECOND: One lot 75 by 140 feet, fronting on Mill Street, being lot No. 13 in Block "34" according to said plan of said town. THIRD: A lot fronting on Wall and Mill Streets 140 feet by 90 feet, the same being lot No. 3 in Block "48" according to said plan of said town. FOURTH: Three lots, containing three houses on Harnett Street, and said houses being now occupied by Charlie McLean, Neill Ferguson and Will Cozart, respectively, said three lots together comprising lots Nos. 2 and 3, in Block "33" according to said plan of said town. FIFTH: Lot No. 8 in Block "20" according to said plan of said town. SIXTH: Lot No. 5 in Block "36" according to the said plan of said town, said lot being known as the Home Place, fronting on Main Street about 397 feet, and running back 300 feet to Church Street. SEVENTH: One house and lot known as the O'Neal lot, located near Benson on the Raleigh Road, bounded on the West by the lands of Della Brady; and on the South by the lands of J. W. Wood, J. R., and John V. Moore, and on the East and North by the lands of Alonzo Parrish. EIGHTH: A tract of land in the Town of Benson, N. C., bounded on the north by Harnett Street, on the East by the lands of Alonzo Parrish, on the South by the lands of J. W. Wood, and on the West by the lands of Nat McLamb, deceased, and containing 10 acres more or less. Date of Sale: Monday, December 31, 1917, at 11 o'clock A. M. Place of Sale: Post Office Door, Benson, N. C. Terms of Sale: Cash, upon confirmation by the Court, 10 per cent cash deposited on day of sale required. This 27th day of November, 1917. N. A. TOWNSEND, Commissioner.

COMMISSIONER'S SALE.

Pursuant to an order of the Superior Court in the Special Proceedings entitled C. H. Wheeler, Adm. of Morgan Conniway vs. Troy Eason, Loyd Eason, Enly Eason and others, Heirs-at-law, the undersigned Commissioner will sell at public auction for cash that piece of land which belonged to Morgan Conniway, now deceased, and being as follows: All that tract of land deeded to Morgan Conniway by her father Kerney Eason containing 129 acres, more or less, and recorded in Book "F" No. 4, page 293, except three parts of the said land, formerly sold to Troy Eason, Loyd Eason, and L. T. Phillips, leaving in the tract now about 52 acres. This 52 acres is the piece that will be sold. This land will be sold on Monday, December 31, 1917, at the Court House door in Smithfield at 12 o'clock noon. LEON G. STEVENS, Commissioner.

WE HAVE IN STOCK A GOOD LOT

of second sheets at a bargain. Give us your order at once, as we can save you MONEY now. Beaty & Lassiter.