

The Salemite

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THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

"Alas! we make
A ladder of our thoughts, where
angles slip,
But sleep survives at the foot,
our high resolves
Laid down upon our slumbering
aids."
—L. E. L.—A History of the Lyric

MENTAL STAGNATION

To be satisfied with "mediocrity of accomplishment" is a sign of mental stagnation. No matter how small an undertaking may be, no matter how little interest is needed for its accomplishment, the truly alert and keenly intellectual person will be satisfied with nothing less than perfection. A task half done points to a dislike of details, and thus a lack of vision of the finished undertaking.

In college, the grading system determines more or less the value of a student's achievements. But the student's greatest value lies in his psychological effect—it shows clearly that mediocre accomplishment is unsatisfactory. In life, when all college days are over, no such system exists, but if a student has learned to be satisfied only after intensive attempts to do her best, then she has learned one of the greatest lessons of life, and her satisfaction will be merited.

Some of the most beautiful traditions and customs, which are quite a distinctive part of life at Salem, are those surrounding the Christmas season which we are now approaching. Of these traditions, none is more beautiful and beloved than that of the advent services, the first one of which was held Wednesday at the customary expanded chapel service. These services have been held in unbroken succession for a considerable number of years by the Bishop, and have become a very integral and cherished part of our college life. We cannot help but feel that we are indeed blessed with the privilege of attending these beautiful services, and that from them we may necessarily receive inspiration and benefit in our busy life here at school. May these services, under the leadership of the Bishop by whom they have been conducted for many years, long continue as a source of joy and blessing during the advent season at Salem.

ANNOUNCEMENT

On Wednesday, December 8, representatives of the Railroads will be in the Office Building from 11:30 to 2:00. At this time reservations for tickets should be made. The tickets will be delivered within a week, at which time cash payments must be made.

Christmas Customs Observed at Salem

Christmas time in Salem is marked by a great many sacred customs and traditions. Perhaps the most interesting custom is that of using the "putz" at the foot of the Christmas tree. "Putz" is a German word meaning "decoration." For many centuries, Moravian families and other families abroad in the vicinity of Moravia, have used small figures in making the scene of the Nativity at the foot of the family Christmas tree.

The primary idea of the "putz" is to allow the rural scene in Bethlehem, Judaea, where Jesus was born. A small cave or stable is used, in which one may see the Christ child in the manger, with Mary and Joseph, and the wise men offering their gifts. The candles of the wise men are usually tied outside, while on the nearby hills are shepherds with their flocks of sheep. Somewhere above the scene are angels hovering. The "putz" were first used to show to children the story of the birth of Christ, but often grown-ups have the putz even when there are no children in the family. Most of the families of "Old Salem" use the "putz" at Christmas time.

Although the first thoughts of this delightful custom are sacred, the idea lends itself also to unlimited development. One often sees domestic scenes at the foot of the tree. A small cabin or carved house, around which are figures of doves, treated animals, ponds with ducks on them, bridges over small streams, and sometimes Santa Claus and his reindeer, form the principle domestic scene. Another development of the "putz" idea is a wild forest scene, in which bears, wolves, and other animals roam the woods. Each year the "putz" is used under the Christmas tree in the College Library.

A distinctively Moravian custom is the distribution of Christmas candles at the Children's Love-feast on Christmas Eve. This custom is carried out in every Moravian church in the world, the candles symbolizing the light of Jesus being brought into the world. These candles are also used in the Christmas Vespers at Salem College, with the same significance which they have at the Love-feast.

The making of these candles is very interesting. They are made of pure bees-wax, which is melted and poured into candle moulds. Miss Ella Butner, of Salem, makes all the candles which are used in the Winston-Salem Moravian churches. Since the candles are made by hand, this is quite a task. Miss Butner has already made this year about 8,000 candles. After the candles are taken to the various churches, real tissue paper is cut and placed around the base of each candle, red being the Moravian church color.

Another pretty custom, which, however, is not distinctive to Moravians, is the placing of a candle in each window of every home on Christmas Eve night, "to light the Christ Child in."

Mrs. Ansoncme Will Give Art Exhibit

Mrs. Francis Ansoncme, a talented artist, will be at home every afternoon from three to six to show those students and friends interested in painting, her collection of scenery of North Carolina, and other pictures. Mrs. Ansoncme is very gifted, and has had her work praised highly, especially for the value she has painted of the campus at Chapel Hill. Her collection of paintings of North Carolina scenery is most praiseworthy and interesting.

Mrs. Ansoncme lives at 907 Church street, and she will gladly welcome any who may visit her.

"All I can think about is the turkey I'm going to eat tomorrow."
"Well, I should say you are rather food-minded."
—Denison Laughlin.

Somebody Reporter—And does your son go to college?
Mrs. Van Handing—Heavens, no; he goes to Harvard.
—Penn Punch Book.

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THE SPIRIT 'O' CHRISTMAS

Who dat peepin' 'roun' de cornets?
Who dat knockin' at de do?
Dat' de spirit wind o' Christmas.
An't you heard o' him befo'?
He's a peepin' in de windows,
An' he's list'nin' at de do.
It has come to make some happy,
It has come to make some sad,
You can say which one you is,
'Tis 'a' bein' good or bad.
Have yo' self and wash den dishes
Grab dat broom an' sweep de flo'
Johnnie get yo' ax an' huddle
Git dat wood right in dat do'
'Fore de spirit wind o' Christmas
Comes a creepin' in de do'.
—Esther Pfaff.

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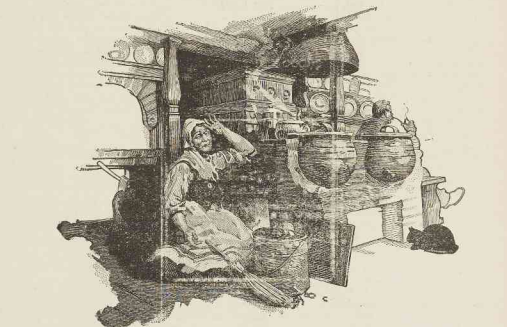
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Fuel

Eight hours it took to prepare the day's food—although Hans and the hired help ate it in no time at all.

When she came to her husband's house she smiled at the great stove. "Holds a good fire," they said—little did they know what that meant. After she had raked it, cleaned it, swept up after it—burnt her arms upon it—slaved for it through many years, she knew that more than coal had gone up in its flames.

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