

CHRISTMAS—THE PINNACLE OF THE YEAR

Christmas is the pinnacle of the year. No normal heart in a land of light can completely escape the contagion of the Christmas spirit. Society, business, church and home—all come under the spell of its mystic power. Like a great white flower, rich with foliage red and green, the Christmas season bursts through the snows of mid-winter and fills the land with the fragrance of kindness and with the beauty of happiness.

There is a bit of magic in the air on Christmas Day. There is something that makes folks smile, whether they are wont to smile or not. There is unheard music that throbs in people's very pulses, and warm their hearts, and gladdens their countenances. There seems to be a bit more of Heaven in the earth. Yes, that is just it—there is more of Heaven in the earth! The Babe of Bethlehem is in the thoughts of men, and the angels' song is echoing in their ears. Let the joy-bells ring!

The birth of the blessed Jesus compels humanity's acclaim. The angels could not be silent when the manger of Bethlehem cradled Him, neither can men be silent, when the circling year brings 'round the season of His advent. With shepherds and magi and heavenly heralds, we must burst into praise. "For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and

the government shall be upon His shoulder; and His Name shall be called Wonderful Counsellor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace." Mankind's chiefest need is the need of a Prince. Humanity's most pathetic want is the want of peace. Let the star shine far, and the angels' song be carolled in every land and tongue! For the Virgin's Child is the hope of the world!

The world needs the Christmas spirit for the Christmas spirit is a spirit of human brotherhood—"Peace on earth; good will among men!" For two thousand years the proclamation has echoed in the skies. How long, O Lord, ere it shall echo in hearts of nations, in the halls of state and in the parliament of men? Let not hope and courage fail. The war clouds still are red, but the Prince of Peace must triumph. Had the carol of the heavenly host found a truer echo in the lives of professing Christians, His coming had not been so long delayed.

Every community needs the Christmas spirit. For Christmas is a festival of friendship and cheerful generosity. It is the season of God's greatest gift to men. None can enter into the real joy of Christmas without giving. They find the sweetest joy, who gives to those who can make no return. Such giving partakes most truly of the spirit of Him who gave gifts unto men, and who said,

"It is more blessed to give than to receive."

Every home needs the Christmas spirit. For the spirit of Christmas is a spirit of love and tender thoughtfulness; it is a spirit of self-forgetfulness, and the happy giving of one's self, in gentle ministries, to those with one lives. That is the spirit that creates a home. Jesus has taught us the spiritual secrets that make happy home-life possible. He has sanctified wedlock, and revealed the glory that belongs to childhood. Our ideal of the home has not come out of a king's palace or a lordly mansion but out of a stable and a carpenter's cot. Christmas is the high Carnival of the home. It is the season for sweet reunions, and for loves most lavish expressions. It is a season also when the homes should open to the homeless. Christmas is preeminently the children's festival. It is a day that ought to be filled brim full of joy for every child. But let the joy be sanctified by thoughts of the Holy Child Jesus.

Thank God for Christmas! Thank Him again for the people who have Christmas in their hearts the whole year 'round.—Christian Observer.

DISGRACEFUL

No more disgraceful way to celebrate Christmas could have been devised than that of taking on an excess of liquor in honor of the birth of one who came to "save the world," and not to degrade it.

The writer once heard an old man who had drank considerable liquor, remark: "If I wanted to celebrate the death of the devil, I'd get drunk. Since Christmas is in celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ, I never would touch liquor at Yuletide."

Officers who make a special effort to stop the sale of booze at Christmas time deserve double commendation, not only for doing their duty as the law requires, but in order that they might thwart a desire to "celebrate" in a way that is unfitting even if it were in honor of the "death of the." Statesville Sentinel.

C. B. KEARFOOT
ARCHITECT
BRISTOL, VA.-TENN.
Registered Architect in North Carolina Schools, Banks Public Buildings
10-12

Democrat Ads Bring Results

Tax Notice

I will be at the following places for the purpose of collecting the taxes for the year 1922 on the dates named. Let all those who have not paid their taxes do so at once as 1 pe cent will be added after February 1st, 1923.

- North Fork, R. F. Miller's store, forenoon December 18, 1922
- North Fork, Will Thomas' store, afternoon December 18, 1922
- Meat Camp, A. W. Hodgson's store, forenoon December 18, 1922
- Meat Camp, W. H. Norris' store, afternoon December 18, 1922
- Bald Mountain, Todd December 19, 1922
- Cove Creek, W. M. Reece's store, forenoon December 19, 1922
- Cove Creek, W. F. Sherwood's store, afternoon December 19, 1922
- Beaver Dams, Don Hagaman's store, forenoon December 20, 1922
- Stony Fork, Jerry Watson's store, afternoon December 20, 1922
- Stony Fork, Cook Bro's store, forenoon December 20, 1922
- Elk, C. C. Triplett's store December 21, 1922
- Laurel Creek, James' store, fornoon December 21, 1922
- Laurel Creek, Rominger school house, afternoon December 21, 1922
- Shawnechaw, Matney December 22, 1922
- Watauga, Farthing's store, forenoon December 23, 1922
- Watauga, Shulls Mills, afternoon December 23, 1922
- Blue Ridge, Stories store December 28, 1922
- Blowing Rock December 29, 1922
- Boone December 30, 1922

J. E. YOUNG, Ex-Sheriff.

Grocery Specialties



MY LINE IS COMPLETE AND MY PRICES RIGHT, AND I CLAIM THAT NO MORE UP-TO-DATE LINE CAN BE FOUND THAN MINE.

MAY A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR BE YOURS.

W. A Thomas

Own Your Own Home

Through The Watauga Building and Loan Association.

THE FOURTH SERIES OF STOCK WILL OPEN JANUARY 1st 1923.

Begin saving your money now to build that home by taking stock and paying in your monthly installments.

Those having surplus money can't do better than invest in paid up stock in this Association. Your investment will be safe and pay you a handsome dividend each year.

We Appreciate Your Confidence and Business.

Watauga Building & Loan Association
H. H. GREENE, Sec.-Treas.

WE EXTEND YOU A WELCOME TO OUR NEW HOME

With pleasure we announce to our many friends and customers that we are now located in roomy brick quarters in the Jones Block where we can offer you service and safety in a greater measure. We invite you to visit us and feel at home when you are in Boone. We know your wants and want your business.

Your friendship has been of great value, and your co-operation has enabled us to grow, so we take this means of thanking you. We wish you a Happy Christmas and a New Year that will be increasingly prosperous. May our good relations continue throughout the coming years.

THE PEOPLES BANK & TRUST CO.
Boone, North Carolina