



A Merry, Merry Christmas

A merriment that should be abundantly justified by the splendid prospects that the future holds in store for you, your friends, your neighbors and the whole wide world. "Behind the night there is plenty of light and—THINGS ARE ALL RIGHT."

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Greensboro, North Carolina



WHEN PEOPLE ARE PRESSED TOO FAR

The International Sunday School Lesson For January 1st Is, "The Revolt of Jeroboam I Kings 12:1-13:6."

By WILLIAM T. ELLIS.
Straight into the social perplexities of our own times falls this plangent of ancient Jewish history and prophecy. If I had but lately returned from a journey to the near east, for the purpose of portraying conditions there, I could not tell a more appropriate story than this one of Jeroboam of long ago, who is the theme of this first Sunday school lesson of the new year.
It means something tremendous that more than 20,000,000 persons are going to spend the next nine months in studying, week by week, the rise and fall of patriotism, social justice and religion, in the history of the Hebrews. Double and dramatic pertinency may be given to the theme if the dreadful rumors of extensive new Jewish pogroms in the east are fulfilled, as predicted, this winter. Many adult classes will link the lessons to the present predicament of Jews everywhere for social reform and radicalism. It will save many persons from race-bitterness to be kept by the international lessons, in the consciousness that the

Jews were really the chosen people, and the custodians of the highest revelation of the Infinite.
A Man Who Married Wrong.
Despite the warnings of their prophets, the Jews, a thousand years before the Christian era, had adopted the king-fashion of their neighbors. The record of three millenniums ago reads like Kipling's "The Old Man":
"Here is naught at venture, random nor untrue—
Swings the wheel full circle, brims the cup anew.
"Here is naught unproven, here is nothing hid:
Step for step and word for word—so the old kings did!
"Step by step and word by word: who is ruled may read,
Suffer not the old kings—for we know the breed—
"All the right they promise,—all the wrong they bring.

Stewards of the judgment, suffer not this king!"

From the pastoral simplicity of the times of the judges, the Jews were led by Saul and David and Solomon into all the state and splendor of royal city life. Israel reached the apex of its civil and material and political glory under Solomon. For the sake of political alliance, Solomon married many wives, most of them heathen. The wives brought their religions and idols to the palaces and the capital. I suppose a modern novelist could amplify the theme of Solomon's deterioration by the sex complex. His harm came by his harem. The degradation of the moral tone of the kingdom and the loss of sterling qualities of character in the princes, all trace back to the king's polygamy. Departure from the stern morality taught on Sinai inevitably was followed by departure from the living Jehovah.
All sorts of evils to the people flowed from their leader's sensual indulgence and poverty of the masses. It was the king, and not the kingdom, that grew in greatness. Today's problem of excessive wealth of the few and excessive want of the many is not a new thing.
It is no new thing for toilers, pressed too far, to go on strike or into rebellion. Most writers upon the grandeur of Solomon's reign pass over the discontent of the people who were taxed sorely to support his magnificence. We need to have it recalled to our attention that there was a strike of workmen in Jerusalem against the king's rigors, so that their leader, Jeroboam, an outstanding personality, had to flee to Egypt, an exile during Solomon's reign. Thus Jeroboam became a popular figure, a hero of the masses. He was filling somewhat the same role as Moses during the days of Israel's oppression in Egypt. Abijah, a prophet of Jehovah, had foretold that Jeroboam should become a people's savior.
At Solomon's death, the people sought relief at the hands of Rehoboam, his successor, a pampered, enervated princeling, who listened to his own boon companions and sycophants, rather than to the wiser word of the elders. He was persuaded by youths as foolish as himself to adopt a "strong" policy toward the people; even as some white men have of late vainly done in the east. He did not realize that no people will stand the heavy hand of injustice any longer than they are able to resent it.
In this case the cry went forth, "To your tents, O Israel!" The bigger, richer part of the kingdom called for the leader who had returned from exile at Solomon's death. The split in Israel came almost along the geographical lines that divide the French and the British mandates in the Holy land today. Rehoboam was left with the sterile south for his only domain; and Jeroboam was made king of the northern tribes. The story reminds me of the remark made by a brilliant British journalist to me at the arms conference: "Amritsar may cost Britain her empire. The 'hard' and 'strong' policy toward people is always a blunder. In the very hands and arms when the heavy hand of the Rehoboam-minded falls, the missionary policy wins.
Not all great reformers make good leaders. Responsibility changes men's minds. Jeroboam became afraid he should lose his popularity. Therefore the zealous humanitarian and patriot became a politician. He accordingly set up religious high places—stark heathenism—in opposition to Jerusalem. On these he erected golden calves, after the Aaron model at Sinai.
Thus his collapse was one of faith. He tied to his own ankle the chain that has been heard clanking down through the ages—Jeroboam, who made Israel to sin. He failed his people in religion, which is the supreme failure of all.
SEVEN SENTENCE SERMONS.
Our God is a household God, as well as a heavenly one; He has an altar in every man's dwelling; let men look to it when they read it lightly and pour out its ashes.—John Ruskin.
Better be a battle in the side of your friend than his echo.—Emerson.
For life is the mirror of king and slave,
'Tis just what we are and do;
Then give to the world the best you have,
And the best will come back to you.—Madeline N. Hildgale.
Honest good humor is the oil and wine of a merry meeting, and there is no jovial companionship equal to that where the jokes are rather small and the laughter abundant.
Expect not yourself of tomorrow; for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth.—Proverbs 27:1.
Beneath the moonlight and the snow lies dead my latest year, the winter winds are wailing low its dirges in mine ear; I grieve not with the moaning wind as though a loss befell; Before me, even as behind, God is, and all is well.—Whittier.
So long as we love we serve; so long as we are loved by others I would almost say that we are indispensable; and no man is useless while he has a friend.—Robert Louis Stevenson

History's Mysteries No. 14—The Identity of the Master-Spy

Who was the mysterious "H" who directed the operations of the German forces in the United States both before and during the period of the World war?
Was this personage a man with a wide-spread knowledge of American military procedure and an almost uncanny sense of foresight, or was she a woman, with all of a woman's ability to worm secrets from diplomatic circles and untangle problems to which she held but the slightest of clues?
These, in brief, are the questions which puzzled—and still puzzle—the master minds of the United States secret service and the officials of the department of justice connected with the defeating of Germanic propaganda on this side of the Atlantic.
Dull, even after the deportation of Von Bernstorff and Von Papen, there was some individual who directed the movements of the pro-Germans in the United States and Canada as apparent from the very nature of the plans which they attempted to carry through—plans which included the attempted importation of a large number of dissatisfied Hindus, the securing of the plans of the battleship Pennsylvania, the placing of time-bombs on several large United States transports, signalling to sea from a number of Atlantic ports and the financing of the famous "peace movement" to which a number of prominent Americans were induced to lend the power of their names.
But, in spite of the fact that government operatives engineered the arrests of several men and at least two women who were intimately connected with high official circles in Germany, the trail to the master-spy—concealed under the cloak of the single letter "H"—was sufficiently well hidden never to be completely uncovered.
The closest approach to the actual location of this personage was the arrest of a self styled baroness in Tennessee, immediately after this charming woman had succeeded in penetrating to the innermost secrets of the Fort Oglethorpe and a number of other important posts in the eastern section of the country. In the presentation of the government's case at the ensuing trial, the United States district attorney made the following statement:
"When war was declared between France and Germany, the husband of the 'Baroness' was en route to London. While in the middle of the Mediterranean, between Suez and Marseille, he made arrangements to land at the latter port and go from there to London instead of continuing his voyage by way of Gibraltar. However, the Baroness sent him a wireless before he reached Marseille, advising him that war was about to be declared and that it would be better for him to remain aboard ship. When the ship touched Marseille, the Baron offered \$1,000 for an automobile to take him to the Italian frontier, but was unable to secure a vehicle. He continued his voyage and landed at Southampton on the day following declaration of war with Germany. He was interned immediately and remained in camp for three weeks, during which the 'Baroness' intervened with a number of British officials and secured the release of her husband upon his promise as an officer and a gentleman not to take arms against England during the war, a pledge in which she joined.
"Shortly after his release from the internment camp, the Captain and his wife sailed for New York, changing their identity under the mask of ordinary steerage passengers. The 'Baroness' has admitted that she had been in almost constant communication with Germany, both by letter and cablegram and that she had been on terms of intimacy with several members of the Kaiser's family.
But while—like Wolf Von Inzels, Ham Chandra, Robert Fay, Warner Horn and other German agents arrested in the United States, the 'Baroness' admitted the existence of a chief who directed all the movements of the Teutonic forces in America, she maintained that she herself had no idea as to his identity, for all her instructions had been signed merely with the single letter 'H.'
Who was this 'H'? Perhaps the memoirs of the Kaiser or some of the

other officials of the German government may eventually clear up this point but, until then, it appears destined to remain one of the riddles of the war, covered by a veil of mystery woven with true German efficiency.
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ency in the postal service" between Chile and the United States.

Correspondence from Chile, transhipped at Panama, is often delayed from 40 to 45 days before arriving at its destination, the petition asserts. It declares that the "United States government takes advantage of every direct steamer for sending mail, whereas we have only the services of two direct steamers, other lines transshipping at Panama."

SERBIA ON ITS FEET AND DOESN'T NEED ASSISTANCE

(Correspondence Associated Press.)
Belgrade, Jugoslavia, Nov. 5.—Serbia has "come back." This is perhaps the most inclusive way of saying that the little Slav kingdom has recovered in the most spectacular way from the effects of the war. For the first time in 10 years the country is standing on its own feet and is in no need of outside assistance. The peasantry of Jugoslavia, which form the backbone

and sinew of the country, are enjoying a degree of prosperity and material contentment unknown before. Other countries may have their unemployment problems, but Jugoslavia has none. Indeed, she has abundant work for thousands.

SOVIET SAYS THAT RELIGION IS OPIUM TO THE PEOPLE

(Correspondence Associated Press.)
Moscow, Nov. 25.—"Religion is opium for the people" is the slogan which the soviet government caused to be placed on a permanent stone tablet in the wall of the Moscow city hall facing the Iberian chapel.
This little chapel stands at the entrance to the red square and contains the ikon which is more sacred to Russian churchmen than any other in the entire domain of the former czar. Consequently it is greatly frequented by all persons and supplicants who have suffered all sorts of misfortune and reverses.



Merry Christmas

— and — Happy New Year

TO OUR FRIENDS AND PATRONS:

We are grateful for the loyalty and patronage extended us during the year, and we promise to strive even harder to please during the approaching year, which we face confidently and in the firm belief of the growing satisfaction of

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Special Christmas Music

Will be a special feature of the
First Presbyterian Church
Vesper Service Sunday, 5 p. m.

- "O, Holy Night"
Mr. Briggs and choir
- Processional Hymn:
- "Hark, the Herald Angels Sing"
- "Noel"
- "Hallelujah Chorus"
- Organ prelude and postlude;
Miss Charlotte Mathewson

Anthem:
"While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks By Night"

Offertory:
"See You Not Yon Radiant Stars?"
Messrs. Guernsey Briggs and William Clegg Monroe

Quartet:
"Holy Night, Silent Night"
Mrs. Mebane, Mrs. Caldwell, Mr. Briggs and Mr. Monroe

Hymn:
"It Came Upon the Midnight Clear."
Christmas numbers will also feature the morning service, with selections by
Mr. Bert Hollowell Mr. William Clegg Monroe
Violin Soloist Baritone Soloist

Dr. Chas. F. Myers Will Speak
At Both Services

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