



There is a Santa Claus

YES, dear children, there is a SANTA CLAUS. Looking back on the years we see in them the records of things done which prove that yearly he is about in the land, adding happiness unto happiness, making bright places that but for his coming would be dark. His is a heart which is responsive to the thoughts of the Christmas season, and if you go about you can see his picture in the eyes of many, many children, who can show you proofs of his visits.

Some of you have doubts, some of you ask questions about this Santa Claus. Some of you have set up on the night before Christmas to find him at his work of filling the stockings. If you have failed to find him, so much the better for you, for when you have once seen him, he comes no more into your lives as in the days in which you sought and did not find, yet found that he had come to your homes.

Once upon a time there was a little girl, her name Virginia O'Hanlon, who was disturbed by doubts and misgivings about Santa Claus. She wanted to know, and so she wrote a letter to The New York Sun and asked about Santa Claus. It was in that day when the great Charles A. Dana was editor of that paper, and the question little Virginia asked was: "Is there a Santa Claus?"

There was a reply in The New York Sun, a reply which made Virginia O'Hanlon happy, a reply which in the years has made many children happy. That reply was in an editorial which is going to be read by generations yet to come, a reply which is a classic in word and thought. Each year since it was written for Virginia The News and Observer has reprinted it, and does so again this year.

Here is the letter of inquiry:

Dear Editor: I am eight years old. Some of my little friends say there is no Santa Claus. Papa says "If you see it in The Sun it's so." Please tell me the truth, is there a Santa Claus?

VIRGINIA O'HANLON,
115 West Ninety-fifth Street.

And here is the reply which was written: "Virginia, your little friends are wrong. They have been affected by the skepticism of a skeptical age. They do not believe except they see. They think that nothing can be which is not comprehensible by their minds. All minds, Virginia, whether they be men's or children's, are little. In this great universe of ours man is a mere insect, an ant in his intellect, as compared with the boundless world about him, as measured by the intelligence capable of grasping the whole of truth and knowledge.

"Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus. He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist, and you know that they abound and give your life its highest beauty and joy. Alas! How dreary would be the world if there were no Santa Claus! It would be as dreary as if there were no Virginias. There would be no child-like faith then, no poetry, no romance, to make tolerable this existence. We should have no enjoyment, except in sense and sight. The eternal fight with which childhood fills the world would be extinguished.

"Not believe in Santa Claus? You might as well not believe in fairies! You might get your papa to hire men to watch in all chimneys on Christmas Eve to catch Santa Claus; but even if they did not see Santa Claus coming down what would that prove? Nobody sees Santa Claus, but that is no sign there is no Santa Claus. The most real things in the world are those that neither children nor men can see. Did you ever see fairies dancing on the lawn? Of course not, but that's no proof they are not there. Nobody can conceive or imagine all the wonders that are unseen and unseeable in the world.

"You may tear apart the baby's rattle and see what makes the noise inside, but there is a veil covering the unseen world which not the strongest man, nor even the united strength of all the strongest men that ever lived could tear apart. Only faith, fancy, poetry, love, romance, can push aside that curtain and view, and picture the supernal beauty and glory beyond. Is it all real? Ah, Virginia, in all this world there is nothing else so real as abiding.

"No Santa Claus! Thank God! he lives and he lives forever. A thousand years from now, Virginia—may, ten times ten thousand years from now—he will continue to live and make glad the heart of childhood."



¶ This store extends its best wishes to those who have crowded its aisles during this bountiful season.

¶ We have studied your wants and have sought to adapt our business to them.

¶ We thank you for the appreciation you have shown, and wish you



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CHRISTMAS VIEWS ARE PRESENTED BY CITIZENS OF STATE

(Continued from page one.)

give more than a hint of opposition to large increases in expenditures for strengthening the military arm of the government. Others are just as emphatic in the other direction and one takes the view that a nation should prepare for the worst as the surest way of making peace certain, while still another goes so far as to advocate military training in the schools.

These Christmas expressions represent the thought of the people of North Carolina. They voice the hopes and fears for the State of many who have carefully considered the State's needs. Some offer constructive programs, setting a goal toward which North Carolina should work. One of these gives a comprehensive and advanced treatment of the tax problem in a dozen words as follows: "System of taxation based on real property, franchise, license, income and inheritance." Another shows how North Carolina can set about to secure the three big needs—bread, beauty and brotherhood. A leading jurist repeats his wish, expressed by him before on the bench and in the newspapers, to see provision made at the State Prison for the training of prisoners under 23 years of age. The need for practical eugenics is pointed out by the head of one of the hospitals for the insane and the duty to give posterity an even chance is urged by the head of the State's only school for the abnormal.

Noticeable is the emphasis which is placed on the schools. The fight to banish illiteracy from North Carolina is several times reflected in these Christmas expressions from patriotic Tar Heels.

Many of the letters stress the opportunity and duty resting upon all at this time to share their happiness with those who have been less fortunate, while others urge a closer conformity to the Christian standard at all times as well as during the Christmas season.

Christmas!

Christmas is the one holiday whose spirit pervades all the earth. The day of the Prince of Peace and the Redeemer of the World. It brings universal rejoicing, when loving kindness and forgiveness swell the human heart; when mystic sympathies assert our brotherhood, and men find blessedness in offerings of friendship and in help and comfort for all who are in danger, necessity and tribulation.

LOCKE CRAIG,
Governor.

North Carolina Aroused.

Thanks to the giver of all good things, North Carolina is aroused to seek the blessings of education—of the heart, of the brain and the body. She has begun to work intelligently and earnestly for the spread of religion, the training of her children, for the development of her resources, for facilities of intercommunication. May the good work go on increasingly.

KEMP P. BATTLE,
Professor Emeritus of History at the State University,
Chapel Hill, N. C.

For International Fellowship.

Our new world greets the old with the song of peace and good will, and with the prayer that out of all this finer there may come to all of us a finer spirit of international fraternity and fellowship than we have ever known.

T. W. MASON,
Garysburg, N. C.

A New Impulse Towards Christ.

I congratulate you on the patience and courage with which you have met and borne the heavy strokes of adverse fortune and trust that a Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year may be yours. And may the Birthday of the Prince of Peace bring to our sinful and distracted earth a new impulse to submit to His love, and seek more earnestly to love peace with all men.

JOS. BLAUNT CHESHIRE,
Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina.

Happiness for the Farmer.

The manner of farming by our ancestors was crude, the result happiness and contentment, as expressed in the following ballad:

"Corn in the crib,
Money in the pocket,
A baby in the cradle,
A pretty wife to rock it."

May it again be the agricultural condition of North Carolina.

W. A. GRAHAM,
State Commissioner of Agriculture,
Raleigh, N. C.

Better Chance for the Child.

By becoming a little child himself, Christ dignified and glorified childhood forever. The best way to make North Carolina an increasingly better State is which to live and work is to give every child, white and black, an increasingly better chance to make the most possible of all that the Creator made of him and of all that He has placed about him.

During the coming year and years may every North Carolinian be moved by the memory and love of the Christ-child to do his part in giving every little child in the State an increasingly better chance to be somebody and to do something bigger and better for himself and others.

J. Y. JOYNER,
State Superintendent of Public Instruction,
Raleigh, N. C.

Prepare For The Worst.

"Peace on earth, good will towards men." The surest way to bring about an era of peace is for peaceable nations to prepare for the worst. Men who are prepared to maintain their rights rarely have those rights invaded. Prepare for the worst.

FRANCIS D. WINSTON,
United States District Attorney,
Windsor, N. C.

To Train Youthful Prisoners.

The most important thought I have in mind for the help of others in the State is the establishment in the State's Prison at Raleigh of an industrial department for youthful criminals under 21 years of age. Send the others to the farm and roads and make this use of the commodious building on hand.

O. H. ALLEN,
Judge Superior Court,
Kinston, N. C.

Prayer for Better Social Order.

The calendar of Christmas, of the anniversary of the birth of the Saviour of the world, should reawaken in our hearts the sincere impulse toward the ideals

of love and of service set forth in His teachings and exemplified in His life. Adherence to these ideals should form the basis for the building of a purer and better social order in our State.

W. A. DEVIN,
Judge Superior Court,
Oxford, N. C.

Two Goals To Be Striven For.

Economic—System of taxation based on real property, franchise, license, income and inheritance.

Moral—Reception of Christianity as both a theology and a moral code, whose ideal is realized only when principle and practice are convertible terms.

J. A. TAYLOR,
Wilmington, N. C.

We Should Share Our Blessings.

If Christmas commemorates the greatest gift of God to man, it should evoke the blessed virtue of gratitude. The spirit of gratefulness may best be exemplified by making others sharers in all the blessings we enjoy. If we have intellectual training, wide information, knowledge, wisdom or power, we should offer to our fellows the opportunity to acquire the same blessings. This is the genuine inspiration from the Christmas season which should abide with us.

JOHN H. SMALL,
Representative from the First Congressional District,
Washington, N. C.

The Nation At Peace.

While we celebrate the birth of Christ this Christmas, we rejoice because our nation is at peace with the world. To our rejoicing should be added the distinction of our ability to govern ourselves. We are proud of our government and our country because under our elective and representative system the United States has rapidly become the leading world power after whose system of government other nations have fashioned theirs.

H. L. GODWIN,
Representative from the Sixth Congressional District,
Dunn, N. C.

Gratitude, Regret, Purpose.

Gratitude for what our people and State have achieved; regret for what we have left undone; resolute and loyal purpose for what is still to be done; with intelligent discontent with things as they are.

GEORGE W. LAY,
President St. Mary's School,
Raleigh, N. C.

For Self-Elimination.

The true Christmas spirit is love. Selfishness has no part in the celebration of Christmas. It is distinctively a love-feast—the celebration of the birth of Him who said that of all the commandments the greatest and first is love for one's neighbor. Not necessarily for the one who lives next door, but for one who may need sympathy and cheer.

If a spirit of this kind should dominate our people, the uplift and happiness of all the people of North Carolina would be assured.

This idea may be considered Utopian, but it is only by the elimination of self that a State or people can become great.

GEO. E. HOOD,
Representative from the Third Congressional District,
Goldboro, N. C.

Prolong the Christmas Season.

I received a letter the other day signed "Cheerfully yours." What a

great thing it would be for Raleigh if all of us would adopt, as a watchword, this sentiment, with its spirit of optimism and usefulness, and thus prolong throughout the coming year this happy Christmas season of peace and goodwill. Let's try.

GEORGE J. RAMREY,
President Peace Institute,
Raleigh, N. C.

Asks the Christ Spirit.
We have much to be thankful for in

this good State. We need better roads, better and longer schools, more real religion and less sectarianism, more civic pride in our communities and less criticism of those who do not agree with us. With joy, peace and plenty at home let us remember this is perhaps the saddest Christmas the sun ever shone upon, because the Christ Spirit has been lost among people who had a good chance to manifest it. Let us not criticize Europe over much, lest we in this happy state lose the Christ spirit. May we today

remember with tenderness Him who was able to command more than twelve legions of angels to his aid, yet would not do it, but trusted His cause to that Power above that wields eternal justice. May this spirit pervade us as a State and as a nation. This will bring the real celebration of the Christ.

THOMAS NEWLIN,
President of Guilford College,
Guilford College, N. C.

Fair Start for Posterity.

Around the birth of the Babe of Bethlehem hang all our hopes for the present and the future. It brings God into closer relation with childhood and motherhood. May future parents so live—pure, physically and mentally—that their posterity may have an even start in life.

C. RANKS McNAIRY,
Superintendent Richard Caswell Training School,
Kinston, N. C.

Prosperity Imposes Duties.

Peace and good will! As a nation we can join joyfully in this Christmas greeting. We should be very thankful to God for His goodness to us and pray that he grant this blessing speedily to all nations. The past year has been good for us and places upon us as a nation and individuals very great privileges and duties for the coming year.

JAMES R. YOUNG,
State Insurance Commissioner,
Raleigh, N. C.

Show The Christ Spirit.

Let Christmas truly represent the birth of our Lord. A Christmas of liquor rowdiness is a desecration of this day of "peace and good will to men." I am glad that the heathen idea of Christmas is passing and the Christian idea is prevailing. On that day don't make yourself a brute, but make somebody else happy by showing the Christ spirit.

R. L. DAVIS,
Supt. State Anti-Saloon League,
Raleigh, N. C.

To Be Saved From Selfishness.

Roundabout groups, scientific health achievements, wise educational development may in themselves be hindrances to vital progress for a nation. Only as its citizens use these things properly can real forward steps be taken. We should thank God for the ever-increasing spirit of brotherhood, directing from the citadel of men's souls in the profitable investment of God's bounty and blessings. We should continually beseech Him that, in the presence of abounding prosperity, we may in the spirit of Christians daily be saved from the curse of selfishness in the enjoyment thereof.

W. A. HARPER,
President of Elon College,
Elon College, N. C.

Greater Physical Efficiency.

"God bless us everyone" with greater physical efficiency—without which a permanent civilization is impossible with which a permanent civilization is inevitable.

W. S. RANKIN,
State Health Officer,
Raleigh, N. C.

Christian Principles Regnant.

As we celebrate the anniversary of the birth of Christ, we should be exceedingly grateful that the principles of life and living which He gave the world are becoming more and more regnant in the lives of the citizens of this nation.

JULIUS I. FOSTER,
President State Normal College,
Greensboro, N. C.

Education Against Mistakes.

If our people could be educated how to take care of their mental and nervous powers through proper selection of mates, have a better grading of school children with reference to mental

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The Yarrowborough



HOTEL

To all its Friends who have been Guests under its roof in 1915

The busiest year of its career
WISHES

A Very Merry Christmas and
A Happy New Year