

The News and Observer

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MORNING TONIC

(Henry Van Dyke)

I am thinking of you today because it is CHRISTMAS, and I wish you happiness. And tomorrow, because it will be the day after Christmas I shall think of you again.

UNCLE WALT MASON

THE SPEED MANIAC.

All men should lift their feet and kick against the cheerful lunatic, who gives his car no end of power, and drives up sixty miles an hour.

THE FIRST CHRISTMAS DAY.

(St. Luke 11:8-14)

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flocks by night.

MERRY CHRISTMAS.

We trust that it is only going to be the fall stocking today.

MEMORANDUM FOR SWEET YOUNG THINGS.

Don't stand under the mistletoe unless you mean it.

THE ADVERTISER.

The best Christmas advertising that the News and Observer has ever enjoyed was that of the past few weeks.

Remember that you can also use the Red Cross seals for your New Year's cards and packages.

What we would like to know is: What because of that squirrel that some one other sent aboard the Oscar Second?

There is hope for the dilatory in the coming year.

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THE MIRACLE OF CHRISTMAS—1915.

Christmas Day! There are ten million men, perhaps more, in arms; all save one, of the great leading peoples of the earth, representing more than one third of its inhabitants, are at war.

And it is Christmas Day in the year of our Lord 1915! Indeed, and at this hour there breaks upon the whole earth "the never failing splendor" and the "never ceasing song" in the homes of prosperity and the homes of poverty.

There is room and to spare for the sordid, the cynic and the pessimist, as the common days go by. They may be assured that Jesus does not reign in the common days.

Seeing that the miracle of Christmas is so blessed, the question immediately occurs—why may we not maintain it? Why do we not abide in the Christmas spirit? Alas for human nature!

But we may and we ought to carry the memory of the miracle with us. The lesson of Christmas will not be entirely forgotten. The aftermath of one day in the effulgence of the Christmas love, of the Christmas kindness, will be prolonged far into the shadows.

And in order that we may be the more sure, let us take to heart our lesson: We are happy at Christmas because the spirit of Christmas has taken us out of ourselves. We have ceased to be self-centered.

It is the old, old story. Nearly two thousand Christmases have taught it, each one unfailingly, but not yet are we sufficient for it. The Christ Himself in His last days gave the lesson once and for all when, as He ministered to His disciples He said: "If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them."

Alas! it is not when we sleep soft and wake merrily ourselves that we think of other people's suffering. Our hearts are waxed light within us then, and we are for righting our own wrongs and fighting our own battles.

TAR HEEL CHRISTMAS THOUGHTS.

The Christmas expressions from representative North Carolinians which are given in the News and Observer today are well worth a careful reading.

The News and Observer in its letter asking for the sentiments requested that in responding the writer state what in his opinion could be done in the State to make it a better State in which to live and work.

HENRY FORD.

We confess we are sorry for Henry Ford, sorry that there has come to him a disillusion of the dream of peace which had found way into his heart and brain.

Term Henry Ford's attempt Quixotic.

Term Henry Ford's attempt Quixotic, of the Sencho Panza class, or whatever you please, we believe he was in earnest, that he went at what he felt to be his mission with an honesty of purpose.

THE ADVERTISER.

The best Christmas advertising that the News and Observer has ever enjoyed was that of the past few weeks. For this business it is thoroughly appreciative and would feel remiss in its duty if it did not acknowledge the splendid support given the paper, a support which was all the more appreciated because of the tremendous losses sustained in the November fire.

In this connection a good word for the advertiser will not be out of place. The average person does not stop to think about it, but it is a fact that but for the advertiser the newspapers would be much less valuable as purveyors of entertainment and information than they are.

The advertiser is a side of the triangle of mutual interest of which the reader and the newspaper are the other two sides. The newspaper is the medium by which the merchant and the buyer are brought into intimate touch with each other.

There is hope for the dilatory in the coming year. As it is kept year the Christmas buyers will have one more day in which to shop early.

Henry Ford has left the money in the bank for the rest of the trip.

PREPARED IN ALL THINGS.

There can be no better wish than that the United States be prepared in all things, that our condition be of this kind in field and factory, in counting house and in storerooms of the lands, in church and school, in transportation and in markets, for defense on land and on sea.

That is an All American wish with which we well stand upon the threshold of the new year, for this is a time when we are concerned in this country with matters pertaining to preparedness.

Giving utterance to such sentiments as these Captain E. J. Parrish, of Durham, president of the State Fair, in expressing himself on matters which concern the people, has written his views for the News and Observer, and these are such that all our people can give a hearty "Amen" to them.

What can concern us more than our present and future welfare? Some predict great prosperity; others warn us of great dangers. Let our efforts be not only to increase the productive power of our country, but to find the best markets and to be prepared, with our own ships, to transport our products to the uttermost parts of the earth.

Let us see to it that our country be duly prepared, and then stand upon the foundation of justice and humanity, and may God bless us.

REDUCING DRUNKENNESS.

That drunkenness is being vastly reduced in Great Britain is the official report of the Central Control Board for the liquor traffic, a department created at the close of May of this year ostensibly for the purpose of suppressing excessive drinking in the munitions areas.

Getting down to figures the report of the board shows that drunkenness has been reduced forty per cent, this being accomplished by the limitations of hours when intoxicants may be sold, the restricting of the amount of liquor which may be taken from saloons for consumption in private, the abolition of treating, and other regulations.

But the habitual drunkard is the problem, and it seems that he is only to be eliminated by absolute prohibition. The English board says it has been shown that no amount of regulation can affect chronic inebriety, as in certain areas some of the convicted persons had been punished more than a hundred times previously, many more than fifty times, and a considerable proportion more than twenty times.

Labor has been benefited by the increased sobriety. Reports from harbor cities say that there has been a great improvement in labor conditions. Drunkenness among the sailors, firemen, and dockers has diminished. Crews signed on are more sober and ships are able to get away with much less delay.

England is being vastly improved by the temperance measures which have been put in force since the beginning of the war in Europe, and the cause of prohibition is being advanced in the splendid showing of practical results. What is being done in Great Britain teaches this country another lesson of the value of sobriety.

As far as the work has been done Raleigh has made a good showing in the laying of granolithic sidewalks during the year just closing to a close. But let's not be satisfied. Let's finish up the job next year.

We trust that the City Commissioners found in their Christmas stockings this morning more bitulithic streets for Raleigh.

Unless you are anxious to see a fire you should handle matches with extreme care today when around the Christmas tree.

SPIRIT OF THE PRESS

Stand By The Naval Program.

If Mr. Henry A. Wise Wood really feels that he could not conscientiously perform his duties as a member of Secretary Daniels' Naval Advisory Board while differing with the Secretary as to the measures that should be adopted for national defense, he has done well to resign from the board.

Chicken Thief Was Pommus.

The thief that had been robbing the hen houses of the neighborhood, was caught in Mrs. George Steele's chicken yard last Thursday night by the comely efforts of Mr. Willie Wilson and Dr. S. E. Butler.

Taxes And Pensions.

Rosindale correspondence Bladen Journal.

We are glad to see Ragged Ranger and Mr. McCulloch discussing the great question of taxes.

Those who dodge work don't have to dodge the reward.

AMERICA'S GIFT TO THE WARRING NATIONS



New News of Yesterday

FLORAL TRIBUTES TO A FAMOUS WRITER.

In August, 1871, I visited Westminster Abbey in London and found my way to the so-called Poet's Corner. I wanted to see the grave of Charles Dickens, and I wondered if I could find it easily, especially in view of the fact that I had been told that superimposed over the grave was a flat stone upon which was inscribed Dickens' name and nothing else.

Aged Cat Dies.

Washaw Enterprise. Mr. D. E. Simpson of the Unity community sustained what was to him a personal loss when his highly prized black cat died on the 19th. The cat was more than twenty years old and had belonged to Mr. Simpson all the time. For several months it had been blind and almost helpless, but with the devotion born of long friendship Mr. Simpson and his family tenderly cared for the pet, refusing to let it be killed because of its uselessness.

Record Hog.

Mr. F. B. Johnson killed a hog the other day that we believe makes a record. On the day of his death the hog was only 8 months and 17 days old yet he dressed 329 pounds. If there is any hog in all the State that can beat that we want to hear from him.

Ships Ton Of Turkeys.

Siler City Grit. One produce dealer here yesterday shipped twenty-one hundred pounds of dressed turkeys! Can any other dealer in the State equal that record? Think of over a ton of turkeys being shipped by one dealer in a single day! Siler City continues to break even its own high records, and that is going some.

Give Hen Party.

Hertford County Herald. A local cafe went down in history one night this week. It was on Monday evening that a real "Hen Party," the first of its kind, was celebrated at this popular eating place. Being the last night that the school teachers were to be together, a spread and a "cackling" good time was had.

Germany Looking Ahead as Usual.

Berlin, Dec. 24.—It is beginning to be realized in Germany that the war is going to leave the belligerent nations with a great number of maimed and crippled men, and German inventors and organizers are already at work providing for the special needs of this class. The Christmas catalogue of a Berlin jewelry firm, for example, contains a distinct section for one-armed men. There are several kinds of so-called fork-knives, contrived in a very ingenious and handy manner. One consists of an ordinary table knife with the cutting edge as usual on one side, but having fork prongs projecting from the extremity of the blunt side.

RACY OF THE SOIL

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