

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Before another issue of the Record reaches its readers the joyous Christmas tide will have come and gone. Its near approach is already felt and seen on every side, and everybody is looking forward to it with feelings such as no other occasion or season inspires. It is at this season that man's better feelings and nobler impulses assert themselves, and now more than at any other time do we all realize that "all the world is kin."

Hard indeed must be that heart that is not now softened and moved by the kindly feelings, which at this happy season makes us all draw nearer to each other in our common humanity. What a pity that this kindly feeling does not continue all the year—through one Christmas to another!

And old Santa Claus will soon make his annual visits, and bring joy and happiness to the hearts and homes of so many. There is probably no greater pleasure enjoyed in this world than that of the children eagerly looking forward to the visit of this mythical person, and their delight is indescribable when on Christmas morn they excitedly take from the well-filled stocking baskets of precious treasures. The very recollection of such pleasure will make the oldest wish that he were a child again. And yet in this practical, non-fanciful age there are some who would take away this great pleasure and demolish the traditional custom of dear old Santa Claus!

To each and all its readers the Freeman extends the greetings of this joyous season, and wishes for them—one and all—a very Merry Christmas!

The Silver bill, introduced by Senator Voorhees last week, is simply carrying out the pledge made by Congress in the repeal of the purchasing clause of the Sherman law, and should convince everyone that the democratic party is in a position to give us a free silver as money. This bill is of so much importance that we published it in another column, so that our readers may fully understand it. The Voorhees bill, which was passed in the extra session of Congress, expressly pledged the government to the use and coinage of gold and silver money, and now the bill of Senator Voorhees is simply fulfilling that pledge. When Senator Voorhees, as Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, took the lead in repealing the purchasing clause of the Sherman law he distinctly and repeatedly stated that the way to follow that with other and later legislation in favor of silver money. And he is now preparing to do this. We are pleased to learn that he thinks this bill will be passed in the Senate by a large majority.

This is good news for our people to receive during this happy Christmas season, and we are also pleased to state that the House committee will certainly report favorably a bill to re-establish State banks of issue. It will certainly be cheering Christmas greetings for the people of the United States to hear that at least 2,000,000 silver dollars will be coined every month and that any and every community can establish a State bank and issue all the paper money that its local needs may require.

Bishop Lyman, of the Protestant Episcopal Church, died quite suddenly at his residence in Raleigh on the 6th inst, aged 78 years. His funeral was one of the most impressive ever seen in this State, and it denoted the high esteem in which he was held by Christians of every creed. He was remarkably vigorous, bold, boldy and mentally, for one of his advanced age, and only a few days before his death he preached, with the force and ability of one in the prime of life. He was not only devoted to the duties of his Episcopal office, but as a citizen of North Carolina he was active in the development of her resources and in the promotion of her material prosperity. His successor is Bishop Cheevers, who provisionally was elected his assistant last June.

THREE new States will be admitted into the Union during the present session of Congress. They are now the territories of Arizona, New Mexico and Utah. Already the House has passed a bill, by a large majority to admit Arizona. It is thought that all three of the proposed States will be democratic, and, if so, then the admission of six new democratic senators will give the democrats a good working majority in the Sen-

ate. These three territories are just as fully entitled to be made States as were the territories that were admitted during the last republican Congress. Indeed there is much greater reason for their admission, and they would have been admitted several years ago if the republicans had not opposed their admission because they would have admitted States. Arizona has an estimated population of 225,000, equal to that of 140,000 in 1890, while Utah has a population nearly as great as a nation, far more than the combined population of Nevada, Idaho and Wyoming.

**The Voorhees Silver Bill.**  
The following is a copy of the bill introduced by Senator Voorhees for the coinage of silver dollars and the retirement of gold and paper money under \$100 value.

It is enacted, that whenever any profit has been realized from the sale of silver bullion under the acts of February 20, 1876, and July 11, 1890, or which would result in the coinage of such bullion, such bullion shall be melted into silver dollars of standard weight and fineness, with full legal tender quality at the rate of not less than \$20,000,000 per month, and such dollars shall be covered to the Treasury.

Section 2. That when all the obligations of profit and fineness, specified in the first section of this act have been satisfied, the government shall be authorized to purchase such bullion from the market at the lowest price in the United States, and to coin it into silver dollars. The Secretary of the Treasury to purchase such bullion may be authorized to purchase the same at a higher price than the lowest price in the United States, if he is satisfied that such purchase is in the best interests of the United States.

Section 3. That when all the obligations of profit and fineness, specified in the first section of this act have been satisfied, the government shall be authorized to purchase such bullion from the market at the lowest price in the United States, and to coin it into silver dollars. The Secretary of the Treasury to purchase such bullion may be authorized to purchase the same at a higher price than the lowest price in the United States, if he is satisfied that such purchase is in the best interests of the United States.

**Sad Death of Buck Jones.**  
WASHINGTON, Dec. 18.—News of the death of General Alfred D. Jones on the steamer Florida, while en route from Shanghai to San Francisco, was received at the State Department this morning from Mr. Cooper, United States consular agent at San Francisco. Mr. Cooper said the body had been embalmed and would be shipped to Raleigh. So the home of the deceased Senator Raleigh and his family have been called at the State Department this morning and will be in the city at once.

**Christmas Trees for Charity.**  
Asbury Park, N. J., Dec. 17.—The first Baptist Sunday school of Asbury Park is the first institution in town to respond to the numerous appeals for aid which come from every part of the township. In view of the annual Christmas celebration, with the customary gifts from pupils to teachers and teachers to pupils, there will be a special entertainment. The price of admission to the Christmas festival will be, for men and boys, a large potato, and for women and girls, a large apple. Of course other gifts will be received as the price of admission, but the officers have made it plain that the gifts shall be suitable for distribution among the poor.

The city of New York will pay for the lighting of its streets, avenues, parks, bridges and public buildings, next year nearly \$1,000,000.

Bankrupt Railroads.

Some staggering figures appear in the total showing of the railroad aggregates for the year. Just now there are no more railroad reorganizations in sight for 1903, so the Railway Age ventures to make up its annual annual board of railroads work. In bankrupt cases the record is represented by 11.7 per cent of the entire mileage of the United States, representing over 32,000 miles of the entire transportation lines, and the loss of the year is \$100,000,000.

Year	Number of Miles	Total Miles
1893	11,185	1,143,000
1894	11,411	1,143,000
1895	11,700	1,143,000
1896	11,800	1,143,000
1897	12,100	1,143,000
1898	12,200	1,143,000
1899	12,300	1,143,000
1900	12,400	1,143,000
1901	12,500	1,143,000
1902	12,600	1,143,000
1903	12,700	1,143,000

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**How We Got our Bread.**  
John A. Hendon, of Raleigh, N. C., writes that the situation in the United States is not so bright as it appears. The people are suffering from the effects of the present economic conditions, and the government should take steps to relieve the suffering.

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**Woolcott & Sons,**  
11 E. Martin St., RALEIGH, N. C.,  
November 23, 1903.

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