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## On the Morning of Christ's Nativity

"This is the month, and this the happy morn,  
Wherein the Son of heaven's eternal King,  
Of wedded Maid and Virgin Mother born,  
Our great redemption from above did bring:  
For so the holy sages once did sing,  
That He our deadly forfeit should release,  
And with His Father work us a perpetual peace."

"That glorious form, that light unsufferable,  
And that far-beaming blaze of majesty,  
Wherewith He went at heaven's high council table  
To sit in the midst of Trinal Unity,  
He laid aside, and here with us to be,  
Forsook the courts of everlasting day,  
And chose with us a darksome 'auge' of  
me and clay."

—Milton

## The Ancestry of Santa Claus

**T**HE jolly, portly, roistering old Santa Claus is in hot water. Preachers and parents are rising up against him, declaring that he is a fraud and as such ought to be suppressed. Thank heaven, a sporadic agitation like this can have no serious results. Reclitrant parents and preachers will pass away, Santa Claus will endure until the end, as he has endured from the beginning.

No one can say how old he is or at what period he made his first appearance among prehistoric men. The name of Santa Claus, by which he is known in America, is the Dutch pet name for St. Nicholas. The name Criss Cringle, by which he is known in England, is a corruption of Christ Kindlein, or the Christ child. But the festivities that distinguish Christmas existed long before Christianity, and a jolly god of good cheer appears as the personification of the period from the earliest pagan times. Now, the Santa Claus of today is simply that old jolly god sobered up, washed and purified.

The Dionysia of the Greeks, the Saturnalia of the Romans, the Twelve Nights of the old Norsemen and of the Teutons all celebrated the coming of the winter solstice. People then gave themselves up to all sorts of revelry and excess. In the Dionysia the representative figure was not the young Dionysus or Bacchus, but the aged, cheery and disreputable Silenus, the chief of the Satyrs, or the god of drunkards. In the Saturnalia it was Saturn, in the Germanic feasts it was Thor, both long bearded and white haired gods like Silenus.

Now, although the central figure of the Christian festival is the child God, the Christ Kindlein, the influence of long pagan custom was too strong within the breasts of the early Christians to be easily superseded. The tradition of hoary age as the true representative of the dying year and its attendant jollifications still remained smoldering under the ashes of the past. It burst into new flame when the past was too far back to be looked upon with the fear and antagonism of the church, and there seemed no longer any danger of a relapse into paganism. At first, however, the more dignified representative was chosen as more in keeping with the occasion. Saturn was unconsciously rebaptized as St. Nicholas, the name of the saint

whose festival occurs in December, and who, as the patron of young people, is especially fitted for the patronage of the festival which has come to be looked upon as especially that of the young. At first St. Nicholas did not supersede the Christ child, but accompanied Him in His Christmas travels, as, indeed, he still does in certain rural neighborhoods of Europe where modern spirit has been least felt. St. Nicholas, according to the hagiologists, was a bishop of Myra, who flourished early in the fourth century. He is the patron of children and schoolboys.

It is strange that everywhere St. Nicholas is most honored and his feast day most observed the most pious and instructed among the common people know little of the legend of the saint.

### Christmas Eve in Brittany: the Little Carol Singers.



When the average visitor arrives in Brittany for the first time he generally rubs his eyes to find out whether he is asleep or awake, for he discovers a land so novel in its aspect, a people so quaint in manners, customs and clothes, that it all seems like a dream from which he will presently awake to the nineteenth century he certainly leaves once the confines of this land are passed. Think of a low, flat country, with a strange growth of gnarled, queer-looking trees, of great stretches of plain with dark, surging grasses, only now and then a low hovel of a thatched stone house, in which the natives and their live stock, particularly the pigs, dwell together.

It is a place of little joy of living, for the land is ungrateful, and it requires all the energies of the husbandman to get even the smallest return for his work. The poverty is appalling and beggary is on all sides. The peasants rarely eat meat because of its cost. They live mainly on a soggy black bread, which is broken up into

He is treated with that mixture of seriousness and frivolity which becomes a dying myth. One masquerades in his dress in the evening and prays to him in the morning, and so fulfills a duty without spoiling the fun. Yet even the mumming has an educational purpose.

**THE GERMAN SANTA CLAUS.**  
In Southern Germany and Austria a youth possessing the necessary religious knowledge is masked, dressed in long white vestments, with a silk scarf and furnished with a miter and crozier. He is accompanied by two angels and a whole troop of devils. The angels are dressed much like the choir boys in Anglican or Catholic churches.

Each carries a basket. The devils blacken their faces and add horns of pigs' snouts or such other fantastic devices as the ingenuity of boyhood can devise. They are girt with chains, which they shake or rattle furiously. It is thought much better fun to be a devil than an angel, hence the number of the former is only limited to the number of boys who are able to command the necessary regalia. In the twilight of the evening of December 5 the good bishop and his suite begin their round of visits. It is the season for juvenile parties, and almost all the children of the village are collected in a few separate houses, each of which St. Nicholas visits in turn. He enters with the two angels, while his swartly followers are left to play their pranks outside. A great silence falls upon the children, and one by one they are called up and examined by the saint. This part of the evening's business is carried on with the greatest seriousness and decorum. Simple religious questions suited to the age of each child are propounded, after which it has to sing lyrics and recite prayers. If the ordeal is successfully passed the angels present it with nuts and apples. If it fails it has to stand aside. When the examination is ended the devils are called in.

They are not allowed to approach the good children, but may tease and frighten the naughty ones as much as they like. They do this at first as a matter of duty. Duty is followed by the pleasures whose anticipation had caused them to endure—pleasures which consist in strange dances and antics, and in pursuing the larger girls with the attempt to blacken their faces. Their whole appearance is intended to be grotesque and farcical. For the entire evening they are allowed full license in the villages, though in some of the towns the festival has, for good reasons, been prohibited. For weeks before the eve of St. Nicholas a devil may occasionally be seen at the window of some cottage where the children are supposed to be naughty or their elder sister is known to be particularly attractive. It is proof of the sound nerves of the children that no harm comes from the ordeal.

When St. Nicholas has left the children return to their own homes, but they do not believe that the generosity of the saintly bishop has been exhausted. After saying their prayers and going to bed they place dishes or baskets upon the windowsill, with their names written within them, and in these their parents deposit small presents, which their little souls and daughters fancy he has brought.

In many places the heathen over-shadows in importance both the Christ child and St. Nicholas. He appears under different names and in different guises. In Lower Austria he is the frightful Krampus, with his clanking chains and horrible devil's mask, who, notwithstanding his gilded nuts and apples, gingerbread and toys, which he carries in his basket, is the terror of the nursery. In Hanover, Holstein and Mecklenburg he is known as Claus. In Silesia his name is Joseph.

## NORTH STATE NEWS

Items of Interest Gleaned From Various Sections

### FROM MOUNTAIN TO SEASHORE

Minor Occurrences of the Week of Interest to Tar Heels Told in Paragraphs.

**Charlotte Cotton Market.**  
These figures represent prices paid to wagons:  
Good middling... 11 1/2  
Strict middling... 11 1/4  
Middling... 11 1/8  
**General Cotton Market.**  
Galveston, firm... 11 1/8  
New Orleans, steady... 11 1/8  
Mobile, firm... 11 1/8  
Savannah, steady... 11 1/8  
Charleston, firm... 11 1/8  
Norfolk, steady... 11 1/8  
Baltimore, nominal... 11 1/8  
New York, quiet... 12  
Boston, quiet... 12  
Philadelphia, steady... 12 1/2  
Houston, steady... 11 1/8  
Augusta, steady... 11 1/8  
Memphis, firm... 11 1/8  
St. Louis, quiet... 11 1/8  
Louisville, firm... 11 1/8

**Dead in Shad Boat.**  
Elizabeth City, Special.—The bodies of Leo Jarvis and Carrol Cox were brought here by Capt. P. W. Midgett, of the schooner Irene, who found them near Long Shoals, Hyde county. They were in a shad boat, which was half filled with water. The men met their death in Sunday's storm, which was a terrific one all along the Carolina coast. Money to the amount of \$37 a purse, match case, photographs of a young lady and several letters were found in the pocket of Cox's coat. The letter was from Miss Mary Cottrell, of Wysocket, Hyde county. The young men were both very good looking, ages about 25. Parties at Swan Quarter were communicated with. They ordered the bodies sent to Belhaven, N. C.

**Death of Rev. J. A. Weston.**  
Shelby, Special.—Rev. James A. Weston, of Hickory, who was stricken with paralysis in the Episcopal church one week ago, just as he had announced his text before delivering the opening sermon at the Convention, which was conveying here, died without having at any time shown that he was conscious of his true condition. For several days his condition was that of one in a deep stupor, but during the latter part of his illness he seemed to be conscious when aroused, and not being able to articulate intelligently would ask for paper and pencil and thus express his thoughts.

**Defendant Wins Suit.**  
Winston-Salem, Special.—In the Superior Court the suit of Geo. F. McCoy, of New York, against W. B. Ellis, a former tobacco manufacturer of this city, was concluded by the jury returning a verdict in favor of the defendant. The plaintiff's claim was for \$2,300, the same being the fees of two New York lawyers, employed by the defendant. The jury in answering the issues said that Mr. Ellis was insane at the time he made the contract with two lawyers who later sold their claim to McCoy.

**Flagman Killed.**  
High Point, Special.—Belated No. 30, a north-bound train which passed here Wednesday afternoon at 1:30 o'clock, struck and instantly killed Burton Green, white, of Pilot Mountain. Green was flagman on a local freight and was near as witch, with his back turned towards the approaching train, when the accident occurred.

**Deserter Confesses Robbery.**  
Winston-Salem, Special.—Geo. McMahon, a young man who enlisted in the United States army a few months ago and later deserted, returning to his home in Davie county, surrendered and confessed that he was a member of a band that robbed the Southern Railway depot and several mercantile stores at Advance a few days before he entered the army.

**\$2,500 Jewelry Packages Disappear.**  
Houston, Texas, Special.—Three packages containing jewelry, watch cases and works to the value of \$2,500 disappeared from an express wagon. The packages were left under the seat while the driver stepped across the street. When he returned they were gone. They were consigned to jewelry firms in Houston and were about to be delivered. A similar event occurred last week when a package valued at \$1,100 disappeared.

**River Steamer Sunk.**  
Pittsburg, Special.—The steamer Twilight sank in 20 feet of water at lock No. 2, in the Monongahela river the crew of 12 men escaping with their lives by hurrying to the roof of the boat and being taken off in shifts.

A charter was granted the Lumber- ton Salsburg, capital stock \$25,000 R. C. Lawrence being the principal stockholder.

## DIVERSIFICATION VS. OVER-PRODUCTION.

The Southern Cotton Association will not ask the farmers of the South to reduce the cotton acreage for 1906 less than that planted in 1905. The Association does ask and insist with all the force at its command that the average planted in cotton throughout the belt in 1905 be not increased during the planting season of 1906. Let the waterword of every Southern farmer be Diversification, and through that agency produce an abundance of food supplies to maintain each farm. Permanent independence, thrift and prosperity can only be enjoyed by Southern cotton growers through the adoption and maintenance of a system which will make each farm self-sustaining. It is the only medium through which the present iniquitous credit system which has so long held our people in bondage, can be effectively broken up and relegated to the past. It is the only medium through which the great masses of cotton producers can ever hope to control the sale of their cotton in the markets of the country and force consumers and buyers to pay them fair and just prices for the staple. Any system which forces the producer to market his crops rapidly in order to meet maturing obligations to pay for supplies that could be more cheaply raised at home will ever tend to make a slave of the grower, minimizing the rights of manhood which every Southern cotton raiser should enjoy to the fullest extent.

**Over-Production a Serious Menace.**  
In spring, 1905, a crisis serious and potential faced the cotton growers of the South by reason of over-production of cotton in 1904. The Southern Cotton Association at that time waged an active and effective campaign for a reduction in the cotton area to be planted in 1905. The advice of the Association was loyally supported by cotton growers throughout the entire cotton belt and a reduction of fully five million acres was stricken from the cotton area for 1905 and planted in other crops. The result of this display of good judgment on the part of the farmers is today seen in bringing the production of cotton within the legitimate demands for consumption, good prices for the staple and well-filled corn cribs and smoke-houses from North Carolina to the Rio Grande River. The agricultural, commercial, industrial and financial interests of the South are today enjoying an era of prosperity far in excess of any period experienced within our present history. To maintain our present position, and force ahead in the achievement of greater success, it is imperative that no serious mistake be made by the planters who are now making their arrangements for the spring planting of 1906. Let every man pause and calmly consider his future even while enjoying the flush of a victory which has been the most marvelous ever won in modern times.

**Present Acreage Sufficient.**  
The present estimated twenty-seven million acres planted in cotton is sufficient under normal climatic conditions to raise enough cotton to meet the demands of spinners for the American staple. Any material increase in the cotton acreage for 1906 will tend to stagnate the cotton market and depress prices below their legitimate value. The legitimate laws of supply and demand is the only true medium of regulating fair and legitimate prices for our great staple product. The Southern Cotton Association through all its sources of strength and co-operative mediums of disseminating information to its loyal and patriotic supporters with an eye single to the future prosperity of all cotton growers and business interests of the South, earnestly makes this appeal for broadening the splendid advantages that are to be gained by diversified agriculture on Southern farms. Plant an abundance of small grain, corn and side crops. Raise more hay, cattle and hogs.

**Peace and Plenty.**  
Let well-filled corn cribs and smoke-houses be the great bulwarks of safety between the farmers and the world of trade with whom they have to deal. Rotate your crops, intensify your acreage, fertilize liberally, cultivate well, produce plentifully on the acreage planted and enjoy those rewards which should be the fulsome portion of those who till our Southern soils. Study the possibilities of our soils and climate and learn to appreciate and develop the wonderful resources at our command in the field, garden and orchard of Southern agriculture. Become depositors in your banks rather than borrowers. Get on a cash basis as rapidly as possible and break up the ruinous credit system which in the past has been so fatal to cotton growers. As Southern farms become each year more self-sustaining under the adoption of a diversified and intensive system of culture and proper rotation of crops, the growers of the South's great staple can quickly regulate its marketing to meet the legitimate demands of consumption and maintain its price at such figures as will always give to the producer a profit on its production. Build

warehouses with your surplus money, and secure adequate storage facilities for the proper handling of your cotton in the markets of the country. Let us reach out and broaden the markets and uses for American cotton. Let us bring about direct trade between the producers and the spinners of the world and in safeguarding our magnificent and valuable staple from the greed of speculative interests enjoy the blessings of its monopoly and through co-operation rapidly develop our beloved Southland into the

richest and most prosperous section of the entire Union. Pause, reflect and make no fatal mistake in entering upon the new crop year for 1906. The sun of peace and plenty is shining on the loyal and patriotic heads of Southern planters today. Providence has blessed our country. The clouds may thicken and darken our horizon in the spring if we grow heedless of our duty. The Southern Cotton Association sounds its note of warning and issue its appeal to the people.  
Yours truly,  
HARVIE JORDAN,  
Pres. Southern Cotton Association

### ITEMS OF STATE NEWS.

Supreme Court adjourned at Raleigh on Friday for the term, having filed nine cases, none of which are of special import.

The State Labor Commissioner finds that there are 229 more miscellaneous factories in the State this year than there were last year. The secretary of State finds that the total number of corporations chartered is 697.

The board acted upon the suggestion of Governor Glenn, that an exhibit be made at the various fairs in New England next autumn.

Mr. Clarence H. McKay and Mr. Wm. Vanderbilt of New York arrived at Jamestown near High Point for a ten day's hunt at Mr. McKay's lodge between here and Jamestown.

The Supreme Court has finished a hearing of arguments at this term. Attorney General Gilmer said he thought it would adjourn for the term about Wednesday or Thursday of next week, as it is well up with its opinions.

Announcement was made to the Baptist State Convention that the Baptist University for Women would publish, beginning next week a paper to be known as The Bulletin. This institution now has 350 students.

The State board of agriculture rejected the resolution offered appropriating \$750 specially for the payment of premiums upon certain field crops. For several years this disbursement has been made on account of exhibits to State fairs.

A charter is granted the Atlantic Fire Insurance Company, of Raleigh, paid up stock, \$125,000, principal stockholders Charles E. Johnson, J. J. Thomas, Herbert W. Jackson, James H. Pott, Thomas F. Womack, J. S. Wynne and Galvin Dorch. A fire insurance company is organized at Rocky Mount, with \$50,000 capital stock. This is paid up and that there is also \$12,500 surplus.

The feature of the annual State convention of the county superintendents was a report by Superintendent McBride, of Cumberland, who said some teachers under contract there had broken their contracts and gone to other counties to teach. He called on the State superintendent for a ruling, putting on the black list all teachers who do this, so their certificates will be cancelled.

The board of education appoints what is known as the first \$100,000 appropriation from the treasury to the public schools at the rate of fourteen cents per capita. This gives Wake county \$2,735, Mecklenburg \$2,782, Buncombe \$2,262, New Hanover \$1,989 and Craven \$1,060.

**Lights on at Spencer.**  
Spencer, Special.—The electric arc street lights in Spencer were turned on for the first time Wednesday night and the streets, which had five years ago were barred fields, are brilliantly lighted. The electric system has been in course of construction since April of this year. The water works system now being put in by the Spencer Water Company is well under way.

**\$10,000 Loss in Cotton Mill Fire.**  
Albemarle, Special.—Friday morning a fire broke out in or under the picker room of the Missett Mill, where there was about 60 bales of cotton open at the time. The total loss will reach \$5,000 or \$10,000, fully covered by insurance.

**Salisbury's New Hotel.**  
Salisbury, Special.—Salisbury's new hotel, at the corner of Main and Council streets, will be opened before a great while. Applicants for the landownership of this building with 62 rooms, have been numerous, but as yet its owners have not leased it. Mr. W. S. Nicholson has been awarded the contract for heating it by steam and will install this apparatus at once.

**Locomotive Works Doubled.**  
Richmond, Special.—Preparation are being made to enlarge the Richmond plant of the American Locomotive works to almost double its present capacity. The plant is now working day and night with a force of about 2,400 men. It has large orders for locomotives and will erect new buildings at once.

**Receiver for Railroads.**  
Cincinnati, Special.—An application for the appointment of a receiver for the Cincinnati, Hamilton & Dayton Railway and the Pere Marquette Railroad was filed in the United States Circuit Court here by Lawrence Maxwell, Jr., circuit Judge Lorton immediately began hearing the application and appointed Attorney General Judson Harmon as receiver for both roads. Insolvency is admitted.

## BANKRUPTED RULER

### PEN MIGHTIER THAN THE BOMB

#### Russian Revolutionary Leaders Issue Manifesto Declaring the Treasury Bankrupt

Ordering Their Followers to Cease Paying Taxes in Order to Utterly Ruin Czardom—Withdrawal of All Bank Deposits in Gold Urged—Government Said to be Covering Up Deficits by Proceeds of Foreign Loans—No Money to Pay Starving Soldiers—Denounce a Sudden and Terrible Blow.

St. Petersburg, Special.—The proletarian organizations through the "invisible government" threw a bomb into the camp of the official government during the night, issuing a manifesto, following the form of the regular imperial document, declaring the bankruptcy of the Treasury, ordering the proletarian army everywhere to refuse to pay taxes of any description, to insist on the payment of wages in gold or silver, and to withdraw all their deposits from the savings banks in gold.

The manifesto is a terrible indictment of the manner in which the bureaucracy has brought the country to financial ruin, asserting that the government has squandered not only the country's income, but the proceeds of the foreign loans on railroads, the army and the fleet, leaving the people without schools or roads.

**No Money to Feed Soldiers.**  
It is declared that there is no money to feed the soldiers and that everywhere there are insurrections of the beggar and starved troops and sailors. The manifesto even charges the government with using the deposits in the government savings banks to speculate on the bourse and with the covering up its chronic deficits in the interest on its immense debt by the proceeds of the foreign loans, which are at last exhausted. The reb, it is further declared, have already taken warning and are converting their property into securities and gold and are sending them abroad. The only salvation for the country, according to the manifesto, is the overthrow of the autocracy by a constituent assembly, and "the sooner the government falls the better. Therefore the last source of existence of the old regime, its financial revenue, must be stopped."

The document is signed by the members of the Workmen's Council, the committee of the Pan-Russia Union and the central committee of the Social Democrats, Social Revolutionists and Socialists of Poland.

**Caught the Government Napping.**  
This great step of the revolutionaries which throws down the gauge of battle to the government, was prepared with such secrecy that the authorities were taken off their guard and did not even attempt to prevent its publication in the newspapers. The revolutionary leaders expect that it will be followed by reprisals and arrests, but all this has been foreseen. The leaders laid their plans deeply before issuing the manifesto. The new committees of the various organizations have been placed in the third and fourth degree. If one set of committees is put behind the bars, another will take its place and carry on the work.

The League of Leagues was not asked to join in the manifesto, being regarded with some jealousy by the proletarian organizations which claim to be bearing the brunt of the revolution and to be entitled to the fruits thereof.

The proletarian leaders claim to have absolute knowledge that the government has just issued \$125,000,000 in paper money. Under the provisions of the press law, the editor of every paper which printed the manifesto has rendered himself liable to eight months' imprisonment and \$1,500 fine. Now must come the test of the government's power.

It develops that among the papers of M. Krustieff, the president of the executive committee of the Workmen's Council, seized at the time of his arrest, were documents which furnish evidence of a well-planned conspiracy to seize and carry off Premier Witte.

**Damaging Sleet Storm.**  
Greensboro, Special.—Practically isolated from the outside world, Greensboro on Friday and Saturday was in the grip of one of the worst sleet storms it has experienced for years. Telegraphic and telephonic communication was cut off for the best part of the day, due to broken wires and falling poles. This damage was temporarily repaired and all wires were soon in fair working order. Inestimable damage was done to trees and foliage crushed beneath the weight of icy tendrils. Street car service was seriously hampered and a general discomfort ensued.

**Lynchburg Nearly Cut Off.**  
Lynchburg, Va., Special.—Except for a single wire to Danville and another to Washington, Lynchburg was cut off by telegraphic communication Saturday morning with the North and South on account of a sleet storm. The 200 linemen at work here on the system are restoring the circuits. Many of them went to Greensboro, N. C., where the worst of the storm appears to have been experienced.