

SPiRiT of CHRISTMAS 1923



Madonna Di Terra from painting by Raphael

By JOHN DICKINSON SHERMAN THE spirit of Christmas A. D. 1923 in the United States of America is the same as it was in 1922 and as it has been for many a year.

Yes; even in Plymouth, Mass., and in Jamestown, Va., is Christmas Day of 1923 celebrated in the same way—

The Virginia settlers bothered themselves not at all over religion. They brought the established church of England and all its observances with them as a matter of course.

The Pilgrims, on the other hand, had separated from the Church of England, had discarded all that savored of ceremonial and had rejected the social and joyous side of Christmas for the serious and religious side.

The Puritans differed from both the Cavaliers and the Pilgrims. They had not separated from the Church of England, as had the Pilgrims, but had brought the church with them to reform it.

Mother for Christmas, Santa's Big Present

"This is the best Christmas ever!" exclaimed little John, aged five. "The best Christmas ever!" cried Jane, his twin.

parliament December 24, 1652, for seven years—but they practically ignored Christmas and made Thanksgiving their day of rejoicing.

So Father Christmas, Santa Claus, Saint Nicholas and Kris Kringle came to the American people by way of Virginia—and the jolly Dutch burghers of New York.

Each year back I travel— At least for one night— And enjoy with the children, In fancy, this sight.

We catch a glimpse of the universal brotherhood of man at Christmas, when the fingers of children pull families, citizens, communities, nations closer together with the same impulse.

And who wouldn't be? For until this morning they had been motherless. Yes, they had never known a mother.

cult to believe that the Russian people have for America other feeling than admiration, respect and love.

And now it is said that this winter will again see 3,000,000 starving children in Russia, in spite of the official Soviet pronouncement that the famine was at an end and of the export by the Soviet government of millions of bushels of Rus-

Interesting as this experiment was, it by no means settled the question as to what constitutes a correct diet.

Some decades ago, Voit, working on the subject of metabolism, proved that for every gram of protein eaten there must result a production of 4.1 calories of heat; for every gram of fat, a production of 9.3 calories of heat; and so on.

slan grain. And Maj. Gen. Henry T. Allen, who commanded American forces on the Rhine, declares that a minimum of 2,000,000 children in Germany must be fed for 141 days at a cost of nearly six million dollars.

An old-time feature of the Christmas celebration in England bids fair to make a belated appearance in this country—the singing of Christmas carols, some of which go back to times before the memory of man.

Thomas Hardy, the famous English novelist, in his "Under the Greenwood Tree," has a chapter devoted to Christmas caroling as practiced by the humbler peasants.

and under it was a plain gold band. Father seemed as happy as the twins about this Christmas mother.

WITH THE HIGH SCHOOL CLASSICS

By MARGARET BOYD

... even as the pulse and water was blessed to the children Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego.—Ivanhoe.

Friar Tuck here refers to one of the earliest recorded bits of dietetic research. More than twenty-six centuries ago, Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, directed that the most promising children among the captives that he had brought home with him from Jerusalem should be given a three-year course in the learning of the Chaldeans.

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In view of our present voluminous writings on the subject of diet, it is interesting to turn back to the times of Socrates and find out what that philosopher thought a proper diet for a genuine and healthy people.

Hugo says of leaders of men that "while themselves advancing, they cause their satellites to progress, and it is an entire solar system moving onward."

Our familiar solar system is made up of the sun and its satellites, the stars and planets. Some of the planets have satellites of their own; but the entire system is dependent upon the sun, which, we are told, is itself dependent upon a greater sun in outer space.

If our sun should be suddenly destroyed, there would be a period of chaos. When order emerged again from chaos, there would be a new center of our solar system and a rearrangement of the stars and planets.

So it was when Richard died. All the group that he had gathered about him was thrown into chaos. From this chaos emerged a new governing group, with a new king for its center.

IMPROVED UNIFORM INTERNATIONAL Sunday School Lesson

By REV. F. S. FITZGERALD, D. D., Teacher of English Bible in the Moody Bible Institute of Chicago.

LESSON FOR DECEMBER 16

WORLD-WIDE MISSIONS

LESSON TEXT—Acts 16:9-15; 23:29, 31; Rom. 15:18-21.

1. Call to Macedonia (Acts 16:9-11). 1. The Vision (v. 9). Being hemmed in on all sides, a vision was given to Paul of a man of Macedonia pleading for help.

2. The Advance (vv. 10, 11). As soon as the divine way was known they moved forward therein. Visions must be quickly translated into aggressive actions or else they are blotted from our skies.

11. The First Convert in Europe (Acts 16:12-15). The missionaries first went to Philippi and spent several days in studying conditions there.

1. Attendance at the Place of Worship (v. 13). Usually those whom God is calling are found at the place of prayer.

2. Listening to the Preaching of the Word of God (vv. 13, 14). It is highly important that at every prayer meeting the Word of God shall be spoken, so that the inquirer after God may find the light.

3. Her Heart Was Opened by the Lord (v. 14). Only the Lord can convert a soul. It is our business to preach the Word of God and it is God's business to open the heart of the inquirer.

4. She Was Baptized (v. 15). Everyone whose heart the Lord has opened desires to confess Him in baptism.

Prayer. Bring your plans, your purposes to God's throne. Test them by praying about them. Do nothing large or new—nothing small nor old, either—for that matter—till you have asked there, in the silence of the secret place, "Lord, what wouldst Thou have me to do?"—Alexander MacLaren.

A Raw, Sore Throat

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