

THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER



AND SOUTHERN FARM GAZETTE

A Farm and Home Weekly for the Carolinas, Virginia, Georgia and Tennessee.

FOUNDED 1886, AT RALEIGH, N. C.

P. F. Title, Reg'd U. S. Patent Office.

Vol. XXVI. No. 51

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23, 1911.

Weekly: \$1 a Year.

CHRISTMAS REFLECTIONS.

CHRISTMAS!
 We wonder if, after all, among all sorts and conditions of men, any other word in the English language awakens memories so happy and pure and tender! Memories, first of all, of babyhood and childish innocence, when the world was a fairyland, and the serpent had not entered Eden! Memories of a mother who gave the growing child such trust in all things high that—

“Though he trip and fall,
 He shall not blind his soul with clay.”

Memories of home, where babyhood passed into childhood, and childhood into youth, and brothers and sisters and playmates and schoolmates grew together into young manhood and young womanhood! Memories, too, of Christmases associated with sentiments sweeter than those of mere friendships, of holiday parties and dinners where youth and beauty met and—

“Soft eyes spoke love to eyes which spoke again
 And all went merry as a marriage bell.”

Memories, too, with older men and women, of the time when children came to bless their own homes, and they renewed their faith in Santa Claus, and found again the glory of their lost youth in the Yule-tide season!

And now it is Christmas again!

And again the season when the angels sang of “Peace on earth, good will to men!”

Let us then resolve, first of all, to enter into this spirit of the season. We shall not enjoy our Christmas as we should, we shall not enter fully into its atmosphere, if there be one against whom we hold a grudge, if there be hatred in our hearts for any human being. And if we find such hatred for any one, let us go first of all and be reconciled to our brother. Then, even though our Christmas externals be few, even though no gifts or luxuries adorn our homes, in our hearts we shall have the Christmas that is not show nor shadow, but reality and life.

Let us give gifts, too, this Christmas season. It is a beautiful custom, and the Christmas spirit finds its finest flower in the grace of generosity. Let us give gifts—to loved ones and to needy ones, remembering always that we shall find no sweetness in any gift made for barter, but only where love for God or man prompts the act.

But before you give gifts, O man or woman, think first of those whom you owe. If there is any man to whom you are indebted, perhaps your failure to pay him will keep him from giving as he would, and you—giving with another man's money you have unfairly withheld—what reward have you?

For honesty is greater than charity, and justice comes before generosity. If you owe any man, you can't spend Christmas better than by going to him and paying him. Resolve now to start the new year with a clean sheet.

Then, too, there is other debt-paying we might consider before we begin our Christmas giving—some debts of love and friendship. At Christmas time, at least once a year, you might tell your wife that she is the best little woman in the world; you might tell your parents (if you are still allowed the privilege of speaking to them) of the debt you owe them for their training; you might tell your children that your hopes for the future are wrapped up in them, and that no worthy effort they put forth fails to find loving appreciation from you. And you might tell your friend how much his friendship has meant to you these last twelve months.

Nor should we forget at Christmas-time the debt we owe to Him whose birth it celebrates—He who came to re-make the world's philosophy by teaching that happiness is to be found not in what we get for ourselves, but in what we give to others; not in being served, but in serving; not in saving one's life for one's self, but in losing it in work for one's fellows, and who revealed religion not as the creed and ritual of the ancient Jews, but the joyous life and spirit of vitalized Christianity.

To all our great Progressive Farmer Family, now nearly 150,000 strong, the Editors and business staff send greetings! May you all have the merriest of Christmases, and join us two weeks hence with the spirit of courage and helpfulness that will make 1912 the happiest of all our New Years!



CHRISTMAS CHIMES. Edwin H. Ashfield.

FEATURES OF THIS ISSUE.

A MOTHERS' EXPERIENCE MEETING—A Group of Successful Mothers Discuss Child Training	10, 11
A SUCCESSFUL YOUNG FARMER—Interesting Story of a Young Mississippian	8
DOES TILE DRAINAGE PAY?—Fifteen More Bushels Per Acre Usual Result	6
FREE FARMERS' BULLETINS—Keep This List and Order as You Wish Them	4, 23
HELP THE AMBITIOUS WHITE TENANT BUY LAND—The Hope of the South is a Great Body of Home Owners	12
MAKING PLANS FOR 1912—You Can Win Success Next Year Only by Careful Planning	5
OUR PROGRESSIVE FARMER BOYS BEAT THE WORLD—List of Big Yields Winning Our \$1,100 Worth of Prizes	9
PRUNING WORK—Get Your Orchard So it Can Work Well Next Year	15
THE DUTY OF KEEPING WELL—Sickness Usually One's Own Fault	16
WHAT ADVERTISING SHOULD COST—A Little Talk for “Business” Farmers	13