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THE MAGI AT YOUR ELBOW STILL FOLLOW THEIR GUIDING STAR

Their Millions Are Everywhere Now and Their Search Is Still For Peace On Earth.

"We've no right to celebrate Christmas," said the Angry Man, "because the world is hard-hearted and merciless; it has no vision and no pity!"

There are always people who talk like that. And they are quite unconsciously the living proof of their own error. For, so long as there are minds in passionate insurrection against wrong and folly, cruelty and unkindness; so long as there are people who cannot but feel the sting of pain inflicted upon others, the miracle commemorated at Christmas will continue to shine before your very eyes.

The hope symbolized in these days has made a temple of every one who hates injustice. It will live and work wonders so long as there is compassion in the hearts of men.

The world just now looks like a hard-hearted sort of place—on the surface. The increasing number of people who, like the Angry Man, are dissatisfied with it, justify all the implications that began with Bethlehem.

Once there were only three men wise enough to believe in things they could not see.

Now the magi are everywhere. Their voices cannot be drowned out. They are a command and a challenge in these uncertain days. They will continue to be heard and felt by a distracted and driven civilization that each year turns to Christmas as you would turn to a green isle of peace in terrible seas.

Once a year all people are able for a day to know what life ought to be at its best peace, a place to rest in, human trust and understanding—and things to give away!

And once a year all the people are magi. They are crowding the streets now, fleeing in railway trains to farms or wherever home may be, blithely risking bankruptcy for their beliefs or for the love of something or somebody.

"They buy fripperies," said the Angry Man, "and spend their money unwisely upon other people."

When the magi begin to spend all their money upon themselves we shall begin to worry about them. Then indeed the meaning of Christmas will have vanished. For the present we are safe.

If, today there is any one uncomfited or without friends it is because the magi couldn't find him. They buy fripperies, it is true. It is their way, and the only way they know, of buying comfort or happiness or delight for others. The nicest thing of all about the magi, whose armies are marching everywhere, is that they seldom buy anything, even fripperies, for themselves.

What is it, then, that they seek? You have only to trail a few of them around to know. Mankind always flies back at this time of the year to the true and ancient things.

So people will travel half way around the world to look again upon a face in a doorway, to feel the touch of patient hands, to hear a remembered voice, to live a moment in the life that their hearts acclaim.

So they will continue to do in an interval that sees hatred and selfishness almost wiped out of the world and faith restored. The meaning of Christmas is as clear to them now as a lamp fixed upon a high hill. If the magi find it obscured at other times of the year the fault is not theirs. They steer for it always as best they can.

"Nineteen hundred years," said the Angry Man, "and look at the world today and listen to its leaders."

We would far rather listen to the people—the people who will keep the lights burning in the homes of the world tomorrow. There never has been a time when they forgot the meaning of Christmas for long. It is why the sick have never been friendless or without care. It is the reason for wars and crusades, hospitals and the organized pity that only lately saved whole nations from slow death.

Pity, as some one has said, is a rebel passion. And it is pity that handed down over the nineteen hundred years that have elapsed since Bethlehem that has just led the magi of more recent years—the ones that crowd you good-naturedly in the streets today—to batter down empires, dethrone kings and swing civilization nearer to the way in which they want it to go. They are not yet done. They still have much to do. And they will do it. They have not forgotten what Christmas means.

DAN A. COBLE.

NATIONAL LEAGUE USED 33,192 BALLS LAST YEAR

Thirty-three thousand one hundred and ninety-two baseballs were used in the National League last season. Many of the spheres were used, of course, in practice, but figured on a basis of 155 scheduled contests, the draft clubs used something like 215 balls each day of the season.

Your battery should have water about every two weeks. Stop at Oxford Battery Co.

THE SHOPPING JAM IS ON IN EARNEST TODAY AND TOMORROW

Merchants Will Remain Open Tonight and Tomorrow Night.

With one more shopping day left until Christmas, the usual shopping jam is on. The town is in the midst of the rush and hustle that characterizes Christmas, although it may be slightly under what it has been in other years. Nevertheless, it is a considerable improvement over what trade has been in the past six months or more and the Christmas trade thus far is reported by the merchants to be of fair volume.

In order to accommodate last-minute buyers, the merchants have announced that they would remain open nights and probably longer than usual on Saturday night. Fruits, candies and nuts will be laid in much more lavishly during these last hours than at any time previously in the shopping season, while many persons have already made their purchases in gifts.

Stocks of goods have been sufficient to supply the demand, and observation of those who have been elsewhere is that Oxford merchants have had as good to offer their trade territory as the larger cities, though of course, in smaller volume, as the demand was smaller. Prices here have been found to be as favorable to the buyer as in other communities, and most buying for holiday trade has been done at home.

MR. LEMUEL F. DAY PASSED TO HIS REWARD

Remains Laid to Rest in Elmwood Cemetery.

Mr. Lemuel F. Day, after an illness of several weeks, died at his home on Broad street Tuesday afternoon at 2 o'clock, in the 66th year of his age. Mrs. Day, who survives, was constantly at the bedside of her husband showing remarkable tenderness and sympathy during his long illness and suffering.

Mr. Day was born in Person county and came to Oxford thirty-five years ago and established a merchandizing business and was noted for his liberal tendencies. He was a member of the Oxford Baptist Church and he measured his acts by the standard of the Ever Living Christ.

The funeral services were conducted Wednesday afternoon by Rev. J. D. Harte from the Baptist Church. Interment was in Elmwood Cemetery. The pallbearers were:

Active—C. H. Landis, J. F. White, L. F. Smith, C. F. Garman, Charles Turner, Joe Newton, W. Z. Mitchell, Honorary—H. B. Bryant, Will Landis, Lonnie Perkinson, H. G. McFarland, Pete Bullock, T. R. Frazier, B. F. Taylor, John Floyd, Ernest Bragg, John Wood, C. D. Ray, Tom Daniel, John Blackwell, S. W. Parker, B. F. Frazier, G. F. Cowney.

TWENTY-ONE MEN IN GRANVILLE WORKING FOR THE POOLING CONTRACT

Ninety Percent By January 1, 1922, Is Their Slogan.

Mr. Virgil Chapman, of Lexington, Ky., will speak on cooperative marketing in Durham on Wednesday, Dec. 28, at 1 o'clock. Granville county tobacco growers are urged to hear this brilliant speaker.

Mr. Moss States that there are 21 men working in Granville for the pool; that 3 signed 100 contracts this week and that they hope to realize 90 percent by January 1, 1922.

ORPHEUM THEATRE

Special Attractions for Xmas week.

Monday Dec. 26th.

"EAST LYNNE"

You have read the book now see the picture featuring Mabel Ballin and Edward Earle in 7 acts. Matinee 3 Nite 7:15. 10 & 30 c.

Tuesday Dec. 27.

Charles Ray in

"NINETEEN AND PHILLIS"

Ray's Best comedy. It's human and humorous chock full of chuckles, and alive with laughs. Matinee 3 Nite 7:15. 10 & 30 c.

Wednesday Dec. 28.

Douglas MacLean in

"PASSING THRU"

Loaded with thrills like the kick of a mule and fun to make a horse laugh; also 2 Reel Sunshine Comedy. Matinee 3 Nite 7:15. 10 & 30 c.

Thursday Dec. 29.

Constance Talmage in

"A PAIR OF SILK STOOCKINGS"

"A comedy Dit De Luxe." Also 2 Reel Toonerville comedy. Matinee 3 Nite 7:15. 10 & 30 c.

Friday Dec. 30.

"TRUST YOUR WIFE"

Katharine Macdonald's biggest success tells unusual story of a wise wife in a city of folly with a new angle on the marriage triangle. Also White Horseman. Matinee 3 Nite 7:15. 10 & 30 c.

Saturday Dec. 31.

"BLACK BEAUTY"

With Jean Paige in 7 acts and Larry Seamon Comedy "THE SUI-TOR." Matinee 3 Nite 7:15. 10 & 30c.

PUBLIC LEDGER WILL NOT BE ISSUED NEXT WEEK

Owing to the fact that the Public Ledger force desire to rest and recuperate for a few days there will be no paper issued next week. To make up for the two issues the time of each subscriber will be extended one week. As we have the county financial statement and clerk's report in hand to be put into type form, there will be some one in the office every day. He is wishing the patrons of the Public Ledger a merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

GIFT FOR JUDGE DEVIN FROM KINSTON ADMIRERS IN COURT

(Kinston Free Press)

Proceedings in Superior Court were interrupted last Friday afternoon for a few minutes for the presentation of a memento of the local bar and county officers' esteem for Judge W. A. Devin, G. V. Cowper of the local bar, in a few well chosen words, thanked Judge Devin for his service and expressed the appreciation of those who had had business with the court. The gift presented by Mr. Cowper for the bar and county officers was a gold knife and chain. The knife was engraved on one side, "W. A. D." and "1921" on the other. In presenting the knife and chain, Mr. Cowper paid tribute to Judge Devin as a judge, saying that he was a judge and not occupying the place as a stepping stone to some other office. Judge Devin made a few remarks of appreciation and Y. T. Ormond, president of the bar, asked the clerk to see that the minutes properly recorded the presentation.

OFFICERS CAPTURE STILL AND FOUR GALLONS OF LIQUOR

Will Bass, Colored, Caught At The Still.

Detective Hutchins, Chief Hoggood and Deputies Lyon and Newton made a raid on a still last Wednesday near Brassfield Church, and captured Will Bass, colored, in the act of manufacturing corn liquor. The officers arrested the colored man, destroyed the still and emptied a key containing four gallons of liquor. When the officers approached the still they saw Will Bass filling the kettle with sour mash and kindle a fire under it. Bass was taken to Creedmoor and given a hearing before Justice J. E. Hart, who bound him over to court under a \$500 bond.

NO MAN KNOWS THE DAY OR THE HOUR

A News Item That Claims Much and Means Little.

A day or two ago the big daily papers published under glaring headlines the following which was sent out by the associate press at London:

"The year 1926 is destined to shake the world to its foundation, both physically and politically. It is to be a succession of plagues, famine, floods, shipwrecks, rioting and revolution. So says the British Journal of Astrology, which has drawn the horoscope for that year, when the planets Mars and Mercury will be in conjunction.

"Six years later the great Armageddon is to take place. It will be a final conflict between Mohammedanism, allied with bolshevism, against the united Anglo-Saxon world. It will end in a 'universal peace' in 1933, but 'there will be so few of us left and we shall all be so tired that peace should happen anyhow,' the horoscope says.

FEWER DEATHS IN UNITED STATES AND CANADA, 1921

There were 153,000 fewer deaths in the United States and Canada in 1921 than in 1920, said Robert Lynn Cox, third vice president of the Metropolitan Life in an address the other day.

The statistics, compiled from the mortality experience of 37 companies, covered 27,000,000 human lives which of necessity reflect the general health conditions throughout the country. The most amazing factor in the health situation of the year now drawing to a close, according to Mr. Cox, is the almost complete disappearance of influenza as a cause of death, only 1,716 being reported for 10 months of 1921 as against 25,400 for the corresponding period of 1920, which was not regarded as an epidemic year.

THERE WILL BE A MIDNIGHT SERVICE AT ST. STEPHEN'S

Entering Upon the Commemoration Of The Birth Of Christ.

There will be a midnight Celebration of the Holy Eucharist in St. Stephen's Church on Christmas Eve, Saturday night. This is the very ancient custom of entering upon the commemoration of the Birth of the Christ Child.

Col. Henry Watterson Dead.

Col. Henry Watterson, internationally known as "Marse Henry," and for many years editor of the Louisville Journal, died in his apartments in Jacksonville yesterday.

CORNER STONE OF WILLIAM J. HICKS MEMORIAL HOSPITAL IS BEING LAID TODAY

Distinguished Masons Are Gathering At The Oxford Orphan Asylum.

The corner stone of the William J. Hicks Memorial Hospital will be laid at the Oxford Asylum at 2:30 o'clock this afternoon. Numerous friends throughout the State are expected to be present.

Grand Master J. Bailey Owen will preside, and Andrew J. Harris, of Henderson, Grand Steward, will deliver the speech. It is expected that the A. C. E. Band, of Raleigh, under direction of Captain Price, will render music for the occasion. The band is one of the best musical organizations in North Carolina.

WELFARE OFFICER JACKSON FINDS MUCH DESTITUTION IN THE COUNTY

Some Of The Families Must Receive Help.

Several cases of destitution in the county have been reported to Mr. J. E. Jackson, county welfare officer. He visited some of the families and pronounced their needs as being very acute.

There is no public funds to relieve this class of destitution, but Mr. Jackson said that he will in some way help the most worthy cases.

DANVILLE TO STAY IN THE PIEDMONT LEAGUE

No Chance For Oxford Or Henderson To Get A Berth.

The announcement that Danville has decided to maintain its place in the Piedmont baseball league brings dismay to the hearts of Oxford and Henderson fans who had hoped that some kind of an arrangement could be effected whereby Oxford and Henderson could get a berth in the league as one team and play in Oxford and Henderson two or three games a week by enlarging the league to an eight-team league.

The only interest manifested in baseball here last season centered in the Oxford and Henderson teams, and now Henderson is knocking at the door of the Virginia League with a good chance of entering in. In that event there will be no baseball fever here next season.

PRESIDENT TO ANNOUNCE CHRISTMAS PARDONS

Washington, Dec. 23.—President Harding tomorrow will make public a list of Christmas pardons, it was announced officially at the White House.

No indication was given of the number of pardons contemplated nor would officials state whether Eugene V. Debs was among those destined to regain their liberty. It was stated, however, that there would not be general amnesty declared for the many so-called "political prisoners," now serving prison sentences for violations of war-time laws.

EASTLAKE IS NOT GUILTY OF MURDERING HIS WIFE

Jury Out 47 Minutes In Reaching Verdict.

Montross, Va., Dec. 21.—Roger D. Eastlake, navy petty officer, charged with the murder of his wife, Margaret Eastlake, at their home at Colonial Beach, Va., on September 30, last, was yesterday afternoon found not guilty by a jury in Westmoreland county circuit court here.

Miss Knox, the Baltimore nurse, charged jointly with Eastlake with the murder, will be placed on trial February 3.

ONE OF THE GOOD COLORED FARMERS OF GRANVILLE

Warren Hays Sets a Splendid Example For His Race.

Warren Hays, tenant farmer who lives near Stovall with his two grown sons, produced this year in spite of the extreme dry weather 71 barrels of corn measured, and this week killed 1,855 pounds of as good meat as can be found. Warren believes in living at home and it is his desire to see all of his race make something for themselves, and believes that this is the only way to do it.

TWO OF THE FINEST HOGS IN GRANVILLE

Only Fifteen Months Old and the Two Weighed 1074 Pounds.

Mr. John Clark who lives in West Oxford, killed two of the finest hogs so far reported this season. They were of the same litter and one weighed 498 pounds and the other 549. These hogs were bred by Messrs. E. T. Jones & Son, Elmwood Stock Farm, Oxford Route 1, and were only 15 months old when killed.

TWENTY MILLIONS RELIEF BILL PASSES SENATE

Washington, Dec. 21.—The senate passed the house bill appropriating \$20,000,000 for the relief of the starving and distressed in Russia, with two amendments, one appropriating \$500,000 to be used for the hospitalization of former service men in Arizona, and the other setting aside \$100,000 for the use of the government in relieving unemployment.

Mutual Ignorance.

(Syracuse Post-Standard) Bernard Shaw says that he never heard of Babe Ruth. Babe Ruth probably never heard of Bernard Shaw.

MARRIAGE RECORD

Harris-Baker.

A quiet but pretty marriage was solemnized at high noon on Tuesday at the home of Rev. and Mrs. J. D. Harte, when Miss Arginia La Vera, daughter of Mrs. Thomas C. Harris, became the bride of Mr. Hugh Daniel Baker, Jr., of Rocky Mount. The house was adorned with Christmas decorations, making a pretty setting for the ceremony which was performed by Rev. J. D. Harte, pastor of the Oxford Baptist Church of which the bride is a member. Before the ceremony, Miss Mabel Barnes Fountaine of Tarboro sang "O Promise Me," accompanied by Miss Mary Webb and Mrs. Blount Bryan. Miss Mary Landis, attired in a gown of blue and black satin, carrying pink Killarney roses, was maid of honor. The groom was attended by Gideon Fesperman as best man. The bride entered with her father by whom she was given in marriage. A dark blue tricot gown with brown ostrich hat, and carrying a shower of bride's roses and valley lilies, completed the costume of the bride who looked more beautiful than usual. She is a young woman of sweet personality and attractive manners. The groom is a popular young business man of Rocky Mount. Immediately after the ceremony, they left for a tour of northern cities, after which they will be at home in Rocky Mount.

The out of town guests were: Hugh D. Baker, Sr., Henry Battle, George Wilkerson, Bert Craneberg, Ernest Lindsey, Jack and Tom Jolly, Misses Una and Mavis Lindsey of Rocky Mt.; Misses Mary B. Minor, Selma Fountain and Lula Stockard of Raleigh, Mabel Fountain of Tarboro, Walter L. Totten of Durham, Gideon Fesperman, Ernest Shirely, Fred Morris, E. Ealy of Chapel Hill.

Parker-Isley.

On Wednesday night at seven o'clock in the Methodist Church Miss Selene Riley Parker, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Franklin Parker became the bride of Mr. Hugh Isal-laway Isley. Rev. E. M. Snipes, pastor of the church, performed the ceremony in the presence of friends and relatives. Miss Bert Hutchings played Mendelssohn's Wedding March as the bride and groom entered unattended. The bride was becomingly attired in blue suit and gray accessories. Both the bride and groom are popularly known in Oxford having many friends. The bride is a charming young woman. The groom is employed by the Carolina Power & Light Company. They are spending their honeymoon in northern cities.

Averett-Watkins.

On Tuesday morning at eleven-thirty o'clock Miss Bettie Lee Watkins, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John N. Watkins was married to Mr. Lee Averett. The ceremony was performed by Rev. J. D. Harte at the Baptist Parsonage, only a few intimate friends of the contracting party being witnesses to the ceremony. The happy couple left for Washington where they will spend their honeymoon, after which they will be at home in Oxford where the groom holds a responsible position with R. J. Reynolds Co. The bride is a lovely young woman, a graduate of the Oxford High School and the Oxford College.

Parrott-Jones.

Mr. Charlie W. Parrott, son of Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Parrott, and Miss Lottie Jones, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Jones, were married at the home of Pastor C. A. Upchurch, Wednesday afternoon at 3 o'clock. They entered to the strains of Mendelssohn's Wedding March played by Mrs. Upchurch. A company of friends of the contracting parties accompanied them to witness the marriage and wish them much happiness. They are from the western part of the county.

TO INCREASE DUES IN THE TOBACCO ASSOCIATION

Growers Who Delay Signing Until After January 1 Must Pay \$7 More.

Tobacco growers who wait until after January 1 to join the Cooperative Marketing Association will have to pay a \$10 membership free instead of the \$3 dues now being paid, according to a statement from Raleigh headquarters of the growers association.

With a big majority of tobacco growers already members of the association, the statement says that the expense of signing scattered farmers will be greater than can be met by a \$3 membership, free, and hence the increase in dues will be necessary.

Tobacco growers who have delayed joining the association, or those who have not been reached by canvassers, are urged to send in their signed contracts to county or state headquarters before January 1 if they wish to save \$7 on their dues. Contracts signed after January 1, 1922, must be accompanied by \$10 membership fees.

—Mr. E. A. Thompson, representing The Fuller Brush Company, of Hartford, Conn., is in Oxford making arrangements to put on a campaign early in the New Year. Watch the Public Ledger for announcement.

THIRTY-NINE CENTS MADE LIMIT OF SCHOOL TAX IN COUNTIES NEXT YEAR

Education Deficit and Municipal Finance Acts Are Completed In The Final Hours Of Extra Session Of Legislature.

Legislation of the special session of the North Carolina General Assembly, which adjourned sine die early last Tuesday morning centered around finance and schools, but other miscellaneous matters were handled. The municipal finance act was the chief of the legislation touching financial matters. This merely gives the cities the right to levy additional taxes and makes provisions for issuing of general bonds. The bond listing bill, which requires all local bond issues to be listed with the State Auditor, and provides penalties for boards which fail to levy taxes for interest and retire bonds when mature, and penalizing the official who fails to pay interest when it is due, is regarded as a fine piece of legislation.

In school matters the Legislature took care of the \$700,000 deficit of last year, validated all existing county school taxes for the six months school term, fixed 39 cents as the limit of school taxes in counties for the coming year, prohibited mandamus proceedings against county boards for failing to levy a sufficient amount and provided jury trials instead. In order to harmonize and codify the patchwork legislation on schools, a special committee of five was appointed to study the laws and court decisions and made a report at the next general session.

The legislature refused to pass the bill removing the penalties for non-payment of taxes promptly, rejecting the bill for reduction of the property tax exemption from \$300 to \$100.

A NEW AND IMPORTANT PROVISION OF REVENUE ACT

Taxpayers Must Lose No Time In Compilation Of Their Accounts For 1921.

Collector of Internal Revenue Gilliam Grissom, Raleigh, has issued the following, which must be complied with:

"With the approach of the period for filing income tax returns, January 1 to March 15, 1922, taxpayers are advised to lose no time in the compilation of their accounts for the year 1921. A new and important provision of the Revenue Act of 1921 is that every person whose gross income for 1921 was \$5,000 or over shall file a return, regardless of the amount of net income upon which the tax is assessed. Returns are required of every single person whose net income was \$1,000 or over and every married person living with husband or wife whose net income was \$2,000 or over. Widows and widowers and persons separated or divorced from husband or wife, are regarded as single persons.

"Net income is gross income, less certain deductions for business expenses, losses, taxes, etc. Gross income includes practically all income received by the taxpayer during the year; in the case of the wage earner, salaries, wages, bonuses and commissions; in the case of professional men, all amounts received for professional services; in the case of farmers all amounts received for professional services; in the case of farmers all profits from the sale of farm products, and rental or sale of land."

SANTA CLAUS VISITS PASTOR C. A. UPCHURCH

Miss Sylvia Hurst Will Arrive From Chicago Tomorrow.

Numerous things quicken the interest of West Oxford people during the approaching Christmas season. Santa Claus came early to the home of Pastor Upchurch. He said he represented a member of West Oxford Church and ordered that no ham and no turkey be bought for Christmas. The ham and turkey, each one weighing around 25 pounds, came Wednesday.

Miss Sylvia Hurst, who has been in school at The Moody Bible Institute Chicago, Ill., is to reach Oxford tomorrow for a ten-days stay with her folks and her many friends are on tiptoe with anticipations for an interesting word or two from her about her new experiences. She will probably sing in the Sunday School Sunday morning.

The Primary Department will enjoy a treat of Christmas goodies at the lesson hour Sunday morning. The school will play Santa Claus to a number of families and individuals, and will make a special donation of money on Sunday morning for the starving children in eastern lands.

THERE IS GOING TO BE A WHITE CHRISTMAS

Snow Is the Delight Of All Children.

It is going to be a white Christmas, says the Weather Man, which will please those who believe that a green Christmas makes a fat graveyard. It is true, too. There have been thirty-two green Christmases since 1872, and they all made fat graveyards.