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This, That, and The Other

MRS. THEO. B. DAVIS



Christmas Crime or Christ ?

(Editorial)



The day was born in Christianity and cradled in heathenism. The heart of it today may still be Christian, but most of its visible characteristics sound and savor much like the pagan practices of our ancestors in the forests of Germany.

Days and even weeks before Christmas day people begin preparations for its observance. Money is saved, plans are made, and everybody begins to look expectantly towards Christmas. Shells are bought for hunting, fireworks are provided for making the most noise possible, the best liquor is secured, big dances are advertised, rich foods, nuts and fruits are bought—all this by people regardless of color or creed.

Turn to the church itself. Many of them treat Christmas as other days. The pastor may preach a Christmas sermon. The Sunday School may prepare a pageant in which a crib and music dominate. The poor are remembered slightly with food and other gifts. The Christian's Christmas centers around a baby—an innocent, dependent mite of life. Then when an hour is spent in exalting the babe, these Christians join the rest of humanity in its revelry and feasting, and the exchanging of gifts and good wishes.

We feel that this is all wrong. It gives the world an opportunity of gratifying its selfishness and sinfulness behind a thin veil of charity to the needy and praise to God. Back in 1614, England, by act of Parliament, forbade the observance of Christmas. In 1659 the Puritans passed a law: "Whoever shall be found observing any such a day as Christmas or the like, either forbearing of labor, feasting, or in any way, as a festival, shall be fined 5 shillings." So the present way of observing the day is not new.

Our own conviction is that Christmas should be a Christian holy day, or be divorced from the church altogether. It should not point back two thousand years to a baby cradled in a manger, but forward to the exalted Christ. It should not be centered around a helpless baby, but proclaim a risen, reigning Lord. It should be a time of giving and not getting. For what we have already received, we should gladly give honor and praise to Christ and gifts and service to those in need of sustaining substance.

The way most people—even church members—celebrate the coming of Jesus into the world is a crime against the race and a sin against its Savior. The world and the church would both be better without it unless it can be redeemed from its pagan practices and selfish service.

If Christian men and women only realized the true meaning of God's gift to the world, instead of making it a day of revelry and feasting, they would pour out in a sacrificial way of their substance a great offering to send the glad tidings of great joy to those who yet sit in darkness. A few women and fewer men do this, but the great mass of christendom fail to discern the true meaning of Christmas. The angels' song was all right for angels, but redeemed mortals need to put a deeper meaning into their song, and then support their profession with a loyal, unselfish service from Christmas to Christmas.

"All hail the power of Jesus' name, Ye ransomed from the fall;
Bring forth the royal diadem And crown Him Lord of all."

NEWS OF THE WEEK

BAN ON "SPY" PHOTOS URGED

Washington, D. C.—The House Military Affairs Committee is considering a letter from President Roosevelt urging a general tightening up of permission to photograph the country's defenses, fortifications and naval equipment, over which there has heretofore been little or no restraint.

GERMAN WAR-LORD DEAD

Munich, Germany—General Erich Ludendorff, Chief of Staff of the German armies during the World War, is dead of an acute kidney ailment at the age of 72. In his latter years the military leader became the head of a religious cult of agnostic learnings.

SIXTY NATIONS AT FAIR

New York City—Contracts have been signed or preliminary steps taken by sixty nations for representation in New York's World's Fair which opens April 30, 1939. Their exhibits are expected to entail an expenditure of \$25,000,000.

GERMANY LEADS IN PLANES

Berlin, Germany—With 129 ships aggregating 164,340 horsepower, Germany is declared to lead Europe in commercial airplanes. France follows with 87 ships of 116,000 h. p., Italy with 72 planes of 102,000 h. p., the Netherlands with 35 ships of 41,000 h. p., and Great Britain trails with 34 of 56,000 h. p.

RADIO SPONSORS APOLOGIZE

Hollywood, Cal.—After a flood of violent protests to the Federal Communications Commission, the National Broadcasting Company and Chase and Sanborn, the sponsors, for a "lewd", "smutty", "vulgar", "obscene", and various other descriptive terms applied to the broadcast of Mae West over the radio, the sponsors have apologized to the public for the buxom star's flight into the ether. Chairman McNinch of the Communications Board has asked for a report from the NBC as to the responsibility of officials who permitted the offensive matter to go out over the company's network.

TREASURY CONDITION

Receipts	\$156,171,989
Expenditures	\$242,064,713
Balance	\$2,765,147,321
Deficit, Fiscal Year	\$678,572,000
Public Debt	\$37,506,450,869

Debnam, Charles Hinton; Shepherds, Ray Pippin, Billy Green, Kirby Pearce; Angel of the Annunciation, Cornelia Herring; Spirit of Christmas, Ercelle Littleton.

At the conclusion of the pageant nearly all present went forward carrying gifts to be sent to those in need or for missions.

We invite the people of Zebulon to share with us at the Methodist Church next Sunday morning and night appropriate seasonal worship services.

Shall be glad to see you at church. —J. W. BRADLEY.

CLUB COLUMN

SPECIAL MEETING

HOME DEM. CLUB

The Home Demonstration Club of Wakefield will meet on Wednesday of next week, instead of the regular date, which was the fourth Wednesday in the month. At the postponed meeting a special feature will be the installation of new officers. As usual this, the last meeting of the year, will be a social and it is hoped that every member may attend. Remember the date, Wednesday, December 29, at 30 p. m.

HARRISON NOW TAX SUPERVISOR; CHAMBLEE COUNTY COMMISSIONER

D. Bryant Harrison, former sheriff of this county and later county commissioner, has resigned and has been made tax supervisor at a salary of \$200 per month. M. Wallace Chamblee, mayor of Zebulon, and a leader among Young Democrats, has been appointed to the unexpired term of Harrison. It is presumed that he will be a candidate for election in the next campaign. He represents eastern Wake on the board of commissioners.

Do not use the word between when no more than two objects are referred to. Use among for three or more.

CHURCH NOTES

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

The candlelight service at the Baptist church last Sunday was said by many to have been the best ever presented in the church. Arranged and directed by Mesdames Philip Massey and Lester Green, the program was in simplified pageant form centering on the Nativity. Mrs. Avon Privette was reader; Mrs. L. M. Massey, soloist, with the full choir also taking part; Mrs. J. D. Horton was pianist. Mrs. Lester Green and Anne Massey gave the prologue; Miss Marie Watson took the part of Mary; Roscar Pits, Joseph; Wise Men were Robert Edd Horton, Dwight