

# THE COMMONWEALTH.

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SCOTLAND NECK, N. C., THURSDAY, DECEMBER 23, 1909.

NUMBER 51.

## CHRISTMAS.

LONG AGO.

It was long ago that the angels sang  
To shepherds who watched their folds,  
And the lowly hills of Judea rang  
With songs that are never old.  
When they told of a Saviour born that day  
In the town of Bethlehem,  
Of the manger bed where the Christ-child lay,  
Who came as the Lord of men.  
And the mighty dome of the vaulted sky  
Their rapturous songs did fill,  
As they sang of glory to God on high,  
And to all on earth good will.  
Then the wise men came with their strange, glad news,  
Like guests to a royal feast,  
Saying, "Where is He, the King of the Jews,  
Whose star we saw in the east?"  
By its radiant light divinely led,  
They brought Him offerings meet;  
And worshipped Him then in His manger bed  
With their gold and incense sweet.  
They gave Him the gifts of loving hearts,  
And the gifts of loving hands;  
They had labored to gain in distant parts,  
And brought from their native lands.

CHRISTMAS NOW.

In the quiet hush of this Christmas night,  
The song of the angel band  
Seems wafted down on the tremulous light,  
That shines from the heavenly land.  
As we join our notes to the angels' strains,  
They sang in the "Long Ago."  
As the songs, which rang o'er Judea's plains,  
Ring now as they did before.  
Let us bury our strifes in love to God,  
And let peace our bosoms fill,  
And giving ourselves to the blessed Lord,  
To each other give good will.  
As the wise men brought to the infant King  
Their gifts with their prayers and praise,  
Let us our richest offerings bring  
With the songs of love we raise.  
As hungry, as needy, as sick, as poor,  
Or stranger in sores need,  
He is not on earth as in days of yore,  
How then can we do this deed?  
There are men and women in want tonight,  
And children who cry for bread.  
There are homes where is neither warmth nor light,  
And hearts that are filled with dread.  
In His name let us seek each needy one,  
And to them His offerings bring;  
For such deeds of love to His poor thus done  
Are done unto Christ our King.  
So, during the whole of the Christmas-tide,  
With His love we shall be blest,  
And entering our homes, He will there abide  
Forever a loving guest.  
Rev. E. A. Wingard, D. D.

## Raising Gourds for Pipes.

Uncle Sam is sending out a circular to show farmers how they can raise gourds and make pipes for smokers at a profit. The gourds do not grow as rapidly as the gourds of ancient times, but it is claimed that they can be produced in almost any part of this country from seed that is supplied by the government, with the directions for planting and for making pipes. The fad comes from South Africa, where the gourd is called the calabash.

Boers made pipes of the gourds for many years, but the world took little notice until after the Boer war when the English began to import them. Later the demand spread to the United States, and now there is a large market for the pipes at \$8 to \$12 each, according to the circular of the department of agriculture.

The Boers tried to monopolize the seed of the gourd, but a large supply has been secured, and there is prospect that the crop will become general. It is claimed that the gourd pipes color like meerschaum and are highly appreciated by smokers. As no two gourds are exactly alike, each smoker has a pipe of special pattern, and as the sizes vary so much the work of preparing them is done by hand instead of machinery.—Worcester Telegram.

## The Christmas of Charity and Kindness.

The smile of Christmas is on the faces of thousands who are planning pleasant surprises and making gifts for their loved ones. It lightens up the household and puts the community in a better humor. The shops are in their holiday garb, and the red and green of the season are festooned around the whole city. For the prosperous and those in good circumstances Christmas is the most joyous time of all the year. But to the very poor, to the idle, the unfortunate, the penniless, the gayety all around them only increase by contrast their sense of poverty and misfortune.

Can't you do something to help those less fortunate than yourself? Can't you bring the Christmas smile to some sad face? The tendency with most of us is to confine our holiday efforts to our own families and friends—with "a word of strife shut out, a world of love shut in." But our activities should be broader than this. We would enjoy our own good things more, would increase the pleasure of our possessions by sharing them with the poor and needy. That slender mother who is working hard day and night to support her little children, would appreciate more than words can tell not only food and confections, but the visit that shows her that there are still friends left in the world. That old man, bent with the weight of years and suffering, would treasure the smallest gift that showed that there were still kind hearts around him. The little children who have no Santa Claus to bestow his bounty upon them will laugh and clap their hands in glee when some Lady Bountiful comes laden with wonderful toys and sweets.

Charity and kindness give a significance to Christmas that it lacks for the selfish and thoughtless. Comfort for the sick, aid for the poor, cheer for the downcast, joy for the children—you can give them all; and they will return to you increased many fold in the enhanced enjoyment of a holiday that is rich in good deeds.—Baltimore Sun.

"Your boy is in college, isn't he?"  
"Yes."  
"What business or profession will he follow when he leaves college?"  
"Crippled beggar on a street corner, I believe, will be the only thing he'll be fitted for; he's on the football team."—Houston Post.

## NO STAR TO GUIDE.

### The Possibility That Escaped the Women of Bethlehem.

The child born in the stable of Bethlehem, "because there was no room for them in the inn," was heralded by angels to the shepherds and by a star to the wise men; but no voice told the mothers of Bethlehem of the wonder which was happening in their town that night.

Suppose some gentle woman had met Joseph and Mary on that Wonderful Day, as they entered the town, and had said to them: "Our streets are full of homeless strangers. Come you and abide with me!" By that simple act of hospitality, her name would have been written high, high among the names of earth's happiest folk. "Blessed is she," we should have cried, "to whose home the Christmas joy first came!" But the women of the Judean town did not know to throw wide their doors and bring in the world's gratitude and love, says the Youth's Companion. So the Child was laid in a manger, and oblivion holds the names of all the women in Bethlehem who slept that night beneath the wings of wondering angels. Had they but known! Year by year, for 19 centuries the story of the night at Bethlehem has been told and retold. To-day no household in Christendom, in town or village or on distant prairie can plead the ignorance in which Bethlehem then lay. If the door is shut on the Christ-child to-day, it is not from lack of knowledge, but from churlishness or indifference.

The Christmas spirit speaks in many voices. The sprig of holly or the plum pudding, the tree laden with gifts or the cheer for the lonely—these are all the world's way of saying to the Mother and the Holy Child, "Abide with us!" Barred out alike from cottage and palace and inn in Palestine, the Hope of the World renews his appeal each Christmas-tide to our modern Christian world. By the very pathos of the first Christmas, the heart is softened and prepared to give him welcome. To-day there is no heralding angel or guiding star.

No ear may hear His coming,  
But in this world of sin,  
Where meek souls will receive Him still,  
The dear Christ enters in.

## The Frying Pan.

For several years there has been war waged against the frying pan as the cause of all diseases of body and cantankerous conditions of mind prevalent amongst the sons of men. From the time when the first frying pan was brought from Virginia by the first settlers of this country up to a recent date, there was no appendicitis, no pellagra, no nervous going to pieces, no sallow, grunting dyspeptics going around in a miserable condition.

It was men fed from the frying pan that fought at King's Mountain, Cowpens and Yorktown. The Presidents that did things in the first half century of the country's history took their game, pork, beef and fish as they came hot and juicy from the frying pan. Shall the country give up fried chicken, fried fish, light puff fritters and melting pancakes, just because a few people, who never saw a real frying pan, are preaching against it?—Spartanburg Journal.

Foley's Honey and Tar is the best and safest cough remedy for children. A. The first symptoms of a cold, give as directed, and ward off danger of croup, bronchitis, sore throat, cold in the head, and stuffy breathing. It brings comfort and ease to the little ones. Contains no opiates or other harmful drugs. Keep always on hand, and refuse substitutes. Sold by all Druggists.

Employer—What we want is a night watchman that watches some body who can sleep with one eye open and both ears, and who is not afraid to tackle anything. See?

Applicant—I see, boss; I'll send me wife round.—Alty Sloper's.

Alone in Saw Mill at Midnight  
unmindful of dampness, drafts storms or cold, W. J. Atkins worked as night watchman, at Banner Springs, Tenn. Such exposure gave him a severe cold that settled on his lungs. At last he had to give up work. He tried many remedies but all failed till he used Dr. King's New Discovery. "After using one bottle" he writes, "I went back to work as well as ever." Severe colds, stubborn coughs, inflamed throats and sore lungs, hemorrhages, croup and whooping cough get quick relief and prompt cure from this glorious medicine. 50c and \$1.00. Trial bottle free, guaranteed by E. T. Whitehead Co.

## A Christmas Vampire.

A fool there was, and he made a gift  
(Even as you or I.)  
He bought it with taste and care  
and thrift  
(For a lady his friends thought  
rather swift)  
And when he gave it, the lady sniffed,  
(Even as you or I.)

Oh, the judgement and taste and  
time we waste  
On the gifts at Christmastide;  
Which we give to the lady who isn't  
pleased  
(And now we know she could never  
be pleased  
And never be satisfied.)

A fool there was, and he gave his  
cheque  
(Even as you or I)  
For a necklace of pearls without a  
fleck,  
(And it didn't the least suit the lady's  
neck)  
And she never thanked him a single  
speak!  
(Even as you or I.)

Oh, the think we lose and the think  
we lose,  
On the things we buy with pride,  
To give to the lady who never is  
pleased  
(And now we know she can never be  
pleased  
And never be satisfied.)

The fool was fleeced to his last red  
cent,  
(Even as you or I.)  
She threw him aside, when his gold  
was spent,  
(And nobody cared where the lady  
went.)  
And the fool gave way to loud lament  
(Even as you or I.)

And it wasn't the loss, and it wasn't  
the loss,  
The reason that same fool cried;  
It was coming to know that she never  
was pleased  
(Seeing at last she could never be  
pleased  
And never be satisfied.)  
—Carolyn Wells, in Smart Set.

## Didn't Know What He Had.

There are a great many people in the world who do not appreciate what they have but are always looking for something they deem better that belongs to somebody else. Things far away attract them but they have no eyes for the beautiful already in their possession. This was never better illustrated than in the following item in the last issue of the Burnesville (Yancey county) Eagle.

"A friend came into our office the other day and asked us to write an advertisement for him for the sale of his farm. When we read the notice to him he said: 'Read that again.' After a second reading he said, 'I believe I'll not sell; I've been looking for a place like that all my life and didn't know until now that I already had it.' We already have most of the blessings of life that are good for us, or we need only to stretch out our hands and reach them, but our eyes are so strained to catch the vision of some far-off object that we lose the blessing that is at hand. The lesson in this Yancey county incident ought to be learned and to be helpful to all.—News and Observer.

The symptoms of kidney trouble are urinary disorders, weak back and backache, rheumatism and rheumatic pains and twinges, pains in the groin, etc. There is nothing as good for kidney and bladder trouble as DeWitt's Kidney and Bladder Pills. You may depend upon them to give entire satisfaction. They are antiseptic, act promptly and soothe the pain. Sold by E. T. Whitehead Company.

"Don't you think my poetry resembles Tennyson's?" said the confident young writer.  
"It does," answered Miss Cayenne, "in the capitalization and the arrangement of lines into varying lengths."—Washington Star.

Many persons find themselves affected with a persistent cough after an attack of influenza. As this cough can be promptly cured by the use of Chamberlain's Cough Remedy, it should not be allowed to run on until it becomes troublesome. Sold by E. T. Whitehead Co.

The first thing for a man to do to gain a woman's trust is not to merit it.—New York Press.

Rich Men's Gifts are Poor  
beside this. "I want to go on record as saying that I regard Electric Bitters as one of the greatest gifts that God has made to woman, writes Mrs. O. Rhinevault, of Vestal Centre, N. Y., "I can never forget what it has done for me." This glorious medicine gives a woman buoyant spirits, vigor of body and jubilant health. It quickly cures Nervousness, sleeplessness, melancholy, headache, backache, fainting and dizzy spells; soon build up the weak ailing and sickly. Try them. 50c. at E. T. Whitehead Co's.

Makes the most nutritious food and the most dainty and delicious

## ROYAL Baking Powder

Absolutely Pure

No fretting over the biscuit making. Royal is first aid to many a cook's success

## A Creed.

To be earnest; to be strong;  
To make light the way with song;  
Slow to anger, quick to praise;  
Walking steadfast through the days,  
Firm of purpose, sure of soul,  
Pressing onward to the goal,  
Upright, even, undismayed,  
Sure, serene, and unafraid.

To be patient; to be kind;  
To be purposeful, and find  
Sweetness all along the way;  
Loathe to judge, but firm to say  
Truth with unrelenting tongue  
By no avail yeered or swung  
From the right; and to endure  
Hopeful, helpful, clean, and pure.

To be gentle; to be glad;  
True to life and glad to live;  
To be watchful and to be  
Rich with boundless charity;  
To be humble in success,  
Strong of heart in bitterness,  
Tender, gracious thoughtful, good  
In our man-and-womanhood.

To be smiling; to be glad  
For the yesterdays we've had;  
To be grateful all the way  
For the beauties of today;  
To be hopeful and to see  
In the days that are to be,  
Bigger, better, broader things,  
Robes of purple, crowns of kings!

Cleanliness is the first law of health, inside as well as outside. Let Hollister's Rocky Mountain Tea be your internal cleanser, then your organs will be pure and clean, your health good, your system right. Start tonight. E. T. Whitehead Co.

The eruptions of Vesuvius greatly increases the fertility of the ground in the vicinity.

The Ladies Aid Society of the Presbyterian church will have a sale of fancy work and serve refreshments in the hotel building on Thursday, afternoon and night Dec. 9th. The public is cordially invited.

"Do cigars ever contain rope?"  
"No. That's just a pleasantry of the poker-makers. As a matter of fact, hemp is too expensive to put in the cheaper brands of cigars."—London Mail.

## A Chinese Joke.

There was a man in Ch'angan who was very fond of giving dinners, but the food given was atrocious. One day a guest threw himself on his knees in front of this gentleman and said, "Am I not a friend of yours?"  
"You are indeed," replied his host.  
"Then I must ask of you a favor."  
"Well what is it?" inquired his host in astonishment.  
"Never to invite me to dinner any more!" cried the guest, at which the whole party burst into a loud roar of laughter. —North China Herald.

A sprained ankle will usually disable the injured person for three or four weeks. This is due to lack of proper treatment. When Chamberlain's Liniment is applied a cure may be effected in three or four days. This liniment is one of the best and most remarkable preparations in use. Sold by E. T. Whitehead Co.

Hubby—And what looks more awkward than to see a woman stepping off a street car?  
Wife—I can tell you.  
Hubby—What?  
Wife—Why, a man washing dishes. —Philadelphia Bulletin.

If you are suffering from biliousness, constipation, indigestion, chronic headache, invest one cent in a postal card, send to Chamberlain Medicine Co., Des Moines, Iowa, with your name and address plainly on the back, and they will forward a free sample of Chamberlain's Stomach and Liver Tablets. Sold by E. T. Whitehead Co.

A young girl, alone and very beautiful, came out of the Park street subway station the other day while it was raining. After she had stood a few moments looking anxiously at the rain a young man came up and said, "Can't I offer you my umbrella?"  
"I thank you," said the girl; "I will take the umbrella," which she did. —Boston Record.

## Get Well

If you are sick, you wish to get well, don't you? Of course you do. You wish to be rid of the pain and misery, and be happy again.  
If your illness is caused by female trouble, you can quickly get the right remedy to get well. It's Cardui. This great medicine, for women, has relieved or cured thousands of ladies, suffering like you from some female trouble.

# TAKE CARDUI

For Women's Ills

Mrs. Fannie Ellis, of Foster, Ark., suffered agony for seven years. Read her letter about Cardui. She writes: "I was sick for seven years with female trouble. Every month I would very nearly die with my head and back. I took 12 bottles of Cardui and was cured. Cardui is a God-send to suffering women." Try it.

AT ALL DRUG STORES

Men are Made Miserable  
Bladder Trouble.  
Upon the mind,  
and cheerful,  
soon disappear  
of order or dis-  
ease.  
Bladder trouble has  
become so prevalent  
that it is not uncom-  
mon for a child to be  
born afflicted with  
weak kidneys. If the  
mother, if the urine scalds  
the child reaches an  
age to be able to control the  
urine, and with bed-wet-  
ting, the cause of the diffi-  
culty, and the first  
treatment of  
this condition of  
the bladder and not to a  
suppose.  
The medicine made miser-  
able and bladder trouble,  
and the same great remedy,  
the immediate effect of  
the medicine. It is sold  
in bottles of 50c and 1.00.  
Write for a free trial bottle  
and full particulars.  
Dr. J. C. Williams,  
150 N. 3rd St.,  
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PARKER'S  
HAIR BALM  
Cleans and beautifies the hair,  
and keeps it from falling out.  
It is sold in bottles of 50c and 1.00.  
Write for a free trial bottle  
and full particulars.  
Dr. J. C. Williams,  
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## GOLD GLASSES

Should be CHRISTMAS  
PRESENTS changed af-  
ter the holidays to suit  
the weather at no extra  
charge.  
Satisfaction  
Guaranteed.  
Tucker, Hall & Co.,  
The Expert Opticians,  
53 Granby St., Norfolk, Va.  
Catalogue on Application.

## YOU BUILD

Build up your health and strength with  
this powerful medicine. It is sold in  
bottles of 50c and 1.00. Write for a  
free trial bottle and full particulars.  
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HOLLISTER'S  
Rocky Mountain Tea Nuggets  
A Bile Medica for Easy People.  
Builds up the health and renews vigor.  
It is sold in bottles of 50c and 1.00.  
Write for a free trial bottle  
and full particulars.  
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