

THE COMMONWEALTH

ESTABLISHED SINCE 1882
AFTERNOON DAILY
"ALL THE NEWS IN A NUTSHELL"

Volume XII. No. 2.

Four O'Clock Edition

Scotland Neck, N. C., Fri., December 24, 1920

Telegraph Service

Price Five Cents.

SIMMONS HAD TO MUCH INFLUENCE

How Cheatham Col. Beat Mass Simmons For Congress

FUNNY THAT WAS

The election of Cheatham, (Col) over Mr. F. M. Simmons to Congress from Eastern North Carolina, was brought about in a very funny manner, and was practically settled in half an hour. Opposite Ntw Berne is the town called James City. It is settled chiefly by the blacks, and Mr. Simmons knew that he had to get this entire vote to be re-elected. His friends went over and called a public meeting and stated what Mr. Simmons had done for the district and the colored people, and as he really had proved himself a benefactor the colored people were ready to go for him to a man. The talk was all for Simmons, and Cheatham was repudiated and insulted. No one thought he had a ghost of a show, but he was biding his time. The night before election Cheatham himself appeared at a called meeting in James City. The crowd opposed his speaking, and one of the leaders inquired:

"Didn't Mars' Simmons git dat 'proprietion fur de new pos'offis?"

"Yes, he did."

"Didn't he git dat 'proprietion to build a new revenue cutter for dis per deestriet?"

"Yes, he did."

"Well, then, what you talkin' Mars' Simmons?"

"Dat's jist de trouble, gem'len"

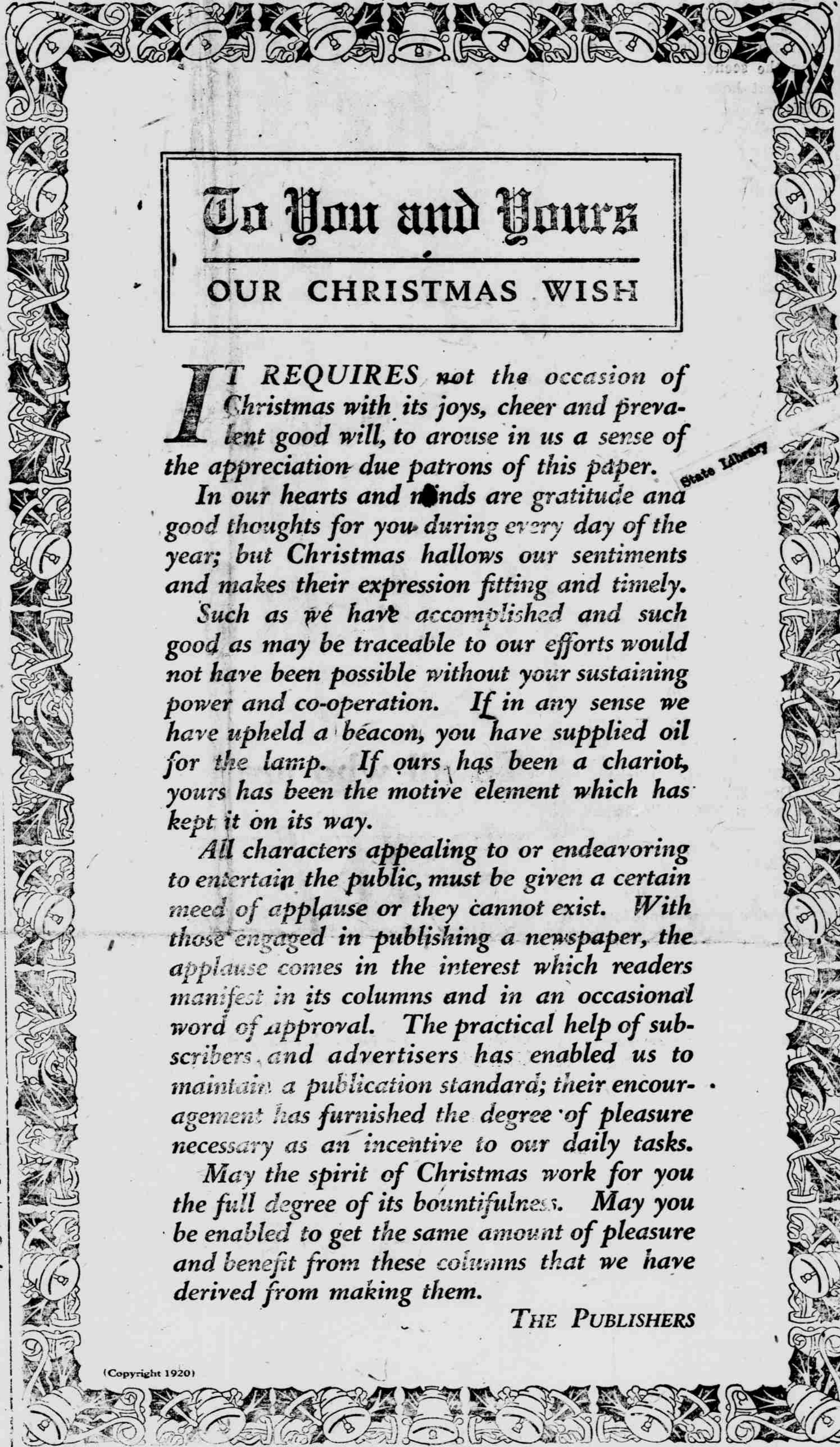
replied Cheatham as he go, his opening. "Mars' Simmons got the more it was believed, and too much influence. He goes down dar to Washington and vote in the town went for Cheatham. 'Missur Cleveland, I ham and elected him.—Taken want dat new pos'offis down to

STORES WILL BE CLOSED MONDAY

In accordance with custom the merchants will give two days for Christmas, Saturday and Monday. This arrangement and generosity of the merchants will be appreciated by the clerks as well as other employees. So the understanding is the stores will close tonight (Friday) and will not be opened again until Tuesday morning.

New Berne. An' Missur Cleveland he say: "All right, Missur Simmons, take all de money you want." An' Mars' Simmons goes back dar purty soon an' says "Missur Cleveland, I want store road down dar in New Berne." An' Missur Cleveland he says: "All right, Missur Simmons, I givt you \$20,000 to make stone road." An' Mars' Simmons goes back in two weeks again an' says: "Missur Cleveland, I want revenue cutter down dar in New Berne." An' Missur Cleveland he says: "All right, Missur Simmons, I send you one." Now, gem'len when Mars' Simmons goes down to Washington dis winter he says: "Missur Cleveland I want you to take all dem niggers in James City an' put'em back into slavery again." what Missur Cleveland gwine ter reply? He likes Mars' Simmons. Mars' Simmons get heap influence ober him. So he's gwine ter say: "All right, Missur Simmons, I'll do it wid de utmos' pleasure." Dat's what he's gwine ter say, an' what will you niggers be in one week arter dat?"

The alarm spread like wild fire, and the more it was talked the more it was believed, and the next day every single negro vote in the town went for Cheatham. "Missur Cleveland, I ham and elected him.—Taken want dat new pos'offis down to



To You and Yours OUR CHRISTMAS WISH

IT REQUIRES not the occasion of Christmas with its joys, cheer and prevalent good will, to arouse in us a sense of the appreciation due patrons of this paper.

In our hearts and minds are gratitude and good thoughts for you during every day of the year; but Christmas hallows our sentiments and makes their expression fitting and timely.

Such as we have accomplished and such good as may be traceable to our efforts would not have been possible without your sustaining power and co-operation. If in any sense we have upheld a beacon, you have supplied oil for the lamp. If ours has been a chariot, yours has been the motive element which has kept it on its way.

All characters appealing to or endeavoring to entertain the public, must be given a certain meed of applause or they cannot exist. With those engaged in publishing a newspaper, the applause comes in the interest which readers manifest in its columns and in an occasional word of approval. The practical help of subscribers and advertisers has enabled us to maintain a publication standard; their encouragement has furnished the degree of pleasure necessary as an incentive to our daily tasks.

May the spirit of Christmas work for you the full degree of its bountifulness. May you be enabled to get the same amount of pleasure and benefit from these columns that we have derived from making them.

THE PUBLISHERS

(Copyright 1920)

CHRISTMAS EVE A LIVELY ONE

Mr. Bernard Ailsbrook remarked yesterday evening when asked as to trade conditions that said if he could have six days long it was that he would be in fine humor to celebrate.

A fine crowd bent on having a real old time Christmas with not only something to please the children and the grown-ups in gifts but in some choice things to eat and wear. Arms full of packages of various shapes and sizes and some that had not been able to find a turkey before could be seen carrying them off and others there were who had them in bags and ready for taking later. The dry goods merchant came in for a goodly share of the trade as well as the grocery man and the market man. It was seen that the hardware and drug man was ready for the occasion and was doing no little business. Out in a back lot, was seen a long row of pigs that were being barbecued which means they would be cooked slowly for seven or eight hours over oak coals supplied from a nearby fire. This may be repeated tomorrow so the Christmas table will not only have the usual course of choice viands but who will, and has the price, can have some brown Inseous barbecue. So with the additional supplies laid in today will not only assure the people of the community several days of feasting but will make it a trade day worth while to the merchants who will be ready to replenish his stock at will. It is encouraging and pleasant to see the lively trade going on. It begets optimism and that is what the folks need.

Our people have the ability to rise to any occasion still pursuing, still achieving and they will be ready after the holidays to take a new hold on life and do even greater things in the future.

NO PAPER

The Commonwealth will appear again on Friday, December 31st.

flowing with immigrants and several ships waiting to unload their human freight. Recently immigrants have been arriving at the rate of more than 2,000 daily and more than 20,000 have been in transit or the ocean at one time.

Welfare organizations have offered their cooperation to the Island officials to bring a bit of holiday cheer to the newcomers who may be there Christmas day.

With the high tide of incoming European peasants there has also been a large emigration from this port during the past month. The outgoing are mostly persons who were returning to Europe for a visit and to pass the holidays with the "old folks."

A small proportion announced their intention of remaining abroad, using their savings in the upbuilding of business under new conditions.



The "Greatest Mother" concept which was visualized in the famous art poster used by the American Red Cross in its second war fund campaign has had its symbolism adapted to the Red Cross works of the post-war era and will illuminate the main poster to be used in the Fourth Roll Call November 11-25. This adaptation will bear the title "Still the Greatest Mother in the World." Everyone is familiar with the original "The Greatest Mother in the World," the effectiveness of which has been shown in part by the fact that it has furnished a synonym for Red Cross that has come to almost a household term. More than any other symbol, except the red cross itself, the public has made it the trademark of the American Red Cross.

THE AMERICAN RED CROSS IN PEACE TIME Disease Prevention



Through its Health Service the American Red Cross has begun a nationwide concentrated effort in co-operation with established organizations to reduce greatly the amount of preventable disease and physical defects found among the country's 106,000,000 population. Education is its most powerful tool. Special attention is devoted to children, and this picture shows a typical Red Cross welfare clinic where little ones are treated and mothers instructed in the proper care of them.

30,000 IMMIGRANTS EXPECTED AT N.Y. STATION DURING XMAS

New York, Dec. 24.—Immigration officials at Ellis Island are preparing for the greatest Christmas rush of immigrants in the history of this port. Special plans have been made to expedite the movement of between 20,000 and 30,000 new comers during the few days the holiday.

Thousands of immigrants timed their departure from Europe so that they might spend Christmas with relatives in this country and the immigration authorities have speeded up the inspection machinery to make this possible.

Despite the extra efforts, officials say thousands will be disappointed. Christmas day is expected to find Ellis Island over-