

# SOCIETY

### THAT DAY!

When you hear the church bells ringing, and the angels from on High, Sing Hosanna in the highest, be of cheer, for Christ is nigh, And you see a world rejoicing, you may know it is That Day That brings sunshine into mankind, and a new life in now way.

In the midst of struggling nations Christ's birthday is hailed with joy! Even wars of bygone ages, its bright side could not destroy. Thoughts of peace are now prevailing, though remote peace be indeed, Until freedom from the Teutons, safely shall be spared the need.

Who can say we are not sponsors, for our subject in this fight? Who can say we drifted from Him, who can say we are not right? Who can say we're not leading in all wars for liberty? Who can say we are not sponsors, for the safety of the free?

When the sad appeals of distress came to us from other land, Quickly, in His name extended, to the needy, helping hand, To the end we are enlisted, as by calling from above, To restore to weary nations, order, freedom, truth and love.

Respectfully yours,  
ALEX. S. YRAGER,  
Wilmington, N. C., December 24, 1917.

Mr. and Mrs. M. W. McCord have gone to Charlotte to spend the holidays with friends.

An informal dance will be given by the Cantwell Dancing School at Hibernian Hall, this evening at 8:45 o'clock.

Miss Cornelia Smith, a teacher at Carolina's Harnett school, is spending the holidays at her home in Elkon.

Mr. and Mrs. S. E. Ellis and Miss Junius Skell, of Acme, are the guests of Mr. and Mrs. T. J. Ellis for Christmas.

Lieutenant Paul L. Cantwell and family, of Camp Sevier, Columbia, S. C., are spending the holidays with his mother, Mrs. J. L. Cantwell.

There will be an informal dance given by Hibernian Circle Club this evening. A committee composed of Lieutenants L. J. Stein, H. M. Solomon, and Mr. J. Irving Bear are making the arrangements.

Lieutenant L. Avon Blue, Jr., aide-de-camp of General Metzer at Camp Jackson, is here spending the holidays with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. L. A. Blue, at Summer Rest, on the Sound.

**LYNCH-BENTON.**  
The engagement of Miss Ruth Bradford Lynch, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. B. Lynch, to Mr. Wilt Taylor Benton, was announced at an informal Christmas Eve tea given yesterday afternoon by Miss Lynch.

**STEWART-BERRY.**  
Fetters in this city and elsewhere will be interested in the following announcement:  
"Mr. and Mrs. William Frederick Berry announce the marriage of their daughter, Mabel Grayson, to Mr. Laurence Hughes Stewart, on Saturday, December the first, nineteen hundred and seventeen, Richmond, Virginia."

**DR. HUAT'S CHRISTMAS CARD.**  
Rev. John Peter Huat, pastor of First Baptist Church, has sent out beautiful Christmas cards to members of his congregation in which happy sentiments are expressed as follows: "The hours draw nigh which are set apart by sentiment and song and story, fearful thoughts linear foremost now about the fires that abide and give confidence for our tomorrows. Therefore, I am thinking of you, dear friend, and remembering gratefully all that you are to me and the cause I love. For you my earnest wish is that peace and joy and music may ring in your soul today that life's large view may be yours to cherish; that new opportunities may be welcomed like Heaven's backing angels, and when the shadows begin to thicken and bedevil your path, clear-eyed faith may cut them all and reveal the never failing God who keeps silent watch above 'His own'."

**ISAIAH 55-11**  
Should bells ring out so merrily on this our Christmas day, Or should they toll in sorrow for the war?  
Is Christ our Saviour, verily? Please answer yea or nay, We must not blindly grope another hour.

This awful war in gloom enshrouds mankind everywhere, As Satan in his chariot seeks his fill.  
O Father, God, how long, how long, before he breaks his spear, And "Peace on Earth" shall reign with gentle will?

Be patient, child, My Kingdom comes, even as comes the morn, To drive away the terrors of the night; My word is truth, it must prevail, sin be held in scorn, For Love shall rule the people by its might.

So ring, Glad Bells, the Good News tell, wherever man is found, That Jesus came to save a sin-cursed earth. His holy life shall end all strife, and war's discordant sound Be lost, for aye in joyous, happy mirth.

—JAMES WASHINGTON BUCK,  
Wilmington, North Carolina.

### MISS COTTE DEAD

Passed Away at Masonboro Sound Home Yesterday Afternoon  
Miss Lottie May Cottle, 17-year old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Cottle, of Masonboro Sound, died yesterday afternoon at her home after a lingering illness. While the end was not unexpected; yet many friends were shocked at her untimely demise.  
Miss Cottle is survived by her parents and two sisters, Mrs. George Farrow and Miss Lillie Cottle. They have the sympathy of the community in their loss. The funeral will be conducted at 4 o'clock this afternoon from the family home at Masonboro, by Rev. J. L. Shinn, pastor of Masonboro Baptist church, of which the deceased was a devoted member. The interment will be in the family burial ground near the church.

### TOURNAMENT POSTPONED.

Tennis Tournament Scheduled For Today Will Be New Year's.  
The tennis tournament which was scheduled to begin on the Robert Strange playgrounds today has been postponed until New Year's day. This was found necessary on account of the fact that many of the young men who expected to enter were leaving to spend the Christmas holidays in other places, and a number of the college boys who desired to participate in the matches were late in reaching the city.

Those desiring to enter the tournament, either for the singles or doubles, may do so any time this week, the entry list being kept open at the store of the Cape Fear Hardware Co. until Saturday night. The schedule of sections will be made up and announced on next Monday, and the matches will begin promptly Tuesday morning.  
Handsome racquets are offered as prizes, two in the doubles and one in the singles.

### PERSONAL MENTION.

Mr. J. E. Bland, machinist's mate, second class petty officer of the U. S. S. 106 S. C., stationed at Charleston, S. C., is spending the Christmas holidays with his wife and parents.  
Cape Fear Camp, No. 254, United Confederate Veterans, will meet at the W. L. I. Armory tomorrow afternoon at 1 o'clock to take part in the Red Cross parade.  
Mr. Percy S. Vaughan, of Hopewell, Va., is spending the holidays with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Pal Vaughan in this city.

**CARD OF THANKS**  
I desire to express my appreciation to the people of the town and community for their kindness and assistance during my recent bereavement in the death of my wife.  
J. G. BROWN,  
Burgaw, N. C.

## THEATRE

In modified minstrelsy the highest mark has been attained by Gus Hill's latest connection. With all the scenery of a spectacle and the costumes of a musical comedy, Gus Hill's Big Minstrels which appear at the Academy of Music tonight has reached the apex of minstrelsy. The singing of the soloists in the first part, the splendid work of the comedians, the clever dancers and the excellent order of the musical offerings are of such a high grade as is only witnessed in a Hill production. George Wilson, "Waltz Me Again," has a brand new budget of songs and a monologue that will tickle the ribs of the most blasé. Eddie Mazler, a popular favorite, will be seen in a funny act. In all respects the Gus Hill's Big Minstrel show this season is said to be the "Best Ever." The company numbers sixty, carrying two bands. The prices range from 50 cents to \$1.

**"A Good For Nothing Husband"**  
Robert Sherman will present at the Academy of Music matinee and night on next Saturday, December 29, his latest offering "A Good For Nothing Husband," a play built for laughing purposes only. During the past few years Mr. Sherman has risen to prominence as a producer of many sterling successes all of which have met with

## Tonight



With George Wilson and 60 All-White Singing and Dancing Comedians.  
Night 50c, 75c and \$1  
Tickets at Elvington's

## Grand

TOMORROW  
William Fox Presents  
"THE SUNSHINE MAID"  
"JUNE CAPRICE"  
In The Most Fascinating, Patriotic Spectacle of the Year  
"MISS U. S. A."  
IN SIX REELS  
A Breezy, Thrilling Picture For Boys, Girls, Men, Women—and Kids To.

## ROYAL

NEW BILL TOMORROW  
Presenting  
THE MELODY MAIDS  
In a New and Novel Musical Farce With Special Scenery and Effects



A Scene in Gus Hill's Minstrel Show, Academy of Music Tonight.

## GOVERNMENT SHIP BUILDING PROGRAM GETTING UNDERWAY

December 1 the Orders Were 18.2 On Way to Completion

### MANY NEW YARDS HAVE BEEN BUILT

While Only Four Vessels Have Been Launched, the Whole Program is Now Getting a Good Start

(By Associated Press).  
Washington, Dec. 25.—The government's ship building program on December 1 was 18.2 per cent, on its way to completion as disclosed in an analysis of statistics supplied by the Shipping Board to the Senate Commerce committee investigating progress of the work.  
The program calling for 8,246,308 tons of shipping is divided as follows: Wood and composite vessels, 437 o. 1,351,900 tons, 10 per cent completed; requisitioned steel ships, 431 of 3,056,988 tons, 39 per cent completed, contract steel ships 527 of 3,638,400 tons, percentage of completion, as given, does not take into account the construction of new shipyards in which many of the vessels will be built or work done toward obtaining engines, boilers and other equipment.

Of 379 wood hulls contracted for, keels have been laid for 165, of which 139 were laid down in yards which did not exist when the contracts were let. The wooden hulls were ordered from 72 yards, of which 51 have been built from the ground up, since the contracts were let. The percentage of completion of wooden hulls, figuring in the entire program which includes hulls on which construction has not started, is nine per cent.  
Of 53 composite ships for which contracts were let, keels have been laid for 12. These 12 on December 1, were 26 per cent completed. The contract went to four shipyards, three of which did not exist when the contracts were made. The three yards have been virtually completed and they will begin construction of ships within a few weeks.

Eleven keels for steel ships have been laid in new yards. Contracts were let for steel ships to 32 yards, of which 29 are new. The percentage of completion of the steel program—four per cent—does not include the construction of the new yards.  
Of the ships contracted for four have been launched, two steel and two wood.

Of the great shortage of tonnage with which France will have to deal after war will be the industrial status of women.

popular approval.  
Sherman's slogan has always been "give the public what they want and give it to them in first class style." And in the case of "A Good For Nothing Husband" the rule has been rigidly carried out as the performances shows, both in the carefully selected cast and the absolute faultlessness of the splendid stage settings.  
The matinee prices will be 25 cents for children and 50 cents for adults to any seat. The night prices will range from 50 cents to \$1. Tickets go on sale at Elvington's Friday.

"The 'Sunshine Maid,' June Caprice, will soon be with us again. In a stirring William Fox photoplay, called 'Miss U. S. A.' she will appear at the Grand theatre tomorrow.

The "Sunshine Maid" will not be all sunshine and smiles in this new screen drama. She has determined, active work to do, to serve her country in a drama that takes place in Virginia soon after the United States declared war on Germany. She hunts out spies and is twice face to face with death while doing this work.

Her name is Capitola. Her father died before her birth and her mother soon after. Her father was Eugene Lenoir, wealthy and of one of the most prominent families in Virginia. Her mother, too, was of a well known family. At their deaths Gabriel Lenoir, brother of Eugene, forces the nurse, Nance Wilson, to swear she will take the newly-born baby away and kill it. He does this to get his brother's fortune. The nurse, however, gives the infant into the hands of a family living in a tenement in New York. When the story opens the nurse has just returned to Virginia and has confessed to Major Warfield, Capitola's uncle. He brings Capitola, now sixteen years old, back as his ward, Miss Black. Then comes the war, and camps and spies.

It turns out that Gabriel Lenoir is the arch spy. He is arrested and denounced and the fortune returns to Capitola.

## CORDIAL XMAS GREETINGS

Amid the most troubled times this country of ours has ever experienced, with loved ones going from our homes to give their best, we extend to you our Sincere Greetings at this Christmas Season. We hope that the Christmas Spirit may fill you to overflowing with happiness, so that you can let the other fellow have some of your joy if he lacks for himself.

But let's get this idea, too—why not have that buoyancy of spirit throughout the coming year—we're going to need every bit of good cheer that we have?

And in a business way, we thank you for having helped us so liberally to feel that this is just about the best Christmas that we have ever known.

Very sincerely presented,

**Belk-Williams Co.**

### AMERICA'S TRADE BALANCE GROWING

(By Associated Press).  
Washington, Dec. 25.—America's balance of trade approximated \$3,600,000 at the close of November, according to figures issued by the bureau of foreign and domestic commerce. It was an increase of \$141,000,000 over the same period last year. During November exports restrictions caused a substantial decrease in foreign trade.  
For the eleven months ended with November gold imports amounted to \$525,000,000 and exports to \$37,000,930, leaving an excess of imports of \$162,000,000 in 1917 against \$299,000,000 in 1916.  
Silver imports during the 11 months amounted to \$7,600,000 against \$29,600,000 a year ago, and the exports were valued at \$4,900,000 in 1917 and \$92,000,000 in 1916.

### ORDER TO PROSECUTE FRENCH DEPUTIES

(By Associated Press).  
Paris, Dec. 25.—General Dubail has signed the order for the prosecution of Deputies Caillaux and Loustalot and M. Comby. It is alleged that Comby was present at the lunch at which former Premier Caillaux met Cavallini and is said to have accompanied Loustalot to Switzerland, where he saw the former Khedive of Egypt, Maitre Demange, who defended Dreyfus, at Rennes, has been chosen by M. Caillaux as his counsel.

### EVERY AMERICAN AIRMAN 'SURE CUR' FOR HIS ENGINE FOR HE'D KNOW THE CAUSE OF TROUBLE



This photo taken in one of the American "Ground Schools" where the fundamentals of aviation are taught in detail, shows America's newest receiving instructions in aero engines. The men take the engines apart, assemble them, watch the engine under stress and disability until they know motors from A to Z.

## Facts About the Sugar Situation

Our Government has asked you to use sugar sparingly. We believe that the people of this country will be glad to do their part to conserve the sugar supply when they know the facts.

These facts are as follows:

More than two-thirds of the source of Europe's sugar supply is within the present battle lines. This has resulted in greatly reducing the production of sugar in Europe.

England and France and other countries have been forced to go for sugar to Cuba.

Ordinarily, nearly all of the Cuban raw sugar comes to the United States and is refined here, chiefly for home use. This is not the case now.

In view of the exceptional world demand for sugar there is no surplus, and barely enough to tide us over until the new crop comes in. The people of the New England and Atlantic Coast States should use sugar sparingly. No one should hoard or waste it.

This Company has no surplus sugar to sell. It is working with the Government to conserve the supply, and to take care of the Allies so far as possible.

Do not pay an increased retail price.

**The Franklin Sugar Refining Company**

"A Franklin Sugar for every use"  
Granulated, Dainty Lumps, Powdered, Confectioners, Brown

We extend  
The Seasons Greetings  
with sincere appreciation  
of your courtesies towards  
the store of  
**A. D. Brown**