

THE TYRRELL TRIBUNE

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A Letter To Santa Claus

Dear Santa:
We have always been told that all good little boys and girls must write you and tell you what they would like for Christmas. Now it is just five days before you will visit us, and since we sincerely believe we haven't been so very bad, will you please grant our humble request?

Again bring to us of Tyrrell a clean record of no highway deaths, and lavish upon us the acute sense of awareness when travelling on the great and even small roadways, of all the danger which can be made by carelessness and the thrill of taking a chance. Touch our sense of value for the lives which may be in our hands, and accordingly assure us of another year without spilt blood and the sickening crash of on-rushing cars.

When you come into the Southern Albemarle, dear Santa, you too will find that travelling may be difficult due to a marked lack of connecting links in our highway systems. Since you are coming this way, wouldn't it be possible to assure us of a bridge across the Alligator River, and a first class highway on into Swan Quarter? Of course this may be a big request, Saint Nick, but we feel that such would justify your every effort. We are a patient people, and have tried to make the best of that which we have, but this would spur on our every effort to develop the great and natural beauties within this section. Can't you see Columbia swelling into a bustling and busy cross roads for the Southern Albemarle, Manteo and its historic significance opened to the great American public, and Hyde County playing host to thousands visiting its great wild-fowl refuge? Ah, Santa ole fellow, even you would be surprised at what these roads would do for us.

Bring to our hard working farmers the just deserts for their faithful and untiring efforts. Theirs has always been an essential and seemingly unrewarded lot. They are the ones who brave the elements—being scorched by the heat of the summer sun, and numbed by the icy blast of an angry winter—so that all men can eat health giving foods. By the sweat of their brows and the aching muscles within their bodies their existence is made or lost. Their faith in warm rain and life producing sunshine is sacred; their problems are great; their cry for aid feeble and oft unheard. Reward their efforts, dear Santa, with harvest returns which will enable them to share in the comforts of this marvelous civilization.

Again bless us with conservative and wise government, and sow the seeds of cooperative living within our hearts. Cause to bubble within our souls the true spirit of goodwill, the gallantry of doing good deeds, and the nobleness of useful living. Erase all our petty hatreds and inborn selfishness, and replace them with songs of cheer and the ability to get along with others. Endow us with the strength to offset the weaknesses which now serve to handicap our efforts, and re-affirm our faith in beauty and decency, and the masterfulness of right over wrong . . . as men make us worthy of the privilege of life.

This is a long letter, Santa, but don't consider our requests as representative of greed or the blindness of childish dreams. These things must come in our grasp for progress. The big things and the little things which we may have done at your displeasure since last Christmas stand as scars to our human weaknesses. These and our requests we place before you and all the beautiful things this yule season represents. Please judge them accordingly.

Your admirer,
Little Tyrrell.

P. S. You would make us mighty happy if you would also put in our stocking a Navy lighter-than-air base.

Fire-crackers and Christmas

Noticeable in our county—as well as throughout the Southland—the yule season invariably brings a boisterous, if not meaningless touch to the general spirit of peace and good will. From the first day of December until the new year is well on its way, the continuous and exasperating sound of fire-crackers fills the air.

To associate the meaning of Christmas with fireworks is to entirely misrepresent the sacredness of the season. Since this civilization first took foothold in the new world, the yule season has always stood as a picture of bells ringing out good cheer, rosy cheeked lads by the corner lamp-post singing inspirational carols, and intimate family gatherings which words cannot describe. It is a picture which could only come about with a high standard of civilization based on cultural development and general good taste.

Fire-crackers are the well known source of celebration for heathen nations, they originated in such countries, and only recently made great inroads on the peace of America's yule season. Whether such is a direct slap at the progress of this civilization or not will be answered only by time, but it is indeed gratifying to note that throughout North Carolina statutes are being made to prohibit the excessive disturbances caused by these dangerous and annoying products of Orientalism.

If every town had such a rule the joyous season would take on a greater and more wholesome aspect. It would undoubtedly save some child from being seriously injured while playing with fire-crackers. The governing authorities should consider this before another season is upon us.

Fleeting Moments

Saturday is the shortest day in the year. The swiftness with which the day is brought to a close will go unnoticed by the vast majority of the people in the Southern Albemarle and its direct effect on their lives will undoubtedly be meaningless and of no importance.

To the thinking man, however, it brings the great object lesson of the fleeting swiftness of passing hours. It stamps on the mind that the seasons are coming and going—Sunday will be the first day of winter—and that even as the shortest day in the year passes without note, so does life and the chances to accomplish that which is worthwhile. This moment is here, and now it has passed because it waits for no man.

There is something within every man which calls for the accomplishment of some one thing that will stand as an everlasting symbol of his creative spirit. It is a masterful quiver of the soul which builds happy homes, great nations, and reaps worthy rewards. Our region is an ideal ground for such tributes of accomplishment. Its every hope of the future rests on the continued struggle of its citizens towards such. They must grasp the fleeting moments, make the best of them, and be willing to pay the price for such. There is a worthy reward for true effort, and there's plenty of room in the Southern Albemarle for those who are unwilling to let useful moments sweep unnoticed into oblivion.

Improved Uniform International SUNDAY SCHOOL

LESSON

By HAROLD L. LUNDQUIST, D. D.
Dean of The Moody Bible Institute
of Chicago.
(Released by Western Newspaper Union.)

Lesson for December 22

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SHARING THE SHEPHERDS' JOY (Christmas Lesson)

LESSON TEXT—Luke 2:8-20.
GOLDEN TEXT—Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.—Luke 2:14.

Tinsel and toys, snow and sleigh bells, crowded department stores and rushing throngs, gifts and greeting cards, Christmas dinner and fellowship with family and friends—is that all Christmas means to us? All these things are proper in their place—exciting and interesting—but they are not enough.

They have never been enough and certainly they will not do this year, with a world in chaos. We need not lose any of the thrilling enjoyment of Christmas by properly observing the day; in fact, we shall only enhance its meaning and bring out its real glory by keeping Christ at the heart of our Christmas.

The opening verses of Luke 2 tell us of the coming of Mary with Joseph to God's appointed place at His appointed time for the coming into this world of His Son to be made flesh and dwell among us (John 1:14). Our lesson tells us of

I. Good Tidings of Great Joy (vv. 8-14).

God had good news for the people of this world and He gave it, as was His custom, to those who were faithfully discharging their humble duties (cf. Judg. 6:11, 12; I Kings 19:19). God is still ready to reveal His glory and grace in the "office, kitchen, mill, barn, school-room, and open field—places where people are at work on daily tasks" (Douglas). You need not be in the great church in a large city to meet Him on Christmas day. He will reveal Himself in all His beauty where you are, though you be in the humblest surroundings and at the most menial task. Look for Him!

Jesus came as a Saviour. "The world did not want an adviser. The world had advised itself almost into hell. The world did not ask for a speculator. Everything that man could do had been done, and men sat in the darkness of their own wisdom. The world did not want a reformer, a man who could change his outward and transient relations, an engineer that would continually devote his time (for appropriate remuneration) to the readjustment of the wheels and the pulleys and the various mechanical forces of society. The world wanted a saviour" (Joseph Parker).

Note that the army of heaven came to declare peace, not war; but only to those in "whom He is well pleased" (v. 14, R. V.). As long as men serve the devil and displease God, they will have no peace.

II. Great Faith and Constant Action (vv. 15, 16).

The shepherds did not say, "Let us now go and see if this thing has come to pass," or "which we expect or hope will come to pass," but said, "which is come to pass." They went not to test God's word, but in the assurance that they would "see" what had come to pass. Blessed faith! Let us too believe God's word to us.

But "faith without works is dead" (James 2:17). The shepherds might have made many excuses for not going but "they came" and "found" the Saviour. Perhaps you who read these words have failed at that point; you have not come to Jesus as your Saviour. No more appropriate time could be found to come than right now. Believe, then act on your faith.

Some of us who are Christians need also to learn of the shepherds. We talk a great deal about our devotion to Christ. Especially at this Christmas season we render much "lip service" to Him. Let us make it real, and our lives virile and active for Him.

III. Good News for Meditation and Proclamation (vv. 17-20).

The gospel is literally "good news." What a blessed privilege it is to have such good news in a day of evil tidings, of darkness and despair.

There are two things we ought to do with the gospel of God's redeeming grace. We should make it known to the ends of the earth, but we should also do as Mary, "who kept all these things and pondered them in her heart." We know she had special reasons for doing so, but may we not suggest that you too make this Christmas a time when you will ponder in your own heart what God has done for you in Christ?

The shepherds also set us a Christmas example, for they "made known abroad" the coming of the Saviour. Will you tell someone else today? Will you, like the shepherds, be "glorifying and praising God" this Christmas? You will if you, like them, go to the manger and meet Jesus. If you go to this world's empty show of celebration, you will return empty (see v. 20).

May the blessed peace of Christ be yours this Christmas. That is my wish from the heart to you.

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LINEN THREAD CO. PUTS OUT A GREAT CALENDAR

One of Most Exciting of Many Prints of Clipper Ships For 1941

One of the most exciting of many prints of clipper ships of the good old days, is the picture the Linen Thread Company of Baltimore has put out for its 1941 calendar.

It is a picture of the Clipper Dreadnaught, known as the "Wild-boat of the Atlantic." It is one of a glorious line of ships more than 80 years ago.

Of all the ships in that glorious era, the clipper "Dreadnaught" was one of the most colorful. Built at Newburyport, Massachusetts in 1853 by Currier and Townsend for a group of prominent New Yorkers, she was launched the same year under command of Captain Samuel Samuels. Her ability to carry sail in the hardest blows, her splendid record in spite of rough weather, earned her the title "Wild Boat of the Atlantic."

In 1862 the Dreadnaught performed one of the most amazing feats of maritime history. In a furious gale her rudder was torn away, her captain injured. As she floundered helplessly in heavy seas, the crew managed to rig a jury rudder. But that, too, was soon wrecked. At length Captain Samuels decided on a bold maneuver to get to the Azores, 182 miles away. Fifty-two hours later the injured

captain and his valiant crew sailed the Dreadnaught into port—backwards! They had steered all the way by sail alone.

Gordon Grant has always loved the sea. As a lad, he roamed the waterfront of his native San Francisco. His happiest boyhood moments were spent clambering over the decks and riggings of the crack clippers as they lay at anchor. One of Grant's best known paintings was of "Old Ironsides." Prints were sold by the hundreds of thousands to raise funds for the restoration of that proud veteran of the War of 1812. Today Gordon Grant is generally recognized as the foremost American marine artist. He pictured the Dreadnaught running before the wind, plunging along with characteristic speed. Her mainsail is furled to allow the foresail to fill, her topmast "stun's" on the port side is being set.

BUFFALO CITY NEWS

A Christmas program will be given at 7:30 o'clock on Saturday evening, December 21, at the East Lake Holiness church.

Mrs. Evvie Pinner is ill at her home here.

Mrs. Mary Twiddy and Mrs. Elizabeth Sawyer spent Wednesday at Elizabeth City.

BUYING FURS—Mink, Raccoon, Muskrat, Opossum, etc. Top market prices—Spot cash. W. C. GLOVER, Elizabeth City, N. C.

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IS OUR WISH FOR YOU

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