

THE TRUE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT

To every heart that knows the meaning of Christmas, there comes a little more warmth, a little more tenderness, a little more love, as the happy season approaches. Even the hardest hearts will open up to some extent when the spirit of Christmas asks admittance. About a week ago a man was heard to say, "I am not going to give any presents this year; nobody gives me anything." A few days later, this same man was seen at the post office registering packages to dear ones in the East. He could not harden himself against the call of love that demands a desire to give. Giving is the real significance of Christmas, and there is but one true way of giving—that is in love and good will. It was this great and powerful force that created the occasion for Christmas in the birth of the Christ—God's greatest gift to the world. It is in the thought of this that we should celebrate the season.

Christmas is and should be the happiest time of the year; yet we should not keep it in hilarity and thoughtless pleasure. We are, indeed, to be merry and cheerful and get all the enjoyment possible out of the opportunities for innocent pleasure that comes to us at this time; but the keynote to our happiness should be the thought of giving others pleasure, comfort, or cheer. Somehow during these days our thoughts go back, perhaps many years, to some little act, or word, or gift of a kind friend or associate, and even yet we feel strongly drawn to that person, wishing we might do something to show our appreciation.

In some of the cities there is a pretty custom of children of comfortable means giving to those in need. Hundreds of homes in our own country scarcely know that Christmas comes. Think of the genuine happiness that a basket of goodies, with some articles of warm clothing and a toy or two, would bring to the little ones in poverty.

There is still another way to give happiness and thereby gain it—that is, in giving kind, encouraging words and a bright, cheerful countenance to those about us. This is the way in which all at Chemawa can give. We do not have the needy and unfortunate, but we have many with aching, lonely hearts. To these we can give the true Christmas gift of love and thus create throughout our school the genuine Christmas joy.

DEBATE

Probably as much interest was taken in the debate last Wednesday evening as if it were an annual football game. A representative from each of the four societies was chosen to take part in the debate. The question debated was "Resolved, that the President of the United States shall be elected by popular vote."

Leona John, of the Nonpareil Society, and Robert Service, of the Excelsior, took the affirmative side; while Nellie Metcalf, of the Winona, and James Crane of the Reliance, the negative.

Much society spirit and healthy rivalry was exhibited, and each society gave songs and yells whenever an opportunity offered. The speakers showed no little ability as orators as well as knowledge of the subject, and it was really a well-handled debate. For the past few weeks the respective debaters made frequent visits to the Salem as well as Chemawa library to secure data, and each speech was prepared without assistance. The negative was unfortunate in having the hardest side of the question.

Both sides deserve credit for the efforts put forth. The judges, composed of Mrs. Jaquins, Mr. Brace and Mr. Pendergrass, rendered a decision in favor of the affirmative. A violin solo by George Barrett and a couple of accordion solos by William Chuck, together with a song by the male double quartette were also much enjoyed. Mr. Hammond presided.

PUPILS' ITEMS

The girls' new uniform skirts will be finished this week.

Alvin Todd left for his home at Arlee, Montana, on account of illness.

Mr. and Mrs. Bangs of Portland visited Mrs. Clark one day last week.

One of the best boilers of the school heating system is undergoing repairs.

Miss Roberts has been very busy teaching the eighth grade class how to make out menus.

The 9th grade are considering the cast for the play which they are to give on Washington's birthday.

The printing office force is kept busy these days getting out the Weekly American and the Chemawa Magazine.

The Reliance Society and Winona Society lost in the joint debate; but as someone had to lose, they took the loss gracefully.

Louise Shcehan and Peter Fontaine, of Browning, Montana, have been married recently. Both were former students of Chemawa.

Miss Mitchell is giving her class in the sewing-room lessons in lace making. The the pupils are taking great interest in their work.

Mrs. Leland Short, nee Viola Ferris, an ex-student, wishes to be remembered to friends at Chemawa. She is located at Orleans, California.

"Excellence Means Labor" is the motto of the 8th grade, so every one of the class should put forth his best effort and try to live up to it.