

MERRY CHRISTMAS

The First Christmas

It often has been stated that the birth of Christ must have occurred four years before the date fixed on for the current chronology and that it is probable the event befell at some other time in the year than a few days after the winter solstice. The reason for the confident assertion is the ascertaining of the fact that Herod died about four years B. C. The basis of this supposition is the report that at the time of the birth of Christ "there were shepherds abiding in the field, watching their flocks by night," a circumstance not natural in the latitude of Bethlehem near the shortest day. That is the height of the rainy season in Judea, and the date does not appear to have been observed generally before the fifth century.

Many students of Biblical history have argued that the story about the star of Bethlehem points to a date for the Nativity not later than May 8, B. C. 6. On that date the planets Venus and Jupiter were so closely in conjunction as seen from the earth that the apparent distance between them was equal only to the breadth of the full moon. These planets were



THE STAR OF BETHLEHEM.

then visible in the east a couple of hours before sunrise and at have produced a strikingly beautiful appearance and have been spoken of as one object. That was about fifty days less than two years before the death of Herod, a fact which harmonizes well with other conditions of the narrative, for it is probable that the mandate for the slaughter of all the children two years old and under was issued some months before his decease, and the limit of two years would leave an ample margin for any uncertainty as to the time of the appearance of the star, as related by the magi; also there was no paschal full moons on a Friday between the years B. C. 6 and A. D. 33 and no other following that till A. D. 60.

From this it would seem to follow that Christ was thirty-eight years old at the time of the crucifixion, and this would vindicate the sagacity of the Jewish doctors who affirmed that he was not yet fifty (forty) years old. It is remarked, too, that in the spring of the same year there was a triple conjunction of planets—Saturn, Jupiter and Mars—and that the first two named were in conjunction as seen from the earth no less than three times in the year preceding—that is, B. C. 7. Another theory about the star of Bethlehem which has been advanced is that the star seen by the magi is Spica, the leading brilliant in the constellation of Virgo, the Virgin. For many years before and after the Christmas was the star was changing its place until it was then literally a "star in the east," and its movement in that direction may have been the very fact noticed by the wise men of some centuries preceding who expected that the prophetic about the Virgin would be fulfilled when its redoubled star reached the position noted. If this were so the visit of the magi from Media, in the far east, is easily explained, and the chief difficulty attending the explanation lies in the fact that such an important search as they undertook is noticed by only one out of the four evangelists.

The uncertainty of the centuries in regard to the date of the Nativity in year and month may never be cleared up. Its existence has long unfairly effected as reason for disbelieving the whole narrative. The people of 2,000 years ago attached little importance to dates, except current ones, and it may be remembered that the destruction of Jerusalem occurred between the time of the Nativity and the writing of the gospel, at least in the shape in which it has come down to us.

THE STORY THAT NEVER GROWS OLD.

Like the songs that are sung in the twilight,
Like all tales that are tenderly told,
Like the memories of loved ones that hallow our hearts,
There's a story that never grows old.

Lo! The angels first sing it in chorus,
And the watchers with wonder behold,
They feel the first thrill of the beautiful truth
In the story that never grows old.

Round the Christ Child of Bethlehem's cradle
Are clusters of apples of gold,
And pictures of silver adorn every page
Of the story that never grows old.

It gladdens the hearts of all children,
And millions of manlier mold
Are happier, holier, better by far,
For the story that never grows old.

—Franklin Trusdell.

The Christmas Guest.
Whoso shall come any way this night,
By moor or hill or shore,
For him the blessed candles' light,
For him the open door.
(Oh, Mary, tith for thy Son's sake,
Though mine comes in no more)

My hearth is swept, my Yule logs burn,
My board is decked and spread;
For any who may seem in turn
Are warmth and wine and bread.
(Oh, Mary, grant my son this night
Be housed and comforted)

Bid, banned or beggared come for guest,
My heart shall share his woes,
And on his head my hand shall rest
To bless him ere he goes.
(Oh, Mary, grant my son this night
That blessing and repose)

This night, for thy one Son's dear sake,
Wait light and warmth and wine,
Oh, Mary, we be mothers both!
Take these my tears for sign,
And this I do for thy sweet Son,
Wilt thou not do for mine?
—Theodosia Garrison.

A Song of Christmas

TWINE the bittersweet and holly
Arened above the heartstone's glow.
Joy, not melancholy,
Come, inditing with the snow.
In each face the frost's a-fing'le,
And afar on flying wing
Comes the sleighbell's rhythmic tinkle
Through December journeying.

Set the board and ask the blessing
For the bounty amply spread,
In the simplest words expressing
What a loving Father said.
"Peace on earth" for this is nearest
When the snows with us abide
And the winter air is clearest
In the hush of Christmastide.



THE BUBBLE'S FEEDS ARE PRANCING.
Bring the old peasant's riddle,
From the bygone days,
Keep the farthest down the middle
While the living music sways.
Light of foot and quick of laughter,
Swing the dancers, toe and heel,
As they pass or follow after
In the quaint Virginia reel.

Make a welcome for the stranger
Should his footstep cross the door,
By the memory of the manger
And the Christ that was of yore.
Gather children's faces round you,
As he gathered them long ago,
If it be the years have crowned you
With their rancid divine.

Deck the tree and light the candles,
Let the stockings all be hung,
For a saint with furry sandals
Over the house-tops high has swung.
And his reindeer steeds are prancing
Through the star bespangled rime,
And the moonbeams pale are glancing
In the merry Christmas time.
—Ernest McClaffoy.

Ancestry of Santa

WHAT is Santa Claus' age?

The jolly, rolstering, pot-bellied, ever young old fellow that we know has made his appearance on earth in so many guises that the secret of his first coming threatens to remain forever veiled in the mist of antiquity. No one can say with any certainty just when he first made his appearance among prehistoric men, for merry old Santa in one form or another delighted children's hearts in many a pagan household centuries before the commencement of the Christian era and prior to any recorded history.

The name of Santa Claus, by which he is known in America, is the Dutch pet name for St. Nicholas. The name Kriss Kringle, by which he is known in England, is a corruption of Christ Kindeln or the Christ Child. But the festivities that distinguish Christmas existed long before Christianity, and a jolly god of good cheer appears as the personification of the period from the earlier pagan times. Now the Santa Claus of today is simply that old jolly god sobered up, washed and purified.

The Dionysia of the Greeks, the Saturnalia of the Romans, the Twelve Nights of the old Norsemen and of the Teutons all celebrated the coming of the winter solstice. People then gave themselves up to all sorts of revelry and excess. In the Dionysia the representative figure was not the young Dionysus or Bacchus, but the aged, cheery and disreputable Silenus, the chief of the Satyrs and the god of drunkards. In the Saturnalia it was Saturn; in the Germanic feasts it was Thor, both long bearded and white haired gods like Silenus.

Now, although the central figure of the Christian festival is the child God, the Christ Kindeln, the influence of long pagan custom was too strong within the bosoms of the early Christians to be easily superseded. The tradition of hoary age as the true representative of the dying year and its attendant jollifications still remained smoldering under the ashes of the past. It burst into new flame when the past was too far back to be looked upon with the fear and antagonism of the church and there seemed no longer any danger of a relapse into paganism.

At first, however, the more dignified representative was chosen as more in keeping with the occasion. Saturn was unconsciously rechristened as St. Nicholas, the name of the saint whose festival occurs in December and who as the patron of young people is especially fitted for the patronage of the festival which has come to be looked upon as especially that of the young. At first St. Nicholas did not supersede the Christ Child, but accompanied him in his Christmas travels, as, indeed, he still does in certain rural neighborhoods of Europe where the modern spirit has been least felt.

St. Nicholas, according to the hagiologist, was a bishop of Myra, who flourished early in the fourth century. He is the patron of children and schoolboys.

It is strange that everywhere St. Nicholas is most honored and his feast day most observed the most pious and instructed among the common people know little of the legend of the saint. He is treated with that mixture of seriousness and frivolity which becomes a dying myth.

In southern Germany and Austria a youth garbed as St. Nicholas and accompanied by two angels and a whole troop of devils in hideous masquerade, with blackened faces and clanking chains, on Dec. 5 (St. Nicholas' feast day) makes a round of certain houses where the little ones of the village have been collected. To the good children he brings gifts of nuts and apples, while the naughty ones are left to the devices of the satanic followers in his train.

In many places the bugbear over-shadowed in importance both the Christ Child and St. Nicholas. He appears under different names and in different guises. In Lower Austria he is the frightful Krampus, with his clanking chains and horrible devil's mask, who, notwithstanding his gilded nuts and apples, gingerbread and toys, which he carries in his basket, is the terror of the nursery. In Hanover, Holstein and Mecklenburg he is known as Claus. In Silesia his name is Joseph.

Sometimes the bugbear was a female. In Lower Austria she was called the Rudeffrau. In Suabia it was the Berchelt who chastised children, that did not spin diligently, with rods, but rewarded the industrious with dried pears, apples and nuts.

The female bogey survives especially in Russia and in Italy. In the former place she is known as the Baboushka. In the latter as the Befana. Befana is a corruption of Epiphania or Epiphany, for it is on Epiphany, Jan. 6, that the Italians make presents to their children in commemoration of the gifts given by the three wise men to Christ on that date.

Notice of Sheriff's Sale

By virtue of an execution and order of sale issued out of and under the seal of the Circuit Court of the State of Oregon for the County of Josephine, in a certain cause therein pending wherein L. A. Robertson as plaintiff, recovered judgment against W. F. Horn, F. F. Johnson and W. S. Wood as defendants for the sum of Three hundred and no-100 Dollars with interest thereon at the rate of 10 per cent per annum from April 22nd, 1912, and Fifty Dollars attorneys fees and the further sum of Ten and no-100 Dollars, costs and disbursements, which said judgment was enrolled and docketed in the office of the Josephine County Clerk on the 14th day of October, 1913, and was later on the 25th day of November, 1913, duly assigned to W. S. Wood and which execution was directed and delivered to me as sheriff of Jackson County, Oregon, commanding me to sell the real and personal property of said defendant and to satisfy said judgment, costs and attorney's fees, I have levied upon the following described real property, to-wit: The Southwest Quarter of the Northwest Quarter of Section 15 in Township 38 south of Range 2, West of the Willamette Meridian in Jackson County, Oregon.

Public Notice is hereby given, that I will on **MONDAY, JANUARY, 5th, 1914,** at the front door of the Court House in Jackson County, Oregon, at the hour of 9:30 o'clock A. M. of said day, sell at public auction, all of the right, title, interest and estate of the above named defendant in said premises, subject to redemption as by law provided, to the highest bidder for cash, to satisfy the said judgment and judgment for costs, disbursements and attorney's fees.

Dated this 1st day of December, 1913.
W. H. SINGLER,
Sheriff of Jackson County, Oregon.
By **E. W. WILSON,** Deputy.

Summons.

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON FOR JACKSON COUNTY
Bertha S. Barnum, Plaintiff,
vs.
Joseph Dame and Annie E. Dame, Defendants
Suit in Equity to Quiet Title.

To Joseph Dame and Annie E. Dame his wife the above named defendants:

You and each of you are hereby required to appear in the above entitled Court and cause and there answer the complaint of the plaintiff on file therein against you within ten days from the date of the service of this summons upon you. If served within Jackson County, Oregon, or if served within any other County of Oregon, then within twenty days from the date of the service of this summons upon you, or if served by publication or out of the state after an order of publication thereon or before the last day prescribed in the order for the publication of the said summons, which last day is the 20th day of December, 1913, and you will take notice that if you fail to appear and answer said complaint plaintiff will apply to the Court above named for a decree in favor of plaintiff decreeing that she is the owner of lots seventeen and eighteen in block twenty-three in the City of Medford, Jackson County, Oregon, and that said defendants and each of them be forever enjoined and debarred from asserting any claim whatsoever in or to any of the said property as owners by plaintiff or any part thereof adverse to plaintiff or for such other and further relief as to the Court shall seem just and equitable.

This summons is published in the Jacksonville Post, a weekly newspaper published and of general circulation in Jackson County, Oregon, by order of the Hon. F. M. Calkins, Judge of the above entitled Court, dated November 2nd, 1913, which order directs this summons to be served upon you by publication thereof in said newspaper once a week for six consecutive weeks from and after the first publication, which first date of publication is the 8th day of November, 1913, said last date of publication being the 20th day of December, 1913. And said order requires you and each of you to answer on or before the last day prescribed in the order for the publication of said summons and that in default thereof a decree will be entered as prayed for.

CHARLES PAIM,
Attorney for Plaintiff.

Summons for Publication in Foreclosure of Tax Lien.

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON, FOR JACKSON COUNTY.
Geo. W. Stevens, Plaintiff,
vs.
D. R. Hunt, Defendant.

To D. R. Hunt, the above named defendant, You are hereby notified that Geo. W. Stevens, the holder of Certificate of Delinquency numbered 134, issued on the second day of November, 1910, by the Tax Collector of the County of Jackson, State of Oregon, for the amount of Four and 13-100 Dollars, the same being the amount then due and delinquent for taxes for the year 1909, together with penalty, interest and costs thereon upon the real property assessed to you, of which you are the owner as appears of record, situated in said County and State, and particularly bounded and described as follows, to-wit: 35% acres in north-west quarter of north-east quarter of Section 7 in Township 36 south of Range 1 east of the Willamette Meridian, in Jackson County, Oregon.

You are further notified that said Geo. W. Stevens has paid taxes on said premises for prior or subsequent years with the rate of interest on said amounts as follows:

Year	Date	Tax	Rate	Amount	Rate of Interest
1910	Nov. 1, 1911	168	\$3.57	15 per ct.	
1911	Oct. 14, 1912	6010	\$4.28	15 per ct.	
1912	Oct. 16, 1913	13559	\$4.51	15 per ct.	

Said D. R. Hunt as the owner of the legal title of the above described property as the same appears of record, and each of the other persons above named are hereby notified that Geo. W. Stevens will apply to the Circuit Court of the County and State aforesaid for a decree foreclosing the lien against the property above described, and mentioned in said certificate. And you are hereby summoned to appear within sixty days after the first publication of this summons exclusive of the day of said first publication, and defend this action or pay the amount due as above shown together with costs and accrued interest and in case of your failure to do so, a decree will be rendered foreclosing the lien of said taxes and costs against the land and premises above named.

This summons is published by order of the Honorable F. M. Calkins, Judge of the Circuit Court of the State of Oregon for the County of Jackson, and said order was made and dated this 20th day of October, 1913, and the date of the first publication of this summons is the 25th day of October, 1913.

All process and papers in this proceeding may be served upon the undersigned residing within the State of Oregon, at the address hereafter mentioned.

M. PURDIN,
Attorney for Plaintiff

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Effective November 13, 1913.

NORTH BOUND TRAINS.

14 Portland Passenger	8:27 A.M.
24 Grants Pass Motor	10:22 A.M.
32 Grants Pass Motor	4:27 P.M.
16 Oregon Express	5:20 P.M.
12 Shasta Limited (Mail only)	2:44 A.M. Extra fare train.

SOUTH BOUND TRAINS.

23 Ashland Motor	8:35 A.M.
13 California Express	10:52 A.M.
31 Ashland Motor	2:24 P.M.
15 San Francisco Express	4:09 P.M.
11 Shasta Limited (Mail only)	5:22 A.M. Extra fare train.

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