



THE ANGELS' SONG.

The winds had ceased their carol,
The waters calmly slept,
And o'er their flock's repose,
A watch the shepherds kept;
When from the golden city,
On plumes white and fair,
An angel host descending,
With music filled the air.

CHORUS.

Glory to God in the highest,
Good-will and peace on earth—
This was the song of the angel
That hailed our Savior's birth.

Oh morn of radiant splendor!
Oh blessed day of days,
That banished gloom and sadness
And filled the world with praise!
The shepherds sought the manger
That held the new-born King,
Whose bright and joyful advent
Eternal years shall sing.

We come to join the chorus
Of angel choirs above,
And shout aloud hosannas
For our Redeemer's love;
We gather now rejoicing,
Our grateful songs to raise,
We crown his gates with gladness
And fill his courts with praise.
—FANNY J. CROSBY.

JOHN RAYNOR'S CHRISTMAS REVOLT. ELIZABETH AYRES

WHEN John Raynor began to see the holiday advertisements in the papers and to feel the Christmas hurry in the air, he announced to his family with an air of finality, tinged with defiance, "you needn't expect anything in the way of Christmas presents from me this year."

"Why, John!" his wife exclaimed, "we are not going to do very much. Just a few gifts in the family to mark the day, and then the children think so much of it."

"The children!" John returned with fine scorn, "they're grown now and it's time for them to get over such nonsense. I positively refuse to have anything to do with Christmas."

John Raynor persisted in making himself miserable and in bringing to bear all the arguments he could think of against the prevailing manner of observing Christmas. Figuratively speaking, he pounded the table and grew purple in the face in his endeavors to hammer in his remonstrances against holiday customs.

In spite of himself he could not help enjoying the sights and sounds, heralding the approach of the holiday season. The gala dress of the shop windows appealed to his color-loving eye, and when the Christmas greens began to soften the grim, winter streets with their verdure, they took him back to the days when as a boy he roamed the woods in search of ground pine for holiday decorations and the cedar or evergreen tree on which his mother would hang their Christmas presents. He felt a little of the old thrill of delightful expectation when these things came back to his mind, but his reverse mood was the stronger and he persisted in keeping to his decision.

He was firm until the night before Christmas. Then his wife and children broke bondage and discussed openly the coming holiday. In an unguarded moment his son inquired if a set of books they had purchased had been delivered. Without being told, his father knew those books were designed for him. They were something he had secretly longed for, but had denied himself, because the needs, real or imaginary, of his family were his paramount consideration. And now they were to be his in spite of his declaration there was nothing he wanted.

He began to wish that he had something with which to give his family a happy surprise. "They will give me things, and they will give things to one another and there will be nothing from me," he thought.

Sitting alone with his paper, he heard surreptitious rustlings as of packages being handled, and the low murmur of voices from his wife and daughter, interrupted with little bursts of gay laughter that showed something joyous was going on. He had nothing for anyone, and tomorrow when they gave him tokens of their thought and attention, he should feel like an exile from home. A sudden resolve took him in possession.

"Alice," he called to his wife, "I'm going out for awhile. Is there anything I can do for you?"

"Nothing, thank you," she returned, "unless you want to bring home some candy for to-morrow. Oh, I forgot," she said in the next breath, "you won't want to trouble about it. Never mind, we'll manage some way."

It is astonishing how quickly one's mind can be changed. John Raynor's underwent a lightning transformation. He boarded a car and rode to the shopping district with his mind filled with nothing but Christmas presents. He felt like a boy turned loose with money to spend and none to restrict his fancy. He pushed

and jostled and wrestled with the crowd, exhilarated by the contact with people bent on holiday shopping. His past mood slipped away like a cast-off garment. He had caught the Christmas spirit and his revulsion of feeling amounted almost to intoxication.

"There you are, sonny," he told a newsboy, bestowing a dime in exchange for a paper he did not want.

He helped to "keep the kettles boiling" for the Salvation Army Christmas dinner, and he thought he had never heard a gayer sound than the jangling of the bells the Salvation soldiers kept in motion to call attention to their needs.

He carried his merry mood home with him and the moment he entered the door his family felt the difference.

He could not keep his secret until morning, though he told it only to his wife.

"Here are some little things for you and the children, Alice," he said when they were alone, dropping the packages carelessly on the table. She looked up with eyes alight, and with an expression which told him he had done well, but she, being a woman of wisdom, made no comment to remind him of past events.

When John Raynor fell asleep that Christmas eve, through his mind was jingling and jingling the merry old refrain:

"Christmas comes but once a year,
Let us all be of good cheer."
—Toledo Blade.

Christmas Cards.

The Christmas card as we know it has an origin easily traceable, and it is doubtless at least sixty years since the first was designed. The artist who claimed to be its originator and who was, at any rate, the first to see its possibilities was W. C. T. Dobson, R. A., who, when quite a young man, in 1844, was prompted at Christmas to make a little sketch symbolic of the season's joys and festivities and to send it to a friend. It seemed to give great pleasure, and the next year Mr. Dobson determined to follow up the idea on a larger scale, and by having his card photographed was enabled to send copies to twenty-five or thirty friends. The delight with which they were received was so great that Mr. Dobson was quick to perceive that he had found out a new pleasure for Christmas.—New York Mail and Express.

CHRISTMAS LONG AGO.

Come sing a hale heigh-o
For the Christmas long ago,
When the old log cabin homed us,
From the night of blinding snow,
And the rarest joy held reign,
And the chimney roared amain,
With the firelight like a beacon
Through the frosty window pane.

Ah! the revel and the din
From without and from within,
The blend of distant sleigh bells
With the tinkling violin;
The muffled shrieks and cries—
Then the glowing cheeks and eyes—
The driving storms of greetings—
Gusts of kisses and surprise.

Sing in again the mirth
Of the circle 'round the hearth,
With the rustic Sinbad telling us
The strange tales on earth!
And the minstrel bard we knew,
With his "Love-lil-er so true,"
Likewise his "Young House-k'arpenter,"
And "Love-d Henry," too!

And forgetting ne'er a thing,
Lift a gladder voice and sing
Of the dancers in the kitchen—
Clean from start to "pigeon wing!"
Sing the glory and the glee
And the joy and jubilee—
The twirling form—the quickened
breath—
The sigh of ecstasy.

But eyes that smile alone
Back into our happy own—
The leaping pulse—the laughing blood—
The trembling undertone!
Ho! paid us off once more,
With our feet upon the floor,
But our heads and hearts in heaven,
As they were in days of yore.
—James Whitcomb Riley, in the Interior.

At the Spanish Court.

Christmas in Spain begins with the midnight mass, when the king and queen mother, accompanied by the grandees of the court, magnificently attired, go in state procession to the chapel royal of the palace in Madrid. On Christmas morning the king and court again attend mass in state, after which the day is spent in merrymaking. In the afternoon the adoration of the manger takes place, when a representation of the scene in Bethlehem is unveiled in the great hall of the palace. There is also a Christmas tree, from which Alfonso distributes gifts. Throughout the ensuing twelve days the court is all benevolence and gaiety, and every great institution in Madrid shares in the royal almsgiving. The festival closes Jan. 6.

Christmas and Motherhood.

On that Christmas night God honored motherhood. The angels on their wings might have brought an infant Saviour to Bethlehem without Mary's being there at all. But, no; motherhood for all time was to be consecrated, and one of the tenderest relations was to be the maternal relation, and one of the sweetest words, "mother." In all ages God has honored good motherhood. In a great audience, most of whom were Christians, I asked that all those who had been blessed with Christian mothers arise, and almost the entire assembly stood up. Don't you see how important it is that all motherhood be consecrated?—Talmage.

Christmas Every Day.

Christianity should make every day in the year a sort of Christmas day. This time of love and gladness and good will was never meant to be confined to one brief festival. This burying of old grudges and reconciling of estranged friends, this comforting of the sad and gladdening the hearts of the poor, and sharing our plenty with those in need, are some of Christianity's every-day duties. Do not lower the standard when the twenty-fifth of December is over. Do not go back to the old selfish, narrow, unsatisfactory way of living. Let this Christmas be a prophecy of what the New Year is to be, a time of gladness and good will.

The Spirit of Giving.

Don't give only where you expect a return or wonder whether you will be supposed to buy something for A. B. or C. The spirit of Christmas lies in the loving and the giving—never in the receiving.

The Origin of Christmas Greens.

At the Saturnalia, the heathen prototype of Christmas, it was the Roman custom to decorate the house with evergreens. This was done to give the woodland spirits a refuge from the cold.

GETTING READY FOR SANTA.



OREGON STATE ITEMS OF INTEREST

DAIRYMEN MEET.

Successful Two-Day Convention Held in Portland.

Portland—The most important meeting of dairymen ever held in the state of Oregon was that which convened last Thursday and Friday in Woodmen of the World hall, on Eleventh street, when the Oregon State Dairy association held its deliberations. The convention hall was crowded at both days' sessions with delegates and others interested in the development of the dairy industry. The hall in the basement of the Woodmen building, in which dairy products and the most approved dairy machinery were displayed, attracted large crowds.

The convention was called to order at 10 o'clock Thursday by President E. T. Judd, of the association. Tom Richardson, of the Commercial club, welcomed the delegates to Portland on behalf of that organization. In responding to the address of welcome President Judd thanked the Commercial club for its reception and its efforts in making this meeting of the association a successful one. The speaker referred to the important position dairymen in this state have reached in the last few years, and said that this was the first time in the history of the state that the dairy industry had received the recognition its importance should command and would fully pay the cost of promotion.

Papers were read by prominent dairymen and others from all parts of the state.

WANT BRAND ON ALL SHODDY

Woolgrowers Working for Protection of the Industry.

Pendleton—In accordance with one of the resolutions passed at the recent convention of the Oregon Woolgrowers' association, the secretary has sent to the Oregon congressional delegation a request for an act compelling the branding of manufactured goods and clothing, the object being to protect the public from shoddy and cotton counterfeits of woolen goods. The pure food law is cited as an example that it is right for the government to protect the people from frauds, counterfeits and adulterations of all kinds.

Another resolution passed at the same time calls for the retention of the import duty on wool, woolen fabrics, hides, meat and meat animals, with the object of continuing the present prosperous condition of the wool and livestock industry.

Men Do More Work.

Klamath Falls.—J. D. Church, assistant engineer of the Southern Pacific, has just returned from the end of the California Northeastern railway and states that the 450 men now at work for Ericson & Peterson, the contractors, are doing more work than the 1,100 men they were working last summer. The grade between Bray and the first townsite, Mount Hebron, is about completed, and Mount Hebron may remain the terminus of the road for this winter. However, as Dorris is only 13 miles distant from Mount Hebron and the grade very easy, that town may be the terminus.

Embryo Farmers Interested.

Albany—Linn county school children are taking great interest in the new subject of agriculture, the teaching of which was begun this fall. No experiment work has yet been begun in this county, but in the seventh and eighth grades in all the schools of the county one recitation each day is required in an agricultural text book. Reports received by County School Superintendent Jackson state that probably greater interest is manifested in this study than in any other branch.

November Ideal Month.

Burns—November was a month of ideal fall weather in Harney. There were two flurries of snow, on November 16 and 23, but they were followed by pleasant sunshine and the snow disappeared in a few days. There has been a great deal of fall plowing done and the amount of winter wheat sown this year is double that of any year in the history of the country.

B. F. Mulkey Has Resigned.

Ashland—Announcement has been made at the state normal school here that President B. F. Mulkey would retire from the institution on January 1 and will engage in the law and abstract business at Jacksonville as a partner in the Jackson County Abstract company, which maintains offices at Ashland and Medford and will open one at Jacksonville.

Timber Made to Pay Tax.

Oregon City—The assessed valuation of Clackamas county property is very close to \$13,000,000. The figures were made public by County Assessor Nelson, who has made an increase of about \$2,500,000 over the valuation of last year. This increase is all on the property of the big corporations and on timber lands.

WANTS ANOTHER ROAD.

Southern Oregon Hopes for Lessened Rates in Competition.

Grants Pass—The announcement through the press that Moffatt & White are about to extend the Oregon Electric line through Rogue River valley has been received here with the greatest satisfaction. It has been the dream of the citizens that some day another transportation company would find its way into the valley.

The annulling of trains 11 and 12 by the Southern Pacific company has aroused the people to greater activity and to stand ready to offer an inducement to a competing line. The resources from the mills and mines and the products of the field have been carried for years by one railroad company, with charges running up into thousands of dollars.

Want Graduates for Teachers.

University of Oregon, Eugene—The University of Oregon is experiencing the largest demand in its history for graduates, both men and women, to take principalships and positions as teachers in the high schools of the state. Of the fifty-three members of last year's class, twenty are teaching in the high schools and colleges of Oregon and the Northwest, and the demand was much larger than the supply. At the present time there are a number of positions vacant because there is no one available who is adequately prepared to take them. The University would be able next year to place as teachers some forty or fifty men and women, if its graduating class furnished that number. The class of 1908 now numbers about sixty members.

New Road Is Under Way.

Grants Pass—The government is making good progress under the direct supervision of the local forestry service, in extending a road down Rogue river into Curry county. This particular stretch of road will open up a wide latitude of country rich in mineral and prolific of the best marketable pine. When this work has been completed, 10 per cent of the proceeds will be diverted to the school fund, thus increasing the permanent means of keeping up schools. About \$5,000 has been appropriated to be used in developing the highway, and it is expected that congress will set aside \$5,000 more to be used on this project.

Electric Line Great Boon.

Freewater—The month of November was a record breaker on the Walla Walla Valley Traction company's line. They hauled out of this city over 90 cars loaded with hay, apples and canned fruit. These cars were all for points on the Northern Pacific railway. The apple crop has been excellent this year and every apple of any account has been marketed. The second-class apples were disposed of to the Freewater cannery. The total value of the fruit crop in this vicinity is estimated at \$500,000.

PORTLAND MARKETS.

Wheat—Club, 82@83c; bluestem, 84@85c; valley, 82@83c; red, 80@81c. Oats—No. 1 white, \$29; gray, \$29. Barley—Feed, \$27.50; brewing, \$31; rolled, \$30.

Corn—Whole, \$32; cracked, \$33. Hay—Valley timothy, No. 1, \$6 per ton; Eastern Oregon timothy, \$20@23; clover, \$15; cheat, \$15; grain hay, \$15@16; alfalfa, \$15; vetch, \$14.

Fruits—Apples, 75c@82 per box; peaches, 75c@81 per crate; pears, \$1.25@1.75 per box; cranberries, \$9.50@12 per barrel.

Vegetables—Turnips, 75c per sack; carrots, 65c per sack; beets, \$1. per sack; beans, 7@9c per pound; cabbage, 1c per pound; cauliflower, 75c@1.10 doz; celery, \$4 per crate; onions, 15@20c per doz; parsley, 20c per doz; peas, 1c per pound; peppers, 8@17c per pound; pumpkins, 1@1 1/4c per pound; radishes, 20c per doz; spinach, 6c per pound; sprouts, 8c per pound; squash, 1@1 1/4c per pound; tomatoes, \$1.50 per box.

Onions—\$1.75@2 per cwt. Potatoes—40@60c per hundred, delivered Portland; sweet potatoes, \$2.25@2.50 per cwt.

Butter—Fancy creamery, 32 1/4@35c per pound. Veal—75 to 125 pounds, 8@8 1/4c; 125 to 150 pounds, 7c; 150 to 200 pounds, 6@6 1/4c.

Pork—Block, 75 to 150 pounds, 6@6 1/4c; packers, 6@6 1/4c. Poultry—Average old hens, 11 1/2@12c per pound; mixed chickens, 11@11 1/2c; spring chickens, 10 1/2@11c; roasters, 8c; dressed chickens, 12@13c; turkeys, live, 14@15c; dressed, choice, 17@18c; geese, live, 9@10c; ducks, 12 1/2@13 1/2c; pigeons, \$1@1.50; squabs, \$2@3.

Eggs—Fresh ranch, candled, 37 1/2c per doz. Hops—1907, 5@7c per pound; olds, nominal.

Wool—Eastern Oregon average best, 13@20c per pound, according to shrinkage; valley, 18@20c, according to fineness; mohair, choice, 29@30c pound.