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"Without or with offense to friends or foes
I sketch your world exactly as it goes." —BYRON.

Merry Christmas

Christmas and the Christmas spirit which inspires us at this glad season, have been the inspiration of the poet since "the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy," since

Shepherds at the grange,
Where the Babe was born
Sang with many a change
Christmas carols until morn.

But the customs of the Yuletide festival, which the early Christians adopted on conversion of the heathen of northern Europe and merged with those of the church, far antedated the latter, for in the ancient celebrations,

England was merry England, when
Old Christmas brought his sports again.
'Twas Christmas broach'd the mightiest ale;
'Twas Christmas told the merriest tale;
A Christmas gambol oft could cheer
The poor mans heart through half the year.

In those faraway medieval days

The mistletoe hung in the castle hall
The holy branch shown on the old oak wall
And the Baron's retainers were blithe and gay
And keeping the Christmas holiday.

Christmas this year in Oregon is as mild and balmy as a day in spring, which is not altogether satisfactory, for we are preverse enough to desire weather more in keeping with tradition, for

At Christmas, I no more desire a rose
Than wish a snow in May's new-'fangled mirth.

Nevertheless

Let's dance and sing and make good cheer
For Christmas comes but once a year.

Hoping that the few fleeting hours when the Christmas spirit rules the land may influence for the better the coming year, we wish all of our readers a Merry Christmas, so

Sound over all waters, reach out from all lands,
The chorus of voices, the clasping of hands;
Sing hymns that were sung by the stars of the morn,
Sing songs of the angels when Jesus was born.
With glad jubilations
Bring hope to the nations
The dark night is ending and dawn has begun.
Rise, hope of the ages, arise like the sun.
All speech flow to music, all hearts beat as one.

Love's Greatest Gift

By VIOLET DARE

PAT HAMILTON'S HELP

Pat Hamilton arrived at Mary's rooming house five minutes sooner than he said he would. She was ready, however, and watched for his car.

"Now, tell me what's the trouble," he said as they drove swiftly up the street.

She told him about the threats Stanley Blake's wife had made, and her insistence that Mary leave town at once.

"Well, of course, she's just trying to scare you," he remarked when she had finished. "She doesn't intend to divorce him, probably, but just wants to be sure that he won't see you any more."

"But I told her mother that I wasn't the girl who'd been going around with him, but that it was my roommate; he told them that, too, but they don't believe it."

"A woman who's jealous of her husban won't believe anything but what she want's to; I know that from experience," he replied. "Now it seems to me that the best thing for you to do is to leave town, not because you've got any reason to fear what they may do, but just because you haven't been very happy here and you'd never be, after this.

"Why don't you go to New York? You'd like it, I know, and in a new place you'd have more incentive to step out and make something of yourself. That's the place for you, and you ought to start right away."

"But—I haven't any money," Mary answered.

"Yes you have. I'm going to take care of that. I'll give you all you need."

Mary shook her head.

"I couldn't take it," she told him. "I asked you for help because there's nobody else to whom I can turn, but I can't let you help me that way."

"Well, let me lend you the money," he urged. "Surely you'll accept it that way."

"Not unless I have some hope of being able to pay it back," she replied. "If you knew anyone for whom I might go to work in New York, then—"

"I do, of course," he answered promptly. "There's a friend of mine there who needs exactly the kind of secretary you'd be. He is rather an old man, doesn't go to an office any more but does a good deal of work at home. Now, you could go to him—he'd pay you well—and I'm sure you'd get along beautifully together. How about it?"

"I think that would be wonderful," Mary replied. "I'd love to do it."

"All right; that's settled, then. I'll wire him tomorrow, and make all the arrangements for you to leave—shall we say Saturday? That would give you a chance to look around a bit Sunday and get used to the city. Then you could go to work Monday."

"I don't know what I'd have done without you," Mary told him, gratefully. "You've been awfully kind. I didn't dare go to my aunt and uncle; I knew they'd just scold me, terribly; probably they wouldn't have believed that it was Celia, and not I, who made trouble in Mr. Blake's family. You've been wonderful."

He smiled and patted her arm lightly.

"I haven't done much; not any more than any good friend would have done," he answered. "And you can't know how pleased I was to have you turn to me. I felt that you trusted me again, in spite of the things you thought about me not so very long ago."

Mary flushed and turned to look out of the window of the cab.

"You've forgiven me, haven't you?" he went on. "I was dreadfully sorry for what happened, and if I'm doing anything for you now—well, please just accept it as atonement for my hurting your feelings then, won't you?"

Mary turned back to him and laid her hand in the one he held out to her, smiling up at him.

"Shake hands and forget it," he laughed. "And now let's go somewhere for supper, and then you can hurry home and pack. Saturday's only two days away, you know."

Mary went the next day to tell her aunt and uncle good-bye. She did not tell them all the circumstances; merely that she had been offered a very good position in New York, and that her employer had lent her the money. Hamilton had advised her to tell them that rather than the truth, which would merely make a disturbance and would not do any good.

"You'll have to learn to doctor the truth a bit," he told her. "Some time a lie is the only thing that saves the situation."

Her aunt was frankly disapproving.

"Chicago's plenty big enough for you, it seems to me; I guess there are lots of better jobs here than you've ever had," she announced. "Now you come back here and live with us again, and see if you aren't happier than you would be gadding off to New York."

Mary shook her head. Even if it hadn't been for the trouble with the Blakes, she told herself, she wouldn't want to stay in Chicago. The time had come for her to travel new paths. And probably she'd never have another opportunity as good as this one was.

When she got home that night she tried on her one evening dress, wondering if she'd ever have a chance to wear it in New York. Maybe—who could tell?

She was still wearing it when her landlady came upstairs with a note from Celia containing a check. Even before she glanced at the note Mary paused to wonder where Celia had got enough money to have her own checking account at a bank.

"Dear Mary," Celia had written, "Please give this to the landlady, so that when I send for my furniture tomorrow she will let it go. Sorry not to see you again; I'm leaving town very shortly."

So Celia was going away, too.

"Not to New York, I hope," Mary remarked to herself. And no premonition told her that Celia was on her way to New York at that very moment, and that they were to meet again, under strange circumstances.

EIGHT TEAMS IN Y TOURNAMENT

Eight teams have been signed to enter the older boys' tournament to be held at the Y. M. C. A. gym as part of the Christmas holidays program. The tournament will open Saturday afternoon and will continue throughout the week.

The eight teams entered in the tourney are the Creeks, Hi-Y, Demons, Night Juniors, Leslie M. E., Athenians, Oregon Journals and Webfooters. All of the boys who are under 19 years of age are eligible to play in the tournament. Drawing for the games have not been made, however.

Winners of the tournament will be decided through the elimination process. The losers will have a chance to show their prowess by playing in the consolation tournament.

The following is the schedule for the games to be played during the tourney:

Creeks vs. Hi-Y, Saturday at 2:30; Athenians vs. Oregon Journals, Monday evening at 7:15; Night Juniors vs. Webfooters, Monday evening after the first game; Demons vs. Leslie M. E., Tuesday afternoon at 3 o'clock. The semi-finals will be staged Wednesday or Thursday, and the finals on Friday or Saturday, it is thought.

XMAS PROGRAM GIVEN

Brooks, Dec. 24.—The Methodist Sunday school Christmas exercises were given at the church Tuesday evening. A pretty tree, well decorated, held gifts for the children and a program of music and speech es made a very enjoyable evening.

Salem Linen Industry Described By Youth In Contest Essay

A comprehensive account of the linen industry, its origin and development, with particular reference to the vicinity of Salem, is contained in the Kiwanis club contest essay submitted by Loree Barham of Parrish junior high school. His essay took first place among the productions submitted by seventh grade pupils in the city. It is entitled "Salem Industries," and reads as follows:

Salem has many industries among which are planing mills, packing plants, a paper mill, lumber mills, canneries, tile and brick yards, a cheese factory, creameries, woolen mills, bottling works, a flour mill, and bakeries, also one of the newest, but it probably will be one of the most important, the linen mill. Last year Salem erected one linen mill and during the next year a $600,000 one is to be erected. Several retting plants are also to be erected.

The linen industry is an old industry. Linen has been known as far back as the Egyptian Pharaohs. In the time of these Pharaohs of Egypt they didn't even have shuttles. Now the mills have most all machinery to do the work.

Here in Salem the flax seed may be planted and the plants pulled in 70 days. After pulling, it is retted in tanks of water and spread to dry. Freeing the fiber requires two processes. First the breaking is done by means of a wooden handle and grooved board. Then the fiber is entirely separated by a machine in which a number of knives attached to the arms of a vertical wheel, strike the flax lengthwise. The flax is next heckled with an iron comb. The finer fiber is produced by repeated hecking each time with a finer comb.

As far back as 1876 the Salem flax took the prize against all other countries. There will always be a demand for flax or linen so long as the people use napkins, handkerchiefs, clothing, tapestry, laces or aeroplanes.

Flax is also used for linseed oil, for upholstering, thread, twine and cloth of various kinds.

Then the water of the retting tanks is used for fertilizer. The oil meal, after being pressed for linseed oil, makes dairy feed, the woody part is used for fuel. So there is no waste to flax.

The linen industry has made Belfast a rich city of 559,000 inhabitants; also that part of Ireland very rich with its water, soil and climate. There is no reason why Salem may not be a "Belfast of the world" in the near future.

SILVERTON GIRL BURIED

Silverton, Ore., Dec. 24.—(Special)—Nettie McAdams, the 21 year old granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. K. Halverson, was buried from Trinity church this morning at ten o'clock. Miss McAdams died Tuesday at the school for the feebleminded at Salem.

For years she has made her home with her grandparents at Silverton, being confined to the feeble minded home about a year ago.

CHRISTMAS TO BREAK RECORD FOR MILDNESS

(Continued from Page One)

There is no question that Salem's population has grown decidedly since last holiday season, and we have learned that Salem is more and more becoming the center for a considerable portion of the Christmas shopping from valley points which before has gone to Portland. The paved roads and automobiles of course are playing their part in this."

Toy Business Good

It also has been demonstrated that the Santa Claus, without false face and with real whiskers sticking to his chin, has played a part in this, as kiddies in other towns have heard of Salem's Santa Claus and have inviegled or coerced their parents into a trip to Salem for no other purpose than to see him. More shopping has been an indirect result.

The toy busines, one of the big ends of the Christmas shopping as usual, has been good, and most of the toy shops figure they will clean up well. The expensive toys such as nearly real automobiles and similar things are not proving such big drawing cards this year. But real high-class American toys seem to be holding the boards and the cheaper stuff from Germany is not attracting the attention it did once. All told more expensive toys are being purchased in the aggregate, although the real high priced ones are not so much in demand. Toy buyers are seeking toys that will last for more than one or two days after Christmas and indications are that they will go pretty well by the time the shops close tonight.

Many Useful Gifts

The clothing and men's furnishings end of the Christmas shopping game has fared well, according to reports from the big stores. However, as another indication of increased population, the returns indicates the moving of large quantities of lower priced merchandise. For an instance, in one of the big stores 100 dozen neckties of a certain kind were put on at 45 cents apiece. Within a week they were all cleaned out and more asked for. This is a sample of what happened in that grade of merchandise which is sought as useful Christmas gifts.

On the other hand expensive presents in the merchandising lines also have moved. As an instance high priced blankets have been in heavy demand. The medium priced pieces of merchandise have not moved so well. The bulk of the business in the furnishings line has been either the low priced or high priced stuff.

Business generally has been better both in cash and credit lines.

Local Fruits Shinned

A leading grocery store reports the finest business in its history. This class of business does not get the reaction from the outside trade to any great extent, but it confirms the fact of a great many more people being in town on the local shopping list.

One thing featured in the Christmas line in grocery stores sales was the vast number of Christmas packages sold for shipping away, particularly to the east. Fancy prune boxes, combination boxes of nuts, and fancy packed fruits from the valley, all were in enormous demand in packages suitable for Christmas shipping and enormous quantities of them were sold.

The cigar stores are doing their best Christmas business today, as the box of cigars known to joke papers, comes into its strongest entrenchment as the last resort gift, when she has exhausted all other efforts at finding something suitable for him. But, the business has been heavy, nevertheless. It has run strong to cigars and pipes. Pipes have been in particularly strong demand. One dealer had six dozens of one type of fairly good priced pipes which went in less than two days. All kinds of pipes have been sought for.

In the cigar business the good cigar has been the one strong drawing card. Boxes bought have averaged the two for a quarter type, showing that the long line of humorists who have practiced on the Christmas cigar boxes, have had a good effect in their work.

All told Christmas has been pretty good to the merchants here this year. And by the same token will be pretty good to the thousands of recipients.

LOWA PEOPLE ON VISIT

Sidney, Or., Dec. 24.—Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Tingelstad of Decorah, Iowa, arrived Monday evening to spend the holidays with relatives here and at Silverton. Mr. Tingelstad is a member of the faculty of Luther college in Decorah and is the son of Mr. and Mrs. B. Tingelstad of Silverton and the brother of Martin Tingelstad of Sidney. Mr. and Mrs. Tingelstad are now at the Martin Tingelstad home but expect to spend Christmas day at the family home in Silverton. After the holidays they will visit in Seattle before returning to Iowa.

Woman Afraid to Eat Anything

"I was afraid to eat because I always had stomach trouble afterwards. Since taking Adlerika I can eat and feel fine." (Signed) Mrs. A. Howard. One spoonful Adlerika removes GAS and often brings surprising relief to the stomach. Stops that full, bloated feeling. Removes old waste matter from intestines and makes you feel happy and cheerful. Excellent for obstinate constipation. J. C. Perry, druggist, 115 S. Commercial St.—Adv.

DUMB DORA — By Chick Young

BRINGING UP FATHER — By George McManus

BARNEY GOOGLE — Barney Digs Up the Proof — By Billy de Beck

MUTT AND JEFF — Jeff Believes In Following the Prescription — By Bud Fisher