



MANY MAKING MERRY

YULETIDE SEASON OBSERVED BY SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

Two Largely-Attended Entertainments Last Night to Be Followed by Others Tonight.

The Christmas festivities in behalf of young America began last night, when two Sunday schools held entertainments in connection with prettily decorated trees heavily laden with gifts of confections. Other churches will have their exercises tonight. Following are the programs:

At the Presbyterian Church.
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Part II opens with the dolls, who now cease to be dolls and are children again, calling for Santa Claus. They sing their wishes and are in the midst of their song when dear Old Santa appears. To his confusion and embarrassment he finds that he has forgotten to load up with dolls though he had a supply at home. About this time seven little girls sing a hush-a-bye song with dolls in the arms. Santa turns now to the boys and asks them for a song. They call for his strap of sleigh bells, possibly the only real strap of sleigh bells in Dallas, in exchange for their song. They sing "Merry Xmas." A grand march on the platform, the lights turned low, and five little girls in their nightgowns sing "Good Night," bring the program to a close.

At this juncture Santa Claus became master of ceremonies again, and from a decorated and brightly lighted Christmas tree distributed to every boy and girl in the church a sack of candies and nuts. A shower of falling stars brought the entertainment to a close.

At the Christian Church.

A large gathering at the Christian church last evening greatly enjoyed a complete and very interesting Christmas program rendered by the members of the various classes of the Sunday school and participated in by many of the members of the congregation. The orchestra started the evening's entertainment, and throughout the service made much of an opportunity to enliven things with good music. The program as presented was as follows: Orchestra; scripture reading and prayer; anthem by choir; reading, Harold Ramey; motion song, Mrs. McConnell's class; "The Old Man That Lived in a Shoe," Sam Gibson's class; drill, Mrs. Tribble's class; pantomime, "Nearer My God to Thee," Mrs. Brown's class; reading, Willard Brown; selection, Mrs. Robby's class; solo, Miss Alice Grant; tableau, "Christmas Memories"; song, Jennie Morris' class; reading, Eva Peebles; scripture drill, Mrs. Tennis' class; junior selection, Mrs. Roy Black's class; reading, Levina Wess; selection, Mrs. Ramey's class; solo, Georgia Curtis; Christmas reading and tableau, Mrs. Frank Brown and Miss Ada Campbell; orchestra.

At the Baptist Church.

There will be a Christmas tree at the Baptist church tonight, participated in by the young people, the following being the program for this occasion: Reading scripture lesson and pray-

er by Rev. Tapscott; song by school, "Joy to the World"; reading, "Father's Christmas Box," Stella Stinnett; reading, "Mother's Almanac"; reading, "Santa Claus' Petition," Minnie Kirkpatrick; Christmas arithmetic, by four girls; song, "O'er a Quiet Pasture," chorus; reading, "What I Want," Ernestine Davis; recitation, "Don't Forget the Baby," Freddie Zentz; recitation, "The Longest Day," Albert McBee; reading, "Hilda's Christmas," Hazel McBee; recitation, "The Secret of Santa Claus," Donald Davis; recitation, "Her Choice," Marie Kirkpatrick; recitation, Ivan Chase; play, "Waiting for Santa Claus," little folks; song, "Advice to Santa Claus," little boys' class; recitation, Albert Zentz; reading, Iva Nelson; exercise, "Freely Give," boys' and girls' classes; recitation, "Buying Presents," Jack Forrette; exercise, "The Song, the Star and the Story," Hazel McBee, Josephine Jackman and Stella Stinnette; reading, "Santa on the Train," Grace Forrette; song, "Angels' Chorus," chorus.

At the Methodist Church.

Extensive preparations have been perfected for the Christmas festivities at the Methodist church tonight, when Santa Claus will appear in person following a program by members of the Sunday school and distribute gifts from two brilliantly illuminated trees. The arrangements have been under the direction of various committees, at the heads of which are Mesdames Fred Wagner, Pauline Williams, Edward, Joel Shaw and Dalton. The program follows:

Song by the Sunday school; invocation; anthem, recitation, Raymond Miller; recitation, Dan Quick; finger play, Five Little Misses; song, Luther's Cradle hymn; recitation, Dorothy Boughton; recitation, Rex Volheim; recitation, Herbert Dunn; song, Advice to Santa Claus; dialogue, Four Little Misses; recitation, Faeda Whittington; recitation, Helen Morrison; recitation, Homer Ellis; recitation, Ella Shiere; song, "Santa is Coming"; class exercise, "Everyone a Santa Claus"; class exercise, "Pilgrims of the Night"; choir, anthem; pantomime, "Holy Night."

At the Evangelical Church.

The Christmas exercises at this church last night were largely attended, a tree well filled with gifts for the children being, of course, the principal feature. The attendance was unusually large, and the program, as follows: Voluntary, "Awakening Chorus"; scripture reading, Superintendent H. H. Dunkleberger and school; prayer by the pastor; music by the orchestra; class exercise, "The Olden Story," by six boys and six girls; recitation, "Christmas in Poland," by Arthur Winters; primary class exercise by Miss Eugenie Phillips; class exercise, "The Prince of Bethlehem," by primary and infant classes; recitation by Huber Phillips; music by the orchestra; recitation, "The Brown Sparrow's Christmas," by Edna Card; duet, Janet Launer and Dorothy Erskine; exercise, "Mechanical Toys," by eleven boys; recitation by Lucia Card; song, Richard Dunkleberger; recitation, Edith Ramsdell; song, Winona Rice; recitation, Edith Plesinger; cornet solo by B. L. Downey; pantomime, "Abide With Me," by Miss Cora Rossiter's class; pantomime, "The Virgin Mary and the Child Jesus," by Mrs. Chester Siefert, Evelyn Siefert and Mrs. H. H. Dunkleberger; address by the pastor; chorus, "The King of All Kings"; distribution of candy and presents; benediction.

Wheat Reaches High Price.

The price of wheat reached the highest point of the season at Portland yesterday when supplies of Bluestem were firmly held at \$1.02 a bushel and Forty Fold at \$1.01. There is an unusually heavy interior demand for shipment to Europe, by rail to the Atlantic coast. Middle west millers are also heavy bidders.

Will Preach to Masons.

The Dallas members of the Masonic order will attend the Methodist church in a body next Sunday evening, the occasion being the observance of St. John's day. Rev. Geo. H. Bennett will preach an appropriate sermon.

Minnesota receives 10,000 new settlers yearly.

Ohio has 160,000 drug victims.

ONCE UPON A TIME.

MY LITTLE CHILD COMES TO MY KNEE
AND, TUGGING, PLEADS THAT HE MAY CLIMB
INTO MY LAP TO HEAR ME TELL
THE CHRISTMAS TALE BELOVED SO WELL—
A TALE MY MOTHER TOLD ME,
BEGINNING "ONCE UPON A TIME."

IT IS A TALE OF SKIES THAT RANG
WITH ANGEL REHAPSODIES SUBLIME;
OF THAT GREAT HOST, SERENE AND WHITE,
THE SHEPHERDS SAW ONE WINTRY NIGHT—
AND OF THE GLORIOUS STARS THAT SANG
AN ANTHEM ONCE UPON A TIME.

THIS STORY OF THE HALLOWED YEARS
TELLS OF THE SACRIFICE SUBLIME
OF ONE WHO PRAYED ALONE AND WEPT
WHILE HIS WEARIED FOLLOWERS SLEPT—
AND HOW HIS BLOOD AND MARY'S TEARS
COMMINGLED ONCE UPON A TIME.

AND NOW MY DARLING AT MY SIDE
AND ECHOES OF THE DISTANT CHIME
ERING THAT SWEET STORY BACK TO ME,
OF BETHLEHEM AND CALVARY,
AND OF THE GENTLE CHRIST WHO DIED
FOR SINNERS ONCE UPON A TIME.

THE MIGHTY DEEDS THAT MEN HAVE TOLD
IN PONDEROUS TOMES OF FLUENT RIME
LIKE MISTY SHADOWS FADE AWAY,
BUT THIS SWEET STORY BIDES FOR AYE—
AND, LIKE THE STARS THAT SANG OF OLD,
WE SING OF "ONCE UPON A TIME."

—EUGENE FIELD.

Merry, Merry Christmas!

Christmas Lullabies.

Christmas lullabies to the Divine Child may be traced back to medieval times. In one of the Coventry plays occurs what is plainly a cradle song to the infant Jesus, which has been preserved in music as well as in text.

Five hundred years ago the mere picture did not suffice the faithful. The scene had to be enacted. The little play was called "The Cradling of the Child." Standing on a platform above the manger, boys representing angels proclaimed the birth of the Saviour. Priests took the part of shepherds and gathered around the manger. Here stood Joseph, Mary and the servant of Joseph.

After the choir had sung hymns, among them "Christus Natus Hodie," Mary sang the first verse of the German song, "Joseph, dear Joseph mine, help me to rock my babe, that God may reward me in heaven—the Babe of the Virgin Mary." Joseph answered with the second verse of the song: "Gladly, my dear nurse, will I help thee rock thy babe, that God may reward me in heaven," etc. The servant sang: "Rejoice, Christian multitude. The King of Heaven, who was born of the Virgin Mary, has taken on mortality." And so the scene in the churches went on every Christmas.

Holiday Sales Satisfactory.

The merchants of Dallas as a whole report their holiday sales as being quite satisfactory; in fact considerably larger than was expected at the opening of the season. The past few days have been unusually busy ones for the average Dallas store. It evidences the fact that business conditions have an upward tendency, and that the prosperity which has been felt in the eastern and middle western states is reaching the coast country. During the present holiday shopping season useful gifts have been in greater demand than for a number of years past. Because the shopping season commenced earlier than usual this year the rush has not been so apparent as in former years, but the volume of business has been surprising to a majority of those dealing in goods appropriate for Christmas presents. Nearly every merchant interviewed by The Observer mentioned the change in making purchases from the ornamental to the useful, and this desire on the part of the public may have the effect next season of buying fewer trinkets and a greater supply of the more staple articles.

"Knecht Rupert," German Santa.

The Santa Claus idea has grown out of a variety of legends and customs. The festival of St. Nicholas, who was the especial friend of the children, was celebrated in Germany about the 6th of December. It was easy enough to make this coincide with the later and more general festival. The tangible Santa Claus was called "Knecht Rupert," and usually he was some member of the family dressed up to represent a beneficent gift giver. It was the custom to have a yew bough placed in the parlor of the German home, and on this all the packages containing gifts were placed. On Christmas morning the whole family assembled to claim the gifts, each having to guess the donor. "Knecht Rupert" distributed the gifts to the younger children, but he lectured them also on obedience and good behavior, and, if any one had been bad, instead of a gift he or she was given a switch that they might be punished. So the little Germans try hard to be very good before Christmas.

Yes, All Were Busy.

The woods adjacent to Dallas were liberal in their contributions of Christmas greens yesterday, and the visitors are probably more numerous today than yesterday. From indications every family in town has something planned at home for the holiday. There was a stream of vehicles—wagons, buggies, automobiles, wheelbarrows—and pedestrians all with Oregon grape, fern and other decorative plants from early morning until even tide. Small trees which will be laden with toys and candies, and other goodies, were among the common burdens of those who ransacked the woods for Christmas greens.

The Christ Child.

An Irish legend tells that on Christmas eve the Christ Child wanders out in the darkness and cold and the peasants still put lighted candles in their windows to guide the sacred little feet, that they may not stumble on the way to their homes. In Hungary the people go yet farther in their tenderness for the child. They spread feasts and leave at his will. Throughout Christendom there is a belief that no evil can touch the child who is born on Christmas eve.

Christmas in Holland.

In Holland Santa Claus pays his annual visit to all good children twenty days before he comes to this coun-

try. December 5 is the feast day of St. Nicholas, alias Santa Claus. He has nothing whatever to do with Christmas, and his visit there is an Anglo-Saxon anachronism. As their patron saint, children were taught to look to Nicholas for care and protection. In England the custom was abolished with the worship of saints at the reformation and was re-established in the American guise of Father Christmas in the middle of the last century.

But in Holland Santa Claus continues to make his visits on the right day, December 5. The Dutch children do not hang up their stockings, but place their shoes, filled with hay or straw for the donkey on which St. Nicholas rides, in front of the fireplace.

No Christmas Weddings.

The Christmas season produces many things that are unusual during the remainder of the year, but one of the very unusual things is found in the marriage license record, where there has not been a license registered since December 13. Throughout the year there are very few days pass without the issuing of a license, but attention of the lovers has been so far turned toward more worldly and less sentimental things than marriage. David B. Reimer and Sraah Fast were the last to secure a license. The county clerk and his deputies look for an increase in matrimonial business after Christmas day.

Significance of Holly.

Why holly at Christmas? The pagan Romans dedicated the holly to Saturn, whose festival was in December, around Christmas. The early christians, to escape persecution, decked their homes with holly and other Saturnian emblems. The Romans sent their friends holly sprigs during the Saturnalia with wishes for their health and prosperity.

Closed All Day Tomorrow.

The doors of The Observer office will be barred against patrons and visitors all day tomorrow. It will be the first time in two years that the office and mechanical forces have had a full holiday, and they feel that they have earned an opportunity to celebrate like other folks.

Library Observes Christmas.

The spirit of Christmas will be observed at the library and that institution will be closed this evening and all day tomorrow. The doors will open at the usual hour on Sunday.

Court House Deserted.

The court house will be deserted tomorrow, and the county officials will enjoy a holiday. Judge Teal will spend the day with his family at Falls City.

THE UNDER-DREAM.

By Post Wheeler.
I slept—it was even
That meets the Christmastide.
I dreamed, and children seven
Stood waiting at my side.
"Come," said they, and I followed
Down to the winter pave,
To lanes the darkness swallowed,
Where haggard toil is slave.
One peered with eyes of clouded sin
That knew no glance soft;
One laughed at din of voice within;
One shiveringly coughed,
One's head was like a misty sun
Seen through a city's soot;
One bore an ailing one, and one
Walked with a halting foot.
The rain lay iced upon the stone;
The frost-rime touched the street,
As my fast foot-falls lone
The naked little feet.
On, on, and up the bitter stair
Of a tall tenement
By corridors wind-swept and bare
The winding way we went,
Into a chamber dark and cold
Where no joy-song was sung,
Where o'er a blacken'd hearth and old
Seven little stockings hung.
O empty, little ragged things
Hung high in their poor place!
The children stopped with whisping
And thither turned each face.
I woke. It was the Christmas.
I dressed with smiling art.
But those little empty stockings
Were hanging on my heart!

LUMBER TIPS OFFERED

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE BULLETIN IS ISSUED.

Situation in Australia With Trade Suggestions Treated by Agent After Personal Investigation.

The present depression in the American lumber industry has greatly increased the interest in the export trade and its possible development. For this reason the department of commerce, through the bureau of foreign and domestic commerce, has been sending out experts to study the possibilities of the most promising markets. The latest bulletin based on these investigations is "Australasian Markets for American Lumber," written by Franklin H. Smith, who has been studying the lumber situation in the Far East, Australia and New Zealand.

Australia is particularly interesting to American lumbermen, because the island continent depends almost wholly on foreign supplies of soft, easily worked woods. The native timber is tough and hard to work. In normal times the total imports of timber are valued at \$13,000,000, and of this quantity the United States furnishes about \$7,000,000 worth, or more than half. American exports, however, consist mostly of dressed lumber, and Mr. Smith's report is concerned largely with the prospects of increasing sales of dressed lumber, which has heretofore come mainly from the Baltic regions. Since the war started Australians have not had steady intercourse with the Scandinavian countries, and there have been increased sales of American dressed products.

An interesting suggestion by Mr. Smith is that a serious attempt be made to popularize the American bungalow style of dwelling in Australia. There are many other suggestions in the bulletin, as well as chapters on such important matters as tariffs, native timber resources, foreign trade, the principal lumber markets and the lumber trade of New Zealand.

WILDWOOD.

Mrs. J. W. Gay had an attack of la grippe last week, but is feeling much better.

Everett Moore went to Airlie one day last week. He is now staying with Mr. and Mrs. S. Riker and attending the Wildwood school.

Max Koppelin, T. V. Mason and Flemming Olemans were visitors at B. Hull's Sunday.

Mrs. Sam Riker, Mrs. F. L. Price, Mr. and Mrs. L. D. Fry were visitors at the Mason home Sunday.

J. V. Mason went to Kings Valley Friday.

Emmett Mason was a visitor at the Koppelin home Monday.

The recent rains have raised the river sufficient for driving logs, which the Simpson Logging company has taken advantage of.

Edward Hull spent Tuesday evening with John Fry.

AIRLIE.

Walter Maxfield made a business trip to Independence on Wednesday.

J. C. Turner went to Independence to transact business on Wednesday.

A fine program is being arranged for the annual school rally to be held here on January 15. The entertainment will be provided by the children of the school.

Because of high water in the vicinity of Maple Grove the rural mail carrier covering this territory could not make his rounds on Wednesday.

The annual meeting of the Parent-Teachers Association will be held at the school on January 5.

Inst Sunday views on Rev. H. the show