

Eastern Clackamas News

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LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS

Christmas Day 1920

If the actual condition of the world in this year of grace 1920, is at all grasped, the greeting of "A Merry Christmas" which will pass between friends, on the day after tomorrow, would seem a mockery.

Just take a survey of the situation. At home the spirit of unrest is rife, the spectre of unemployed hovers over thousands, and a wave of crime manifesting itself in murders, robberies and the like is sweeping over the land, while the papers generally are lamenting a moral slump.

In Europe the situation is far worse, three millions and a half of children will die of starvation in central Europe, if relief from America is not quickly forthcoming. Russia is a boiling caldron of anarchism which is spreading like a cancer to all around, not only in the west but in the east. The Balkins are smoking volcanoes on the verge of eruption. Germany is bankrupt and Austria down and out, France and Italy are in better case, but both are conscious that their national foundations are in a critical condition. England is beset behind and before, with Ireland an armed camp torn by internecine strife. The Orient is seething with sedition, and is the breeding place of strategems and plots against the white races. Altogether the outlook is so gloomy and inauspicious that it may well take the joy out of life to those who have the eyes to see.

"A Merry Christmas" with the world in confusion! Shall we abandon it? Shall we cease to sing on this day the Gloria in Excelsis, or the old Christmas carols and hymns of "peace on earth and goodwill towards men" which have brought joy and gladness to the heart, even when howed down with grief? No, a thousand times, no! We will still "gather around the Christmas tree" and become again for the day, light-hearted children, because Christmas is the earnest of better times to come to this war-torn, distracted world.

Centuries ago the prophet saw this very condition that "they shall look unto the earth; and behold trouble and darkness, dimness of anguish; and they shall be driven to darkness." But this was the precursor of a glorious dawn when "all armour of the armed man in the tumult, and the garments rolled in blood, shall even be for burning, for fuel of fire." And then in words of the utmost sublimity the reason is given, which was fulfilled on that first Christmas night in the little town of Bethlehem when the full angelic choir made the wain ring with the assurance of peace on earth, although the times were sadly out of joint. True for the moment, there was peace but it was a fictitious one, yet they sang in good faith because they heralded the advent of Him who could and would bring peace. "Behold I bring you

good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour which is Christ the Lord." What men look for in times of stress is a deliverer, a leader and counsellor. Leagues, treaties and covenants may come later, but "the Man of the Hour" must come first.

The world wide distress which is now so manifest, is the symptom of an inward cause. Wars, tumults, oppression and crimes spring from within, from the unruly passions of men and until these are tamed and brought under control there can be no peace. The deliverance which the world wants, is a spiritual one, nothing less will suffice, and this is what Christmas insures. But it may be said nineteen centuries have passed, and the world is no more at peace than then. True, but peace was conditional on "the government being upon His shoulder." The Babe of Bethlehem can effect nothing unless His commands are followed. When that is the case, deliverance is effected. The evidence is found in the individual. Men who have been brutal, selfish and fiendish, possessed of seven devils, have been delivered from their bondage, have been reconstructed, recreated, so that they became entirely new men, through having yielded themselves to Him. And the individual is earnest of the whole race of which he is a member. Generally this reformation has been so gradual that it is hardly recognized as such. But, there are numerous instances when the reformation has been amazing in its suddenness and completeness.

These newborn men are the living witnesses to the saving power brought to mankind on that first Christmas night. When the nations of the world accept this boon and follow the Christ, then will be fulfilled the promised blessing of an enduring peace, when "nation shall not lift up sword against nation neither shall they learn war any more."

It is on account of this assurance that we can sing with sincerity the Glory in Excelsis in the Christ mass, and as we depart with the blessing of peace still ringing in our ears, we deem it no mockery to wish our friends "A Merry Christmas."

A Christmas Greeting

The NEWS wishes all its readers and people of this vicinity generally a most joyful Christmas. May it be one full of happiness and freedom from care and anxiety. On this day all that troubles, all that irritates, all that embitters should be cast aside. And as Tiny Tim, Dickens' most pathetic character, would say, "God bless us every-one."

The Hycada

We have been favored with another copy of the Hycada the school paper. This time it was gotten out under the direction of the Adelpic society, the former one being by the Websterian. There seems to be a rivalry between the two societies, as to which shall get out the better paper. We would not dare to express an opinion, as comparisons are odious, but this copy before us, edited by Miss Mildred Douglass contains an extra leaf. The editorial "Your Reputation" should be read and taken to heart by all the students as it contains some much needed advice. The copy we received was printed on yellow paper, which while suitable to Mr. Hearst's journals, is hardly appropriate for scholarly products. How would these two societies like to get out jointly an issue of the NEWS after the holidays?

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