

THINGS WISE AND OTHERWISE

By J. C. AKERS, Newberg, Oregon

THE DAY AFTER

Every holiday has its day after, reminding us of the old adage, "After a storm a calm."

A holiday is the culmination of anticipations and the flowering of hopes and plans that have been carefully nursed and matured. The day is sufficient unto itself; but the day after—ah! "There's the rub." If it be the day after Christmas the gifts and the greetings have been exchanged, the hilarity has expended itself, the foam of the champagne, figuratively speaking, has evaporated. If it be Thanksgiving day the turkey has been eaten, the family circle has met and partially dissolved again 'till the next re-union, some members of it having hurried away to resume their several vocations, and others have settled down with a virtuous determination to give their stomachs a rest. Always in some form there is a day after.

Is it not worth while to consider that we have just as much to be thankful for on the day after Thanksgiving as we had on the day and date itself? It can not be family re-unions and turkey with cranberry sauce every day in the year, but the spirit of thankfulness for the blessings that makes a happy and prosperous people should never die out. If it is especially in evidence on Thanksgiving day it should not be wholly forgotten or ignored on the day after, nor any day after.

CHRISTMAS

The Christmas of all Christendom is different from the Christmas of long ago, the first celebration of the birth of Christ, which took place in an inconspicuous part of the Roman Empire. Rome was then in its glory, but as its mighty power waned that of the Nazarene grew and spread with the light of hope. While the Roman Empire crumbled the power of the Christ increased. While Greece tottered and decayed, Christian truth possessed the heart and souls of men, and in the long stretch of years to the present day, empires have come and passed away. Decay has come to all works of man, but the rule of the Christ has survived all the changes and all the decays.

On the morn of the first Christmas the proudest nation on earth, ruled by force, inspired by greed, and permeated with shame and vanity, was in contempt of the Christian simplicity, and little did the ruler of that empire fear that the Christ would become greater and stronger than a Roman ruler, but in the test of years it is proved that neither the achievements of force or the triumph of the intellect can outlive the power of the eternal truths that are taught in the life of an obscure Jew, who died an ignominious death.

Men may fear a corrupt power and bow to its edicts. They may surrender to the powers of the mind and become subjects of an overpowering intellect, but at least we must all agree that the most superb and enduring power is that wielded not by force, not by wealth, not by a towering intellect, but by one who is strong and perfect in character.

So enduring has been the influence of Christ that Christians, atheists,

infidels, and all alike agree that the ultimate purpose in life is not the accumulation of wealth, or upbuilding of strong governments, but the growth and strength and beauty of character—and the ideal, perfect character conceded of all men and all nations is that of the Man of Galilee.

It is well that the Christian teaches a lesson which makes the world better and stronger. It is well that we pay tribute to a perfect character, tho' we may go back to the old ways.

We ring the bells and we raise the strain,

We hang up garlands everywhere
And bid the rafters twinkle fair,
And feast and frolic and then we go
Back to the same old lives again.

But with each recurring Christmas the world grows stronger in the character exemplified in the life of Christ, for his power grows with the passing years. As it was impossible for Rome to circumscribe the commemoration of the birth of Christ, so it is impossible to circumscribe the increasing influence of Christ's character on the human race, for in the language of Horace:

"In darkness there is no choice.
It is light that enables us to see the differences between things; and it is Christ that gives us light."

THE HOLIDAY RUSH

It may seem trite to keep on talking about the evils of the holiday rush. But when a social practice becomes entrenched in such a way as to cause human suffering and economic waste, there is satisfaction in hammering away on a theme that is old and yet always vital.

The Christmas gift habit was started as a manifestation of the spirit of the Prince of Peace.

Christmas is the day of "Peace on earth, good will toward men." It signifies the laying aside of all cruelties and harshness, the prevalence of the spirit of brotherhood, of kindness, of consideration for the needs and rights of others. Yet this so-called Christian world continues year after year to practise certain habits that impose the most nerve-wrecking toll on hundreds of thousands of people.

For a week previous to this holiday of joy and good cheer the life of postal clerks, mail carriers, shop girls in all large towns and cities, is one of drive, worry, hurry, scurry, loss of patience and temper, late hours, hasty feeding, lack of sleep. It leaves them physically and nervously depressed. The experience is dreaded for weeks, and is a nightmare to many of sensitive temperament and frail physique. And yet knowing all this, realizing it perfectly, people still keep on year after year buying a mess of gifts the week before the holiday, and clogging the mails and expresses with this futile accumulation of packages.

It is a queer reflection on the common sense, the human sympathy of the American people, and suggests a great big, wide yellow streak of selfishness running through the national temperament. It all goes to illustrate that a great many of the

abuses of civilization are due to absorption in our own concerns. The interest of your neighbor is forgotten. Everyone admits the justice of the plea for early buying and mailing of gifts but the greater portion will not practice it.

Now, let everyone of us think a little bit about the other fellow.

Notice To Creditors

In the County Court of the State of Oregon for the County of Yamhill. In the matter of the estate of Samuel Minchin, deceased, Notice is hereby given that the undersigned, E. S. Minchin, has been appointed administrator of the estate of Samuel Minchin, deceased, by the County Court of the State of Oregon for the County of Yamhill, and has qualified as such. All persons having claims against said estate are hereby notified to present the same, duly verified by law to the undersigned at 1012 Gasco Bldg., Portland, Oregon, within six months from the date hereof.

E. S. Minchin,
Administrator.

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Samuel B. Lawrence,
1012 Gasco Bldg.,
Portland, Oregon,
Attorney for Administrator.

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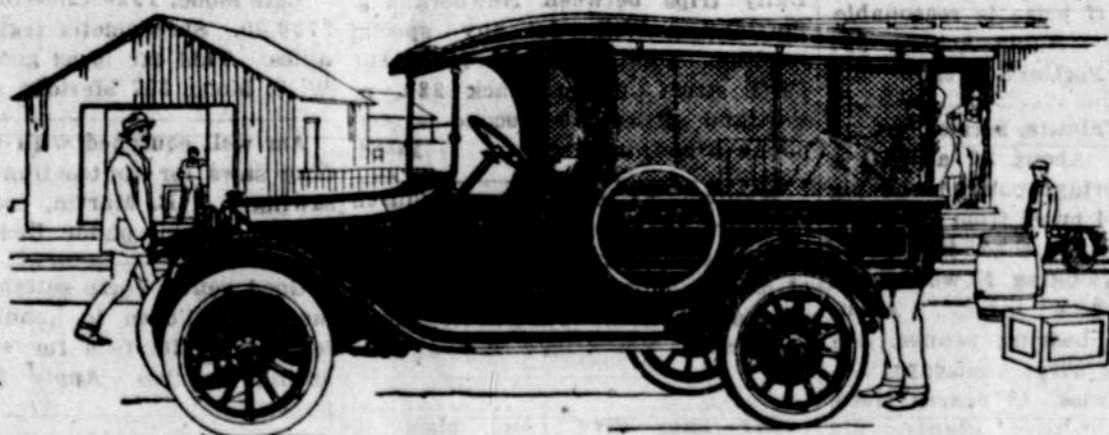
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