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THE ANGELS' SONG.

The winds had ceased their carol,
The waters calmly slept,
And over their flock's repose
A watchful angel kept.
When from the golden city
On plumes white and fair,
An angel host descended
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
Throng
That hailed our Savior's birth.

Oh morn of radiant splendor!
On blessed day of days,
That banished gloom and sadness
And filled the world with peace—
The shepherd 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 round thy manger,
Our grateful songs to raise,
We crown thy gates with gladness
And fill thy courts with praise.

—FANNY J. CROSBY.

CHRISTMAS LONG AGO.

Come sing a hale high-song
For the Christmas long ago,
When the old log cabin homed us,
From the night of blinding snow,
And the rosy joy held reign,
And the chimney roared again,
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 surprises.

Sing in again the mirth
Of the circle 'round the hearth,
With the rustic Sibelius telling us
The strangest tales on earth!
And the minstrel bard we knew,
With his "Love-lie so true,"
Likewise his "Young House Carpenter,"
And "Love 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 quokened
breath—
The sighs 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 merry-making. In the afternoon the adoration of the manger takes place, where 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 merrymaking. 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.

JOHN RAYNOR'S CHRISTMAS REVOLT. ELIZABETH AYRES

WHEN John Raynor began to see the holiday advertisements in the papers and to feel the Christmas ditty 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 a sneer, "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 gaily dressed 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 week, 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 a while. 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 gone 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 kettle boiling" for the Salvation Army Christmas dinner, and he thought he had never heard a gay, er 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 carefully on the table. She looked up with eyes slight, 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 flitting 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.

GETTING READY FOR SANTA.



NEWS OF THE WEEK

In a Condensed Form for Our Busy Readers.

HAPPENINGS OF TWO CONTINENTS

A Resume of the Less Important but Not Less Interesting Events of the Past Week.

A Montana forest ranger has been killed for a deer.

French troops have repulsed an attack of tribesmen near Ain Sfa, Algeria.

The Japanese ambassador to France denies that his country is after another foreign loan.

Carnegie would base the issue of paper money on the gold reserve instead of government bonds.

The Northern Pacific railroad will reduce grain rates from Montana points to St. Paul and Minneapolis.

Findlay, Ohio, was badly shaken by the explosion of a glycerine factory. Much property damage was sustained.

Hill told the Interstate Commerce commission that it means a loss of \$80 a car to keep the old lumber rate in effect.

Secretary Taft is having a rough passage across the Atlantic and his vessel will be a day or two late in reaching New York.

Goldfield mineowners have asked the government to dissolve the Western Federation of Miners and prosecute it as treasonable.

Liquor men propose to fight river and harbor appropriations by congress for dry states. They say two-thirds of the national revenue is derived from the liquor business.

England has just been visited by a severe storm.

The Colorado State bank of Durango, has suspended.

The revolutionary agitation is growing in Portugal.

The Yaqui Indians are again on the warpath in Mexico.

The National Bank of Commerce, of Kansas City, will reopen.

Japan and Russia have combined to freeze China out of Manchuria.

The bridal gifts of Marshall Field's daughter were stolen in England.

The peace conference of the Central American republics has been concluded.

Scotchmen in London are again adopting the kilt as a regular wearing apparel.

The East has just experienced a great storm. Heavy snow fell and many wires are down.

Premiums are being offered for the new gold pieces without the motto "In God We Trust."

A petition to allow women to vote on municipal affairs in Paris was voted upon by the council.

General Funston finds the Goldfield situation serious.

Commissioner of Indian Affairs Leupp says Indians are losing millions yearly in timber lands.

A house-to-house canvass at Monongah, W. Va., shows 18 still missing as a result of the mine disaster.

Plans are complete for re-organizing the Merchants' National bank at Portland and it is expected to open soon.

District Attorney Langdon, of San Francisco, also admits that the evidence of Ruof will be required to convict Calhoun.

The American Can company has control of the Pacific coast, having absorbed the United Can company, of San Francisco.

Goldfield mineowners have withdrawn their new scale and opened negotiations with the American Federation of Labor. The object seems to be to get this organization into a fight with the Western Federation of Miners.

D. L. Anderson, president of the Forchow university, who has just returned to this country, says China is on the eve of a bloody revolution that will mark her entrance into the parliament of the world as a power to be reckoned with.

The campaign against rats is being kept up vigorously in San Francisco.

The Michigan state treasurer is to be removed for putting funds in a rotten bank.

The great fleet of warships is all ready to start on its voyage to the Pacific.

The presence of General Funston at Goldfield is believed to have a good effect.

Bristol's nomination has been withdrawn from the senate as district attorney for Oregon.

ROOSEVELT AS A SAINT.

Russian Peasants Worship Picture of President

San Francisco, Dec. 17.—Americans think a great deal of President Theodore Roosevelt, but it has been reserved for the Russian peasants settled in Eastern Siberia to reverence the well known picture, which shows the gleam of teeth, as that of a saint. That they do so is asserted to be a fact by Alexander G. Denbigh, who arrived on the steamer Siberia, and is now staying at the St. Francis hotel.

"The people there are of the lowest class of Russian peasants, and know nothing about the outside world," said Denbigh. "In every house, no matter how poor it may be, there is sure to be an icon of some kind, and if it is possible for the owner of the place, he also has a picture of a saint. The picture of our president has gone over the world, and can be found in many queer places. I remember asking one of my men from the Ural mountain district, who had never heard of Roosevelt, what picture he had in his tent. He at once told me that it was one of St. Peter—without the beard and with spears on. Curious to see such a picture, I went to the hut and found that it was a chromo of the president of the United States. The man assured me that he had the best of good fortune since he had obtained the picture of the 'holy saint.'"

MEXICO'S ANNUAL EXPENSE

What It Costs to Conduct Affairs of Southern Republic.

Mexico City, Dec. 17.—In congress yesterday the report of the minister of finance was read and the budget for the coming year was made public. The estimated receipts for the coming year total \$103,385,000, while the expenditure will reach \$103,203,842, leaving an estimated surplus of \$181,158. The total increase of this year's budget is \$6,595,275, the largest item in the increase being for \$1,367,589 for maintenance of the department of war.

The revenue for the fiscal year just ended total \$114,062,000, the expenditures \$100,208,132, leaving a surplus of \$14,077,989. The surplus of the previous year, \$29,049,081, and the falling off of the past year, was due to large sums spent in public works—\$17,208,608. Minister Limantour maintained that the recent crisis in the United States would make itself felt in the coming year in Mexico, in that investments would be curtailed. Interest rates are higher, but this would only affect mining industries. He believed that in the end it would work for good rather than evil.

RELIEF FOR VICTIMS.

Committee Making Contributions to Be Sent to Monongah.

Fairmont, W. Va., Dec. 17.—The permanent relief committee, headed by Governor Dawson, to provide for the widows and orphans in distress through the recent explosion at the mines of the Fairmont Coal company at Monongah, today prepared an appeal for funds that is being sent to chambers of commerce and kindred organizations all over the country. Contributions of clothing, toys for the orphans at Christmas time and similar donations are to be sent to W. H. Moore, mayor of Monongah, and chairman of the committee, looking after the temporary wants of the victims.

The appeal says that fully 250 widows and 1,000 children are left without any means of support. As near as can be determined, \$50,000 from all sources has been subscribed. The committee feels that a total of \$200,000 will be required to carry on the relief work. All checks should be made payable to the Monongah Mines Relief committee, J. E. Sands, treasurer, Fairmont, W. Va.

Rich Oil Strike.

Santa Barbara, Cal., Dec. 17.—A telephone message from Santa Maria, 50 miles north of here, brought the information this afternoon that the Union Oil company had struck a wonderful gusher which threw a vast stream of petroleum over the derrick and continued to flow at the rate of 7,000 barrels a day. At the present price of oil this means \$2,500 a day from this one well. This is the second largest gusher ever struck in California. The largest was a 10,000-barrel well, but it has since declined considerably.

Fiat Money Saves Life.

San Rafael, Cal., Dec. 17.—Stewart Danbar, a prominent insurance broker of Honolulu, while on his way to meet a party of friends last night, fell through a cattle guard on the narrow gauge tracks of the Northwestern Pacific railroad and caught his foot so that he would have been crushed to death beneath an approaching handcar had he not ignited a clearing house certificate and used it for a danger signal.

Forty Lives Lost.

London, Dec. 17.—The gale along the British coast on Friday and Saturday, which was described by Captain Jameson, of the steamship St. Louis, as the worst in his experience, subsided yesterday. It was responsible for the loss of some 40 lives.

BIG FLEET IS OFF

Sixteen Battleships Start Out for Pacific Ocean.

ARE REVIEWED BY PRESIDENT

Sight is One That Brings Forth Admiration of Every Spectator, Many Being Foreigners.

Old Point Comfort, Va., Dec. 17.—Sixteen hard hitting, steel belted American battleships, guns bristling and bulging with white, sparkling white in their immaculate dressings of peace, started away yesterday under the dazzling sun of a cloudless winter sky, on their famous twin sea expedition of 14,000 miles along foreign shores and in changing climates to the west coast of the United States. President Roosevelt, on the bridge of his cruiser-yacht, the Mayflower, personally led the magnificent four-mile line of fighting vessels during first stage of the voyage.

From the anchorage grounds in Hampton Roads to the Horseshoe bend of Chesapeake bay his eagle-crested flag of blue pointed the way to the fleet's new home at the Golden Gate. Then, when the wide reaches of the sea were visible through the wide-swung capes of Virginia, he turned aside and, coming to anchor again, reviewed the passing pageant.

The blue of the sky, the stretch of green sea miles, the glinting of spotless hulls, the curl of foam-crested bow waves, the cheering of sailors aloft and friends ashore, the breeze-blown strains of "Auld Lang Syne," floating across the waters, the blare of trumpets, the rattle of drums, the flash of signals and the boom of saluting cannon marked the departure of the fleet, presenting to the people who watched it a spectacle they will never forget and to the world at large the reality of the trimmest, most homogeneous, most thoroughly equipped, most mobile and self-reliant assemblage of first class battleships ever gathered in one command.

There will not be a ship in the line old enough to have smelled powder or to have taken the shot of Manila or Santiago—stories written scarcely 10 years ago in the history of nations. All were modern of design, examples of the aggressive seagoing navy which the president has declared to be so essential to the peace of the country.

Attaches of foreign legations and embassies at Washington and many correspondents who have seen war service on foreign journals freely declared that yesterday's naval display was the most impressive they had ever seen. The facility with which the big vessels were handled, the manner in which they were maneuvered into single column formation, and the perfect alignment which was maintained to the southward turn from the cape called out the warmest admiration. The thrill of the beautiful marine picture was felt until the last wind-blown spiral of smoke was lost on the horizon.

The first part of the fleet's journey will bring it to Trinidad on Christmas eve, and there, amid the heat of the tropics, the Christmas celebrations will be held. Hundreds of good-bye telegrams were flashed to the ships by wireless telegraph as they left the roadstead and had turned down the southern coast.

These vessels made up the fleet which sailed yesterday under command of Rear Admiral Robley D. Evans:

Connecticut, 16,000 tons; Louisiana, 16,000 tons; Kansas, 16,000 tons; Vermont, 16,000 tons; Georgia, 14,948 tons; Virginia, 14,948 tons; New Jersey, 14,948 tons; Rhode Island, 14,948 tons; Minnesota, 16,000 tons; Ohio, 12,500 tons; Maine, 12,500 tons; Missouri, 12,500 tons; Alabama, 11,525 tons; Illinois, 11,525 tons; Kearsarge, 11,525 tons; Kentucky, 11,525 tons; Culgoa, supply ship, 5,725 tons; Glacier, supply ship, 7,000 tons; Panther, repair ship, 3,380 tons; Yankton, tender, 975 tons.

All Quiet in Japan.

Tokio, Dec. 17.—The announcement of the sailing of the Atlantic fleet of the United States navy has not been received by the newspapers of Tokyo or by the government officials. All public men who have been interviewed by the Associated Press representative accept the sailing of the fleet as a foregone conclusion and it is not likely that the actual start will cause the slightest ripple of excitement. Everyone accepts the assurances of friendship offered by America conceding the right of that nation to send its warships to the Pacific.

Gold Movement \$105,350,000

New York, Dec. 17.—The Guarantee Trust company today announced the engagement of \$500,000 in gold for import. Lazard Freres have engaged an additional \$1,600,000 in gold for import. This makes the total movement \$105,350,000.