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THE PALM

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## CHRISTMAS, THE KING OF HOLIDAYS

(By Justus A. Miller.)

On December the 22nd the school-house of District No. 50 was the scene of an enjoyable entertainment in the form of a basket social and a Christmas tree given by the patrons and pupils of the District under the supervision of the teacher, Miss Ottilia Sauvain.

The Christmas tree, all-ahght, aglitter with tinsel toys, it stands with branches heavily laden with the gifts which typify the greatest gift that God in His infinite wisdom, ever gave to man—The Prince of Peace, the atoning power of the Universe.

The entertainment given by the pupils and some of the grown persons, was well carried out. Addie Ashin-hurst was the star performer. Boyd and Lawrence Copenhaver, Bertha and Olin Ritchie and Roy Tyler rendered their respective roles in a very satisfactory manner to the enjoyment of all.

Miss Ottilia Sauvain has all the essential qualities that are necessary to make a brilliant success of teaching. Possessed of a prepossessing, charming and majestic personality, she has the faculty to infuse knowledge into the minds of her pupils in such a way as to make their educational progress both interesting and rapid. Miss Sauvain's success as a teacher will be commensurate with the zest, zeal and energy she so ardently devotes to her chosen calling.

This matinee was given in homage and reverence to the Prince of Peace, the gentle Nazarene, the Man of Sorrows, the Master of men who never wore a sword or an epaulette, or was given a title save by the tongue of mockery. Yet his name is above every other name, and His Kingdom the reign of eternal purity, humility and self-less love.

Christmas is justly called the King of all holidays celebrated in all lands and climes. Millions are asking today, "What am I going to give?" and the answer must be, "Give what you can of material things; there are many that gain happiness only from

such things; but remember, there are other gifts beside those that can be weighed and measured." He or she who gives friendship to the heart-sick, strength to the weak, encouragement to the faltering and inspiration to those who are made for greater things; gives infinitely more than those who give jewels of a fabulous price. Give what you can, but principally from the riches of heart and soul. It is such gifts that add most truly to the welfare and happiness of the world, and it is such purpose that the Christmas spirit has come to create in the life of the human race.

"They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountains." This is the promise of ultimate arcady on earth. But from Hannibal, the Carthagani-an general, to the meeting of the nations at the Hague, earthly glory has been lavished not upon the advocates of peace, but upon those whose trade is war. The bird of prey is glorified above the docile dove. Nevertheless peace alone survives. The European war has plowed great furrows, but the seed sown therein yields better fruit, and physical death gathers the harvest. Ruin, chaos and destruction reign supreme. Ancient Rome at the Zenith of its worldly glory, gained almost the whole world and lost its own soul. Cato's clamoring against Carthage is a vain echo, and Caesar giving his little Senate laws, is a poet's jest, but the sermons of the Gentle Nazarene are eternal messages to man, perennially new, forever soul-inspiring and eternally sublime, illuminating the celestial pathway to the bosom of Omnipotence.

The life of righteous thoughts and deeds does not perish. Such acts and aspirations bloom forever in the fields of heaven; on earth, they grow only along the paths of peace.

We cannot think of Christmas without a thought of its meaning. It means something special to everybody and it creates in nearly every mind a desire to enter more deeply into the soul of that which it means to him or her. The spirit of Christmas seeks not to find wherein we disagree but wherein we all unite. It is a power that draws together, that cements the many into one.

It is the Christmas spirit that warms the heart as a winter's fire; that inspires as the sweetest music. By reason of the world's cares and griefs its adversity and heart breaks, Christmas is the greatest event that has blessed and is blessing mankind. This high festival with its many gifts and rich happiness, has done much to make the home the most sacred of American institutions.

John Howard Payne wrote his immortal song "Home Sweet Home," at midnight of Christmas Eve. It seems that he had gone abroad, had fallen on ill health and hard times—a stranger in a strange land. The night before Christmas his little room seemed to him like a cold cell. He rushed out into the street to comfort himself by looking at the lighted windows. Comfort he could not find. Returning to his room, he forgot the bleak winter and sickness of his heart. Thoughts of his former life of his childhood scenes, so dear to the human heart came vividly before his mental vision.

With his inner eye, he saw the old home, he saw the warm and benign smile of his spiritualized mother sojourning in the celestial home of peace, the old family Bible was lying on the table his father's revered voice lingered in his ear. All at once, illuminated by the flashes of inspiration, the thought "there is no place like home," infused into his mind. He composed the beautiful song, "Home, Sweet Home" now immortalized upon the scrolls of musical literature.

Christmas is the King of holidays and it is the day when those advanced in years, burdened with the cares of life and stricken with physical and mental inharmonies, feel the tingle of youth in their veins and join in the chorus, "Peace on Earth and Good-will to-men."

So far as Morrow County is concerned, never before has there been so much happiness, and such an abundance of crops, for which it is receiving an exhorbitant price. And what applies to Morrow county is also applicable more or less to other states of the Union.

The press, including the Heppner Gazette-Times, the oldest newspaper in Morrow county, and the schools are making knowledge universal. The beautiful is increasingly diffused through the magazines; the clothes which persons and children wear; the gasoline wagons, in which many a person takes his or her "joy ride." At this Christmas Labor rejoices; Invention is glad; Literature sings; Science celebrates her many victories and the Princes of Peace once housed in a stable, will soon rule the world with purity, humility and self-less love. And the gentle Nazarene must become the guiding star of every human heart. Then and then only shall eternal peace, harmony and good-will reign supreme in the infinite and fathomless universe in its majestic grandeur and sublimity to glorify the Omnipotent, Omniscient, and Omnipresent God in His infinite peace, harmony and self-less love.

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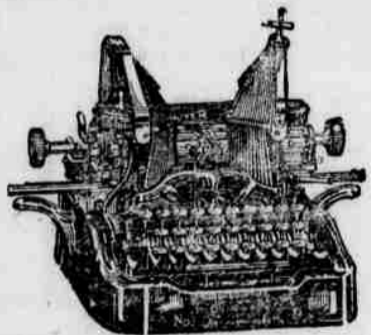
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