

A Merry, Merry Christmas to All



The Christmas Spirit in Our Community

THE Spirit of Christmas is more than a spirit of giving. It is more than a mere exchange of material things. It is a matter of spiritual values, a sort of glorified combination of the realization that "the gift without the giver is bare," the resolution to "do unto others as you would have them do unto you" and the desire for "peace on earth, good will to men." Especially should this be true of the Christmas spirit in our community.

When we plan for the gifts that we are to give to members of our families and our friends, we must not forget that there is another friend which should receive a gift from us. It is our community. Our gift to our community should be one of good citizenship, by having an active interest in affairs of government by aiding the board of education and the teachers in maintaining the highest standards of education in our schools, by actively supporting our churches, by centering all of our trading activities here, by taking pride



in the appearance of our homes, our yards, our streets and our parks, by being an active proponent, and not an obstructionist, of any movement which will make our town a better place in which to live—in short, by building up our community in every possible way. The one best gift to our community is cooperation.

And when we have given this to our community, let us not forget the gift as soon as the holiday season is over. Instead, let us carry over the Christmas spirit into every day of the year so that each succeeding Christmas will be a happier one for all of us because each of us has done his and her share in giving our community the best we can in thoughtful, unselfish service.

This sentiment regarding the right community spirit is meant to apply to each larger or smaller locality reached by the Outlook. Build up with loyalty and service the various school and trading centers and all will benefit.

An Idea and an Ideal

Santa Claus is real and he is not real. He represents an idea and an ideal. As an actual person we know he is not real; as an ideal he is the most real thing in human thought and experience.

Santa Claus is representative. He is always pictured the same but his picture is composite. It is your picture and mine and that of every fond parent and relative and friend and lover of humankind that is superimposed to make that benign, jovial, friendly, generous face in the dear old fellow's picture.

Santa Claus represents the better part of our natures, the best thoughts and feelings we have, the generous impulses, the unselfish desires, the purposes to do good.

This idea grows not alone out of the fact that Christmas celebrates the birth of Christ, embodiment of humanity's highest ideals, exemplar of divinity in humanity. There is in each person a nucleus of good. He has generous impulses. Christmas affords an outlet for this better part of man's nature.

Santa Claus, as we picture him, doesn't look anything like our imaginary picture of the Christ. Yet we see in him something of what Christ represented and Santa Claus and Christmas will mean all the more to us if we put Christ's ideal into them.



To Our Readers

A familiar slogan is "One for All and All for One." Like other slogans it is suggestive but may not bear too close analysis. It applies in general, however, to the Outlook and especially this holiday issue. It is one thing that is produced to benefit all and all have loyally cooperated to produce this annual holiday issue.

It would amaze anyone not familiar with the processes involved to learn how many, in one way and another, actually contribute to make such a paper as this possible.

The Outlook herewith expresses its hearty appreciation to each and every one who has had a part in the undertaking. This includes the regular community correspondents who not only in this issue but throughout the year are rendering a valuable service to their communities. Their neighbors should appreciate their efforts. It includes the friends who have written special articles. It also includes all who have helped the Outlook reporters in securing needed information.

The advertisers seek and deserve a direct benefit from the patronizing public and their support is greatly appreciated. We urge that people be fair to their local merchants, professional men and institutions and thus all will benefit.

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