

"they" say, to lighten the burden which their hands have fitted to their backs. It has not been necessary to make this remark concerning the Fourth, Thanksgiving or Washington's birthday.

The holiday itself is the most beautiful in meaning and in the occasion it celebrates a year in the calendar. Yet the absurd convention of universal gift-giving has almost destroyed its message of peace and love.

When a day is set apart on which to make a free will offering it becomes a market day, and all the spontaneity departs from it. Only children receive their gifts with joy and are not troubled by the suspicion that the giver wants anything in return. With the blessed Santa Claus there is no better. He gives to good children because he loves them and wishes them to be happy. If grown people had a Santa Claus, a secret, mysterious clearing house through which all gifts are sent, what a relief from the agony of falling below the expectations of friends and relatives. And yet there are idiots who are trying to convince the only ones who comprehend the significance of Christmas, viz., children, that there is no Santa Claus. If they succeed the theory of evolution has received a fatal blow. It would be much easier to spare the idiots. "Except ye become as little children."

Newspapers and individuals can protest against the spoiling of an occasion hallowed by eighteen hundred and ninety-six anniversaries, but it will be ineffectual, for custom has accomplished its destruction.

EDITOR COURIER:

In the Journal's report of the meeting of the school board Monday evening, under the head of "Sweet Charity," Superintendent Saylor reported "that the question of distributing funds raised in schools for charitable purposes had given him some trouble. He said he gave it all to the Charity Organization last year and there was some complaint. This year he gave half to the Charity Organization Society and half to Elder Howe for distribution, yet there was complaint."

Secretary Ludden vigorously attacked the donation of funds to the Charity Organization Society for the purchase of shoes for poor children.

He said he did not oppose that society, as he was a member of it, but he was ready to declare that the charity organization had no business to distribute supplies."

Much valuable time of the board might have been saved, as well as comments, had the true facts been understood.

The Charity organization society does not distribute any supplies, but acts as a clearing house, through which the different charity agencies of the city can direct their aid, this society has never, in any way, shape or manner had anything to do with the supplies of clothing or money contributed by the different schools of the city for those too poor to attend school for the want of such aid.

The different church aid societies of the city elect each year a committee of three ladies to represent them in the distribution of the supplies contributed by the different schools receive the donations of money and purchase shoes and all applicants for this aid are referred to this committee and if found worthy and needing aid, are supplied, so far as the means at their command will permit.

This committee was offered the use of this society's rooms to meet in, but the society has nothing to do with the matter further than that. J. P. HERBARD, General secretary Charity Organization Society.

M'KINLEY'S TRYING POSITION.

The pilgrimages to Canton have not ceased with the election. There is not so much noise about these later pilgrimages—not as many marching men, or bands of music; but there is an immense amount of earnestness. The visitors who call at the McKinley residence now are not entertained on the historic front porch. They are ushered into what will become the historic library, and altho' newspaper reporters hover around, the public has very little idea of what goes on behind the closed doors. This is the trying time for the president-elect. Probably many times before March 4, as he is forced to listen to the importunate demands of place hunters, Major McKinley will exclaim, "A plague on all your schemes!" and wish himself well out of it all. If, before election, when the country was convulsed with excitement, Major McKinley conducted himself in such a manner as to compel the confidence and respect of the whole people, what shall we say of his attitude in these, if anything, more trying post-election days? Major McKinley has true presidential dignity. With office seekers to the right of him, office seekers to the left of him, office seekers all around him, subjected to a never ceasing presence, sufficient to strain the power of endurance of the strongest man, the president elect is the same dignified, graceful figure he has always been. Garfield and many another president-elect succumbed to the pressure that is now being brought to bear on Major McKinley, and made more or less undignified manipulations. But McKinley says nothing, and the people look on with respect. What a great thing it is for a great public man to be able to keep his tongue from wagging! Self restraint in a tense period like the present is almost an infallible sign of greatness. The mass of the the people, without knowing very much about McKinley, are impressed with the idea that he is a great man. They know his repose and power of repression. The president-elect is making up his mind on a number of important questions these days, solving problems on which the success of his administration may depend, but he is, so far as the public knows, entirely at ease, and he manifests no disposition to indulge in foolish gabble. McKinley has been compared to Napoleon. He has Napoleonic reticence. The Lord deliver us from garrulous statesmen.

Most of the men who surround McKinley are men who resemble their chief in keeping their own counsel. Mr. Hanna, more than any other, has considerable difficulty in keeping himself out of the newspapers. Mr. Hanna is a pleasant gentleman to whom the sensation of political power is new, and it is hard for him to avoid letting the people know what a very important person he is. If there is any leaking of state secrets it will be through Mr. Hanna. It is easy enough to foresee that the successor of President Cleveland is bound to come in for some adverse criticism on account of the wonderful activity and lack of diplomacy of the distinguished gentlemen who ran the last republican national campaign. Already there is a feeling in the country that Mr. Hanna, admirable man tho' he is, is a trifle too officious. In Washington there is a strong anti-Hanna feeling on account of the desire of the national chairmen to personally conduct the inauguration ceremonies. But these things will probably be straightened out in due time, and Mr. Hanna will learn that power, however great, may be dissipated by too much advertisement or notoriety. Major McKinley undoubtedly values Mark Hanna's services most highly, as

indeed he should, but this far through life he has been his own master, and he will continue so to be.

Of course Senator Thurston cannot, under the circumstances, go into the cabinet. It is not certain that he desired to exchange his five year seat for a four year portfolio. But the result of the election in Nebraska takes a great load from his shoulders. When Nebraska went to Bryan it meant that Nebraska's share of the spoils would be reduced to the minimum. There will not be a great many appointments to be passed upon by Senator Thurston, and the latter will have a much pleasanter time than if the state had gone republican. To be sure he will not be as important a figure as he would have been had the state remained true.

The papers seem to have some difficulty in disposing of Charley Dawes. First they have it that he is to be first assistant postmaster-general, or assistant to some other cabinet officer, and then comes the report that he will be the president's private secretary. If there is anything that Major McKinley is long on it is secretaries. Mr. Boland has been his secretary for years, and lately Joe Smith, the famous Joe Smith, has been a chief confidential secretary. And there are others. But it is a mighty desirable thing to be private secretary to the president of the United States, and Mr. Dawes or any one else who gets the place may consider himself very lucky. The salary is not large—\$4,000 or \$5,000, I believe—but the president usually supplements it with a salary from his own purse. The private secretary has the executive ear at all times, and is a most important person. He is the intermediary between the president and the army of people who want something, and he must be a man of good judgment and wise intelligence. The presidents have a way of taking care of their private secretaries that makes the post particularly valuable. Dan Lamont had no trouble in rising from private secretary to cabinet officer, and when President Harrison came to retire he made Lige Halford a quartermaster in the regular army, with the rank and pay of major, a good berth for life. Mr. Dawes may not be anything that the newspapers say he will be, but he will in all probability get just what he wants. It was said before election that Major Moses P. Handy, who stood in practically the same relation to the McKinley boom that he used to to the Jim Blaine boom, of which he was called the Lord High Chamberlain, might become President McKinley's secretary.

What an excellent opportunity the populists of Nebraska have to prove that they are reasonable, rational beings instead of dangerous experiments and repudiationists! Heretofore when they have had partial control of the state government they have always explained their shortcomings—and they were many—by saying that they could do nothing so long as the republicans stood in the way. Now there is nobody in the way, and it remains to be seen what a full-fledged populist legislature in Nebraska will do. The outcome is not only interesting, but portentous. The populists have it in their power to kick over the last vestige of state credit or restore outside confidence. The east, through the vigilant newspapers, will watch every movement of the Nebraska legislature, and just as sure as the populists attempt to exploit any of their old time foolishness, the east will ring with ridicule and condemnation. What a job Holcomb has got on his hands! W. MORTON SMITH.

First publication December 12. NOTICE TO CREDITORS.

In the County Court of Lancaster County, Nebraska. In the matter of the estate of William J. Johnson, deceased.

To the creditors of said estate: You are hereby notified, that I will sit at the county court room in Lincoln, in said county, on the 1st day of May, 1897, and again on the 2nd day of August, 1897, to receive and examine all claims against said estate, with a view to their adjustment and allowance. The time limited for the presentation of claims against said estate is six months from the 1st day of February, A. D. 1897, and the time limited for the payment of debts is one year from the 1st day of February, A. D. 1897.

Notice of this proceeding is ordered published four weeks successively in The Courier, a weekly newspaper published in this state.

Witness my hand and the seal of said county court of said county court this 5th day of December, 1896.

S. J. COCHRAN, County Judge.

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEARS HOLIDAY RATES.

The Burlington will on December 24 and 25, also on December 31 and January 1, 1897, sell round trip tickets to points within 200 miles at one fare and a third. Tickets good to return until January 4, 1897. Take advantage of this and visit your friends.

J. I. G. W. BONNELL, C. P. & T. A.

PICTURES OF THE AUTHENTIC HISTORIC PLACES IN PALESTINE.

McClure's will begin publication in the December number of a series of views of the authentic historic places and monuments in Palestine. It is only by very recent exploration and study that many of the more significant of these places and monuments have been certainly identified, and not a few of them have never been pictured until now. Last spring the editor of McClure's organized a considerable expedition, and, accompanied by a photographer specially skilled and experienced in such work, made a tour of nearly the whole of Palestine, and took photographs of whatever of importance the latest and most authoritative investigations have definitely connected with Biblical incident and history. Special attention was given to the great ancient highway leading from Damascus to Jerusalem and on down through Bethlehem to H-bron; and many views were obtained of localities and objects of the first interest that will be entirely new to the public. They have been produced with great care, and will make one of the most attractive features of McClure's through the coming months.

Time is Money SAVE IT BY TAKING THE



Actual time traveling.
31 hours to Salt Lake.
61 hours to San Francisco.
68 hours to Portland.
77 hours to Los Angeles.

—FROM—

LINGOLN, NEB

City office, 1044 O street.

DO YOU WANT TO SAVE TIME?

Well the new flyer leaving Lincoln at 3:20 p. m. via Missouri Pacific will save you several hours to St. Louis, Cincinnati, New York and all eastern points and connections are made in the St. Louis union station, the most expensive, complete and finest in the world. Any information or sleeping car berths city ticket office 1201 O St

See the new Photochromes at Crancer & Curtice Co.'s, 307 South 11th street, the newest thing in pictures.