

Merry Christmas Time Here Again

Every One Is Filled With "Peace to Men of Good Will" Spirit.

By KATHERINE EOELMAN

CHRISTMAS has come again—the happiest, gladdest, merriest time of the whole year. Glad bells peal upon the air; holly wreaths and mistletoe are everywhere and hearth fires glow with a warmer welcome. Every home is filled with cheer, every face alight with happiness and every heart is tuned to catch the message of love and peace that is abroad. Men and women greet each other with added friendliness; little children stand eager-eyed and radiantly expectant. All humanity is filled deep with the desire to give, to serve, to love. A new bond of fellowship is encircling the world and bringing hearts together; today we are all one great, big family, watchful and solicitous about one another's welfare. The ties of home and kindred grow even more close—friendships more dear—memories more precious. Our thoughts fly on eager wings to those who are absent—the vacant chair grows sacred in our eyes.

The very air is full of some strange, wonderful force that fills us with exhilaration and delight. Youth grows more tolerant of age and age looks with new understanding into the eyes of youth. Streets are crowded with happy throngs—shops are filled to overflowing with gift seekers. Thousands of Christmas stockings are to be filled—thousands of older hearts are to be made happy because they are remembered. The gospel that it is more blessed to give than to receive is in evidence everywhere, and its practice is bringing radiance and beauty to every face.

Christmas has come again—its star is gleaming in the sky—its magic is all over the land! The young and the old, the gay and the wise have fallen under its spell. And every heart is singing the song of the angels—the song that echoed over the hills of Judea in the long ago—"Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace, good will toward men."

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HUMAN KINDNESS

MUSIC will die away; candles will burn themselves out; evergreens will fade. But once kindled, that flame of human kindness lighted at Christmas rarely becomes dim, and music incident to the holiday pleasures will echo and re-echo through innumerable happy days.—W. D. Pennypacker.

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Christmas in Venice Is No Thriller for Yanks

THREE United States destroyers came into port at Venice to spend the Christmas holidays. It was Christmas Eve. The narrow, winding streets of Venice that lead off from the Piazza San Marco were thronged with United States gobs. In almost every gondola one could see the small round cap of an American sailor. Out in the harbor were the three ships, all lighted with red and green electric bulbs which were reflected in the blue-blackness of the water. There was a large Christmas tree in electric lights on one of the decks. It was a glorious sight—particularly to American eyes—these modern American war boats ablaze with Christmas cheer.

"I suppose you are thrilled," I said to one of the gobs, "to be spending Christmas at Venice?" "Thrilled?" he echoed. "Say, this is the worst town I ever struck in all my life—no movies—no trolley cars—nothing! Believe me, I'll be glad to get back to good old Springfield. When I think of a real American Christmas dinner, the old log fire there at home, and the family—" There was a tremor in his voice and I turned away as I saw him reach for his handkerchief to dab his eyes.—Marion R. Reagan.

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Jolly Old Santa



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It Was Christmas From Home Folks

Post Office Employee Takes "Time Off" to Enjoy His Own Package.

By ELEANOR E. KING

IT WAS certainly not an easy job, for there is no such thing as a post office at Christmas time. But, it kept one's mind and hands occupied. To attend college is one privilege, but to be able to go home for Christmas is another. Charles felt it keenly this very moment. He had the first privilege—and was fifteen hundred miles from home. However, mid the rush and tumble of sorting Christmas packages, stacks of letters, and cards, he hardly had time to grieve.

The postmaster could not understand how Charles could turn out so much more work than the others. It was all very simple. He eagerly searched every card, letter, or package to see whether or not it bore his name, hurrying on to the next one.

"I surely do get great fun out of this," burst forth Charles. "This one is heavy as lead, slides around in the box like a cake on a plate. Silence followed, broken only by the constant thud of the 'good will messages'."

"I say," shouted some one across the room. "Your name is Liefker, isn't it? I was just cussing this heavy, bunglesome thing when I discovered the name."

"It's heavy," said Charles making a wild dash. "It rattles?" An hour later, the postmaster making his tour of inspection, stopped open-mouthed, gazing at one corner of the room. There, sitting on the floor, was the happiest boy in the world. The Captain, as the boys admiringly called him, understood now why Charles' work had accumulated in the last fifty minutes. Around him on the floor was a sea of tissue paper, ribbons, stickers, and gifts. Hiding the crest of each wave were smiles. His radiant face was a joy to behold. The postmaster grinned. Charles felt some one looking at him and glanced up into the eyes of his employer. "It is Christmas, Cap, from down home."

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All persons interested in said estate are hereby notified that a petition has been filed in said Court praying for the probate of a certain instrument now on file in said Court, purporting to be the last will and testament of said deceased, and that a hearing will be had on said petition before said Court on the 16th day of January, 1926, and that if they fail to appear at said Court on the said 16th day of January, 1926, at 9 o'clock A. M., to contest the probate of said will, the Court may allow and probate said will and grant administration of said estate to S. H. Dorsey or Edith Llewellyn or some other suitable person, enter a decree of heirship, and proceed to a settlement thereof.
BYRCE CRAWFORD, County Judge.
3t-12-18-25
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