

CHRISTMAS IN A GREAT CITY

BY BYRON WILLIAMS

In the metropolis Christmas treads upon the heels of Thanksgiving, eager to exploit its wares. The windows of the great stores, that have been fringed with Autumn leaves, now present the entire gamut of holiday goods. Images of Santa Claus appear in bas-reliefs, backed with reindeer and sledges, capacious chimneys and snug fire-places. Toys and sweetmeats run riot upon the counters, and the Christmas shopper appears mincingly in the long aisles of the great department stores. There are yet many days for making Christmas choices and the shopper has about her none of that mad, scrambling air so noticeable during the last few days of the runaway season.

In the streets Santa works at every corner, asking alms for the needy and the sick, that their Christmas, too, may be brightened and of good cheer. With the giving, the faces of the crowd take on a happier smile; the heart is answering to the message of "good will on earth." Inch by inch we are drawn into the merry-making, the bustle and the spirit of the time. In our minds we are turning over and over the problem of what for this dear one and what for that—and in our list we include those who are less apt to be joyous on this day than we are—and now comes the real joy of Christmas: the doing of good that makes our hearts sing with happiness!

There is the little girl we met away up in the pine woods last summer who will be delighted with a pretty book, the lame boy who sells papers at the corner of Hit and Miss streets, the widow who takes in washing out in the suburb where we live, the jolly boy, friend of a business associate who has so many things one cannot just decide on his present, the elevator man who has met us morning and night with a cheery good morning and a respectful good night—and then there are the closer ones: the mother, father, wife and babies!

What a galaxy of needy folk—for all are needy on "Christmas day!" Those who do not need food, or clothing, or money, need something that will prove our love, prove that we have not forgotten them and that on this, the day commemorating the coming of the King of Bethlehem, our heart is attuned to theirs in gladness and rejoicing.

And now the Folly and the mistletoe appear upon the street corners and rushing business men stop on their hurried way homeward to buy wreaths of the green and the red to hang in the windows of their homes and from the chandeliers of their living rooms.

On and on surges the spirit of Christmas! Like a mighty enveloping shaft of sunshine, it breaks through the clouds of every-day mediocrity and racing across the world sends its glowing glory into every home! Garlands hang everywhere, bells chime and merry laughter echoes through the halls of time. And with the ringing of the crystal spheres, peace spreads her mantle like a cloak and plenty sits enthroned among the merrymaking and the praise!

"Peace on earth, good-will to men."



"Tidings of Great Joy."

will be a special observance of Christmas by the Sunday School class next Sunday morning, at 10 o'clock, when the coming of the Messiah will be the theme of discussion. The pastor will also address the class on the important subject of "The Birth of Christ" and the "Holy Christmas Time". Rev. Huston will also speak in the evening on the New Year. A general invitation is extended for all to be present.

OBSERVANCE AT HOLY ROSARY CHURCH

Observance at Holy Rosary church will be as follows: First Mass at six o'clock, second Mass at 7:30, third Mass at 9 and High Mass at 10:30 o'clock. Masses at St. Agnes' academy will take place at midnight and 8 o'clock. There will be special music suitable for the feast of Christmas, and sermons appropriate to the occasion. Reception of the Blessed Sacrament will take place at all the Masses and the faithful are urged by the church to receive.

CHRISTMAS TREE AT M. E. CHURCH

Christmas observance at the M. E. church will consist of a Christmas tree this evening at the church, when old Santa Claus will be on hand to distribute presents to all the little ones and a number of the older people. A musical and literary program will be rendered and the evening will, doubtless, be one of extreme pleasure for all who attend.

The Herald wishes its readers a merry Christmas.

Attention Parents

Sunday, December 27th, 1908, will be Promotion and Rally day at the Alliance M. E. Sunday School. A special program has been prepared. Come and spend a pleasant, profitable hour with the children.

S. K. Warrick, Supt.



Find Out for Yourself

That Alliance has one of the best banks in Nebraska.

That this bank performs with intelligence and discretion any legitimate banking service it can properly undertake is proven by the volume of its business.

Our business now foots over

\$622,000.00

We thank our friends and customers for this splendid showing.

The First National Bank,

CHARTER NO. 4226.

At Alliance, in the State of Nebraska, at the close of business, November 27, 1908.

RESOURCES.	
Loans and discounts	\$294,753.80
Overdrafts, secured and unsecured	1,032.07
U. S. bonds to secure circulation	50,000.00
Other bonds to secure U. S. Deposits	25,800.00
Banking house, furniture and fixtures	11,000.00
Due from national banks (not reserve agents)	\$10,065.49
Due from State Banks and Bankers	9,155.38
Due from approved reserve agents	63,542.75
Checks and other cash items	328.00
Notes of other national banks	1,700.00
Fractional paper currency, nickels and cents	130.52
LAWFUL MONEY RESERVE IN BANK.	
VIZ:	
Specie	\$19,236.00
Legal tender notes	1,000.00
Redemption fund with U. S. Treasurer (5 per cent. of circulation)	2,500.00
Due from U. S. Treasurer other than 5 per cent. redemption fund	2.50
Total	\$622,168.03

LIABILITIES.	
Capital stock paid in	\$50,000.00
Surplus fund	50,000.00
Undivided profits, less expenses and taxes paid	2,850.67
National bank notes outstanding	50,000.00
Due to State Banks and Bankers	3,024.22
Individual deposits subject to check	285,002.40
Demand certificates of deposit	6,344.25
Time certificates of deposit	125,038.09
United States Deposits	45,000.00
Total	\$622,168.03

Total \$622,168.03
State of Nebraska, county of Box Butte, ss.
I, S. K. Warrick, cashier of the above-named bank, do solemnly swear that the above statement is true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

S. K. WARRICK, Cashier.

CORRECT—Attest:
A. M. HAMPTON, Directors.
A. S. REED,
CHAS. E. FORD.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 1st day of December, A. D. 1908.

EUGENE BURTON,
Notary Public.
[SEAL]
My commission expires July 7th, 1912.

The
First National Bank
of Alliance

The Christmas Spirit

Christmas is the season of kindness. For Christmas celebrates the coming of Christ into the world, and the heart of the Christ message is love—love expressing itself in homely channels of friendliness and good will, love that "suffereth long and is kind." If we have kindly emotions, let them have their way and blossom into kindly thoughts and kindly deeds. Let the free child spirit of open-hearted friendliness prevail. For this is the child's festival, celebrating the birth of a child, the wonderful Giver who gave Himself for mankind. Let us carry the Christmas spirit through all the following days that come and go with all their measure of care or pain or pleasure, and bear in our hearts the inspiration and hope of the blessed Christmas festival of love, bearing ever ringing above the sounds of earth and sense, the song of the angels heralding in the birth of the Saviour of mankind.

How the Churches will Observe Christmas

The holy season of Christmas is upon us, and all mankind will rejoice that the anniversary of the birth of the Christ Child is again at hand. In all the churches and homes of the city let this spirit prevail and songs of joy ring out now that man's redeemer is born. "Glory to God in the highest" is the song that startled the shepherds on the hill of Judea that eventful morn, when a baby was born in the village of Bethlehem who was King of kings. He brought with Him peace, and preached peace, gave to mankind all spirit of peace and love the world has never known. Therefore, let us stop in our rush through life long enough, at least, to stand on the hill-top of life and cry

out to heaven, "Blessed be the name of Jesus." Even though we may consider ourselves unworthy to raise our voices, and our conscience twist us for transgressions of our past life, let us forget all long enough to tender homage to our Creator and give Him the praise due a creator. Let us love our brother and give him the kiss of peace, so to speak, thereby rejoicing for mankind's redemption is at hand.

AT THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
There will be no observance of or religious exercises Christmas day at the First Presbyterian church but next Wednesday the congregation will enjoy a bounteous Christmas supper in the parlors of the church.

BAPTIST CHURCH HAS PROGRAM SUNDAY
Rev. J. M. Huston, pastor of the Baptist church, announces that there

CHRISTMAS IN THE COUNTRY

BY BYRON WILLIAMS

WE hear of Christmas early in the country! No sooner have the days faded into twilight at six o'clock, than mother begins her needle work. When the supper dishes are put away, she takes her place in the sitting room where father is reading his newspaper. Mitten for Willie, lace for Nell, slippers for Dad. Guardedly she works, her ear sensitive to the least intrusion, the slightest danger of a surprise.

And when the children come home after school, she hurries the work into a friendly drawer and turns her left hands to the regular routine! At the church the children hear of the Christmas tree and of the presents for everyone. The Sunday School takes up added numbers and the young men meet the young ladies to string popcorn and fashion decorations.

Delightful occupation! How, in the days now gone, all men have strung their hearts upon the threads and passed them awkwardly to rosy-cheeked maids with hair braided down their backs, with ruby lips and eyes, that sparkled with the first love glances!

And the Christmas parties, the sleighrides, the renewing of friendships with those who have been away at school and have returned for the season of gayety and good cheer!

And the stockings that are hung on Christmas eve in the country! In every home they reap their harvest year by year on Christmas morning. Reap their harvest as the "Merry Christmas!" salutation rings throughout the house.

And it is mother, usually, that steals in upon the sleeping ones and wishes them a glad and happy Christmas!

And always on Christmas morning she will do this! Though she be in the land of bliss beyond, or in the flesh of the present, she will speak to us of the Christmas morning, speak to us from her loving heart and wish us happiness. Nor time, nor death, nor changes, nor wars, nor misfortunes ever can take from a man this Christmas wish of mother's:

"A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!"
From the endless aeons of the turquoise sky she speaks to me on Christmas morning—and she speaks to you, too—but, mayhap, nearer by, for Christmas in the country is indissolubly associated with her. And for that reason, Christmas in the country is doubly dear to me—and doubly sacred!

"With trembling fingers did we weave
The holly round the Christmas hearth;
A rainy cloud possess'd the earth,
And sadly fell our Christmas-eve."



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