



### The City's Christmas Tree.

A woman, they say, thought of the first community Christmas tree. It was erected in Madison square, in New York city. There was something stimulating, something highly infectious, in the idea, for now cities and villages all over America are erecting Christmas trees in their public squares, says the Delimitor.

They are wonderful things, these community Christmas trees, not for their beauty alone, but for the spirit they arouse in the towns where they are found. They are the village center for Christmas joy, Christmas services, without sectarian barriers, are held about them. Christmas carols are sung at their bases. None so poor or so world worn or so hurried but he must see, must thrill with friend and stranger alike to this tree for all the world. It brings the child in the manger to every soul in the community.

The Christmas tree is essentially a symbol of the north and of the home. Yet it is inextricably blended in our minds with our faith, which is desert bred.

Most of the great religions of the world were born of some solitary spirit who sought the lonely sand waste and there wrought out that which made the desert of his soul "blossom like the rose." He who gave us the great faith went again and again out into the burning yellow barrens, where the tender, brooding, violet sky awaited him; where all the desert world, so fearful in its unadorned, so overwhelming in its solitude, found focused in him all its pulsing radiance, as though in him were centered the heartbeat of the universe. In the verdure, sand driven, star hung desert the Babe with his listening ear heard, with his dreaming eyes saw, with his throbbing heart felt, the faith that turned men's faces forever from the clod to the cross.

Why, then, should the fir tree stand in our public square, sign and symbol of that desert birth? Whatever its physical history, why should breathless thousands, hungry of body or of spirit, looking on the great pine tree hung with electric bulbs, backed by skyscrapers, topped by smoke, find in its incoherent beauty the urge set in motion by the desert bred Babe?

One would have said of the home Christmas trees that, after all, it was the gifts that gave them their glamour. There are no gifts on the community Christmas trees, yet thousands and thousands of us look on them with the thrill that belongs to faith alone. One wonders why.

Perhaps this is the reason: The community Christmas tree symbolizes that which the home Christmas tree does not. It symbolizes Christmas for all the world. It means that the dawn of real brotherhood is tinting our horizon. It means, and particularly this Christmas it means, that in spite of poverty and bloodshed, in spite of greed and despair, there are in increasing numbers in the world those who would share with the world all that sacred beauty and hope that are the individual's holy of holies, the most difficult of all one's spiritual riches to share.

It is the symbol of green forest beauty, of the druid's wild faith, of the Teuton's largess and always of giving, giving. Not strange that forever in our minds it should be inseparable from the birthday of him who gave supremacy; not strange, but utterly soul satisfying, that finally we have joined our hands and placed the Christmas tree in the market place—symbol that, at last, man may give himself to man.

"God bless us!" said Tiny Tim on Christmas day. "God bless us every one!" Dickens dreamed of a Christmas festival that should belong to all. His Tiny Tim, lame and wistful, might have foreshadowed the joy starved world that now crowds around the market place tree, saying as he said, "God bless us every one!"

### Washington's City Christmas.

"Peace on Earth, Good Will to Men." This sentence, blazing from a brilliantly lighted electric placard raised almost to the dome of the capitol, reflected the predominant sentiment of thousands who assembled at the capitol plaza to celebrate Washington's "community Christmas." A giant Norway spruce, illuminated with glimmering red, white and blue electric bulbs; the Marine band, a huge electric star of the east and a chorus of 1,000 singers, with the capitol itself outlined as the background against the dark curtain of the sky, made a scene of impressive beauty. Tableaux representing the story of the Nativity were presented in the improvised amphitheater. In the audience were many men and women well known throughout the country, including high government officials.

### ON CHRISTMAS EVE



### The Christmas Season

Not a Day but Weeks Needed to Manifest Its Spirit.

CHRISTMAS proper is never a day. It is really a week or about a month. When the almanac says December has come, then all hearts begin to feel the presence of that midwinter festival. Each day adds to this feeling.

The Romans perceived that one day did not contain all the import of the midwinter gaiety. Their Saturnalia continued seven days. It began as a one day celebration and was observed Dec. 19; but, as it was soon found that brief period was a cup too small to contain the wine of pleasure, it was extended to three days. At last it was enlarged by the Emperor Claudian so as to take in the 26th. In form the festival has now been changed back into the one-day shape, but in reality Christmas is much larger under our presidents than it was under Claudian and Caligula.

It is a great midwinter period and may well be looked upon as a type of the public happiness or the public misfortunes of a given date. In the early Christian church it became a single day, because being asked to stand for the birth of Jesus it had to be a formal day rather than a week, but no such limitation could keep it from having adjacent times which partook of its spirit as dawn partakes of day.—Professor David Swing.

### The Old Christmas Story



### The Story of the Magi.

The story of the Magi, as it is given by the evangelist Matthew, is astonishingly brief and unadorned. He tells us without preface that when Jesus was born in Bethlehem certain foreigners arrived at Jerusalem.

He does not tell us how many they were nor of what race nor of what station of life, although it is fair to infer from the consideration with which they were received at the court of Herod and from the fact that they carried treasure boxes with them that they were persons of distinction.

The most important statement in regard to them is that they were Magians—that is to say, disciples of Zoroaster and members of the sacred or priestly order of Persia, which was then widely scattered among the oriental nations and included men of exalted rank. They came from the east, a word which to the dwellers in Palestine could hardly have any other meaning than the ancient region of Chaldea, lying beyond the Jordan and the desert.

Their explanation of their journey to Herod was that they had seen an appearance in the heavens (whether one star or many or a comet they did not say) which led them to believe that the King of the Jews had been born, and they had come to do reverence to him. Herod was greatly troubled at hearing this and sent for the chief priests and scribes to inquire where the prophets had foretold that the Messiah should be born.

They answered at once that Bethlehem was the chosen place. Then Herod, having asked the Magi how long it was since they first saw the appearance in the sky, sent them away to Bethlehem, promising that when they had found the young Christ he also would come to do reverence to him.

Having set out on their journey, they saw once more the celestial sign, and its motion was such that it guided them to the place where Jesus was. Coming into the house—for Joseph had now found better shelter than a stable—they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and prostrated themselves before him in worship. Opening their treasure chests, they presented to him gifts of gold and frankincense and myrrh. Then, being warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they took another road into their own country.

The conjunction of the planets Jupiter and Saturn is one of the rarest of sidereal events. It occurs only once in 800 years. This conjunction, all astronomers agree, happened no less than three times in the year 747 A. U. C., shortly before the birth of Christ.

It may be that we have here, in this "fairy tale of science," a confirmation of this beautiful story of religion, a hint and trace of

The light that led the holy elders with their gifts of myrrh.—Rev. Dr. Henry van Dyke in Harper's Magazine.

### NURSES REGISTRY

CITY HOSPITAL  
NORTH PLATTE, NEBRASKA.

GRADUATE NURSES      PHONE 82      DOMESTIC NURSES

We are in a position to furnish competent nurses for physicians, on short notice.

Call Phone 82 and state whether you want graduate or domestic nurse and we will complete all the arrangements for you without charge.

### CITY HOSPITAL

607 LOCUST STREET  
NORTH PLATTE, NEBRASKA.  
PHONE 82

Sanitary      Newly Furnished      Fireproof

This institution is now open for the Reception and Treatment of Surgical, Medical and Obstetrical cases.

A Strictly Modern Hospital for the convenience of the physicians of North Platte and country tributary thereto.

# Maxwell

## The "Wonder Car"

No "Extras" To Buy

The new Maxwell is complete in every detail. A famous make of high-grade speedometer is supplied. In addition to the equipment listed below, the price of the car includes: Front license bracket, ingenious combination rear license and tail-light bracket with spare tire carrier; electric horn, robe rail, anti-skid rear tires, foot accelerator, full set of tools, etc., etc.

We are waiting to take you for a test ride in the car that has broken all low "First-Cost" records, and is breaking all low "After-Cost" records.

One Man Mohair Top \$655 Electric Starter  
Demountable Rims \$655 Electric Lights  
Rain Vision Windshield Magneto Ignition

FOR DETROIT

"Every Road is a Maxwell Road"

C. M. TROTTER, Agent North Platte.

## For Chilly Mornings

Dress in comfort with a

### PERFECTION SMOKELESS OIL HEATER

Use Perfection Oil for best results.

STANDARD OIL COMPANY (Nebraska) Omaha

J. B. REDFIELD.  
PHYSICIAN & SURGEON

Successor to  
PHYSICIAN & SURGEONS HOSPITAL  
Drs. Redfield & Redfield  
Office Phone 642      Res. Phone 676

---

**BERYL HAHN,**  
TEACHER OF PIANO  
412 East Third Street.  
Phone Red 104.

Geo. B. Dent,  
Physician and Surgeon.

Special Attention given to Surgery and Obstetrics.

Office: Building and Loan Building  
Phones: Office 130      Residence 115

JOHN S. SIMMS, M. D.,  
Physician and Surgeon

Office B. & L. Building, Second Floor.  
Phone, Office, 83; Residence 38.

DR. J. S. TWINEM,  
Physician and Surgeon.

Special Attention Given to Gynecology, Obstetrics and Children's Diseases.

Office McDonald State Bank Building,  
Corner Sixth and Dewey Streets.  
Phones, Office 183, Residence 283

### NORTH PLATTE ..General Hospital..

(Incorporated)

Phone 58      723 Locust Street

A modern institution for the scientific treatment of medical, surgical and confinement cases. Completely equipped X-Ray and diagnostic laboratories.

Geo. B. Dent, M. D.      V. Lucas, M. D.  
J. B. Redfield, M. D.      J. S. Simms, M. D.  
Miss Elise Sieman, Supt.

Office phone 241. Res. phone 217

L. C. DROST,  
Osteopathic Physician.  
North Platte, Nebraska.  
McDonald Bank Building.

Hospital Phone Black 633.  
House Phone Black 633.

W. T. PRITCHARD,  
Graduate Veterinarian

Eight years a Government Veterinarian. Hospital 218 south Locust St., one-half block southwest of the Court House.

## I Am Paying More for HIDES

than anyone else. Before you sell come and see me.

We are paying \$10 Per ton for Dry Bones.

North Platte Junk House  
Lock's Old Barn.

## Cigars in the Home

For the next five months smokers will spend their evenings indoors, and what is more convenient and more pleasurable than a box of cigars at home, easily accessible when you have an inclination to smoke. Try a box of our home-made and hand-made cigars, the kind that are a little better than you buy elsewhere for the same price.

We also carry a full line of tobacco and smokers' articles.

J. F. Schmalzried.

## Hogs and Cattle

Bought and highest market prices paid

PHONES \*  
Residence Red 636      Office 459

C. H. WALTERS.