

Living Up to Youth.

"How do you keep so youthful?" somebody, says a London correspondent, recently asked King Edward VII. Thereupon his majesty is alleged to have replied: "The secret is, to surround yourself with a younger generation than your own, and to live up to it." The story may not be authentic; for royalty, even when genial and popular, does not permit itself to be catechized in any such tactless, free-and-easy fashion. But the king might have made the reply truthfully; and it is a true saying, whether he said it or not. Two Americans of 60 odd, friends in earlier years, met after long separation, and one, who was an old man and admitted it, said, almost fretfully, to the other, "Why are you so young?" The other, who had been for half his life the head of a public school, looked toward the splendid building that sheltered a thousand boys and girls. "With that great wave of youthfulness beating up against me all the time, how can I grow old?" he answered. The schoolmaster would have been warranted in using the words attributed to the king. Encompassed by youth, and glad to be so, he "lived up to it." That would mean, perhaps, says the Youth's Companion, that he clung to his early enthusiasms, including many which aging men might term illusions; that, while he thought and spoke sincerely, he kept a generous belief in others; that he refused to brood over the past, made much of the present, and looked always hopefully toward the future. For living up to youth means cherishing its spirit; and upon the spirit of youth Time hesitates to lay a withering hand.

Not a Meddlesome Commission.

The first hearing of the Commission on Country Life, held at College Park, Md., served to dispel some erroneous notions as to the purposes of that body. Prof. L. H. Bailey in an address explained that the commission has no idea of "investigating" the farmer. The design is not to go about inquiring officiously and offensively into matters which are really of a private nature, but to get at facts which can be useful and valuable to all concerned. For some reason, says the Troy (N. Y.) Times, there have been attempts to create the belief that the commission is likely to be meddlesome and unduly prying. Nothing could be farther from the intention, and a statement by way of explanation from a man of Prof. Bailey's character and standing is quite sufficient to set matters right. Prof. Bailey is one of the most successful teachers of practical farming in the country, and those associated with him on the commission are workers along the same line. The result of the commission's efforts cannot fall to be highly valuable to agriculturists.

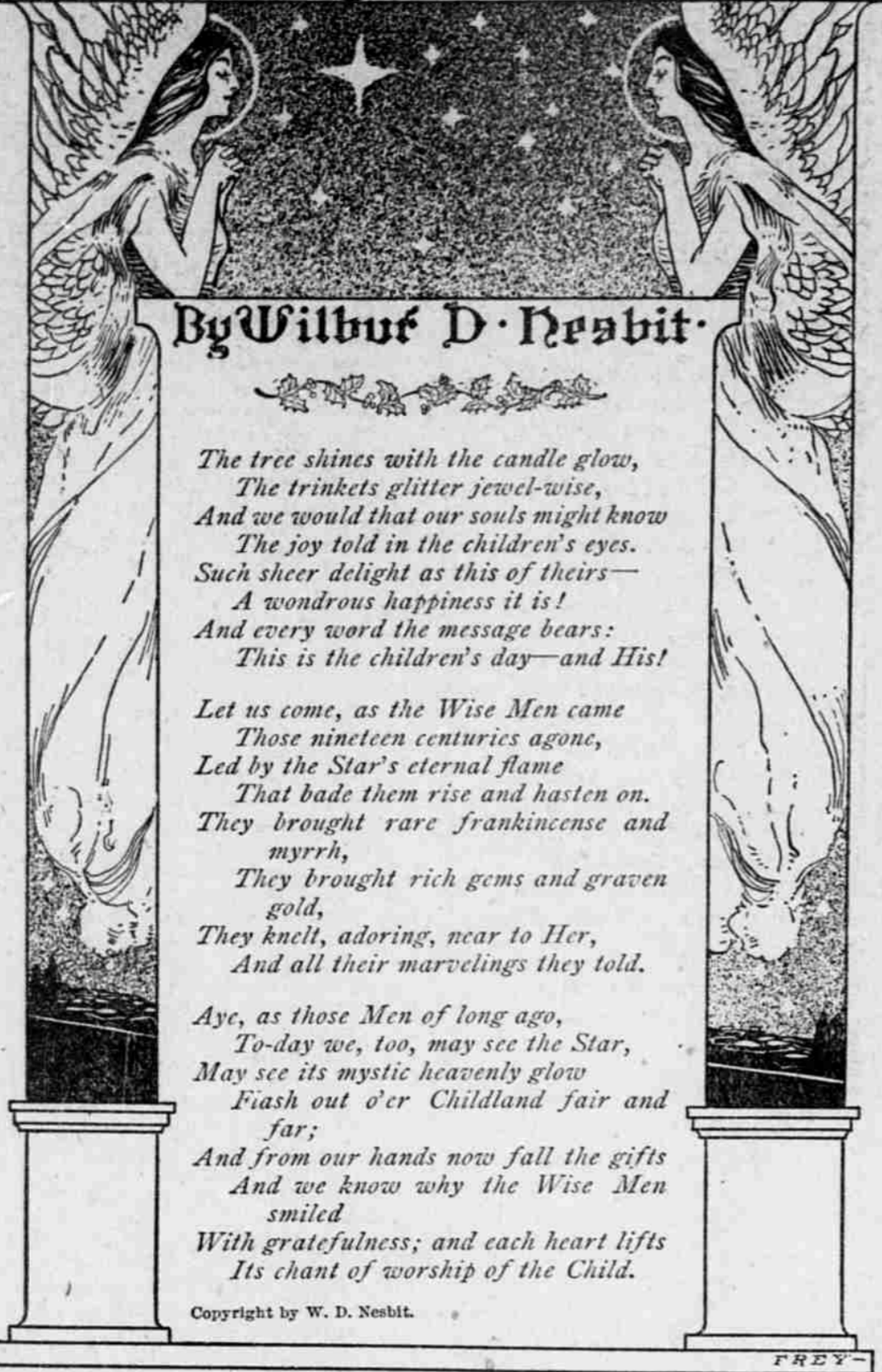
Lately an educational expert stigmatized American women the laziest in the world, and as bringing up their children in the same path of slothful avoidance of all trouble and effort. Now a western man, speaking at a meeting of a patriotic society, declares that the women of the day have deteriorated, and that few would follow their husbands into privation and danger, as did the wives of the pioneers of American history. It is easy to make these wholesale, superficial charges and the ease, apparently, is making it a fashion, but the men making them would find it hard to prove them. The women of the nation, as a whole, are as womanly and as wholesome as they ever were. If the contrary were the case, this country would not to-day be occupying its proud position among the nations of the world, for every nation is what its women make it. It is time to call a halt on these reckless seekers for relief, regardless of truth.

One of the teachers in the Vevay schools the other day asked her class the origin of the word stateroom, as applied to berths on steamboats. Not one in the class could answer the question, and we doubt if there are many people who could. The word, says Vevay (Ind.) Revue, originated with the newspapers many years ago. At that time a magnificent steamer was built and 35 sleeping rooms were made alongside the cabin. At that time there were 35 states in the union, and a room was named for each state. Later the state of Texas was added to the union, and the sleeping apartments set aside for the officers of the boat was dubbed "Texas."

The English suffragettes are now about to organize a cavalry troop among themselves, being tired of walking and believing that when mounted they will have an advantage over the police in their suffrage parades. If they don't watch out parliament and the cabinet will be captured bodily by these aggressive ladies yet.

A Parisian metallurgical engineer claims to have perfected a process of welding copper to steel wire so as to make a non-corrosive coating.

The Day of the Child



By Wilbur D. Nesbit

The tree shines with the candle glow,
The trinkets glitter jewel-wise,
And we would that our souls might know
The joy told in the children's eyes.
Such sheer delight as this of theirs—
A wondrous happiness it is!
And every word the message bears:
This is the children's day—and His!

Let us come, as the Wise Men came
Those nineteen centuries ago,
Led by the Star's eternal flame
That bade them rise and hasten on.
They brought rare frankincense and myrrh,
They brought rich gems and graven gold,
They knelt, adoring, near to Her,
And all their marvelings they told.

Aye, as those Men of long ago,
To-day we, too, may see the Star,
May see its mystic heavenly glow
Flash out o'er Childland fair and far;
And from our hands now fall the gifts
And we know why the Wise Men smiled
With gratefulness; and each heart lifts
Its chant of worship of the Child.

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THE CHRISTMAS OF TODAY



WHILE the ancient traditions of Christmas time have been handed down from generation to generation for hundreds of years the holiday has been so modernized and improved of late that naught save its ancient lore and customs remain. In this day the old form of celebrating the day is seldom seen. As the yule log vanished with the advent of the stove so the simple ways which amused the youngsters of yesterday have disappeared and in their stead comes to-day an endless line of mechanical devices. The dolls of to-day open and close their eyes and even speak; the toy steam train runs by real steam power; the miniature electric car is driven by real electricity; the toy animals and insects move about like real life. Now Christmas trees are purchased at the grocery store and are illuminated at night with tiny electric lights instead of candles. Instead of popcorn balls and cornucopias of candy the tree is decorated with gilt and tinsel ropes and stars. More automobile horns are heard now on Christmas day than sleigh bells. Steam heat and electric radiators take the place of open fires and plenty of money makes the day even more enjoyable than ever before.

Much Due to Electricity.
Electricity, which has invaded every nook and cranny of life to-day, has assisted more than any one thing in modernizing the Christmas celebration. The electric cars hurry Christmas callers from house to house. On Christmas eve the buildings and

streets are ablaze with countless electric lights. Electric telephones and telegraph are wishing every one many happy returns of the day. The wireless carries "Merry Christmas" from ship to ship and the electric cable flashes the good will of governments around the earth.

The new electric ovens sizzle with the roasting turkey and the electric stove is rushed to prepare the many appetizing viands for which the day of feast calls. Electric door-bells are jingling; electrical musical instruments furnish the music for the Christmas carols; the electric motors, which have worked so faithfully in preparing the many valuable presents of a thousand different varieties, are enjoying a day's rest after the hustling days of the holiday trade.

Useful Christmas Presents.

Year by year it grows more the custom to make Christmas presents just as useful as possible. While expense is not considered so material as it used to be it is important that the gifts should be useful as well as ornamental. This is as it should be. Here again electricity finds a useful field. The development of the electric heating and cooking devices has added a host of valuable and useful things which are always acceptable Christmas gifts. The electric chaffing dish, electric shaving mug and electric coffee percolator will be numbered among the most conspicuous of useful Christmas presents. The electrical list also contains electric flat-irons, electric cookers, luminous radiators, massage machines, hair dryers, curling iron heaters, water heaters, tea kettles, baby milk warmer and a number of other useful things, not to mention the electric toys.

This year will see less money wasted for useless trinkets than ever before.



Christmas Decorations.

Let the house be bright and cheerful at Christmas, with plenty of holly and mistletoe distributed throughout. If there is a chandelier in the dining-room have it hung with evergreens and holly, and from that carry long ropes of greens to each corner of the room, thus forming a canopy for the table. Fasten wreaths at all the windows. Red and green is most appropriate for the Christmas table. In the center place a bowl filled with red carnations surrounded with holly, and four single candles in silver or glass sticks with scarlet shades to further carry out the bright and cheering color scheme. At each place have a miniature Christmas tree to which place cards are tied with narrow, red ribbon. If preferred the centerpiece may also be a tree of a larger size. Boxes representing Santa Claus and filled with bonbons make appropriate souvenirs, for the possession of a "sweet tooth" is by no means confined to the extremely juvenile.

Gifts from Wall Paper.

Get a sample book of wall paper which can be had for the asking when the season is over. For a waste paper basket cut a pattern six inches at the top, tapering to four inches at the bottom, and 12 inches high, which is a good size for a lady's desk. Cut four sections from cardboard and a square 4x1 inches for the bottom. Cover the outside of each piece with a pretty design of the wall paper, cutting the pieces a little larger than cardboard, pasting the edges on to the wrong side, use a contrasting color for the inside, plain paper is prettier and cut just the size of the section. Punch holes near the top and bottom of each piece and two on each side of the bottom piece, near corner; tie the pieces together with baby ribbon, it requiring about three yards. One can make different sizes, small ones for hair receivers or with a little pad in bottom for jewelry, also glove and handkerchief boxes. Cover empty thread boxes and fill with home-made candy.

State Journal



ANNOUNCES its third annual bargain week during which subscriptions will be accepted for the whole year or 1909 at the cut price of only \$3 without Sunday, or \$4 including Sunday. **This Bargain Rate is good only during the week of December 21 to 28** and the regular rates after that date will be \$4 and \$5. All new subscriptions commence January 1 and continue until January 1, 1910 at the \$3 and \$4 rate. All papers stopped at the end of that time without any effort on your part. One reason why this cheap price can be made on such a big newspaper is that everybody pays in advance, thus having no dead-beat bills. You pay only for your own paper this way. Next, by cutting out traveling solicitors' salaries, hotel bills and railroad fare, and doing all business through Uncle Sam's mails at a cost of only a couple cents. When an agent calls on you to present a proposition, remember you pay every cent of his salary and expenses; in most cases the solicitor gets more than you are making. It's a wasteful method and you pay for the waste. Everybody is trying to dodge the middleman--here's a chance to cut him out. **The Journal does not print liquor advertisements or unclean medical stuff accepted by other state dailies.** Why not protect your family from impure advertising? **The Journal is not under obligations to a political clique because it has no job to hold or none to get.** It is free to treat every subject in the interests of the people. No matter about your politics, during the legislative session you will find **The State Journal** the one newspaper whose reports are completest, fairest and earliest. We are right on the ground and spend the money to get the news. Remember, just this one week of cut-price and then back to the old rate. Why not try this big state paper until January 1, 1910, at this low price. Send your money to

State Journal, Lincoln, Nebraska

Santa's Biography

Santa Claus, the most widely known and popular individual on earth, was born so long ago that it would not be ladylike for him to acknowledge it, so nobody knows his exact age. Neither is it known just where he was born, nor who his parents were, but they must have been eminently respectable people, for everybody nowadays claims kin with him. He is the only untitled person whom nobody calls "Mister," and he is a bachelor of excellent repute. Although he gives away more at Christmas than Mr. Carnegie and Mr. Rockefeller ever thought of giving, he is not classed with the millionaires. Still he shows a preference for that class and he puts more in their stockings than he puts in the stockings of the poor. Perhaps he has a taste for fine hosiery. Some bachelors do. In

any event, the fact remains that the rich get more out of him than the poor do. Maybe he is not altogether to blame for that. Anyway he doesn't ride around in an automobile. This may be because he wants to save more to give away. At the same time he doesn't ride in the street cars. So there you are.

Santa Claus is the only truly religious person, for he never asks anybody what church he belongs to before taking up his stocking to fill it. Neither does he care a continental about politics, and he never votes. He is especially fond of children, and the children are so dead stuck on him that they want him to come around every day in the year. Their parents, however, don't feel so much that way about it, and Santa Claus kindly con-

siders their feelings in the matter. He knows enough not to be anxious to work a good thing to a frazzle.

Nobody knows where Santa Claus lives in the summer, also the spring and fall and most of the winter, but wherever it is it must be a healthy place, because he always shows up at Christmas looking so fat and jolly that really he ought to advertise the location and take in boarders. There is one thing certain, if he did there wouldn't be any "No-Children-Taken" signs around the establishment.

Santa Claus confines his attention almost exclusively to mankind, the lower animals, except the reindeer, having no pull with him whatever. This is a well-known fact in natural history, which may be proved by pictures of Santa Claus and his holiday turn-out coming over the snowy roofs.

When Santa Claus dies there will be the biggest funeral ever heard of, but there is not much likelihood of that event ever happening as long as there are any children alive. When they are all gone Santa Claus will go too, for what's the use of his monkeying with grown-ups?

RECORD HARD TO BEAT.

Harper's Weekly Confident It Has Discovered Meanest Woman.

The meanest woman in the world has been discovered. She lives at Penatanguish, on the Maine coast. Willie Boggs, a little orphan who works like a man and saves all he earns in the hope of going to college, asked her if she didn't want a mess of clams. She did. Willie took the

basket and the clam-digger, hastened down to the beach at low tide, and, after two hours' hard work, returned with a bushel of quahogs.

"How much do I owe ye?" the meanest woman inquired.

"Why—er—little Willie hesitated, knowing that she wouldn't pay the regular market price, 20 cents—"why—er—I guess about fifteen cents, Miss Prudence."

"All right," said she, and handed him a dime.

"But that's only ten cents," Willie modestly objected.

"That's right," Miss Prudence reassured him. "I'm charging ye five cents for the use of the clam-digger."

And the clam-digger was one she had borrowed from a neighbor that morning.—Harper's Weekly.

If one is sufficiently curious about what is going to happen to-morrow he will never commit suicide.—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.