

The Meaning Of Christmas

Vice President Coolidge Places Construction on the Greatest Event in Human History

Christmas has but one meaning, the Nativity, writes Vice President Coolidge in the New York Evening Post. The goodness, the justice, but also the mercy, the helping hand of God. This, the greatest event in human history, has a spiritual meaning. The Saviour came to minister to the spiritual nature of man. He showed the true glory and importance of man, and helping him showed the duty of helping one another. Endowed with the power, yet He did not bestow material blessings or set up an earthly kingdom. But to follow Him gave the power to command all these.

To get the world to see the true meaning of things, that is the redemption. The creation was all declared good. It can be perverted. The enemy forever strives "out of good still to find means of evil." The material welfare of men does not come first, to make it first make it first destroying and destroyed. Christmas is not instituted for the purposes of earning the reward of gifts, but for giving them in their true significance. "The wages of sin is death, eternal life is the gift of God."

Belief of the Peasants

Old Christmas Superstitions Handed Down from Past Ages to the Ignorant Europeans

The peasantry of Europe have handed down to them from their ancestors. Just now for these simple peasants, belief is to be won. Light is let out of Christ. When you see spirits, when you are born at sermon time, when you see some one in the night, when you die within the year, when you see a raw egg, fasting on Christmas morn, you can carry heavy weights. It is unlucky to do anything from the house on Christmas morning until some thing has been brought in. It is unlucky to give a neighbor coal to kindle a fire with on Christmas morning.

If the fire burns brightly on Christmas morning, it betokens prosperity during the year; if it goes out, it betokens adversity. If the log howls the night before Christmas, it will go mad within the year.

If you steal anything at Christmas without being caught, you will steal safely for a year.

On Christmas eve thrash the grass with a flail; end with only one shirt on, and the grass will grow well next year.

Put wet strawbands around the ear of trees on Christmas eve, and it will make them fruitful.

On Christmas eve put a stone on every tree, and they will bear the best.

Beat the trees on Christmas eve, and they will bear the more.

After a Christmas dinner you may set the tablecloth over the bare ground under the open sky; it will grow on the spot.

On Christmas day or eve, you may hang a washcloth out on the hedge and then groom the horses with it, they will grow fat.

It is often as the cock crows on Christmas eve, the quarter of corn of the widdow and sorcerers of the neighborhood will be as dead.

CHRISTMAS FOR THE BABIES.

Never deny the babies their Christmas! It is the shining seal upon a year of happiness. Let them believe in Santa Claus, or St. Nicholas, or Kris Kringle, or whatever name the jolly Dutch bear bears in your region.

Old And New Christmas Days

Nobody has been able to decide Whether January 6 or December 25 is Correct Date

Christmas * day seems wedded to December 25. A summer or a springtime Christmas with no holy, no mistletoe, no frost, no snow would not be the real thing at all, observes London Answers.

The majority of our beautiful Christmas carols, too, redolent as they are in the winter, "Sung amid the Winter's Snow", would be hopelessly incongruous. Emigrants to Australia from the mother country have confessed that it has taken them many years before they could get in any way used to what is practically a mild summer Christmas.

Yet December 25 is merely an accommodation date for the birthday of Christ, Christmas Day. The year, too, is wrong. Most people would take it for granted that Christ was born in A. D. 1, literally, of course, the year of our Lord, No. 1.

But our chronology is four years out. This should be 1925 and not 1921, because Christmas Day could not, on indisputable historical testimony, have been later than February B. C. 41.

That settles the year of the first Christmas, but all attempts to fix the actual day and month of Christmas have failed.

And as regards the present date, Christmas like Easter, took some centuries before a settlement was arrived at. In the first centuries of Christianity several important Eastern churches observed January 6 as Christmas day. The Armenian Christians do so still.

Gradually, however, uniformity was attained, but not before the fifth century. In that connection it must be remembered that for quite a long period this country was divided on the question of Christmas. Some people persisted in observing "old" Christmas day.

But all will agree that December 25, even if it is not the actual date of Christ's birth, is a happy choice.

Our present day Christmas, festival and holiday, breaks the long winter, and what better time could there be for family reunions? The cold and unpleasantness outside make it all the more agreeable to keep warm and snug inside. It keeps us together in every sense.

Make Merry On Christmas

Calabrian Minstrels of Rome With Silvan Pipes, Started Celebration Ten Days in Advance.

Christmas used to be celebrated in Rome by the arrival of Calabrian minstrels with their silvan pipes ten days before Christmas. In every street of the historic city they would play their wild, plaintive music before the shrines of the Madonna. These minstrels or pifferari as they were called, became rare after the latter part of the 19th century. In Sicily men came down from the mountains 9 days before Christmas to sing a novena to a plaintive melody accompanied by violin and cello.

The music of chiming bells features Christmas the world over. In the Philippines the dawn of Christmas is ushered in by the ringing of bells in scores of church towers calling the people to service. In the dark they flock to the churches to the familiar notes of the Adagio.

The music loving world agrees with the stranger in Bracebridge hall. I do not know a grander effect of music on the moral feelings than to hear the full choir and the pealing organ performing a Christmas anthem in a cathedral and filling every part of the vast pile with triumphant harmony.

December

(A. U. Brander.)

December! With thy weary waste of snow and bitter cold; through which the low-horizoned, wintry sun, With cheering warmth Ne'er hopes to penetrate; But, looking pitifully down Upon a frozen world, Both to itself recall The blithesome days of summer, Past and gone. What have ye now, By way of compensation sweet, To offer for this bleak tempestuousness Of winter storm. That comes upon our Northland Year by year?

"My bitter cold I send, That ye may know the warmth And comfort of the Christmas fires; Which are but symbols, Of the cheering glow of Love, That lies within the heart Of all mankind. At this best season of the year; When Christ your King Was in a manger born, At Bethlehem."

The Poet Shepherd Of Bethlehem

The youngest was absent, keeping the sheep, a boy of no particular account in the presence of the first born and his atavard brethren, yet a beautiful, ruddy, and as a the dew of the morning, as are still the gentle and handsome race that inhabit Bethlehem", writes Mrs. Oliphant, referring to the time in David's history that the Prophet Samuel made his visit to the household of Jesse.

"In the leisure of his occupation no doubt this youth had begun to feel the rising of the poet's passion, the elation and inspiration of that gift which more than any other lifts up the heart. The light that never was on sea or shore lit up for him the beloved valley, the encircling hills. He had already seen in his waking dreams in the early light, the sun, all radiant in triumph and glory, come forth like a bridegroom from his chamber, and had considered the heavens, when suddenly as the day ended, the moon and stars came forth silently proclaiming the praises of the Lord. All these sounds and sights had entered into his heart."

"How it was that the anointing of David, which was Samuel's special mission, attracted so little notice, it is difficult to tell, but neither the family nor David himself seem to have attached any importance to it. . . . When the sacrifice and the feast which Samuel came to make at Bethlehem were accomplished, the townfolk escorted the prophet back upon his way to his house at Ramah, young David, to whom he had shown such special favor, first among the nimble lads that ran by the old man's side as he ambled upon his mule along the narrow paths between the fields, as still the young shepherds run, to anticipate any wish of the great man they escorted and accompany, to lead his beast over the hard places of the way, and render him that reverential homage which is never so perfect as in the East. And then the soft landscape, the shepherd had, disappeared from our vision for a time.

Of the shepherd's youthful life we have no further record except in the songs which, whether produced then or in an after day, are doubtless the product of his thoughts and experience as he watched his flocks by night, or led them about during the day by the green pastures and beside the quiet waters. Perhaps he did not require so much command of language as the Psalm which we all know, but it must have been in his mind as he led his sheep over the pleasant slopes and flowery turf of his father's pastureland. The reader will forgive me if I quote that Psalm in the version given by the first of the translators, the homeliest, yet faithful, translation of David's shepherd song:

"The Lord's my Shepherd, I'll not want. He makes me down to lie In pastures green: He leadeth me The quiet waters by. . . . Goodness and mercy all my life Shall surely follow me. And in God's house for evermore My dwelling place shall be."

"Another picture never to be obliterated came into his dreaming soul when he sat by night, with that great eastern heaven stretched out above him, the balmy breath of the wonderful atmosphere, the stars so near in the pulsations of ineffable light, the broad, serene calm of the moon.

"When I consider Thy heavens, The work of Thy fingers, The moon and the stars, Which Thou has ordained: What is man, That Thou art mindful of him? What is man, That Thou visitest him?"

"Modern critics are eager to assure us that these wonderful words could not have come from the lips of the shepherd youth of Bethlehem. But there is no ground for his assertion that can weigh for a moment against the long continued tradition in their favor of his nation, the only one on earth which can claim any historical connection with times beyond the first few years of history. They have some time for thousands of years; they follow all the indications of his career. Few poems of later times can have a more satisfactory guarantee."

KNOW CANADA CONTEST

Two Thousand Dollars in Cash Prizes

Open to Every Reader of The Daily Examiner

The contest consists of fifty rebus pictures representing fifty Post Offices in Canada. Begin today with Nos. 21 to 24--the first twenty may be had free on application to this office.

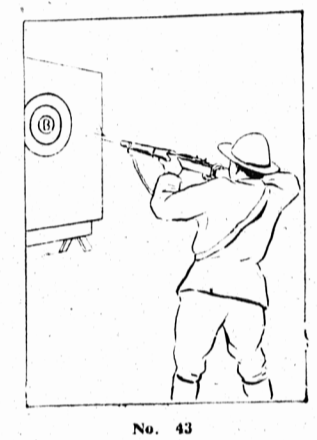
The contest is conducted by The Examiner and the Herald and Weekly Star of Montreal. A year's subscription to both papers at regular rates would cost \$4.50 We offer them for one year each for only \$3.00. Can you solve these four rebus pictures representing four Canadian Post Offices.



No. 41



No. 42



No. 43



No. 44

The above four pictures may look easy but a mistake can be made. Competitors will find the list of Post Offices from which the pictures are selected a great help. See 2nd items of terms of contest.

TERMS OF CONTEST

The contest is open to any member of a family one of whose members is a subscriber to either the Charlottetown Examiner or The Family Herald and Weekly Star of Montreal.

A list of approximately 2,000 Post Offices in Canada from which the fifty rebus pictures will be selected will be sent free to any contestant, who, before December 1st, 1921, sends one new subscriber to either the Examiner or The Family Herald and Weekly Star. It will also contain a blank form on which to fill in your answers and hints to help you arrive at the correct answers. A self-addressed stamped envelope should be sent with the new subscription for the return of the printed list.

One NEW subscriber to either the Examiner or The Family Herald and Weekly Star sent in by a competitor will take the place of one incorrect answer in the competition, thus 49 correct answers and one NEW subscriber will count as 50 correct answers or 50 points.

Two NEW subscribers to either paper will take the place of two incorrect answers, thus 48 correct answers and two new subscribers will count as 50 correct answers.

Three NEW subscribers to either paper will take the place of three incorrect answers, thus 47 correct answers and three new subscribers will count as 50 correct answers.

Four NEW subscribers to either paper will take the place of four incorrect answers, thus 46 correct answers and four NEW subscribers will count as 50 correct answers.

Five NEW subscribers to either paper will take the place of five incorrect answers, thus 45 correct answers and five NEW subscription will count as 50 correct answers.

Five NEW subscriptions to either paper will be the limit to be credited in the competition. This places all contestants on an equal footing.

Fifty correct answers and five NEW subscriptions to either paper will be the highest points obtainable.

Four pictures will be published each week simultaneously in the Charlottetown Examiner and The Family Herald and Weekly Star. Answers MUST NOT be sent in until the 50 drawings have appeared in both papers. Ample notice will be given.

In case of a tie the prizes will be divided. For instance, if there are three who have earned say 54 points and no one has obtained the maximum of 55 the first three prizes totalling \$850 would be divided amongst them.

The decision of the Editor of The Family Herald will be final.

No employees of the Charlottetown Examiner or The Family Herald are allowed to compete.

Contest will begin early in October. See that your subscription to the Examiner and The Family Herald is paid well in advance and prevent losing a single issue. Back numbers cannot be supplied.

New subscribers may enter the contest by complying with the above conditions.

Address--The Examiner, Charlottetown, or The Family Herald and Weekly Star, Montreal.

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The Family Herald and Weekly Star costs \$2.00 a year.

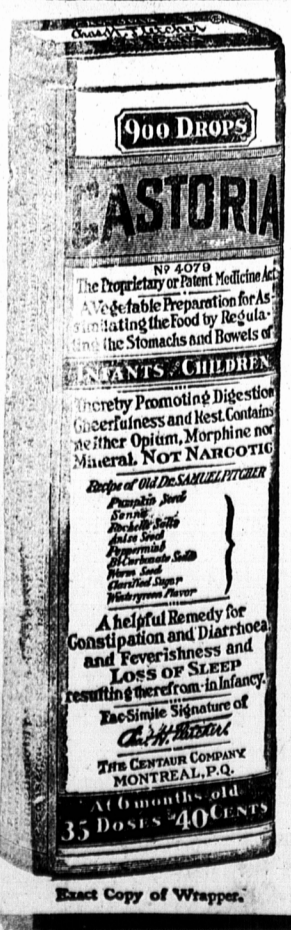
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Yuletide In The Country

Christmas Day in the Old Farm Home Recalls Fond and Pleasant Recollections

Christmas in the country, Christ-mas day in the old farm home, which pleasant memories it recalls to some of us, and what good times it will mean for many of us this year. There is really no place like the farm home for Christmas good times and jolly good cheer. Here, if anywhere, we have to do a little mental and spir-

itual housecleaning before Christmas day dawns. We shall have to rid ourselves of all the old rubbish of grudges, dislikes, jealousies and ill feelings which we will find piled up when we begin to overhaul the accumulation of the years. You will have to throw all this into the discard before you can get into the real Christmas spirit, because the two will not mix. If you have wronged your neighbor in any way, Christmas is a good time to make reparation. And if you feel that you have been wronged, why, just forget it, and the Christmas spirit and the Christmas "get-together" will do the rest. Christmas should be a time of peace and good will to all mankind, and not to a few favored friends. It should be a time of reviving old associations, of renewing old friendships, and of making new friends and the peace and

good will, the neighborliness and good fellowship thus revived should not be allowed to die out as the yule fires cease to burn, but should flow out in a plentiful stream to enrich our lives through all the days of the coming year.

Gifts Out Of The Ordinary

Frying Pan for Queen Victoria--Man gives wife five pounds to buy Washstand

The king of Siam used to send Queen Victoria a very curious gift every Christmas. It may have been want of imagination, or he may have heard that the frying pan was the curse of the English, and thought they must want constantly renewing. Whatever the

reason, her majesty received a silver frying-pan as regularly as Christmas came round.

Thomas Carlyle once quite forgot to buy a Christmas gift for his wife. There is nothing unique about this. Other men have done the same. Nor is there anything particularly generous in the way he made up for his neglect to remember the day. He wrote the following letter:

"The prophecy of a washstand to the nearest of all women. Blessings on her bonnie face, and be it ever blithesome as it is dear, blithe or not.--T. Carlyle, December 25, 1850.

The great man did really give his wife five pounds with which to buy the promised washstand at which he, no doubt, washed quite as often as she did. But that's a man all over.