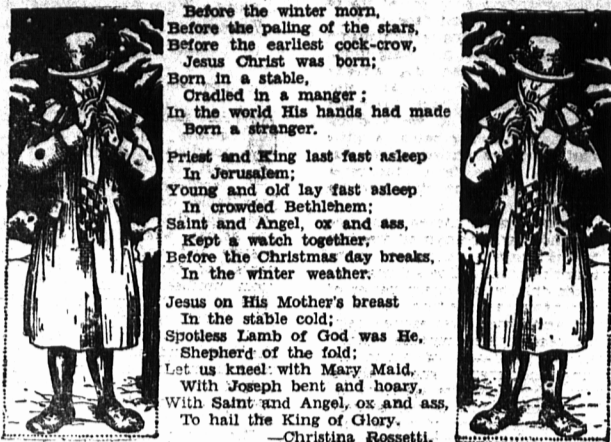


A CHRISTMAS CAROL



Before the winter morn,  
Before the palling of the stars,  
Before the earliest cock-crow,  
Jesus Christ was born;

"It Is More Blessed to Give Than Receive"

HIS has nothing to do with banks or savings accounts; but more money is saved at Christmas time than any other time of the year.

Busy Mailmen Add to Our Christmas Cheer

ROM house to house they go with cards and calendars of cheer, presents and surprises.

A Late "It" Arrival Came Just in Time

EVERYONE was watching, waiting, hoping. They all hoped "it" would surely arrive on time.

Beauty of the Snow At the Yule Season

HE beauty of snow is not on wide, glaring expanses, on level, unbroken plains. The eye could not endure, nor the heart accept, the blinding monotony of such conditions.

THE RIGHT COSTUME O. K.



Hubby—So you're going to take part in the Christmas Eve entertainment. What part do you take?

Bringing in the Yule Log for a Merry Feast

ONE of the most delightful of the Christmas ceremonies was bringing in the Yule-log.

Christmas Today

Thirty-four years of the twentieth century have nearly passed. And what dramatic changes, what drastic revolutions we have witnessed over that span of years.

NOT WHAT HE EXPECTED

LITTLE DICK was too young to spell—he went entirely by sound. Consequently he suffered a great disappointment on Christmas morning.

OBERAMMERGAU'S TRICENTENARY

An Impression of the Passion Play

(By Hallen Vinay in The Witness)

Three hundred years ago the elders of a little village in South Germany met before the High Altar of the parish church and solemnly swore that they would perform a faithful representation of the passion of Our Lord every ten years.

This year is the tricentenary of the vow, and so that year the performance is enacted as a thank-offering for the continuance of this long tradition.

Has a Real Effect on Character

No make-up or wigs are allowed in the play, so that the first thing which immediately strikes a new arrival is the long hair and the beards of so many of the villagers.

The play itself begins in the morning and goes on all day with an interval for luncheon. Its setting is a theatre whose stage is open to the sky.

The performance has real depth of spiritual insight, and carries a message to everyone who sees it, sending away the thousands who come to watch, silent, and thoughtful.

Put Christmas Wreath in Its Rightful Place

THEY were putting up the Christmas tree in the village community home with happy exclamations.

THE HOLIDAY SPIRIT

Christmas spirit necessarily finds many of its women stranded on the shore, off somewhere, far from the general happiness.

KEEP A CHRISTMAS RECORD

Why shouldn't it be fun for a family to keep a record book in which to preserve the interesting things about the annual Christmas celebration from year to year?

Gay Christmas Thrill the Greatest of All

HE love in our hearts toward our fellow men; the happy, expectant, gay eagerness of children and their joyous, merry voices; the pure, white, soft beauty of snow; the deeply refreshing aroma of the forests which for a brief period we bring into our homes.

One result of such a division of the play is to bring out clearly the fact that Our Lord takes the initiative up to the time of His arrest so that outward circumstances are moulded to His Guidance.

The Loneliness of Christ

All through the play the absolute loneliness of Christ stands in bold relief. No one understood, there was no one with whom He could consult and expect council which would hold Him to the Guidance which He knew was right.

Another lesson from the play is the motives of those who opposed Him. They one and all acted from a desire for security.

Judas Chose Security

Judas is very cleverly portrayed. He wanted to understand and he wanted security. Because he could not understand, he once lagged behind in indecision from following Jesus, and it was then that the messengers from the high priest caught him.

In the play Judas lives right through the last supper taking his part in the words of Our Lord. Even such a ceremony could not move him, indeed he went direct from there to the high priest.

Who Is Your Neighbor? A Good Christmas Game

THIS is a very lively Christmas game, and one especially useful in an emergency.

Good Old Mistletoe

The Swiss name for mistletoe is "Donnerbesen" or Thunder Blossom and it is suspended on the doors of farm houses as a protection against lightning.

A FAIR EXCHANGE

Laura and Tommy often had important discussions, on serious subjects. Christmas evening found them in grave colloquy.

The play shows us the councils of the high priests filled with the interplay of self-interest. There is no suggestion among them that there might be reasons for our Lord's actions.

From the self-seeking of the high priests you see the self-indulgence of Herod. He is shown as an utter worldling, wanting only to be amused, asking all sorts of questions, hoping for a miracle.

Democracy Falls

In the trial before Pilate the force of the crowd is brought into play. You see the priests stirring up the people, you hear the excited crowds of some seven hundred performers all shouting "Crucify Him."

From there the play moves on with the sense of inevitableness which the Gospels show to the end upon the Cross. Perhaps suffering could teach where talking couldn't.

You see indeed this principle in action. As the end becomes more and more apparent, so people were more and more divided, driven to the fullest identification with Him or to the blackest opposition to Him.

The play ends with a tableau of the Resurrection, and so you leave the theatre with a vision of power succeeding pain, of triumph in defeat, and of God conquering through all circumstances.

Fine Way to Keep a Face Looking Happy

MRS. LARKIN is a little old lady who lives in a red house just over the hill.

Under the Outside

GRASS keeps green under snow, and a tree in ugly weeds. Who can believe the twisted apple-tree will be lost in a surfeit of pink petals in the spring?



CHRISTMAS

Christmas is a time of secrets,  
So I'll whisper one to you,  
Grandpa says that all who try it,  
Find that every word is true:  
"Would you have a happy day?  
Give some happiness away."

There Is Satisfaction In Trust in the Future

HE was shabby and old and stooped. As she walked along she looked after her with pitying eyes and thought to herself what a hard lot hers must be.

Beat Beauty Parlor For Christmas Time

BUY wreaths for the window, trim for the Christmas tree, holly for packages and flowers for the table, but what about giving some attention to our faces?

Who Is Your Neighbor?

THE other side then move silently into the middle of the circle, and at a given signal they must all mysteriously and noiselessly seat themselves in the vacant chairs.

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