

CHRISTMAS and NEW YEAR'S GREETINGS FROM KING'S COUNTY

ABOARD THE

(Continued from page 6)

N.S. to Georgetown, P. E. I. "You will note that this trip was back in March of 1909, and as well as my memory now serves me we left Pictou on the Saturday morning just after Easter Sunday of that year, and we had quite a few people on board who were returning from an Easter visit to Halifax, Saint John, Boston and New York.

"After leaving Pictou that Saturday morning we went along nicely until we were just off Pictou Island, and there we stuck hard and fast in the ice until the following Saturday afternoon, at which time a change of tide and wind loosened up the ice, and we turned around and headed back to Pictou to take on more passengers and freight. We pulled out on Sunday morning and had clear going right into Georgetown, and landed in Charlottetown about 2.30 p.m. that same Sunday afternoon.

SEASON'S GREETINGS

H. S. MacLEAN
Electrical Contractor
Specializing In
Westinghouse Appliances
Fixtures and Fluorescent
Fixtures.
Irons, Hotplates and
Toasters.
Main St. — Georgetown



Good health and prosperity... all of God's bountiful blessings be upon you in the Christmas season and in the new year to come.

**BILL'S
Service Station
MONTAGUE**



Compliments
of the
Season

We take this opportunity to wish you and your family a very joyous Christmas and a New Year filled with happiness. It has been our great pleasure to be your "family drug store", and we are, as ever, at your service.

MABON DRUG CO.

Prescription
Sundries
Veterinary
Supplies
MONTAGUE

SEASON'S GREETINGS



With the keenest appreciation of your good will and your patronage — with a sincerely repeated pledge to serve you well during the year to come — we send you our merriest holiday greetings

MacLeod and Greene

Heating & Plumbing
MONTAGUE

Christmas

From us to you — and you. —and you. May this holiday season be a truly wonderful one!

**MONTAGUE
5c to \$1.00 Store**

H. D. MURRAY, Proprietor



BEST WISHES

OF THE SEASON

To our friends and patrons—
May your days be filled with notes of good cheer... for the holiday and coming year!

**McGowan Motors
Montague**



It is an exaggeration to say, as people sometimes do, that Dickens invented the English Christmas. Yule logs and mistletoe boughs, wassail bowls and waits, and the whole twelve days and nights of high feasting and high jinks — these were part of a tradition much, much older than Dickens; older, indeed, in many of its manifestations, than Christianity itself.

Nowadays, our Christmas cards like to look back nostalgically to the eighteenth-century as a time when Christmases were particularly merry; and though this tendency may be based on a sentimental misconception, it is incontestable that by the time Dickens arrived on the scene in the nineteenth century the English Christmas had long been widely accepted as a season of great good cheer as well as of great good will.

The lighted Christmas tree was introduced into England by Prince Albert, a German, shortly after his marriage to Queen Victoria.

The custom of the lighted Christmas tree was introduced into the United States by German immigrants.



Merry Christmas
And a
Happy
NEW YEAR
MINNIE'S
GIFT SHOPPE
Montague



Oh, Little Star of Bethlehem
It is an old happy custom and it warms the hearts of giver and receiver — so we are happy to wish you the merriest of all Christmases and a Happy New Year.

**JO-ANNA DRESS SHOPPE
MONTAGUE**



To our friends and patrons. May your days be filled with notes of good cheer... for the holiday and coming year!

**MONTAGUE COLD STORAGE
LIMITED**



**SEASON'S GREETINGS
TO ONE AND ALL
William S. Martell
Canner of Fish Products, Dealer in Fishermen's Supplies,
Best Grade Hard and Soft Coal.
Water Street Georgetown**

Dickens and the Christmas Tradition

(By Gordon Stowell)

It is an exaggeration to say, as people sometimes do, that Dickens invented the English Christmas. Yule logs and mistletoe boughs, wassail bowls and waits, and the whole twelve days and nights of high feasting and high jinks — these were part of a tradition much, much older than Dickens; older, indeed, in many of its manifestations, than Christianity itself.

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Dickens described such a Christmas for us in his first novel, The Pickwick Papers, the famous Christmas of Dingley Dell. That was a festival after a pattern already old when Dickens was still young; the Christmas of the English countryside: of hospitable squire and happy peasant; the Christmas that Sir Roger de Coverley knew; the Christmas of Washington Irving's Bracebridge Hall. Although Dickens brought unprecedented zest into his depicting of it, he did not need to invent any of it.

Nevertheless, it is true that he did contribute to our Christmas tradition something which, having survived two world-devastating wars, may be considered as reasonably imperishable. What was it? To put the matter at its most obvious, he contributed a Christmas Carol. That in itself was no small contribution, for there are many — perhaps more today than ever — to whom this familiar story, this unique blend of hilarious fairy-tale and solemn sermon, has become an indispensable ingredient of their Christmas celebrations. If they do not all make a point of reading at least part of it every Christmas Eve, and probably reading it aloud, they like to keep their ears alert in the hope of hearing a radio version.

Remember the era in which he grew up. By the 1840's, the countryside had already entered upon its long decline. England was becoming ever more urban, ever more urbanised, in all its occupations and all its preoccupations. Seed-time and harvest had begun to be of less moment in the public eye than the price of railway shares. The Manchester School was emerging, grimly utilitarian, calculating, rational, unanswerably logical; and the reverse side of the picture revealed the spreading of squalor and cruel poverty in the name of progress; the Bleak Age, it has been called. The ways things were shaping threatened to leave no room for anything so uneconomic as a merry Christmas.

Then in 1843 came A Christmas Carol, the first and best of Dickens' five all-but-annual Christmas books, and the only one of them that really is a book about Christmas. Not only does the entire action of the story, take place between the afternoon of December 24 and the morning of December 26, but the whole theme of the book is Christmas and nothing but Christmas.

You know the story, of course; how Ebenezer Scrooge, miserable old tight-fist, fitting symbol of the Bleak Age, declared Christmas to be all humbug, and was magically converted overnight to a somewhat excessive enthusiasm for the opposite view. In effect, Dickens put the question: is the old tradition of a merry Christmas compatible with our new kind of civilization? In fact, he demonstrated, triumphantly and for all time that the answer, against all the evidence, is an emphatic "Yes".

Into that harsh, ugly, mechanical new world that was still in the process of shaping itself he



PEACE ON EARTH

May all good things come to you at this Christmas season — may good fortune follow you through all the New Year.
**Montague Garage
MONTAGUE**



HE'LL BE LEAVING PRETTY SOON...
... with all kinds of gifts for nice folks, and with our most sincere wishes for a Merry Christmas.
**MacLEAN'S Barber Shop
MONTAGUE**

Santa Claus Makes a Stop Out West



It found perfect expression in poor Bob Cratchit, Scrooge's clerk. On fifteen shillings a week he and his family celebrated the day with a gusto as great as any displayed at Bracebridge Hall; nor did he neglect to drink to the health of his skinflint employer as "the founder of the feast".

The essential Dickens Christmas — his legacy to us — is not a romantic dream of coaches and snowbound lanes and bells from the village church; it is not even the Christmas of Dingley Dell; it is concerned with fog and damp pavements and urchins bawling carols through the letter-box; it took over from the older tradition as many of the trimmings as could be contrived — the Christmas tree, the holly and mistletoe, the turkey, plum pudding, and other rich things to eat and drink, and the idea of the convivial family party.

Yet these are only trimmings. The Dickens Christmas depends less on the warmth of blazing logs than on the warmth of human hearts. It was Dickens' particular glory to show that these could, and should, glow in the town no less than in the country, in the nineteenth century no less than in the eighteenth, among the poor no less than among the well-to-do, among the lonely and isolated, the sick and distressed, and any others with every reason for being unhappy no less than among those with every reason for being happy.

In other words, the Dickens Christmas is the ridiculous and still frantically illogical Christmas that we all know and cherish. But without A Christmas Carol one may doubt if it would ever have survived. Though the story of Scrooge's sudden conversion may be difficult to swallow, the great historical fact remains that thousands of potential Scrooges in real life, if they were not converted by it, were at least persuaded to pause and reconsider. And so Tiny Tim did not die!



It's no secret at all — we're wishing one and all the merriest kind of Christmas and happiest New Year
**Deluxe Dry CLEANERS
MONTAGUE**

**VERE BECK and SON
MONTAGUE**

**C. R. BOEHNER
JEWELLER
MONTAGUE**

Our Christmas Wishes
That Santa will bring you lots of wonderful presents... that your Christmas will be the best ever... that God will bless you in everything you do in the New Year!
**BISON RESTAURANT
MONTAGUE**

Happy the heart that looks to home with friends and loved ones gay.
**McGowan's Ltd.
MERCHANTS
KILMUIR**

Pilgrims Deplored "Ye Christmas Day"

Puritan disapproval of Christmas celebrations disembarked on the Mayflower with the Pilgrims in 1621 and, accordingly Governor Bradford issued a statement publicly rebuking a certain young man who declined to work on December 25, "ye day called Christmas."

This first new England Christmas — or non observance thereof — should not be credited as the first Christmas on American soil, since Leif Erikson spent a winter or two on the North American continent around the turn of the 11th century.

Leif was a Christian, and it is likely that members of his crew were Christians, too; although it is quite possible that some had accepted the faith without remodeling their pagan natures, since King Olaf's methods were ruthless and his command "Be Baptized, or else!" left them little choice.

Undoubtedly, flagons of crude, raw wine fermented from the grapes of Leif's Vinland were passed around and the celebration may have been rather boisterous, but in all fairness to Leif — who, according to excellent testimony, was a sincere convert — it is reasonable to assume that there was a trace of religious observance.

Perhaps Leif remembered the few words of a Latin prayer he learned at the time of his conversion and recited them in honor of the birthday of the Redeemer he had accepted — Thus, the first Christmas in America was observed.

-then came Three Wise Men

Legend not only has identified the Wise Men as Gaspar, Melchior and Balthasar, it has crowned them and given them the kingdoms of Tarsus, Arabia and Ethiopia. It has symbolized their gifts as symbolic of what Jesus was to become — gold for a king, frankincense for a high priest and myrrh for a great physician.

The Gospel text's specific wise men from the east logically identifies them with Zoroastrianism — an ancient monotheistic religion of Persia. Zoroastrian priests were called Magi; they were powerful in public and private life since they, and they alone, possessed the priestly mysteries involved in the worship of Mazda — who represented the Zoroastrian power for good.

The Magi may or may not have been fabulously wealthy; St. Matthew does not elaborate their treasures nor the amount of gold, frankincense and myrrh which they presented to the Christ Child. The gifts may have been mere tokens of their treasures, or the sum and substance thereof.

And if they were soothsayers, mystics and possibly clairvoyants they were also truly wise — in as much as they did not return to Herod, but departed into their own country by a different route.

LEGENDS ASSOCIATE MULE, GENTLE CAMEL OF JESUS WITH GIFT-GIVING CUSTOM
Syrian legends have associated the Magic Mule and the Gentle Camel of Jesus with gift-giving, for reasons that are at once different, and yet similar in their association with the Christ Child. It seems a certain traveler tied his mule to a tree when he went into an inn for refreshment on Epiphany Eve. Just at midnight when the boughs of the tree bowed down in homage to the Holy Infant, the mule was caught up on the rebound and found cradled high up in the branches by its returning master.

The youngest camel of the three ridden by the Wise Men was exhausted by the pressing journey and was blessed with immortality by the baby Jesus as it lay moaning near the Nativity scene.

In France and Scotland many of the Christmas customs are observed on New Year's Day, particularly the exchanging of gifts.

As the herald angels sing the great and happy news of Christmas once more, may your heart be filled with glowing peace. May the coming year be one of good health and achievement.