



FAITH AND LOVE TRIUMPH

According to the familiar old carol, St. Joseph was an old man. He probably was considerably older than Mary, but people may have thought of him as being older than he actually was because he enjoyed earnest conversation and the companionship of selected friends rather than boisterous pleasures.

When Joseph thought of Mary, he forgot the difference in their ages; she was the girl he had waited for, his beloved. They were engaged—or, as we would say, engaged—which was almost as official as being married. His heart soared on wings of the approaching wedding day and then...

What Mary insisted had come to pass simply could not be! Joseph wanted desperately to believe Mary, but such things just didn't happen, and if they did, they happened to somebody else.

Much as he loved Mary, Joseph was a righteous and God-fearing man and while he couldn't even think of making her a public example, he had just about made up his mind to put her away privily. That is, he thought he had made up his mind. In his heart, he knew he couldn't; what would become of her... of her child...

Then one night, after he had exhausted himself with tortured thinking, he fell asleep, and the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying:

"Joseph, thou son of David, fear not..."

And when Joseph awoke, he did as the angel had bidden him, and took Mary as his lawful and cherished wife.

"Fear not," the angel spoke unto Joseph.

"Fear not," the angel had declared unto Mary.

"Fear not," the angel said unto the shepherds of Bethlehem.

LAMB'S WOOL IN THE WASSAIL BOWL

In Britain people still use some of the recipes of the Christmas concoctions drunk in the 17th and 18th centuries and served in what were called "wassail bowls". One much favored was "Lamb's Wool", not as innocuous as it sounds, for it was a mixture of ale, roasted apples, sugar and spice, sometimes eggs, thick cream and snipets of bread. The silver gilt wassail bowl belonging to Jesus College, at Oxford University, which no doubt has often been filled with this beverage, holds ten gallons. Even the ladle holds half-a-pint.

SWEET CHIMING BELLS

(By Senior Major Herbert Wood)

Christmas Bells! What a jubilant note rings out as they clash and clang in the clear, frosty air! Nothing so truly symbolizes the hilarious joy of the Saviour's birth as peal after peal of tumultuous bells. When Old Scrooge stuck his head out of his upstairs window immediately following his amazing series of dreams that God used to change him from a miserly, cranky old man into a human being, it was the bells that enhanced his new-found joy. They were fairly rollicking out from Old London's steeples—St. Clements, St. Bridges, St. Dunstons, St. Giles, All-Hallows and the rest—and the sound fairly thrilled the rejuvenated Scrooge, whilst the picture presented by the sparkling snow and the happy people hurrying to divine services made him bubble over with goodwill and genuine happiness.

Bells are a wonderful invention, whichever way you look at it. Their origin is shrouded in mystery, but that they go a long way back is evidenced by mention of them in ancient literature. Bells (little tinkling ones) were said to have been attached to the garments of the High Priest in Bible times—as far back as Moses day—and the Prophet Zechariah speaks of horses being adorned with them.

Early Uses But the large-size church bell does not appear on the scene—at least, not that we can discover—until the sixth century. Their use was not merely to summon worshippers to church; early Christians believed that their peals drove the devil away from the souls of dying believers. Perhaps there was a modicum of science in the belief that their brazen cacophony would dispel a threatening



storm, for rain-makers have proved that a violent noise, the blast of a cannon or something similar can and does affect the weather. As recently as 1852 the Bishop of Malta ordered the bells to ring out at the approach of a fierce gale, which they did for an hour. Whether it accomplished anything is not recorded.

It must have been a glorious day for England after the war when the long-absent clamor of bells began again. They were ordered to be silent during the recent war, as their distinctive sounds would disclose towns and villages to aircraft; also, it had been agreed that, in the event of a sudden invasion by sea, the church bells would ring out in unison as a sign for England to awake and resist the foe. Luckily, that eventuality did not arise and, on the cessa-



tion of strife, the ban was lifted and the bells chimed out again. Bells seem to belong to a church, but they have been used in other connections. As clock-chimes they serve well to mark the passing hours, quarters and halves; as a similar service, they are found useful on board ship, while the thundering fire-engine clears a way for itself by the clattering bell. But few folks liked them on the locomotive. Overseas immigrants were puzzled and a little amazed as their vessel approached Canada's shores or wended its way up the St. Lawrence to hear what they thought were church bells only to find the sound emanating from a railway engine. This practice has ceased.

Bells started out modestly small, but grew larger and larger. It seemed to be the ambition of the founders to make larger and still larger bells, although they knew that it would take a massive tower to support the dead weight of a huge chime, and a derrick to get it into place. The largest bell to be cast was termed, "The great bell of Moscow"—weight, 200 tons; height, twenty-six feet. It cracked at the first attempt, (1735) and was merely set up on a pedestal to be viewed with awe. However, another try was made and succeeded, ringing out its deep-toned diapason from the great cathedral for many years.

Weighty Bells The second largest bell is at Rangoon, Burma, and is reckoned the world's most perfect large bell. Big Ben, London's best-known bell, is thirteen and a half tons in weight, and his voice is known the world over, thanks to radio's magic scope, for it tells the world what time it is in London. A bell that is decidedly unpopular to young folk is the school bell. Don't we remember hurrying to school, praying that we might get there in time to avoid the master's sharp eye and tongue suddenly hearing the blatant clamor of the bell, and realizing, with sinking heart, that we couldn't "make it"?

Jingling Sleigh Bells Perhaps the most charming bell is the sleigh-bell variety—strings of them being draped over the horses' backs and suspended from the shafts of the cutter or bob. Some horses even boasted a fine brass bell, dangling from an archway above the animal's neck. There is but a step between these bells and "dear old Santa's jingle bells", the mention of which sets the kiddies' hearts throbbing with Christmas anticipation.

But how bells can change their mood! The same church chimes that rang out the news of peace or poured out a psalm of praise

for some wedding, can strike a poignant note of awe and sadness to the heart when they tell the world of the death of some devout worshipper. "Toll" is the word used then; "chime" is when the bells strike the merry note. "Toll" is also the word used when the grim jail bell indicates that a wretched murderer has paid the penalty for his crimes. Bells can ring the changes on a variety of expressions.

But, coming back to Christmas, the bell is a seasonal symbol. Think of the gleaming, silvery ones that adorn the Christmas tree. Picture the fancy, paper ones that dangle from the doorways of our homes. Think of the ecstatic tinkling of sleigh-bells—still heard in many parts of Canada (not quite obliterated by the hideous chug-chug of motor vehicles coming to us faintly across the glittering snow. The rhythmic beat of the sounds speak to us of joyfully speeding horses for, the faster the animals trot, the quicker the stroke of the bells, only slowing to a stop and a final jangle when the creatures stop in front of the farmhouse, clouds of steam issuing from their wide nostrils. Then their jolly passengers tumble off into the snow rosy faces and sparkling eyes telling of glowing health and radiant happiness—not only at the thrill of the gliding ride but at the prospects of roast turkey and good fellowship within.

Reminder of the First Christmas "Ring out, wild bells," may your voices never be silent; remind us again and again of that first Christmas, when the joybells were set a-ringing at the tremendously exciting news that the world's long night was o'er—that God had—"in the fullness of time"—at last sent a Saviour whose coming meant "peace and goodwill" and a happier men had never dreamed possible.

I heard the bells on Christmas Day Their old familiar carols play, And mid and sweet the words repeat, O! peace on earth, good will to men.



The wild boar has been revered from ancient times, and was especially honored at Christmastime for having taught mankind the art of plowing by rooting into the ground with his tusks.

Away in a Manger

The Stable of Bethlehem did not in any way resemble the airy porticos—complete with plaster of paris animals and adoring shepherds—so dear to the heart of modern Christendom.

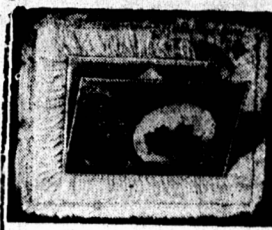
With comfort increasing throughout the western world, the poverty of the Nativity scene simultaneously startles and fascinates us, as perhaps Matthew, the publican, was impressed by the story of the Wise Men; and St. Luke, who had been a ship's doctor and probably knew very little about shepherds, was charmed by the shepherds abiding in the field.

There was no room in the inn that night so Jesus was born in a stable; a place of shelter hewn into a rocky ledge of the Judean countryside. It was cold and dark and damp, and Judean travelers—frequently "put up" in such caves—welcomed rather than disdained joint tenancy with beasts because the breath of the cattle and the heat of their bodies provided a little warmth, while the guests inside the inn had no heat at all.

The cave, which was the birthplace of the Saviour, is now a grotto beneath Bethlehem's Church of the Nativity; and though fascinated by the simplicity of the original Nativity scene, Christianity has been unwilling to maintain its poverty and has covered the entire surface with costly ornamentation.

In Scandinavian countries the observance of Christmas often begins with an elaborate supper on Christmas Eve, followed by family worship and singing. Then gifts are distributed.

1842 Greeting Still A Favorite



This elaborate Victorian Christmas card, puffed and fringed in white silk, was typical of the cards of its day.

By Gail Dugas

If, during the holidays, you should open an envelope to find that it contained a Christmas card decorated with seaweed or luggage labels, you might not be amused.

Back in the Victorian era, you would have gotten something like that, or else a card trimmed with bits of blanket, real corks or dried flowers.

The Christmas card custom that we accept as an integral part of the holidays is a relatively new one. It really got its start in the Victorian England of the 1840's. Victoria and Albert had just introduced the Christmas tree to their subjects and a writer named Charles Dickens had penned a book that all of England wept over and loved. It was called "A Christmas Carol."

In a collection of prints and drawings in the British Museum, there's a card that is believed to be the world's first Christmas card. It bears the date 1842 and the 16-year-old artist who created it signed himself, "W. M. Egley, Junr."

But the Christmas card custom as we know it really caught on during the 1860's. The first com-



This is the way the first known Christmas card looked. It was printed in England in 1842; was designed by a sixteen year-old artist and sent as a greeting to his friends.

mercial cards appeared in England in 1862, the year of the second Great International Exhibition.

These first cards were designed by an artist named G. H. Bennett, who had done a good deal of work for the old Punch magazine. His designs were staggeringly unoriginal. His humor was crude and the color used in the cards was poor but nevertheless, the idea gained favor.

In America, Louis Prang is generally regarded as the father of the American Christmas card. The first of the prize competitions he held for designs took place in June, 1860, and got the popularity of the custom well underway in this country.

A decade earlier, Prang had tried some cards on a small scale. He even thought up an enterprising idea: three large cards and a smaller one intended for decora-

ting the home. Frosting, jewelry and lace paper trim were all familiar to Victorians. But ribbon was not. It came into general use much later. The greeting that W. M. Egley composed for that first, momentous card of his is still the greeting that Americans like best today: "A Merry Christmas and a Happy-New Year to You."



SHOPPING HOURS

FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER



SHOP EARLY!

To avoid confusion and for the convenience of the patrons of the following merchants of Charlottetown the shopping hours as listed have been agreed upon by the stores listed below:

OPEN:

STORES OPEN ALL DAY WEDNESDAY

Stores will remain open Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings—20th, 21st, and 22nd.

CLOSED:

Stores will close on Monday (Christmas Eve) at 6 p.m. and will remain closed until Thursday, Dec. 27th.

The above business periods have been agreed upon and announced well in advance in a sincere effort to offer real service to all patrons of Charlottetown retail business and at the same time co-operate with the large number of employees that serve you in this retail business.

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FIT-RITE SHOE CO.
FASHION SHOPPE
THE GLORIA
GREENDAL MEN'S WEAR
GREENDAL LADIES' WEAR
HAMBLY & INNIS
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JENKINS PHARMACY
JOHNSON & JOHNSON
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KENNEDY'S LADIES' WEAR.
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HARRY A. MacDOUGALL
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NEW WAY FURNITURE CO. LTD.
PROWSE BROS.
PATTERSON'S JEWELLERY
ROGERS HARDWARE
STEWART BAKERIES
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