

BIRMINGHAM ECCENTRIC

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Thursday, December 20, 1928

Ford vs. Franklin
In a recent interview, Henry Ford says something about young men being of little potential value unless they spend all they earn—after which said young men are to rise to a point of earning capacity wherein they may do more than they can spend, and begin to save.

Creations Of Anger, Hatred
Citizens of Cologne, Germany, seek protection from thirteen thousand kilos (a kilogram equals 2.2466 pounds) of very strong war poison gas; they ask that the stuff be placed in deeper cellars. If men killed each other as they profess to, and understood another's problems—which they do not—there would be no—and consistently exemplified even a portion of Christian tolerance and forgiveness, will—men did these things, that quantity of gas would never have been created.

Fine Generosity
The natural liberality with which people purchased newspapers here a week ago Saturday, when members of the Metropolitan Club gathered in approximately \$750,000, is a fine example of sportsmanship on the part of those who paid, and those who collected. As you will recall, the entire proceeds of the day are to be used to aid some meritorious to the Christmas Day of the year.

Do You Want To Serve?
Village president Ellerby's wish that qualified citizens of the community join with various members of the commission in determining correct solutions to pressing problems is a good one: in a community like Birmingham, with its fine array of intelligence on practically every art and science in life, there is suitable talent which, assigned to the problems of water supply, sewage disposal, charter revision, revision of ordinances, building code, and financial program, will most certainly do the job with practical solutions. Here is a fine opportunity to aid your town, folks—so get in touch with president Ellerby or commissioners Halgren, Hensley, Henry, Hulburg, White or McBride; they'll gladly explain the entire proposition to you.

OVER IN BELGRADE, Serbia, two young folks, after being united in marriage, put on the world's biggest party. During the first nine days after they were declared to be man and wife, 2,200 people, only 150 of them actually invited, came to the party and drank 35,000 quarts of beer and wine, ate six cows, 46 pigs, 14 calves, and 1,200 fowl. The news despatch failed to say who was invited, the dishes or who, in announcing the affair, included the fact that together, the yarn sounds like a market report from Chicago—even including the liquids.

GOVERNOR FRED W. GREEN has declared himself in favor of having the coming Legislature revamp the Criminal Code, so that liquor violations are not classified as felonies, thus saving auto and such as recently developed when a Lansing woman was sentenced to live imprisonment for four times violating the Volstead Act. We think the Governor is correct in his wish; we suggest that, in place of live imprisonment for four liquor law violations, it be made, say, from ten to 15 years. That will at least provide another opportunity for the culprit to try life in more lawful pursuits.

Christmas: The Supreme Birthday

EARLY two thousand years ago, in little Bethlehem, there came a Child to Mary—Wonderful Woman—and to Joseph—a Good Man—to tender and nourish; as little children come to us today.
A beautiful Star led Three Wise Men to a lowly place where, within the crude furnishings of a common manger, a New Hope for the world had been born. From far and wide came people—people hungry for the establishment of a demonstrable closer relationship between themselves and their Common God.

Just a little Babe—like today's little babes—and the good folk of Palestine paid him great homage, for within him they visioned the Voice of God.

Thirty brief years as a carpenter, a builder of things for the needs of his Nazarene neighbors. Thirty years of devotion to good thinking, clean living, and kindly deeds.

Then—then three short years of actively doing his Father's will. No equal period of time in the life of any other man who ever walked upon this earth has done so much to change the habits, customs, and thinking of people as these three years, from thirty to thirty-three, of Christ Jesus!

Christmas! The Natal Day of the Son of God—and who, we annually commemorate Christmas, brothers and sisters of Jesus!

Jesus, as a man, sought to give the world a new concept of Truth; of man's real place in the universe. To the precepts already handed down by Messiahs and Prophets before Him He added this declaration: "Love your enemies; bless them that curse you." Because, in the Divine scheme of human progress, a time had arrived when the old Mosaic Law of "an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth," had become obsolete. God added another law for His children to practice in the simple statements of the Galilean.

Two thousand years, almost, have passed since Jesus went about in Palestine; in commemoration of His civilization has instituted the festival of Christmas each year. A time when, at tribune to His advent upon earth, gifts are exchanged among the people, and pulpit and press ring out with new hopes for the establishment of "peace on earth, good will toward men."

Jesus, as the Christ, to you symbolizes Truth; and Truth's only opponent exists in those human attributes which spring from the seeds of greed, avarice, lust, envy, ignorance, superstition, and kindred qualities of human manifestation that so trouble and sadden this world.

Jesus was projected upon this earth in response to mankind's urgent need for a system of thinking, living and abiding, together with "that peace that passeth understanding." He is needed as much today in the lives of men, women, boys and girls, as He was in those troublous 33 years of His activities in the Holy Land.

As man to man, or man to woman, we are willing to go forward as believing that a complete fulfillment of life upon earth is the efficacy of Christianity to do more for a human being than ALL the rest of the world's teachings and precepts. To us Christmas is not only the commemoration of the birth of Jesus Christ, but also the commemoration into whose life and consciousness has come the spirit of Christian impulses.

In these days of unprecedented American prosperity there is a tendency to symbolize Christ in gaudy Christmas packages, tinseled evergreens, and sputtering candles—forgetting the most important gift of all, which is the fact that Christmas is the anniversary of the birth of the Son of God—the greatest force for good that has ever visited the earth, and from which has flowed ALL of the finer yearnings and desires that mankind has, or seeks to express.

And now, to project a bit of sentiment into my comment, may we close with a norm which we have penned for our Christmas cards:

Pictures, if you will, the Star, Guiding Magi from the East, 'O'er the byways of a world, Drink with me and the feast, To that spot on Judea's soil Where the Star, suspended, hung, God's own jewel in the crown Of a King—tho' the Virgin's Son. Turn this page of Christmas cheer—Years have passed their courses through—Of a King—tho' the Virgin's Son. Christ still lives in me and you. Snowflakes, and the frosted pane, Starlight, and the moon above, Holly, and the mistletoe, Sunshine, and the Light 'o' Love, Mary, and the manger bare, Jesus, and the Voice within, Contrast this with yellow gold, And the turmoil and the din. Of the world of lust and greed! Of the world of Mammon's breed!

Christmas, gladsome Natal Day! Carols sound 'without our door, Candles light the Narrow Way, Christ is come to us once more. Human hearts become Divine When they pulse in tune with God; In this spirit men give for all—In its spirit men have tried. Now, as days slip into years, And our pathways wander far, May we think in terms of Christ—May He be our Guiding Star! Candles sputter on the tree, Children shout their happy song—Christ is come again to earth; Right still triumphs over wrong! (—G. R. A.)

BOOK REVIEWS

NEW DOB WESSEY A SEA TALE

By DOROTHY E. WILLIAMS. Transcribed by Andrew Ferrel. The MacMillan company. One day a peddler wandered to the coast of an English novelist then living in Australia. He was a tin peddler with a pack of cheap tin—but a wealth of yarns—and that day marked the birth of the modern adventure story.

The tin peddler wrote a book, followed it by another and became famous over night, and at the peak of his glory came to America to be photographed. That was the story of Trader Horn—Horn was successful in rising rapidly to head the list of best-sellers and to retain that position through a 1928. And it strikes me that John Cameron harbored the same dream. Unfortunately he failed because the manuscript was published and thus forestalled the American trip.

The story is comparable to Trader Horn. It has the virtue of probability which the latter lacks. It is possible that the same improbability marked Horn, the better story seller, however. "Raiders of the Deep" by Charles W. Eliot, by Saunders; Incredible Siberia, by Wood; Raiders of the Deep, by Matthew; Life of Cardinal Merrier, by Lavette; Chats on Old Coins, by Burgess; Elementary Forge Practice, by Harsourt; A Simple Guide to Pictures and Painting, by the Press of Groun Think.

My Brother Jonathan, by Young; The Double, by Wallace; Mr. Blittsworthy, by H. G. Wells. Children's Books: The Trumpeter of Krakow, by Kelly; Treasure of Caracosse, by Rohda; The Trojan Boy, by Crew; The Dragon Fly of Zuni, by Malkus; Early Days in Switzerland, by H. G. Wells; Heredity of Music, by Foster.

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WHAT THEY READ—HERE and THERE

- The following is a list of six best sellers in fiction and general fiction, according to the reports of the book publishers in New York, for the week ending Dec. 12, 1928. Fiction: The Case of Sgt. Grischu—Arnold Zweig; The Wanderer—Alain-Fournier; The Counter Point—Aldous Huxley; Joshua's Vision—W. J. Locke; Michael Arden—Michael Arden; Penelope's Man—John Erskine. General: Elizabeth and Essex—Lytton Strachan; Broadway Racketeers—John O'Connor; Paris—Rene Falou-Miller; Paris Salons, Cafes, Studios—Sisley Huddleston; Leonardo the Florentine—Rachel Taylor; 20,000 Leagues Under the Sea—Jules Verne; David Copperfield—Robert Frost.

DeMOLAYS HEAR CHAPLAIN AT INSTALLATION SERVICE

"Reverence" was the topic of Rev. Burt's, grand chaplain of the grand order of DeMolays, Tuesday night, in addressing members and guests of the Hassberger chapter, Order of DeMolays at the public installation service, which was held at the DeMolay hall, last night.

LEGION GROUP GIVES PRESENTS

A spirit of co-operation and generosity was shown in the results of the American Legion group, which was held at the Legion hall, last night. The group, which was led by Harold Corson, president, announced that 25 quarts of fruit were sent to the Battle Creek hospital and 25 quarts to the children at Otter Lake.

LIONS HOLD YULE FETE

A special Christmas program consisted of the luncheon meeting of the Lions club yesterday noon. Russell Berger and Paul Cotton were in charge of the program which included the distribution of gifts by Howard Crull in the role of Santa Claus and Christmas songs led by Mrs. McBride. Forty members attended the party.

PEOPLE'S COLUMN

A PROTEST

The Executive is pleased to receive communications for this column, but situations will be kept confidential upon request.

I am surprised that you printed, or allowed to be printed, such a piece as was in last week's Eccentric. Rasco called prohibition a damnable thing, but what is more damnable is that God forbid liquor? It must have been written by someone who does not have a care for God.

We know everything is not as it ought to be but it is one hundred percent better than it was when we had the saloons and liquor. Ask the poor, or anyone who used to drink. We had a neighbor, a man with children, who cried when prohibition did not pass the first time for he could not come to Birmingham without coming home drunk.

I have five boys and thirteen grandsons. Do you wonder I feel as I do, if I care? If we do not have boys of our own, we should fight for some other person's boys. Let us care for our boys, let us give the saloon or liquor to come back again. We can easily see how the people of this country have practiced the liquor question at the election. All the world is watching us.

The Other Chap Says Something

JUVENILE DELINQUENCY: A Seldom has this writer suffered from a message, experienced more than that of a half hour in the Oceana juvenile court last Friday.

For permanence, an edifice is reared stone upon stone. So must a professional reputation be reared, upon character, act by act, until it reaches the height of Public Faith.

FINANCIAL MORONS

We have seen a great deal about the criminal moron—the type of man who has just enough mentality to pass money in the most ordinary walks of life. Such men are neither insane nor obviously feebleminded; they have the desired end and capacities, and they readily turn to crime.

Such a candidate for a stiff sentence, instead of having a better mind than his victims, he had a much poorer one: he fooled them only because they had not used their own superior wit—just as an embezzled child might fool them.

Probably more than one swindler who has failed for millions was of that type. And, what is perhaps the most important thing to remember, there are thousands of petty cheats, deadbeats and slippery fellows of various types who have the minds of boys of thirteen, or twelve, or eleven. There are great numbers of them with brilliant minds, but they are a small minority. As a rule crook-

Larger Stores Demanded

ANOTHER illustration of the growth of Birmingham's business market is the new A. & P. store on West Maple, just east of the fashionable Wabek Building.

When the A. & P. Company were looking for larger quarters to take care of their growing business, they naturally came to us and we not only recommended this new location but arranged for the erection of the new double store which they are opening this week—one of the largest and finest in their greater Detroit District.

Colgrove Buck & Tillotson REALTORS

Friendly Thoughts By G. Dewey Kimball. The spirit of Peace on Earth, Good-will to men is upon us. This Christmas emotion stirs us strangely with joy and promise, commemorating the birth of the World's Greatest Lover of all Mankind—Jesus Christ.

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