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### A CHRISTMAS PRELUDE.

Several hundred years ago at about this season a caravan was just crossing the little strip that divides the desert from the sown. Those were no ordinary merchants that were in the caravan—they were kings with all the pomp of their office. They had with them spices of the Indies; balsam, frankincense and myrrh; precious gold and jewels of great price.

And the first King said: "Lo we have journeyed with all haste to find the king of the world."

And the Second said: "We shall find him in the court of Herod the King of the Jews."

And the Third said: "I care not where we find him only let us remember to follow the Guiding Star."

Everyone knows the old, old, story and how they found no King of the World in the court of Herod but how in a lonely little stable in a little country town they left their gifts fit for a prince of the realm for a small baby in the keeping of a tired mother—who was to all outward appearances like all the other women of the land. That is an old, old, story.

Twenty centuries are almost concluded. Somewhere in the army of the poor—some where among the people who are just like all of us, there is a poor child who will not have any presents this Xmas; not only not any presents but perhaps no food, no warmth and only rags for clothes. Somewhere out on the streets hunting for work to buy the child a pint of poisoned milk there is a tired mother. Where are the Wise Men from the East? Where are the Kings? Are they on the stock market, in the office, at a banquet?

Who knows what will happen to that child of the poor. Will he turn out to be a credit to society? Will he, like Abraham Lincoln—born of the poor white trash of the backwoods, the son of a worthless father—rise up to save a country to which he owed little or nothing? Or will he turn out to be one of a "gang" in one of our large or small towns whose life is a menace to society and who end in an arraignment of our so-called humanity and civilization?

The answer to these questions lies with you. Is there not some poor child that you know of, to whom at least in one day out of the 365 you can bring a little joy? Can you not bring a ray of hope into a life in which there is much that is sad and little that is pleasant.

Don't content yourself with looking into the court of Herod where all is bright and gay. Don't think you have had your full of pleasure when you have showered mechanical toys on spoiled children who have more than they want already.

Look in the out of the way places. Look for the tired and the sick mother with the small child. The time may come when your descendants through the accidents of life will be in distress.

Christmas is one day out of the year when of all others the doctrine of the brotherhood of man comes nearer to us than at any other. We like the phrase and by doing things for our immediate circle we get ourselves to believe that we have done our duty. Half the pleasure of life is gone for people who don't unbend and get next to the people. Not what is called the "deserving poor" or names equally hideous with the blood of social conditions, but the people like the rest of us. Who are we that we shall put up a caste mark of even the deserving poor at any time, let alone on the festival of Jesus Christ?

"In as much as ye have done it unto the least of these my desplices; so have ye done it unto me."

So said the Child whose day we celebrate.

There are only a few more days till Christmas.

The Wise Men of the East did not find the child in the Court of Herod.

They found him in a lowly stable where the Star led.

And the Star was the spirit of Christmas.

### SIGNS OF EVOLUTION.

The Metropolitan Opera has offered a ten thousand dollar prize to the composer of an acceptable opera by a native born American. This is an important occurrence and it owes its importance not to the probable excellence of the work accepted but to a growing recognition of the claims of Americans that inferior foreign work is accepted where the better American composers are turned down.

Then too, last week the corner stone of an independent theater was laid in New York, similar in its purpose to the Theater Francaise and the German theaters which are run by the state. This theater will give a hearing to those playwrights and composers whose work is of technical value but whose production is a hazardous financial undertaking. The theater, will, beside that, give the standard masterpieces.

These things are signs of the times in America. They mark the passing of a period which is necessary in every new country for mere money making. It is part of the rise of idealism. No longer with the erection of vast colleges and universities, great libraries and art galleries can we be said to be crassly materialistic. That an endowed theater and prizes for American music should also come is but a step in the evolution of the country.

Perhaps it marks the passage of the time when like the danseuse Duncan and the composer Edward MacDowell, it shall be necessary that the reputation shall be made in Europe before genius shall be recognized in this country. That may be to much to hope for. But of one thing the public may rest assured it will mean the loss of grip on the part of the Theatrical Trust which has a strangle hold on the drama and opera in this country and it may result in a real national opera.

### CONCERNING MISUSE OF THE MAILS.

This community has had its fill in the last few years with the scandals arising from misuse of the mails. The recent case of sending alleged obscenity through the mails is only an instance. But then—

Few people know very much about the postal regulations on that sort of thing, nor about sending anonymous letters or any of the things forbidden. It is a good wager that not many society matrons who send out their invitations to card parties know that they are violating a postal regulation by a recent decision if they offer a prize at the function to which the invitations are issued. This is the case—under the laws against the use of the mails to carry on a lottery.

The fact is that the public is indeed ignorant on the matter of what it may and what it may not send through the mails. This does not only apply to obscenity or things that people ought not to do for moral reasons, but it also applies to paint, explosives, glass, and what not. If the postmaster of any town of average size were asked of the many queer things that are fished out of the mail which have no right to be there, the public would gasp at its own stupidity.

There is a decided need for every one to be better acquainted with all the postal regulations for that matter. In no instance is this more true than in the matter of what can not under any circumstances, be sent through the mails.

### HANDWRITING ON THE WALL.

The article published in yesterday morning's Indianapolis Star, written by Augustus Lynch Mason, entitled "The Essentials of Republican Success in Indiana," contains some very pertinent remarks. He points out the condition of what some people call the "organization" in Indiana, and ends with this conclusion:

"I, therefore, raise a cry that the republican party of Indiana, if it recovers the state, must develop greater intolerance toward the misconduct of public officials and greater tolerance toward the honest opinions of dissenting minorities."

This may seem foolishness to politicians who are grown gray in the harness. It may be the case that conditions are not what they were in this state. At any rate some people think so. Can it be that this is the handwriting on the wall?

But then if it is true that the president struck the girl's horse while riding, haven't we always been told that he is a rough rider?

### WAS PRETTY BUT CROOKED

#### Petite Woman Was Arrested For Forgery.

New York, Dec. 19.—Mrs. Mary Clapp, a pretty blue-eyed petite woman of 25, arrested on a telegram charging her with forging deeds and the larceny of valuable papers, at New Braunfels,

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## Christmas Giving...

## ...Christmas Receiving

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Children's Bear Skin Coats.....

.....\$2.25 to \$3.50

Ladies' Knit Shawls in White, Black,

wool, at .....50c, 75c and \$1.00

Ladies' Fascinators in black and white

at .....25c, 50c and 75c

Children's Bear Skin Caps, all colors, 50c

Boys' Wool Caps, ..25c, 39c and 50c

Children's Fancy Caps at .....50c

Children's Bear Skin Hoods, 50c to 98c

The little Bo-peep Blankets at....98c

Suit Cases at 98c, \$1.25, \$1.50,

\$1.98 to .....\$2.50

Fancy Baskets.....38c, 48c and 58c

Fancy Salad Dishes, 39c, 48c, 69c, 98c

Fancy Vases at 98c, \$1.25 and \$1.56

Children's Books at 5c, 10c, 15c & 25c

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at .....25c and 50c

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Dolls at .....48c

Fancy Dressed Dolls at .....98c

Men's Fancy Suspenders, one in a box,

at .....25c

Men's Neckties, the 50c kind, at...25c

Men's Golf Gloves in good wool, 25 to 50c

Men's Jersey Knit Gloves at.....25c

Men's Astrachan Back Gloves at...25c

Men's Mocha Kid Silk-lined Gloves at 50c

Men's Kid Gloves, all colors at....98c

Men's 4-ply Linen Collars at .....10c

Men's Shaw-Knit Hose at.....19c

Men's Fancy Hose at.....10c to 15c

Men's Way's Mufflers at....25c to 50c

Men's All Silk Mufflers in plain or figured, black, at .....75c to 98c

Children's Handkerchiefs at 3c; 2 for 5c

Children's Handkerchiefs at 5c; 6 for 25c

Ladies' Handkerchiefs at.....

.....5c, 10c, 15c, 25c and 35c

Men's Fancy Dress Shirts, worth

\$1.00 at .....50c

Men's Suspenders at.....25 to 50c

Men's Fancy Slippers at.....

.....50c, 75c, 98c and \$1.25

Men's Dress Shoes.....

\$1.50, \$1.98, \$2.50, \$2.98, \$3.50

Ladies' Fur Trimmed Slippers at....98c

Ladies' Fancy Felt Slippers 50c to 75c

Ladies' Dress Shoes at 98c, \$1.25,

\$1.50, \$1.69, \$1.98, \$2.25, to

.....\$2.50

Child's red, fur trimmed Slippers at 75c

Ladies' 3-strap Patent Leather Slippers at .....\$1.25

Ladies' Trimmed Hats at a big bargain, \$6.00 Hats at .....\$2.50

\$5.00 Hats at .....\$1.98

Plumes in black or brown at \$1.50,

\$2.50, \$3.50, \$4.50, \$5.00 and

.....\$6.00

Fancy Colored Plumes \$1.50 to \$4.50

Wings at 25c, 39c, 48c, 69c and 98c

Table Linens at 25c, 50c, 60c, 75c

and \$1.00 per Yard.

Standard Calicos at.....5c

Fancy Waistings at ..10c, 15c and 25c

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## PROFESSOR LINDLEY IS GREATLY HONORED

Speaks Before Big American Historical Societies.

Professor Harlow Lindley of Earlham college, will speak before both the American Historical association and Mississippi Valley Historical association meetings, which will be held jointly at Richmond, Virginia, Wednesday, December 30. These two associations are probably the largest in the United States and the honor of being asked to appear before either organization is a great one.

"The Mississippi Valley as a field for Historical Study" will be the topic of Prof. Lindley's address before the American Historical Society meeting. "William Clark, the Indian Agent," will be discussed by him before the Mississippi Valley association.

Texas, where she lives with her husband, Herbert Clapp, was arraigned in the Jefferson Market police court today and held for extradition.

She was arrested in the Prince George Hotel by detectives Sullivan and Barnes after she had been traced to this city from Los Angeles, where she went after leaving her home. District Attorney H. G. Henne of New Braunfels, sent the telegram to Inspector McClusky, on which she was arrested.

Mrs. Clapp refused to see a lawyer, although half a dozen tried to persuade her to retain them, but said she would not go back to her husband in Texas.

## AFTER BEING SHOT HE VISITS ENEMY

There Dies and Investigation Is Started.

Auburn, Me., Dec. 19.—After being shot by John A. Doherty, who charged him with friendship with his wife, Peter Fahey, was invited to the Doherty home and died under circumstances which have started an investigation. The autopsy showed that an overdose of sleeping powder caused death.

## CARNEGIE'S PLEA IS UNAVAILING

Must Testify Before Ways and Means Committee.

Washington, Dec. 19.—Although Andrew Carnegie has begged the ways and means committee to excuse him from testifying as to the tariff on steel products, because, he says, he has been out of the steel business for several years, and is not familiar with the present situation, the committee has refused to let him off.

He is expected to testify Monday and it is believed his testimony will end in the hearing as the committee has announced it will take up the work of preparing the new tariff bill next week, and has refused to issue new subpoenas.

E. H. Gary, chairman of the board of

directors of the United States Steel corporation, gave much detailed information to the committee yesterday on the manufacture of iron and steel. During his remarks on general policies, he said of corporations: "I am in favor of government control of, not government ownership."

Honor: Order Gold Medal Flour next time. FELICITY.

### A Doubtful Bag.

Salesman—Sorry we're quite out of game, but I can recommend the sausages.

Mr. Von Sharpshooter—H'm, yes! But the wife would not believe I shot 'em.—London Half Holiday.

Assume in adversity a countenance of prosperity and in prosperity moderate thy temper.—Livy.

### Uncovered.

Horace—I can't understand you girls. Now, you hate Mabel, and yet you just kissed her. Hetty—I know, but just see how the freckles show where I kissed the powder off.—London Tatler.

Domestic Politics. "Whom did you support during the last campaign?" "A wife, two children and a mother-in-law and kept up my life insurance at the same time."—Puck.

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