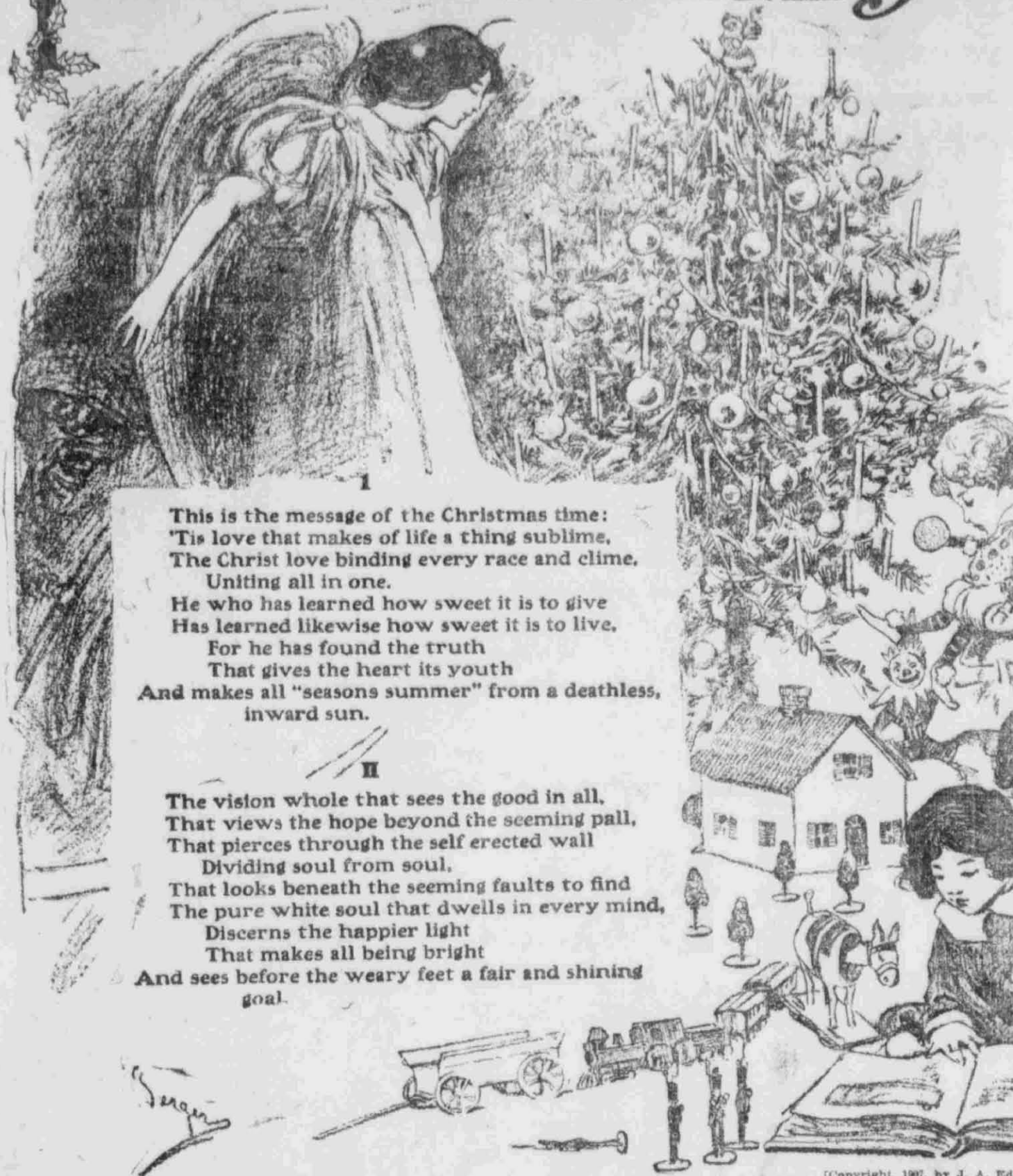


THE MESSAGE OF CHRISTMAS

BY
J. A. Edgerton



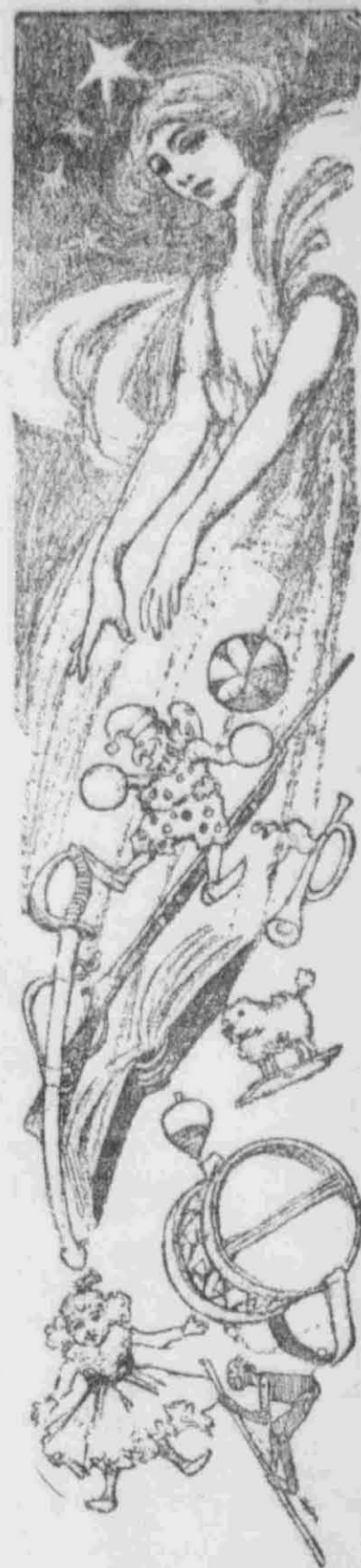
I
This is the message of the Christmas time:
'Tis love that makes of life a thing sublime,
The Christ love binding every race and clime,
Uniting all in one.
He who has learned how sweet it is to give
Has learned likewise how sweet it is to live,
For he has found the truth
That gives the heart its youth
And makes all "seasons summer" from a deathless,
inward sun.

II
The vision whole that sees the good in all,
That views the hope beyond the seeming pall,
That pierces through the self erected wall
Dividing soul from soul,
That looks beneath the seeming faults to find
The pure white soul that dwells in every mind,
Discerns the happier light
That makes all being bright
And sees before the weary feet a fair and shining
goal.

III
The love of little children and the faith
That makes a smiling angel out of Death,
The heart that prizes all with human breath,
The hope that dreams of good,
Despite the harshest seeming—these belong
Unto the music of the Christmas song.
They have the gifts to bless
All things to happiness.
They knit the race together in a worldwide
brotherhood.

IV
If you would find His white immortal way
Whose birth we celebrate each Christmas day,
Make love the source of all you do and say,
Make selflessness your goal,
And give in service, give in blessings, give
Till giving teach you all it means to live,
Till self be sacrificed
And you have found the Christ
Where He with shining countenance has entered your
own soul.

V
This is the burden of the Christmas cheer:
Each being to the heart divine is dear;
Each soul unto the soul of love is near;
Each one in human guise
Is fashioned in the image of his Lord.
Then let us be in all with sweet accord.
God's universe is rife
With harmony, not strife.
The soul of each is beautiful if seen with Christ-
like eyes.



TEXTS ON COINS.

The omission (announced during the past week) of the words, "In God we Trust," from the United States coinage is interesting as marking the disappearance of what was probably the last surviving religious motto on coins in the currency of the western world.

put such a motto on coins did positive harm, and was an irreverence that came dangerously close to the sacrilegious.

England we find texts and religious mottoes dating back to Anglo-Saxon times. Here are a few of the Biblical quotations which have figured (in Latin) on the coinage of these islands:

Edward III. in reference to his naval victory over the French at the battle of Sluys, when he drove his ships through the French fleet and got away unharmed. The coin, the first English noble, was struck in 1345, three years after the battle, and marked the beginning of a gold currency in England.

In the time of Charles I. "Blessed be the name of the Lord," was taken from the French coins of Henry V., as king of France.

ligious mottoes, but there is hardly one of these that does not bear a quotation from the Koran. "There is no God but God; Mohammed is the apostle of God," will be found on most of the Arabic currency. Even in the east, however, the tendency is to adopt western models in the coinage, as in other ways.

scribed with the text, "Sit Nomen Domini Benedictum" ("Blessed be the Name of the Lord"). These were ordered to be paid to the king's troops and to be legal tender at the India company's stores. Especially applicable to the times also was the motto, "Crescite et multiplicamini" ("Increase and be multiplied"), which appeared on the Maryland shilling, designed by Lord Baltimore.

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