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CHRISTMAS GIVING.

It is perhaps true that there is more money in general circulation than at any former Christmas, but it is none the less important not to permit extravagance to mar the joy of giving. The value of a gift is not measured by its costliness but by the spirit in which it is given. In fact, expensive Christmas gifts to friends, except in particular cases, are often considered vulgar. The right thing to do is to remember as many friends as possible in a modest way, and according to financial circumstances. The idea that Christmas presents to friends must be expensive has spoiled many a Christmas.

In the matter of giving to the worthy poor, no one can display too much liberality. Even if a sacrifice is made for their benefit, it is all the better. It is a great question whether giving without a real sacrifice brings the full blessing to the giver. A cast-off garment that is not needed, a coin that is never missed, is not the widow's mite that draws the approbation of the Master; it is not the costly ornament that fills the house with fragrances. It may be well to remember, at this time, that the Lord regards as done to Him whatever is done for one of His, because if this grand truth is before our view, we are less liable to make mistakes.

The facility with which money is made imposes upon society in general and the rich in particular, the duty of protecting the orphan and the widow, the aged and unfortunate of all classes, from want and misery. That is the spirit of the season.

CHURCH GOVERNMENT.

"First Steps in Government," a text book issued for members of the Lesser Priesthood, by Elder Joseph B. Keeler, is now for sale in the Deseret News Book store. We have previously noted this little book in these columns. It is an excellent treatise on the subject of Church government, and the mechanical work is up to the high standard attained by the Deseret News establishment. The book is specially intended for the Lesser Priesthood, but it contains a great deal of information of interest to all Church members, as well as to people outside the Church, especially at a time when the relation of the state to the church seems to be the burning question of the day in many lands. We hope Elder Keeler's little book will find many readers.

THE SMOOT CASE.

The New York Evening Post takes the view already expressed by the "News," that many of the signatures to the petition for the expulsion of the Senator from Utah from the Senate, were obtained under false pretenses. Our New York contemporary says: "Most of the good people who have signed anti-Smoother petitions did so under the erroneous impression that Mr. Smoot had a superabundance of wives." The Post quotes the New York Tribune's Washington correspondent as follows: "The leaders of the Senate do not expect that the question whether or not Senator Smoot shall be allowed to retain his seat will ever come to a vote, and it is assumed that after both sides to the controversy have expressed their views, and Senator Smoot has replied to the charges of the majority on the floor of the Senate, the entire affair will be permitted to go to the calendar as unfinished business, there to rest for all time," and the Post asks, by way of comment: "Why is not that the best plan all around?"

This, we believe, is the opinion of many who have given the controversy serious attention. They have come to the conclusion that it was a mistake to permit ambitious politicians to lay unholty hands upon the government of the United States for purposes of revenge. They have become convinced that the whole miserable business was abuse of the right of petition, which right was never intended to be a club in the hands of disgruntled aspirants for offices, with which to terrorize American voters, but a means whereby the weak might implore the protection of the strong arm of the government against oppressors and tyrants of the calibre of the leading anti-Mormons. And as the true nature of the "crusade" becomes clear, loyal citizens naturally hope that the Senate will withdraw from the company of the conspirators, as gracefully as possible.

In the interest of Utah the long drawn out agitation should end as soon as possible, and end in the defeat of the gang who are incapable of appreciating any higher motives than those inspired by selfishness. The business interests of this City and State are but ill served by contention and strife. Cities of western states, not much older than Salt Lake have grown to greater dimensions because the citizens have pulled together. Here, anti-Mormons of all kinds have made it a point to keep the flames of strife burning by constantly pouring out their misrepresentations and falsehoods. Upon the Latter-day Saints and their friends the task has generally devolved to advertise the advantages of this region, and to demonstrate the loyalty and sociability of the people here. They have had uphill work

against the flood of falsehood poured out by political outlaws and religious bigots, but they have met with encouraging success. Salt Lake today has a good reputation among those who have visited the city. The enemies of Utah have not succeeded in making the country generally believe that the place is a modern Sodom. Thanks to the Latter-day Saints and their friends, the city has grown, business is expanding, and the future is promising. But, if this has been achieved under the disadvantages of anti-Mormon agitation, what would the result have been, had all pulled together for the good of the City and the State?

FORRESTER NOT A "MORMON."

The ends to which anti-Mormon prejudice and misrepresentation go find daily illustration in divers ways. A couple of weeks ago the Federal grand jury sitting in this city indicted a considerable number of citizens more or less prominent, for participation in alleged coal land frauds. Among them was Robert Forrester, geologist of the Utah Fuel company. For some days he could not be found by the officers of the law, and there was a little talk of a pre-determined flight with a view to escaping the consequences of a court trial. This soon proved to be groundless, however, as he gave himself up and was placed under bonds in Denver, for appearance in Salt Lake in April.

It now happens that Mr. Forrester is receiving a good deal of attention, neither friendly nor complimentary, for the part he is said to have played in the alleged land frauds. The Denver press, or part of it at least, has portrayed him in rather lively fashion for the delectation of its readers. And in the hope that obloquy might be added to him, or perhaps to the "Mormon" Church, he is held up as an "avaricious and grasping Mormon." This statement has a two-fold effect. First it contributes to the discredit of Mr. Forrester, and lastly makes it appear that "Mormons" were active and interested in what the government says was a "huge and nefarious public swindle." Commenting on the case the Denver Post says:

"Dumny locators were used to make the filings, it is alleged, and Mr. Forrester is said to have directed the proceeding and after having protected the land turned it over to George A. Moore, the Denver agent of the Utah Fuel company. Forrester is a Mormon, and because of his prominence in the Church, as well as in the financial and business world of the state, had much influence with his people and was in a particularly advantageous position to help in the acquisition of lands. He is said to be an Elder in the Church of the Latter-day Saints."

Not with a view of discrediting Mr. Forrester in the least, but with the object of stating the facts, it may be said that he is not, and never was, a member of the "Mormon" faith. On the contrary, like his own family which is made up of devout communicants of the Presbyterian church, he is said to belong to that organization. But how his reported identification with the "Mormon" Church, or his actual connection with the Presbyterian, should have effect one way or another, in the land fraud cases, is not quite clear to anyone who does not desire to score a point against either sect.

MR. MEAKIN APPRECIATED.

The Buffalo Times of Dec. 11, gives Prof. Meakin of this city a well-deserved send-off. It says in part:

"The Hon. John P. Meakin, known throughout the Western States as the 'Fraternal Evangelist,' attended yesterday's meeting of Buffalo Aerie, No. 48, Fraternal Order of Eagles."

"The members of the order had no intimation of Mr. Meakin's coming, but his reputation as an orator and entertainer had long preceded him and he was tendered a very flattering reception."

"Mr. Meakin's life has been devoted to the betterment of mankind, and the increasing of happiness and contentment on this earth. It was therefore not natural that Mr. Meakin should join such fraternal organizations as had their objects in the uplifting of man and the advancing of civilization. Mr. Meakin belongs to many fraternal organizations and has, for the past 10 years been traveling through the country working incessantly and intelligently to aid those of whom he is a member."

"At yesterday's meeting of the Eagles Mr. Meakin delivered an address upon 'Human and Fraternal Progress.' The speaker in beautiful language told the history of the civilizing of mankind from the time they lived in dug-outs to the present. He graphically described how the first fraternal orders came to be formed, and then went on to relate the history of the birth and growth of the splendid fraternal organizations of today. Mr. Meakin's lecture was full of information, but was delivered so beautifully and with such splendid eloquence that it fairly enraptured the 100 members who attended the meeting."

Mr. Meakin is one of the greatest fraternal lecturers in the United States."

Mr. Meakin is doing Utah a great service by telling the truth about the people here, and it is therefore of interest to notice that he is well received wherever he goes. Mr. Meakin is an eloquent orator and a splendid entertainer, but his main strength is in the fact that he is the champion of truth.

Coal shortage waits on car shortage.

The cabinet changes are simply old faces in new places.

Of all the reformed-spelled words the worst looking is "thoroly." It is thoroughly bad.

Does Mr. Storer really want the deliberate judgment of the country or the favorable one?

There isn't enough coal in town to justify heating coils of fire on the coal companies' heads.

Part of the pavement in Wall street has caved in several feet. The rule in Wall street is caveat emptor.

The message on the Panama canal might be epitomized as the doctors do a patient's condition—doing as well as could be expected.

Three special messages, each lengthy, to Congress, in one day, breaks the record. It will also tax the Congressional Record.

The Chicago barber who held up a train has been sentenced to ten years

in prison. No more halfbreath escapades for him for a while.

War on the watch trust is to be waged remorselessly. Its conviction will be the main spring of Attorney-General Bonaparte's endeavors, for some time.

Mrs. Stuyvesant Fish declares American-made gowns are superior to the Paris article. Here is a case where most women would be content with the inferior article.

Mr. Justice Brewer of the United States supreme court says that the worst of all the trusts is to trust the future to pay the debts of the present. That is obiter dictum but it is true.

The special message dealing with the public lands question was both good and timely. But it is much to be feared that the adoption of the suggestions made will be like locking the stable after the horse is gone.

General Murray, chief of artillery, in his annual report says: "Both the coast defense and the artillery are badly deficient in both personnel and material, neither is in even approximately proper condition for instruction in time of peace, much less in condition for reasonably efficient service in war, and the time necessary to put either in the latter condition is not a matter of days or weeks, but of years." That sounds very much like a jingo alarm. If the coast defense and the artillery are in such a deplorable condition as here indicated, it is a sad commentary on the efficiency of those who have had the management of them in the past. Are these alarm notes being sounded so as to create a panic and stampede the country into becoming a great military nation, with compulsory service and huge standing armies?

The annual meeting of the American Philological Association, the general meeting of the Archaeological Institute of America for the reading of papers, the annual meeting of the Council of the Institute, and the annual meeting of the managing committee of the American School of Classical Studies in Rome, will be held in conjunction with each other at the George Washington University, Washington, D. C., January 1-5, 1907. Visiting members of these bodies will be the guests of the Washington Society of the Archaeological Institute and of the University. The annual meeting of the council of the Institute will be held on Friday, Jan. 4, at 11 a. m. and 3 p. m., and a meeting of the executive committee of the Institute is called for Tuesday, Jan. 1, at 3 p. m. There will be also a half-hour meeting of the council on Wednesday, Jan. 2, at 10 a. m., and a meeting of the corporation at 2 p. m. The annual meeting of the managing committee of the American School of Classical Studies in Rome will be held on Saturday, Jan. 5, at 9:30 a. m., and a meeting of the executive committee on Friday, Jan. 4, at 8 p. m. On Friday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock, visiting members and their friends will be presented to the President of the United States in the executive offices adjoining the White House.

HUMANS WHO HIBERNATE.

Philadelphia Bulletin.

The snow fell from a lead-colored sky, and the day was cold and gloomy. "Such weather makes one almost want to hibernate," said a physician. "A mild form of hibernation is possible to mankind. Indeed, among the Russian peasants, hard times often cause hibernation. 'When there is no food and no work to speak of, the Russian peasant hibernates himself in blankets, and sleeps the winter through. Once every day or so he rouses up enough to swallow a little bread soaked in water; then, with a sigh, he falls asleep again. Through the cold, hard winter the hibernator, when the spring comes, with its bright prospect of work and food, he rises pale and thin and weak, and sets out to look for a job.'"

DRINKING AND SMOKING.

Philadelphia Record.

Beer, whisky and tobacco have been consumed so freely that the internal revenue for the last fiscal year ran about \$15,000,000 above that of the year before, and \$5,000,000 above the estimates made last fall, when one-third of the year had passed. During the first quarter of the current fiscal year the receipts went more than \$4,500,000 above those of the corresponding quarter in the last year, and the committee estimates that, although the tax is about to be removed from alcohol used in the arts, the total internal revenue collections in the present year will rise to \$200,000,000, an increase of \$10,000,000 over the last year.

OVERHEATED ROOMS.

Philadelphia Press.

The season of the year is at hand when tuberculosis gets in its work with most deadly effect. The cold, raw days of winter are particularly conducive to the spread of this disease, not because they are cold and raw, but because people insist upon shutting themselves up in superheated rooms without proper ventilation. It has been definitely proven beyond the slightest doubt that no single cause is so conducive to the spread of tuberculosis as overheated and over-crowded rooms without proper ventilation. A "baked" atmosphere causes loss of vitality, weakens the resisting power to disease, and brings all the physical forces to be used against the bacteria, and exposure to the chill outside air invites an attack of disease upon throat and lungs.

CHURCH AND FRANCE.

New York Evening Sun.

In Leo XIII the Roman Catholic Church had a statesman at the Vatican. In Pius X she has a saint. Statesmen are all for compromise, saints are for expediency. If Leo, or another like him, were sitting in the seat of St. Peter, it is certain that matters would not have reached such a pass that the civil and the ecclesiastical powers in France were arrayed against each other in a life and death struggle as they are today. It was Pope Leo who refused to allow the Church in France to be used against the Republic. He indicated obedience to civil authority, with the result that the Royalist party became insignificant for the time being. On the other hand Pope Pius, in refusing to allow the bishops to reorganize the ecclesiastical establishment in such a way as to bring it within the law, has no political motive. He is simply standing up for the freedom of churchmen as he understands that freedom.

JUST FOR FUN.

The Limit.

Mrs. Jones—That old maid next door is the worst borrower I know!

Mrs. Brown—Indeed?

Mrs. Jones—Yes; why, only yesterday she came over to inquire if she could

borrow my husband for an hour to mow her lawn, while a man who had insulted her and discharged her cook—Chicago Daily News.

DANGER.

The Singer—There is a heavy tragedian in the other room. He is rehearsing. Every one in the house I hear him shout "Quarter! Quarter!"

The Post—Sh! Be careful! First thing you know he will be in here trying to borrow it.—Chicago Daily News.

He Seldom Does.

"You fellows may find it all right," said the man in the corner of the smoking compartment, "but in my business I can't take people as I find them."

"What is your business?" asked the man whose suit case was covered with labels.

"I'm a photographer."—Cleveland Press.

Giving Hubby a Scare.

Wife—John, dear, I suppose you'll be angry, but I was walking through a china store this morning and broke something.

Hubby (anxiously)—How careless! Was it something costly? In at Yale!

Wife—It was that \$20 bill you gave me.—Boston Transcript.

Hard Luck.

Rivers—You say you won a dozen bets on the election, and lost only one. What are you kicking about?

Roads—The bets I won were "freak" bets. The one I lost was cash.

Animal Wit.

"So you are on a star tour," said the circus lion to the dancing bear; "pray tell me is that fellow there with the chain your manager?"

"Yes," replied the bear, "and also my leading man."—Baltimore American.

When the Miscr Opens Up.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

In What to Eat for December, the leading article discusses the advisability of establishing a national department of health. This is followed by "Decorations for the Christmas Dinner Table," and a number of other valuable features, appropriate to the season.—154 Washington St., Chicago.

The following is the list of contents of National Magazine for December: "Affairs at Washington," Joe Mitchell Chapple; "Dr. John Goodfellow," verse, James Ball Naylor; "A Bit of Mistletoe," Christmas verse, L. Hennion; "Half and Half," a Christmas Story, Charles Warren Stoddard; "Impaired," verse, Edward Willbur Mason; "A Christmas Round-up," story, Catherine Frances Cavanagh; "At Mary's Door," verse, Cora A. Matson-Dolson; "The Rules of Order," story, L. H. Hammond; "The Re-Transfer of 'Connoisseurs,'" verse, Mabel Ward Cameron; "A Consolation Prize," story, Alice D'Alcho; "A Ticket for Bonnywick," verse, Frank Monroe Beverly; "An American Oliver Hobbes," story, the Jamieson; "Bright Side of Packing-town," Mary Humphrey; "The Mysterious Powder," story, Harry J. Sinclair; "Love and the Fakir," story, Edward S. Pilsworth; "The Cot by the River," verse, Agnes Haskell; "The K. K. K.," a serial, C. W. Tyler; "When Christmas Came," story, Charles Townsend; "The Home," a department; "Of Pride and the Fall," by L. Gilmore; "Little Helps for Home-Makers," contributed; "Ancient Order of Happy Habbits," Joe Mitchell Chapple, and "Let's Talk It Over," Publisher's Department.—944 Dorchester Ave., Boston.

Beginning with a sparkling article on Richard Strauss's opera "Salome," the January Broadway presents more or less of a sensation in the current magazine field. Foremost of all its features stands the short story by the late John Oliver Hobbes, entitled "The Differing Stars." "New York by Its Artists" is an art-serial of metropolitan pictures by famous painters, and in this issue Colin Campbell Cooper is represented by some of his best work. The article by Robert Adamson on New York's new Hall of Records is illustrated with photographs. "The End of the Year," by Louise M. Ford; "The Re-Transfer of 'Connoisseurs,'" by Henry Irving Dodge, and "A Gentleman," by Owen Oliver, are the remaining short stories in the body of the magazine. A clever article by Mabel Potter Daggett upon the so-called "Fads and Follies of Education," proves that these follies are really worth as much to the youngsters as the "three R's" ever were. The "Types of Metropolitan Loveliness" this month is decidedly a "woman's feature." It consists of photographs of "My Lady of Literature," showing various well-known feminine writers of the present day. "The Month at the Theater" is a crisp, new comment on the New York plays of the last four weeks, done by a competent critic, William Bullock.—7 West 52nd St., New York.

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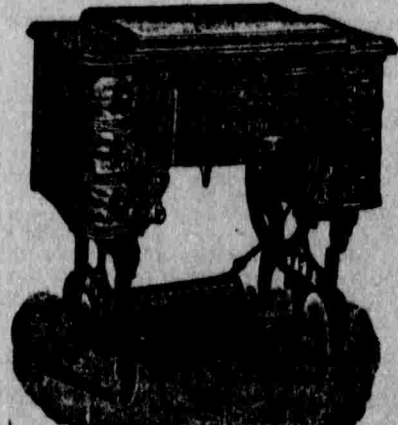
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