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CHRIST'S DAY—CHRISTMAS.

BY S. W. RICHARDS.

Christ's day has come again; that chosen day to visit earth, with angels to proclaim His birth, as Prince of Peace, the Anointed One, as Son of God. Christian people more commonly call it "Christmas," the 25th of December being the day adopted by the Catholic Church that the feast of Christ's birth should be forever celebrated. This order of the church has been heretofore very generally observed, but never more so than at present.

All Christian people join this day in praise of that wonderful advent which made this the day of days to earth and the inhabitants thereof—an event waited for nearly 4000 years by those to whom the promise was made, and which they looked forward to with a living faith, that He who should come was anointed to be their Redeemer, and that He would have power to save all those who would believe on Him.

From the day of Adam's transgression the blood of animals was used and sacrifice offered as typical of and to preserve in memory the sacrifice to be made of Him whose blood would cleanse from all sin. The promise of a Savior was made to many worthies who lived in early days, and the blood sprinkled upon the door posts of the children of Israel while in bondage was a sign of their faith. Their deliverance from death was typical of that Christ whose feast should deliver them from the bondage of sin and death. It was again typified in that serpent lifted up upon the cross for relief of the children of Israel nightness and life. Again it was foreshadowed by that holy angel announced to Mary that she should bear a son who would rule over the house of Jacob forever, and whose rule and government of Christ, the Divine Infant, he was pronounced to be the light of nations and the glory of Israel. All these looked with an eye of faith to the Lord of Hosts and, as the miraculous manifestations of His power.

Since then history and many witnesses not only declare His coming, but all of His life, His cruel death, His resurrection from the dead and His ascension into heaven from whence He came, to the home and glory of the Father, whose only begotten Son among men He was.

Let imagination for a moment contemplate the character of that divine mission which so grandly achieved a triumph over death, and demonstrated to each, by actual personal experience, that man may come to earth, fill his mission, and despite of death break its bands and return in person from whence He came. And further still we may query, what must have been the sensations of His spirit while contemplating the mission appointed Him during those four thousand years from the time He was chosen and ordained; for it is written of Him that He was as a lamb slain before the foundation of the world. And, viewing His appointment with human eyes, we can only conclude that His love was sufficient to cast out all fear, or we would say, love and fear must have alternated, and at times made terrible the contemplation of suffering more than man can suffer, be tempted more than man was ever tempted; and finally to suffer the most ignominious death, invade the regions of the dead to set captive, bound there, free, and proclaim liberty to the entire race of man. Only by the power of divine love could such a mission be contemplated without shrinking from the fearful ordeal to be endured.

He to whom God been given all power both in heaven and on earth was pledged to use it only under the power and influence of love; that love that constitutes the charity that never faileth; that charity, with faith and hope, which constitutes the element in which dwell all spiritual, intelligent beings. We cannot view Him there in the light of humanity; must not compare that state with our frail human existence; but we may contemplate from a knowledge of His career the royal grandeur of those sublime virtues which we may acquire by passing through the likeness, endure but faintly as He endured, and overcome as He overcame, in fighting for that crown of glory, which He secured and is laid up for all those who shall rise triumphant by virtue of His redeeming love.

It is His character, the virtues of His Godlike career that we should seek to emulate, as He sacrificed His happiness and glory, and suffered for our good to become a Savior; let us cherish the exalting virtues of love and charity in the cote of our lives, that we may be entitled to like honors and participants of like glory.

This day which commemorates the advent, life and earthly career of Him who was the Messiah, God with man, is a day to be honored by every professed Christian, and affords evidence of that honor and esteem of His character by doing as he did, by bestowing some of the token of Heaven for another that shall be a blessing to the receiver—the river to receive the gift by virtue of some sacrifice on his part that shall be evidence of Christlike charity. Let us all put on this day the mantle of charity, never to be again throwed off, for remembering that self-denial and willing sacrifice are necessary virtues of a Savior and Redeemer of our fellow man, sacrifice alone gave the power which put the crown of all. To one that gives the least by sacrifice gives more than to one who gives much and retains of His abundant riches. Such was the judgment rendered by this same Christ, whose judgment is just; the widow's value, which was but all her living, was more than the abundance which had been contributed by those whose wealth of riches prevented the possibility of any sacrifice to them of any personal enjoyment whatever.

Love is commendable in all, but let it be evidenced by some generous act, or by some kindly word that shall speak comfortably to the weak, comforting the afflicted, and by making happy all who are willing to come under the influence of charity's love, and enjoy His divine favor.

Circumstances and conditions which attend us in this life are often of an adverse character, but we should not let our circumstances influence us, for they may be for our profitable, if fully appreciated. For instance, being of our kindred, and heir of joint heirship with whom we should be happy, cause and sentiment of last Christmas. Our wishes still yearn for that worldly relationship, the thought of the marriage tie should be sacred, which no earthly power should not be broken, but they are gone, and our lot on this people have thus seen fit, we shall ever witness to the contrary. We may not be want to be whole to our anticipations, as we be counselled to think of the past from our meditations, and want that it might be otherwise. Here is a mighty lesson to learn, learning as we do, that He knows best, and as our ways, not His thoughts as our thoughts. Implicit submission to His decisions and providences which seem to afflict and give us sorrow, and to them let us confer the merits of an all-wise and eternal close, is our lesson of life to learn. Where, oh where, Lord, we may be in the great be a rolling series of life with Him who comprises all life, who awaiting Hi a kindred time for reunion of His family, and, we think that's far nearer rolling and eternal weight of glory is the reward of our endurance.

Merry be the Christmas and happy the New Year to all who love our Lord, the Christ!

As Good May to Live.

"The man I marry," quoth a vivacious young woman the other day, "has got to promise to give me a yacht when I've just been visiting some friends who live all the year round on their yacht. During the summer they cruise about our northern waters and in winter go south, taking in the Mediterranean, or the fjords of Norway and Sweden by way of occasional outings. The yacht, a large schooner, is gorgeously fitted and has every needed convenience, comfort and luxury, including a well stocked library aboard. It is an ideal existence—no calls to make, no balls, no shopping, no uncomfortable gowns, sunshine, fresh air and the starlight—what can the want more?"—Her Point of View in New York Times.

Where Amber Is Found.

The largest quantity of amber is found on the southern shore of the Baltic, between Memel and Konigsberg, where it is cast up by the action of the ground swell after the northerly gales. It is also found on the coast of Sicily, on the shores of the Adriatic, on the English beach of Norfolk and Suffolk and at Cape Sable in Maryland. Mining for amber is both of brown lignite or wood coal is carried on in Prussia, and it is found in excavations all over Europe.—Philadelphia Times.

SEVERAL KINDS OF GIRLS WANTED.

Young Women Are in the Habit of Skipping the Period of Girlhood.

There is something that is getting to be awfully scarce in this world. Shall I tell you what it is? It is girls. That is what is scarce out of the animal, breathing, living world just now. We have lots of young ladies and lots of young women, but the sweet, the tender, the fresh girls of five to fifteen are vanished with the polka dots and the shoulder braids. Let me emphasize the fact that girls are wanted, in the first place, we want girls who are sweet, right, and who are not ashamed of their sex, who are not ashamed of their sex, who are not ashamed of their sex,