

Why We Should Give Thanks

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Confident and sanguine spirit is realized by the whole world; That we are glad to be friendly with all mankind, and reluctant ever to see that we have enemies;

That our land and sea forces work in harmony and are splendid organizations. (This last is naturally a sailor's pardonable expression.)

Admiral of the Navy.

A GREAT cornucopia raining wealth—the old simile, indeed, seems to fit a description of the last year. Of a truth prosperity smiled; the earth bore in abundance, the sun of good times shone brilliantly.

Flurries in the stock market, like menacing clouds, sped across the national horizon. But they swept speedily out of sight, leaving no trail of the storm wreckage behind.

So great was the country's good fortune—in harvests of grain, in the output of mines and of manufacturing industries—that the President in his Thanksgiving proclamation uttered a warning:

"Much has been given us from on high, and much will be rightly expected of us in return. Into our care the ten talents have been intrusted, and we are to be pardoned neither if we squander and waste nor yet if we hide them in a napkin, for they must be fruitful in our hands."

"Ever throughout the ages, at all times and among all peoples, prosperity has been fraught with danger, and it behooves us to beseech the Giver of all things that we may not fall into love of ease and luxury; that we may not lose our sense of moral responsibility; that we may not forget our duty to God and to our neighbor."

Wealth so great that we should pray for guidance in its use—is this not cause for gratitude?

Secretary Wilson, of the Department of Agriculture, recently declared: "Unparalleled prosperity exists in this country. The wage earners are wonderfully well paid. The financiers of the East now understand the real source of wealth is the land, and they are borrowing funds from Western farmers who have earned so much money that they have bank accounts."

"Every sign points to a continuance of the marvelous prosperity the country now enjoys. The position of the farmer is an enviable one—he is more independent than ever before in the history of the nation."

Taking agricultural wealth as an index, the increasing prosperity is amazing. Official estimates place the total value of farm products for the year at \$8,000,000,000, against \$6,794,000,000 in 1906. The increase in the value of cattle alone amounts to more than \$300,000,000. With all this as the basis of our national prosperity, why should not our thanksgiving be real; why should we be alarmed by passing clouds?

THANKSGIVING—thanksgiving for what we have received—for wealth, for health, for sunshine and rain, for bountiful harvests and the treasures generously given man from the earth. Thanksgiving more sincere than any thanksgiving offered before.

"During the year," declared President Roosevelt in his proclamation, "we have been free from famine, from pestilence, from war. We are at peace with all the rest of mankind."

"Our natural resources are at least as great as those of any other nation. We believe that in ability to develop and take advantage of these resources the average man of this nation stands at least as high as the average man of any other."

Opportunity—this is what the country offers. And with it—character. No one will deny the development, the high altitude of integrity reached by American character.



Reports made to the statisticians of the Department of the Interior indicate a yield this year from staple crops of wheat, corn, oats, potatoes, hay, barley and tobacco of about \$5,000,000,000. The crops of 1906, when the theme of prosperity was on every tongue, aggregated in value \$4,900,000,000.

Prices were better, flour selling at \$4.34 a barrel, against \$4.02 in 1906. So that more money was brought in from abroad for flour.

And for what do we need this tremendous importation? Why does not the output of our own mines suffice? Because we are putting up buildings—steel structures, skyscrapers—from the Atlantic to the Pacific, from Maine to Texas.

How a Thanksgiving Proclamation is Issued

IT HAS been said that the only piece of pure literature ever officially issued from the White House is the annual Thanksgiving proclamation.

When the President finds that such a proclamation has to be prepared, he devotes, for a time, his leisure moments to whipping his ideas into shape. He probably jots down his leading thoughts on paper.

Thanksgiving Evening

SLOW in the west sun declines, Unwatched by maid or mother; The happy household, gathered close, Think only of each other.



The others talk of bygone days, The summer's crops, the weather— But Goldilocks and Silverhair Hold sweet discourse together.

Completed, the document is returned to the White House for approval, and is then sent back to the Department of State to be signed by the secretary of state and sealed with the great seal of the United States.

of executive proclamations. All the Thanksgiving proclamations ever issued by the Presidents of the United States are filed away in its archives—back even to 1795.

Here is the Thanksgiving proclamation issued by President Washington in 1795: WHEREAS, It is the duty of all nations to acknowledge the Providence of Almighty God, to obey His Will, to be grateful for His Benefits, and humbly to implore His Protection and Favor;

Faith in God Still Lives



Has it ever occurred to you that this is the only day on which, as a nation, we acknowledge our dependence upon a Supreme Power, and express our thankfulness for its gifts?

And it ought not to be hard to recognize them, even though the year has brought to many people disaster and loss. We may well be thankful (a) For our wide and various territory, which makes famine in our land practically impossible, since, if there is sparseness at one end, there is plenty at the other.

(b) And we ought to be no less thankful that that vast multitude which is pouring into various unoccupied portions of the country turns, as a rule, so promptly to industrial and productive tasks.

(c) Most of all, I think you may wisely remind those to whom you speak that national thankfulness pre-eminently becomes us, in view of the nation's wider relations to other peoples and the recognition of the eminent value of pacific methods of intercourse with them.

(d) And then, best of all, let us be thankful that faith in God still lives and throbs in the heart of all that is best in the land—a deepening sentiment of glad and grateful dependence.

Women Are Becoming More Like Angels. WILL woman, in time, become a winged creature—more nearly resembling the angel she is supposed to be?

What England Would be Thankful For

IF ENGLAND were to establish a national thanksgiving, doubtless one of the most popular reasons for it would be the actual abolition of imprisonment for debt.

Consul F. W. Mahin, in a report from Nottingham, says that imprisonment for debt was nominally abolished in England many years ago, but, paradoxically, the actual number of cases of imprisonment has since annually increased—faster than the population. He says: