

The First Christmas Tree.

On Christmas Eve in 724 a little band was traveling through the great dark German forest, led by Winfried of England, called by the Romans Boniface. He is known in history as the Apostle of Germany. After nightfall and moonrise they come to an open space in which is a huge ancient oak. Before it is a great bon-fire and around this a crowd of people facing the oak. All are dressed in white, women, warriors, old men and little children. The old priest greets Winfried and his followers, and then says, "This is the death-night of Baldur the beautiful, the sun-god. Thor is grieved for Baldur, and angry because his people have forsaken his worship. Therefore he has sent defeat and famine and plague upon us. A costly offering must be given to appease his anger. Thor claims your dearest and noblest gift." Then, suddenly turning, he lays his hand on a slender boy, the eldest son of the chief, saying, "Bernhard, wilt thou go to Valhalla with a message to Thor?" The child answers, "Yes, if my father bids; is it far?" "Yes," said the priest, "but thou art brave, and thou must journey in darkness for a little." Then he blindfolds the child and bids him kneel by a broad stone before the fire. The priest lifts the black hammer of Thor and swings it high over the child. But before it falls, Winfried's heavy staff is thrust forward and the black stone strikes the rock altar, breaking it in twain. The daring deed raises a clamor of conflicting cries, but the chief commands silence and asks the stranger to speak. Winfried opens a roll of parchment and reads a letter from the great Bishop of Rome to the people of the forest, commanding them to listen to the words of Boniface and to build a church wherein to pray to the Almighty King of Heaven. "What," said the chief, "is the word thou bringest from the Almighty?" "This," said Winfried, "not a drop of blood shall fall to-night; but the great shadow of the tree which hides the light of heaven shall be swept away. This is the birthnight of the white Christ—Thor is dead—can he protect his oak?" And Winfried and one of his followers seized axes and felled the oak. "Here," cried Winfried, "is wood for your chapel." Then, turning towards a slender young fir-tree, he added, "There is a tree with no stain of blood on it—that shall be the sign of your new worship." So they carried the tree of the Christ-child to the chieftain's hall and hung lights among the branches, and Winfried stood beside it and told the story of the babe and the shepherds, and of the angels and their song.—From Henry Van Dyke's classic, "The First Christmas Tree."

How to Talk Well.

The art of talking well—that is, with ease and intelligently—interesting those who listen and, rarest gift of all, leading them to talk their best in reply, is a natural gift. There is no doubt of this. The gift does with what we call "personal magnetism." Yet one who has not this can learn to talk pleasantly, fluently and agreeably. First let him talk much to himself, not audibly, but forcing himself to formulate his ideas. What a man thinks clearly he should be able to put into words. Next let him study what will please those with whom he talks rather than what interests himself. Please note that I say "talks with" and not "to." There is a great—an essential—difference, all the difference between conversing and lecturing. "You never heard me preach, I believe?" said Coleridge to Charles Lamb. "I never heard you d-do anything else!" stammered the wit. When you meet a man for the first time say something you think would draw him out. A fool can babble at length. Wisdom and courtesy are required to tempt others to speak with ease to themselves. There is no royal road to becoming a good talker. Practice of the few simple rules I have indicated will help you on step by step.



FARM BUILDINGS OF THOMAS HICKS, SOURIS, MAN.

Canada the Coming Wheat Country.

Opportunity, of St. Paul, says: The scarcity of good milling wheat in the United States this year and the consequent bulging of the American wheat market until it is out of touch with the world's wheat markets, has caused our millers to turn with longing eyes toward the wheat fields of Western Canada. Western Canada has produced this year about 60,000,000 bushels of excellent milling wheat. After taking care of Canadian home consumption there ought to be about 30,000,000 bushels for export. On account of the tariff, the bulk of this wheat will go to Europe to be milled. It is so much cheaper this year, on account of the spread in the markets, than American wheat that it is hopeless for American millers to hint of competing with the flour product made from it by English mills. The Minneapolis mills are going to make an effort to mill some of this wheat in bond for export, but the conditions at present attached to milling in bond are so difficult that it is not likely that any very large portion of the Canadian crop can be brought to Minneapolis. The fact is that the shortage of the

American wheat crop this year has reminded the millers of Minneapolis of what is in store for them unless something is done to give them access to the wheat of Western Canada. The centre of wheat production on this continent is steadily marching toward Western Canada. The mills will have to follow it, so far as the export trade is concerned, unless the customs regulations shall be so changed that the wheat can be brought to the Minneapolis mills. The present condition suggests the possibility of a coming time when the farmers of the United States, devoting their attention to more profitable crops, will not raise enough wheat to supply even the home demand. By that time Canada will have an enormous surplus. Western Canada can easily raise a billion bushels of wheat, the time for preparation being given. Will the United States continue to tax Canadian wheat then? The fact is that we are to some extent going out of the wheat business just as Western Canada is going into it. It would seem, therefore, that the time is at hand when the item of wheat will supply a basis for a reciprocal treaty between the two countries. The present high price of wheat will doubtless attract thousands of American farmers to the free or cheap wheat

lands of the Canadian west. In their new homes their voices will be raised for reciprocity, because they will readily understand that with a choice of competing markets to which to send their wheat they will realize higher prices.

A New Way of Distributing Presents.

Let one corner of the room where the Christmas festivities are to take place be fitted up as a post-office, and another corner made to represent a bank. Have ready in the post-office, envelopes, each bearing the name of the one who is to receive a gift, and in each envelope a "check" in favor of the one to whom the envelope is addressed. This check may read as follows:

North Pole, Christmas, 1904.
Snow, Frost & Co., Bankers.
Pay to the order of Harry Hawthorne
one pair of skates.
SANTA CLAUS.

Also have ready in the bank the presents which are to be given, each one properly designated. On the evening of the festival let the postmaster call out the names upon the envelopes one by one, and each child or person, as his name is called, go to the office and receive his check. He may then take it to the bank, and, presenting it to the cashier, receive his gift.

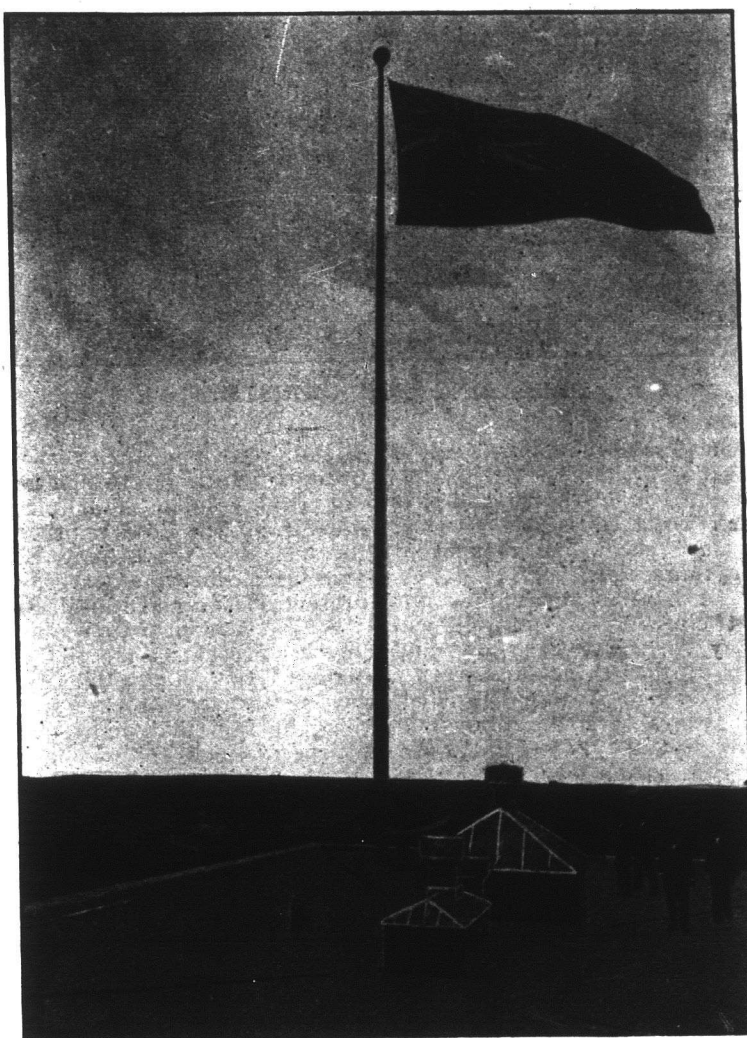
It is while you are patiently toiling at the little tasks of life that the meaning and shape of the great whole of life dawns upon you. It is while you are resisting little temptations that you are growing stronger.

HE OWES A DUTY TO THE PUBLIC

Tells of Benefit Derived from
Dodd's Kidney Pills.

Cures of Rheumatism and Dropsy by
Canada's Great Kidney Remedy.

YELLOW GRASS, Assa., N.W.T., Dec. 2. (Special).—"I think I should let the public know the benefit I derived from Dodd's Kidney Pills." The speaker was Mr. John White, well known here, and he voices the sentiments of many a man on those Western prairies who has been relieved of his pains and misery by the great Canadian Kidney Remedy. "I have been afflicted with Rheumatism for years," Mr. White continued. "I tried doctors and medicine, but never got anything to do me much good till I tried Dodd's Kidney Pills. What they did for me was wonderful. I also know the Harris family and I saw their little girl, Edith, who was cured of Dropsy by Dodd's Kidney Pills. I know that to be true. I tell you I feel like recommending Dodd's Kidney Pills even stronger than I talk." There is no Kidney Disease that Dodd's Kidney Pills cannot cure.



UNION BANK FLAGPOLE.

The Highest in the West and one of the Highest in the Dominion.

Story.

Story is told of a children had by to keep his place to claim it by growing self-conceit, which was by the boy standing face of the victim he felt, yet ward taking the to do so, firmly me not go; me heart solly." played great self-e so thoughtfully neously came the do all same as

ARE SUFFERERS

Dyspepsia but are of in Dodd's Dyspepsia Tablets at Mr. H. Hutchin-

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of Chatham, buy- a's big mercantile the ocean several : ne of the greatest ived comes from ia Tablets. I suf- e from Dyspepsia friend bought me pepsia Tablets and x I got relief. I d if at any time I likely to disagree ne or two Tablets ts of Indigestion."