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LONDON, SATURDAY, DEC. 23, 1903.

Christmas.

Of all anniversaries, festivals, and holidays, there is no other like Christmas. When we were children our several birthdays were great days to us, but the twenty-fifth of December was even then the day of days. This has always been the day of feasting and rejoicing, of homecoming and giving of gifts. Of the many Christian festivals this is the most nearly universal, even Easter taking second place.

The history of Christmas, like that of Easter, illustrates the wisdom which mingled with the dove-like qualities of the early Christian movement. Easter was with the Teutonic tribes the feast of Eostre, goddess of Spring. The Christian missionaries, instead of denouncing the whole thing as idolatrous and the work of Satan, as many modern apostles would have done, adopted the festival with all its harmless ceremonies, and took it for the festival of the resurrection, which it admirably typified. For several centuries after the death of Jesus no particular date was generally accepted as His birthday, some time in October finding most favor in the east. Indeed, all scholars agree that it could not have been December. That is the height of the rainy season in Judea, when shepherds do not watch their flocks by night in the Judean hills. When, however, Christianity became the state religion of Rome the unifying force of that world center began to be felt. The festival of Saturn, called Saturnalia, was held in heathen times about December 19, and lasted, in later years, about seven days. Its great features were harmless fun and frolic, equality of patrician and plebeian, of master and slave—a time of giving gifts and healing broken friendships. The occasion was dear to the people's hearts and the sort of its joys well suited the birthday of earth, peace and goodwill to men. Saturnalia became Christmas. Its definite restriction to December 25 marks the later born influence of Northern Europe. The Norse and other Teutonic races had a festival about the time of the winter solstice, the festival of Yule. Their mode of celebrating it was very similar to that of the Roman Saturnalia, which seems to have had some reference to the same solar period. As these Northerners were a scattered people, living by families in their own fields and hamlets, their festival ways were more homely, and less public than those of the urban peoples of Italy, and we, the descendants of these forest and field dwellers, have inherited their tastes. Even the names Yuletide, Yulelog, etc., stand a close second to the name Christmas in our affections. All the old customs peculiar to Christmas, the great special candles freshly lighted, the huge new Yulelog in the fireplace, the boar's head with an apple in its mouth, the mistletoe pendant from the ceiling, the stockings hung in the chimney corner, the great plum pudding which must be stirred once in the making by the youngest in the house, the rosy apples bubbling and bobbing in the pot, and a hundred other dear and innocent Christmas fancies, all these are our inheritance from our ancestors who worshiped God under such names as Odin and Thor.

For all these facts of history, none the less does our celebration of Christmas, with all its sweet affections, go to show that all these customs, whenever begun, are not heathen-born, but heaven-born, and from their origin till today have shown forth love, the true religion of which Jesus of Nazareth was the great prophet. To all the world, sinner as well as saint, this day comes welcome, the festival of universal brotherhood. In each heart is felt the same thrill as

"The time draws near the birth of Christ;
The moon is hid; the night is still;
The Christmas bells from hill to hill
Answer each other in the mist."
To good and bad alike, (but are not all good on that holy eve of brotherly love?), comes that "sorrow touched with joy" where a place is vacant that was not vacant last year. To all come the feeling that on that day even the dear ones we do not see are still with us, that

"They do not die
Nor lose their mortal sympathy,
Nor change to us, although they change."

"Rise happy morn, rise holy morn,
Draw forth the cheerful day from night;
O Father, touch the east, and light
The light that shone when Hope was born."

Tom Lawson's Defeat.

The expected has happened, and Tom Lawson, the vitriolic antagonist of Free Finance, has been compelled to acknowledge himself defeated by the "System." He declares that he will

stake his last dollar in a final effort to beat the Rockefeller combination.

Whether he will do so or not is a question, but it is expected his valor will yield to his discretion, and that he will submit as gracefully as he may.

There are two principal reasons for Mr. Lawson's defeat. The first was the System itself, entrenched as it is behind legislatures, trusts and even the Government itself, as partially revealed by the disclosures in connection with the campaign funds. Secondly, it has control of illimitable wealth. Lawson and his pool at best represented only \$100,000,000. He relied on the terrific sweep of public sympathy to assist him, but this failed to materialize.

Natural causes also played a great part in his defeat. The cardinal principle laid down by Lawson at the outset of his campaign was that stocks would rise or fall through manipulation. To illustrate his view, he made an attack on Amalgamated Copper, and began the great fight for the control of the stock. But there was another element making for his defeat. Copper began to rise in price from almost the very day of his campaign.

The law of supply and demand was having its effect. The Amalgamated treasury became plethoric because of the increasing demand for Copper and the corresponding rise in the price. The System had more money to fight Lawson with. The fluctuation in the value of Copper stocks was taken out of the hands of either Lawson or Rogers, and the System was victorious without effort.

While failure is the portion of the striking leader of the movement, his campaign taught a most salutary lesson to American and Canadian speculators. It revealed what little chance the uninitiated have, or what little certainty there is even for the initiated. The outsider is at the mercy of the clique, whether he has \$1,000,000 at his back or \$100,000,000. The operation of natural laws has a certain effect, but it is only incidental and temporary. Lawson has also convinced the average reader that great names do not always make an honest directorate.

Childish Attack Upon Ald. Stevely
The electors have a right to expect from a public journal, which presumes to give them advice, and is in a better position than most citizens to get information at first-hand, intelligent and honest discussion of municipal questions.

Readers of the Free Press need not be so sapient as Macaulay's schoolboy to laugh at the puerilities with which that newspaper is pelting one of the candidates for the mayoralty, Ald. Stevely.

It charges Ald. Stevely with "suppressing the auditors' report" for the present year. The transactions for the year 1903 are not yet closed, and it will be impossible for the auditors to present their report till February. This has been the custom for many years, as our contemporary would have known had it kept half an eye on civic affairs.

But a more heinous charge is brought by the Free Press against Ald. Stevely as the "finance minister" of the city council. Here it is:
"Perhaps the most unpardonable piece of management in city hall financing the citizens have ever witnessed took place at the very beginning of the year, in the spectacle of the city of London, with its wealth and self-respect, rushing to the usurer to borrow a paltry \$9,000. It will be remembered that the waterworks department required \$9,000 to complete certain mains which had been laid. They proposed to pay for these mains out of current account."

"Mayor Campbell, with his finance minister, Ald. Stevely, stepped in, however, and demanded that the money be paid over to the city, and that money be borrowed for the purpose of paying for the construction of the main."
The council, in issuing debentures, followed the city auditors' advice, and the invariable practice. The water mains to be constructed or completed to charge the whole expense up to the ratepayers in a single year. Had the debentures not been issued the tax rate this year would have been appreciably higher.

Acting on this principle in 1902, the city council, with Mr. Beck as mayor, and Ald. Beattie as "finance minister," authorized \$9,000 worth of waterworks debentures.

The same course was pursued by the council of 1903. The bylaw for the issue of \$10,000 worth of waterworks debentures was moved by Ald. Judd, seconded by Ald. Matthews.

In its hysterical screed, of which a portion has been quoted, the Free Press goes on to denounce the action of this year's council as "utterly indefensible," "unbusinesslike," and so on. "Everyone knows," it says, "that as chairman of the finance committee Ald. Stevely is equally responsible." It is very easy to reply with a tu quoque by pointing out that Ald. Judd, as chairman of the finance committee of the council in 1903, took the same position as Ald. Stevely, and that Ald. Judd is now hailed by the Free Press as a wizard of finance. But we are not so anxious to score a point against our contemporary as to urge it to drop its childishness and endeavor to lift

the discussion of public issues to a higher level.

The plague is the latest of Russia's ills. The Czar's Christmas box resembles Pandora's, but does even hope remain?

According to our contemporary, Mayor Campbell and Ald. Stevely are a pair of civic clumps for doing what Mayor Beck and ex-Ald. Judd did two years ago.

John Burns spent four weeks in Canada and has written a book on the country. He should be frank with his readers and label it "Canada as Seen Through a Car Window."

The Free Press is very angry because the Advertiser said the other day that "no paid agent of the corporations should sit in the mayor's chair." No names were mentioned, but this is construed into an attack on Ald. Judd. "If the cap doesn't fit, don't wear it."

Mr. Judd is the solicitor of nearly all the corporations doing business with the city of London. He is a shareholder in at least one of them. He is not showing a little too much assurance in asking to be elected mayor at a time when these corporations, or some of them, are asking favors of the city?

The smart aleck of the Free Press throws a slur on one of the most estimable clergymen of London by suggesting that other city preachers would welcome "33,000 jobs" as a Christmas box. The change brings no financial advantage to the clergyman in question, considering the increased cost of living in the West. The ministers of London are not the mercenary tribe depicted by the Free Press, or they would have chosen some other occupation.

Maintaining Exclusiveness.

[London Punch.]
It is, we hear, becoming an increasing fashion for wealthy children in America to call in the assistance of professional packers on Christmas Day, to enable them to eat more than their less fortunate brethren.

In the Way.

[New York Times.]
"Your honor, it's impossible that my automobile was running forty miles an hour at the time the accident took place. It hasn't power enough to go that fast."
"All right, then—ten dollars for obstructing the public highway."

Many Thanks.

[Punch.]
Roy (who has been out to tea)—Mrs. Freeman's cake is better than ours, mamma.
Mamma—I hope you said, "Thank you, Roy."
Roy—Oh, yes, mamma. I said it five times.
Mamma—You need only have said it once, dear.
Roy—But I had five pieces of cake, mamma!

An Explanation.

[Washington Star.]
"Why is it," said the young man with long hair, "that the average woman would rather marry money than brains?"
"She takes less chance," answered Miss Cayenne, "the average man is of the opinion that a woman who is not a brain is a waste of money than she is of brains."

No Danger.

[Philadelphia Press.]
"Now, Mr. Newcome," the vestryman, who was decidedly "low church," said to the new rector, "there must be no surplus here—"
"Surplus?" interrupted the Rev. Mr. Newcome, "there's no danger of that on the salary you pay."

A Sample.

[London Tailor.]
A clergyman, fond of a particularly hot brand of pickles, always carried a bottle with him. One day, when dining at a restaurant, he passed the pickles. The minister, who enjoyed the joke, politely passed the bottle, and in a few minutes the waiter, who had been seeing the Yankee watering at the eyes and gasping for breath.
"I guess," said the latter, "that you are a person?"
"Yes, my friend, I am," replied the minister.
"I suppose you preach?" asked the waiter.
"Yes, sir, I preach twice a week, usually," said the minister.
"Do you ever preach about hell fire?" inquired the waiter.
"Yes, I sometimes consider it my duty to remind my congregation of eternal punishment," returned the minister.
"I thought so," returned the waiter; "but you are the first of your class I ever met who carried samples."

Standing Room Only.

[Chicago News.]
The Lawyer—So your wife has sued you for a divorce? Will she have any standing in court?
The Client—I'm afraid so. From the nature of the evidence she has given, bringing in there won't be half enough seats to accommodate the crowd.

Ibsen.

[New York Evening World.]
If Ibsen, whose end is near, had died thirty years ago, there would have been none of that extensive output of pathological drama which is his monument. There would be no one to acclaim him master, and no laurel wreaths. Would not the world be better off?

How has it profited humanity to have the clinical studies in moral disease, the investigations of hereditary blood taint, the dissection of morbid social tissue which constitute the fabric of his plays? What benefit has society derived from his unveiling of skeletons in closets and his exploitation of moral ulcers? Of these and the Mrs. Alving and the whole gallery of heretic femininity?

To Ibsen is due what credit there may be as the originator of the modern short cut to success in stage authority. He first demonstrated the inherent art of the evidence she has given, bringing in there won't be half enough seats to accommodate the crowd.

Rev. Pinkerton's Way.

[Kenton (Ohio) News.]
Rev. Pinkerton is one of the staunchest of the young men make him a man whom the young men not only respect but advise with and enjoy being in his company. He is one of that type of men who do not stand apart with uplifted hands and deplore what the young people are doing, and who does not hold aloof

and comment, criticize and place limitations upon the good times which young people have and demand in their buoyant spirits, but joins in all the merriment with a will, and when he thinks they are carrying their fun to a dangerous point, instead of running away, takes off his coat, goes in heart and soul and does his best to head off the rush on to forbidden ground before they have stepped too far. This pastor, in his sermon last night, made one of the strongest appeals for the church to provide a place of recreation which has ever been heard in this city.

Night Have Been Worse.

[Washington Star.]
"Good heavens!" exclaimed the doctor, when he had reached the bedside, "has he been playing football?"
"No," replied the sufferer's mother. "I'm glad to say it's not as bad as that. He was merely run over by a switch engine."

A Chump.

[Philadelphia Press.]
Tess—Mr. Dumley's just the meanest man. He told me last evening he'd teach me how to whistle if I'd pucker up my lips.
Jess—Oh, that old scheme! Then he kissed you, eh?
Tess—No, the stupid thing! He didn't kiss me at all.

TOLSTOY AND HENRY GEORGE.

[From the New York Evening Post.]
Sir—Tolstoy's recent letter to the London Times upon the subject "A Great Iniquity" is the Russian philosopher's latest utterance upon the land question. In it is declared his belief that the greatest of all iniquities is the private ownership of land, together with his explicit indorsement of the single tax doctrine of Henry George. The utterances of this world-famous man, heralded far and near, are likely to foster the misapprehension that the mutual aim of both Henry George and himself was the destruction of private property in land. I therefore beg, with only a word or two of comment, to call critical attention to one of Tolstoy's statements, leaving it to the reader to make his own interpretation of its meaning.

Notwithstanding Tolstoy's unequivocal declaration that "the soil must be restored to the people," and his reiteration of "the wrong of private property in land," the conclusion that he would destroy the private ownership of land must, it seems to me, be a mistaken one, and out of harmony with both his text and context. Henry George specifically arraigned the institution of private property in land, as it now exists. He condemned that feature of land tenure which necessitates the invasion by taxation of the otherwise sacred right of private property in the products of labor in order that ground rent may continue to inure mainly to private benefit. Hence it must be submitted that what Tolstoy also had in mind was private property in land "as now existing." The length and breadth of George's proposed remedy, to which Tolstoy gives full indorsement, was, in Mr. George's own words, "I do not propose . . . to confiscate private property in land, but 'to appropriate rent by taxation' (Progress and Poverty, book viii, chapter 2). In the enjoyment of every other 'right and privilege' of tenure, the right to 'own,' possess, buy, sell, devise, and bequeath, excepting only the one privilege of the private appropriation of rent, Mr. George's specific declaration was that the land owner should be left undisturbed. The following paragraph is from Tolstoy's 'The Great Iniquity':

"A member of the English Parliament, Labouchere, could publicly say, without meeting any refutation, that 'he was not such a visionary as Henry George; he did not propose to take the land out of the hands of the landowners, and that he does not believe it out again; what he was in favor of was putting a tax on land values.' That is, whilst attributing to George what he could not possibly have said, Labouchere, by way of correcting the imaginary fantasies, suggested that which Henry George did indeed say."

Tolstoy's language thus proves beyond a possible doubt that he does not believe in taking the land from the landlords, and that he does not believe that Henry George could have said so, but both are agreed in taking ground rent in taxation.

One more thought by way of comment. George and Tolstoy, in common with Herbert Spencer, found, in the literature of the land question, in the dictionaries, and in works on political economy, one word "land" standing for soil, and for situation, and they used the term without defining to themselves and to their readers the two ideas embraced in it. A clear distinction presents itself between what the professors might call two separate "concepts," viz.: "land" and "land value." It falls follows:

"Land," per se, defined as the earth's surface; the inherent capabilities of the soil; the bounties of nature; natural resources; "natural media."

"Land value," defined to be the value of "light and privileges" thereunto pertaining," as specified in deeds of conveyance; value of the advantages of society and government; value of proximity; value due to command of facilities for commerce and communication with the world; an artificial value, not a value of "natural media."

The value of land per se, and land value as above defined, may be contrasted by supposing one of two city lots to have a doorless and windowless hundred-foot wall around it, so that no legal right of way to and from it, in either of which cases the value would be that of land per se.

If anyone will reread both authors, bearing in mind to apply private property in land wherever it occurs, the above distinction, as well as the qualifying words "as at present existing," a great deal of confusion will appear in place of what may have been pronounced foolishness.

C. B. FILLBROWN,
President of the Massachusetts Single Tax League.
Boston, Dec. 16.

POEMS THAT LIVE

[William Wilfred Campbell.]
Down out of heaven,
Frost-kissed,
And wind-driven,

Flake upon flake,
Over forest and lake,
Cometh the snow.

Folding the forest,
Folding the farms
In a mantle of white;
And the great river's arms,
Kissed by the chill night
From clamor to rest,
Lies all white and shrouded
Upon the world's breast.

Falling so slowly
Down from above,
So white, hushed and holy,
Folding the city
Like the great pity
Of God in His love,
Sent down from heaven
On its sorrow and crime,
Blotting them, folding them,
Under its time.

Fluttering, rustling,
Soft as a breath,
The whisper of leaves,
Low chiming of bells,
Or the voice of the dawning,
When day has its birth,
In the music of silence
It makes to the earth.

Thus down out of heaven,
Frost-kissed,
And wind-driven,
Flake upon flake,
Over forest and lake,
Cometh the snow.

TWO MASS MEETINGS
Municipal Matters Will Be Discussed
Tuesday and Friday Nights.

Thus far only two meetings for the discussion of municipal matters have been arranged. One of these will be held in the East End Hall on Tuesday night, and one in the city hall on Friday night.

West Londoners are protesting against this programme, and it is understood will demand a meeting in Collins' Hall some night next week.

KELLY NOW W. M.
Hackett L. O. Lodge Elects Officers
for Next Year.

Hackett L. O. B. L., No. 805, held its annual meeting and election of officers in Castle Hall, Dufferin Block. The finances of the lodge are in excellent condition. Over \$100 was paid out in sick benefits this year. Six candidates will be initiated at the next meeting.

The officers for 1904 were elected as follows: Bro. H. Kelley, W. M.; Bro. R. J. Hunter, D. M.; Bro. Frank Brodson, chaplain (re-elected); Bro. J. E. Shorter, recording secretary (re-elected); Bro. S. H. Wood, financial secretary (re-elected); Bro. Thos. J. Taylor, treasurer (re-elected); Bro. James Tuftell, director of ceremonies (re-elected); Bro. E. J. Tydd, lecturer; Bro. W. Temple, deputy lecturer; Bro. J. Stanley, Bro. J. B. Draper, Bro. Wm. Fox, Bro. D. Tripp, Bro. A. R. Pingle, committee; doctor, Bro. A. R. Pingle, M. D.; trustees, Bro. E. H. Johnston, Bro. Joseph Murray; auditors, E. H. Johnston, J. McKenna; Bro. Nevin, past county master of Huron, and Bro. Perry Davis, recording secretary of L. O. L., No. 762, acted as scrutineers. The officers-elect all made speeches.

J. H. CHAPMAN & COMPANY

LAST CALL! CHRISTMAS!

Just a few more shopping hours. Have you forgotten anything?

Silk Kimonos \$7.85

Reduced price for today and tonight. These handsome, full length robes, silk inside and out, heavily quilted, Japanese embroidered; colors, cardinal, navy, pink and pale blue. A pleasing gift.....\$7.85

Half Price Kimonos

Full-Length Kimonos or Dressing Gowns, good quality of (faded, down, fancy and plain patterns; regular price \$5; all day today.....\$2 50

Pretty Waists For Gifts

Cream Habutai Wash-Silk Waists, daintily designed with lace, also brown and navy blue silk waists, in pleated style, at.....\$1 95

Lace Collars

GERMAN LACE STOCK COLLARS, suitable for giving; different styles, worth 50c and 50c, today and tonight.....25c

Pin Cushions

PIN-CUSHIONS, hand-made, of silk, lace and ribbons, long, square, crescent and bolster shape, in the fancy goods section. Up from.....\$1 00

Men's Initial Handkerchiefs

We still have plenty, MEN'S PURE LINEN HEM-STITCHED HANDKERCHIEFS, large initial, special,.....25c

All Books To Be Sold Today

Great bargains in Books today and tonight. Just as soon as possible come for them. Prices have been cut so they'll hustle away.

J. H. Chapman & Co., 126, 128, 128½ Dundas St.

SELLING OUT

Hamilton Works, 21 jewels, in a 14k gold-filled case, warranted to wear 25 years.....\$26.00

Lady's Silver Watch.....\$2.50
17-jewels, Bartlett works, adjusted, 20-year case.....\$10.75
Eight-Day Watch, guaranteed, gunmetal case.....\$4.75
Famous Longine Nurse's Watch.....\$10.75
Boys' Gunmetal Watch, was \$3.00.....\$1.75
Complete Watch, adjusted.....\$6.00

No Fakir Goods

Gilt Clock, guaranteed.....\$1.25
Gent's 20-year filled case, with Waltham works.....\$6.65
Complete Waltham Watch, 15-jeweled.....\$5.00
Lady's 15-jeweled Waltham Watch, in a 25-year case.....\$9.50
Boy's Non-magnetic Watch, warranted.....\$2.65
8-Day Clocks, 22 inches high, 1/2-hour strike.....\$2.00
Repeating Alarm Clock, was \$1.50, now.....\$1.00
Name any case and works in any grade of Waltham or Elgin Watches and we will quote prices.

Good Alarm Clock, guaranteed.....60c
1847 Rogers Bros.' A1 Tea Spoons, per doz.....\$2.25
75c Handbags [all others in proportion].....50c
\$8.00 Diamond Ring, 14k, full cut stone.....\$5.75
\$6.00 14k Ring, 3 full pearls.....\$3.75
Silver Spoons and Forks, in any style; at per ounce.....\$1.00
W. A. Roger's Fancy Teaspoons, per dozen.....\$1.50
Best quality Brass Kettles and Chafing Dishes.
Candelabras with shades and candles.
Ebony Goods cheaper than anyone in the country.
Buy goods where you can get them repaired.

P. BIRTWISTLE, 116 Dundas Street

A ST. THOMAS WEDDING

Miss Cora Axford United in Marriage to Mr. J. W. Booth, London.

A very pretty wedding was solemnized Wednesday afternoon at 4 o'clock, at the home of the bride's parents, Mr. and Mrs. William H. Axford, 20 Alma street, St. Thomas, when their daughter, Cora Lida, was united in holy matrimony to John William Stalker, Francis, of London (son of Mrs. M. C. Booth and the late Engineer William S. Booth), by the Rev. T. B. Clark, of All Saints' Church, London, in the presence of about 50 invited guests. The bride was given away by her father, and was becomingly attired in a gray cloth traveling suit, carrying a beautiful bouquet of white carnations. Miss Margaret Axford, sister of the bride, acted as bridesmaid, assisted by Miss Etta J. Booth, sister of the groom. The groom was supported by his brother, Frederick G. Booth, of St. Louis, Mo., assisted by Mr. Milton Francis, of London. After partaking of a dainty wedding breakfast, the happy couple left amid showers of rice and good wishes at 6:30 on the M. C. R. for Kent City, Mich., and points west. Mr. and Mrs. Booth, on their return, will make their home in St. Thomas. The bride was the recipient of many beautiful and costly presents, showing the high esteem in which the young couple were held. Among those invited were relatives from Scotland, Meriden, Conn.; St. Louis, Detroit, London, Hamilton, Aylmer, Dutton and Tillsonburg.