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of St. Nicholas. (This day is also a good opportunity to explain the season of advent.) Now the children are permitted to write their Christmas letters. Oh, with what holy fervor they all try to do their best writing!

The following weeks are a continuous time of joyful expectations, especially when their letters are off.

And then the 23 or 24 of December! How well do they recite their morning prayers! The whole day is spent in showing the dear little Infant Jesus that the little hearts as well as the minds are ready for the Holy Night.

With eager, sparkling eyes they gaze at the lighted tree, and the little crib which contains the small statue representing the divine Infant, and may the presents be ever so small, how they appreciate them!

Most of those, who had already the happiness to be admitted for first Holy Communion, are going to confession to transform their hearts into a living, crib for the new-born Saviour. They well understand that the greatest gift they can receive is the Christ-child, God Himself.

The smaller children, of course take it literally that Infant Jesus brings the nice things they get, but the older ones have already realized that what is meant are Christ's spiritual gifts and that the presents supposed to come from the Infant Jesus only symbolize his spiritual gifts.

Though well they know that no one were able to give them extra joy, if not from heaven came the blessing first. So you see the awakening to wider knowledge does not disappoint, but rather stirs the heart to giving thanks to Him from whom all good things come.

The "Santa Claus" idea does often more harm than good. I remember a little boy of four years was so frightened on seeing "Santa Claus" that he got the cramps. In order to assuage the child the man had to take off his mask and show himself, but now all the joy for a whole little town was spoiled, because it was talked about, and the presents given lost all their charm.

The Christmas tree is a symbol of this holy season. It is an ever-green tree signifying our hope in everlasting life. It reminds of the tree of life in paradise and also of the tree of life on Calvary.

As it spreads its branches near to the ground but tapers toward the top, at last pointing with a single stem towards heaven; so our life's ambitions should more and more get concentrated and point to heaven.

The many colored candles mean the good intentions which, though of many kinds all spread the light of happiness about us. They also signify Christ, the light coming into the world. As the candles consume themselves, so should we give up ourselves in burning love to the new born Saviour.

The presents on and beneath the tree remind us of the greatest gift that the Holy Infant brought us, our holy faith and redemption.

Don't you think, dear parents and teachers, that some thoughts like these would prolong the Christmas joys of of the little ones? I shall never forget the Christmas trees in my home. Christmas is, and ever shall be a feast of joyful remembrance. "Santa Claus" — in some newspapers he is depicted as an ugly fat Jew—never could have this effect.

The thought of a Christian celebration of the Holy-Night brought many a wayward son or daughter back again to better life. The "Santa Claus" idea, I am afraid, loses its charms only to soon.—Corr.

Take Lesson From Hen
The hen that lays up egg a day is a gold mine for her owner. Take a lesson from the hen. Lay up your future by investing regularly in WAR SAVINGS STAMPS.

SPARKS FROM THE ANVIL
(Special for St. Peters Bote.)

—What a blessed thing it would be if the practice of family prayers were introduced into every Catholic home.

—Given a good will and a set purpose, the small burdens and inconveniences of life can be easily borne. If the petty annoyances are brooded over and exaggerated, distemper and discontent set in, and one not only becomes a burden to himself, but also a cause of annoyance to others.

—Men cannot make realities correspond with their conceptions; enjoyment steals away from their hands, the wished for comes too late, and nothing reached for or acquired produces on the heart the effect which their longing for it at a distance led them to anticipate.

—Eat regularly; sleep regularly. Go at your work with a smile; try to keep a sunny disposition, no matter what turns up. Don't hunt trouble, but if you meet it, face it with a bold front. Don't be a quitter.

—In the United States, Godless education is bearing Dead-Sea fruit a hundredfold in riots, industrial autocracy, unjustified strikes, and flouting of authority.

—The Catholic workman, who shirks his task, is a petty thief, a drawback to the cause of Labor, and a reproach to Catholicism.

—The Catholic employer, who fails to give his workmen equitable compensation for their labor, is false to his religion and detrimental to his Church. Each is a black-sheep in the family of Mother Church; their conduct always reflects upon their training.

—The fellow who rolls up his sleeves usually accomplishes more than the "gink" who rolls up his trousers.

—A man's value in the world is estimated and paid for according to the ability he uses, not what he may possess.

—The only man who can combine business and pleasure is the man whose pleasure is his business.

—One of the products of industry is sound,—noise, if you prefer that term—and as yet no use has been found for it.

—The bronze of the ancients is now being attempted by the experts in order to serve some of the purposes for which steel is not entirely satisfactory.

—In a list of "nevers" is the following: "Never fail to give a polite answer to a civil question." It beats all how hard it is for some folks to give a polite answer, no matter how civil the question may be. They are always short on the small change of civilization, as a thoughtful citizen remarked after an unpleasant experience of the tribe.

Fifteen Years Ago
From No. 44 of St. Peters Bote
Up to the 17th of Dec. there was hardly sufficient snow for sleighing. This morning it began to snow and promises to continue for the remainder of the day. Last night fire broke out in the Occidental Hotel in Rosthern. Fortunately it was discovered in time so that a few pails of water sufficed to put it out. On the 12th the town elections were held and H. A. McEwen was re-elected by a majority of 8 votes.

About fifty miles north-east of St. Anne, T.41, R.14, S.9 or 10, on the Barrier river, there is a saw mill that has 1,000,000 ft. of lumber on hand which it will sell for \$13 per 1,000 ft., or even for less. Saturday night and on Sunday Dec. 25, a terrible storm raged along the Atlantic coast, similar in violence to that of a few weeks ago.

Wilson's Message to Congress.

WASHINGTON, D. C.—President Wilson's annual message to Congress was read in both houses on Dec. 2. The President's principal recommendations are:

Establishment of a budget system for the national finances.
Reorganization of the taxation system with simplification of the income and excess profit taxes.
Readjustment of the tariff system, if necessary, to meet changed world conditions and make the system conform with the fact that the United States is the "greatest capitalist in the world."

Recognition and relief for veteran soldiers of the world war, particularly in the way of government farms as proposed by Secretary Lane.
Proper measures to foster the dyestuffs industry built up during the war to keep the United States independent of foreign supply.

An enlarged program for rural development in recognition of the farmer's part in the war.
Measures which "will remove the causes of political restlessness in our body politic."

The President made reference to the peace treaty by saying that the causes for the worst "are superficial rather than deep seated," and that they "arise from or are connected with the failure on the part of our government to arrive speedily at a just and permanent peace, permitting return to normal conditions; from the transfusion of radical theories from seething European centres pending such delay, from heartless profiteering resulting from the increase of the cost of living, and lastly from the machinations of passionate and malevolent agitators. With the return to normal conditions this unrest will rapidly disappear."

The President renewed his recommendations for legislation to deal effectively with "those persons who by violent methods would abrogate our time-tested institutions."

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IMPOUNDED
on Dec. 6, 1919, on the premises of Paul Thiemann, N.E. 1/4 Sec. 28, T. 37, Rge. 22, Humboldt, Sask.,
5 HORSES:
one old white horse; one black horse, with halter on; one grey mare, about 3 years old; one black colt, 1 1/2 year old, with white face; 1 sorrel colt, 1 1/2 yrs., white face, and four white legs. None of them has a brand mark.

Potatoes Wanted
We would be much pleased to know where we could get a supply of potatoes and at what price.
Kindly communicate with or call on
R. H. BONIFLE,
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