

The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, DECEMBER 31, 1916.

CHRISTMAS DUTIES.

Even when the Christ was in His manger-cradle men's duties were fixed and their characters tested by their relation to Him. We know the shepherds, the wise men, Mary, and King Herod, by their feelings and actions then, just as we know those who came into contact with Him after He had begun His public work.

From different walks of life, and widely different degrees of knowledge, men might come to the infant King; but they came obedient or disobedient to the messages already heard, prepared to be either subjects or enemies. Present duty was determined by the light already received. The wise men had seen the star, the shepherds had heard the song and the angels' tidings, but these great favors were only an incentive to further search. Nor could they remain for long where they were; if they were to see for themselves, they must act at once. The star's guidance was offered for that time only; the child was said to be at Bethlehem; a short time later, and they would have sought in vain. The flight into Egypt and the many years of obscurity would follow speedily upon this opportunity.

By different paths men went to Bethlehem; by different paths they went back to life and work. The humble shepherds had not become wise men, their occupation was the same as before and yet earth could never be the same to them as it had been. Did they think much about duty? Did they say, "I suppose that we ought to go to Bethlehem; I think that it is our duty to tell others something about what we have seen?" The word "duty" seems a strange one to use in such a connection. It represented a fact, but not the side of the fact at which these men were looking. Their eyes had seen that for which prophets and priests, righteous men and kings had longed. It had been left for them to continue the angels' work in spreading the glad news that was for all the people, and how could they remain silent? To eyes that had seen the Christ-child duty became transfigured on that first Christmas Day. Surely in the light of that star and in recollection of that epoch-making birth we need not tell each other in Christian lands that the message of the babe of Bethlehem is that of service of humanity. And it is still true that those who see Him are the best at serving others and those who sing the Christmas carols best are those who have in their own hearts the peace and good-will to all men of which angel choristers sang upon that starlit night so long ago.

MAKE GERMAN PAY.

And now comes the announcement that the Allied war bill against Germany totals some 24,000,000,000 pounds. Of this amount the cost of the war to Great Britain is reported to be some 8,000,000,000 pounds. It has been said that inasmuch as the total estimated wealth of Germany before the war was in the vicinity of some 16,000,000,000 pounds to 20,000,000,000 pounds that we cannot hope to receive back from her sufficient sums to cover our claims. This opinion may not, however, be final. It is to be borne in mind that with a nation as with an individual the ability to pay is measured by its earning power multiplied by the time allowed to pay off the indebtedness. Let the claims in full of ourselves and our allies be presented and accepted by the Germans at the peace conference. Then let Germany be given all the time that is necessary to pay for her most inexcusable and wanton destruction of property. Until the last mark and pfennig has been paid, it goes without saying that we must hold guarantees of sufficient magnitude as will place the future installments of this debt beyond a peradventure.

Moreover, it would be interesting to the average man to know just how the parliamentarians have made up this sum representing our claim. Of course they have taken cognizance of all material damage and losses, but have they also added to that sum the cost of human life destroyed or maimed beyond human repair. It was recently stated that every life lost to the state through disease involved a loss to the state of \$10,000. A very low estimate, we think, but let it be. Then, why ought not Germany be compelled to pay over that sum to every father or mother or wife or child whose son or husband or father was killed in this war? Some may ridicule this thought, but we ask earnestly why should not the enemy pay in this measure? Some 20,000 of the very best of our Canadian men have been killed. Had Germany not criminally and without provocation launched her legions against us, these men would be living today. Had these men been accidentally killed in industrial life would there not be adequate compensation allowed in every court throughout our land? Then why should compensation be denied when they were killed by an enemy which sought deliberately to destroy our most sacred rights and institutions? Among their relatives are old men and aged women and feeble widows and little children. Ought not these all to be compensated by the

guilty party in some measure at least? Ought not money to pay all pensions annuities made then pensions necessary? In every court of law the party who loses his case must pay the costs. Why should not Germany pay the costs of this bill. She kept adding to it day after day once she had started upon her course of destruction notwithstanding all the solemn warnings repeatedly given her. Now, why ought not she to pay? We believe that by every rule of justice her obligation is absolute. The two alternatives she elected to stand by were "world domination or downfall." Had she succeeded the "downfall" would have been ours. By the grace of God her nefarious and guilty purposes have been thwarted and defeated and now and hereafter until the sum of her indebtedness is fully liquidated, it is only justice that she should be made to pay. The United States is still paying pensioners of her civil war days. For many years our heroic pensioners must be paid and we will see to it that they are paid. Our citizens demand that they be paid liberally and to the very end, but have our citizens not also the moral right to demand that ultimately Germany be compelled to reimburse Canada for the amounts so devoted. They called the tune, let them pay the fiddler.

THEIR CRY FOR MERCY.

It is most gratifying to read that the women of America are not being deceived by the cringing appeal of the German women. The whole world has suffered hunger more than they ever will, and it is not so very long since they were gloating over the sinking of food from the very countries to which they are now appealing. If they are hungry, and it is doubtful if they really are, let them remember that it is a just retribution. The Allied countries have faced a shortage of necessities, and on account of the Germans will go without luxuries for some time yet, and the famine in many homes will take generations to wipe out.

It was only to be expected that they would cry for mercy as soon as their own land was threatened; a merciful enemy has granted them food; but to ask for food we need ourselves is a little bit too much.

Let the women of Germany use their wonderful genius, so good at creating devilish devices of destruction, and be thankful that they are not threatened with the same fate meted out to the helpless women of Belgium and France by German husbands and brothers. If we have food to spare let our destitute allies in Serbia, Russia and Belgium be looked after first.

The enemy peoples do not love us one bit better than they did before November eleventh. A stroke of the pen has not softened hatred fostered for years. They have ceased to fight simply because they were being defeated and we all know that if there were any chances of victory they would make use again at a moment's notice, with their women and even their children helping to provide the means.

In a few more months they will have an opportunity to gather in another harvest, and a little shortage in the meantime may not do them any harm and will teach them a much needed lesson.

In Holland and France they are now using tanks in place of mules along the canal towpaths. Tanks are certainly extending their sphere of usefulness, but nobody has as yet used them for anything even remotely suggestive of their name.

The granting of the right of suffrage to the women of England will no doubt arouse in the minds of a good many Canadian women the thought that feminine capability is just as great over here as across the water.

WHAT THEY SAY

Women as Jurors.
Brooklyn Eagle—Now that women are citizens of the State of New York, with all rights and obligations of citizenship, there is no more reason why they should be excluded from jury duty than there is why men should be; excuses for physical disability are as easily arranged for one sex as for the other. But the puzzling part of the crusade is why on earth women should want to sit on juries. Here for generations men have sought so strenuously to evade jury duty that their dodging sometimes becomes a public scandal, and yet the women in the first year of their full citizenship come clamoring for the very job that the men have been dodging. Haven't women any sense at all? Don't they know "a lemon" when they see it? Is it really true, as some of the suffragists have been telling us, that women have a keener ethical sense of the responsibilities of citizenship than men? Are they asking for jury duty because they regard it as an ugly job which men have been shirking and because they think it is "up to them" to take the lion's share of citizenship with the best?

Humble and Reticent.
Boston Transcript—We were saved from invasion and destruction by the British Navy. Of that there is no doubt. The German fleet has been decimated to the British Navy, 62 that

there is no doubt. Therefore we should be humble and reticent when we are told that Great Britain intends to lose her navy at the fall of strength.

Spoofing the Tenthers.

London Daily News—A British secret naval code book fell into German hands, and Admiral Hall knew it. So a number of spoof messages were issued to the Grand Fleet from Whitehall in the stolen code, ordering off a "fleet" part of the fleet on a certain trip, and having a relatively weak force to maintain the blockade. The industrious German promptly decoded these messages, and as a result, the High Sea Fleet came out and the battle of Jutland followed. If the weather had only been a little kinder then, there would have been no German fleet to surrender now.

A BIT OF FUN

And the Horses Laughed.
Member S. P. C. A. (to brutal driver): "No, my friend, I won't shut up. Your poor horse, unfortunately, cannot speak like Balaam's ass, but I would have you know, sir, that I can."

A Fly Question

The Adjutant (to prospective orderly-room clerk): "Well, Bithers, you know the regulations at figures. Now, there were four flies on this table and I killed one how many would be left?"

Bithers: "One, sir—the dead 'un."

Sounded Like It.

A laborer who stuttered badly was arrested for some misdemeanor and was taken before the magistrate.

"What is your name, prisoner?" asked the judge severely.

The prisoner screwed up his mouth and babbled:

"S-s-s-e-e-e-t-p."

The magistrate broke in:

"I am asking you what your name is."

Again the prisoner started in:

"S-s-s-e-e-e-t-p."

Whereupon the magistrate lost his patience and turned to the policeman who had brought the prisoner in.

"What is this prisoner charged with, officer?"

The cop saluted, and said:

"Begorra, O! don't know, but O! should think it was soda water."

A Hereditary Trait.

The school teacher, had punished Tommy so often for talking during school, and the punishment had been apparently without effect, that, as a last resort, he notified the principal.

Tommy's father of his son's fault. So following the department mark on his next report were these words:

"Tommy."

In due time the report was returned with his father's signature, and under it was written: "You ought to hear his mother."

So Careless!

"Who was here with you last night?"

"Well, Agnes was here father."

"Well, tell Agnes she's left her spurs and 'Sam Brown' under the settee."

City.

Editor: What makes you think Jack loves me so desperately?

Maud: Oh, a thousand things! He always looks so pleased, for instance, when you sing and play.

THE EDITOR'S MAIL

Sussex, N. B., Sept. 19, 1918.

Editor The Standard.

Sir: It is as good as a circus, and about as amusing, to read the almost daily distribution of the St. John papers of a certain class, about the horrible Tories, and horrible potatoes.

Many of the present day breed of Liberals, so-called, seem to have a higher aim in life than mud-slinging, and dirt-throwing. They revel in muck, and are not particular whether they employ tactics of the father of lies, or do themselves in the self-righteousness, which every hypocrite can assume, when it suits the purpose of loud-mouthed professions of purity, where the real article is non-existent.

Talking to a personal friend, a stimulant to the other day, about "investigation" going on, he was not a very warm admirer of its course pursued. He and I agreed upon one point, namely, that all this bother going on before commissions, about potatoes and one thing or another, was more for political effect and to fasten blackness of character upon political opponents, than from any love of political honesty and purity. Damn the Opposition, well now, damn them well, and keep on damning until the next election comes, and maybe we can fool the electors into the same course, and when we win we can laugh in our sleeves and remain in place and power.

Seriously, Mr. Editor, I wonder if the editorial blatherings of the Telegraph and Times really imagine that the people and electors have forgotten 1912, when the rotten aggregation in power were kicked out by indignant New Brunswickers, and only a couple of nonentities sent to represent the glorious, pious and immortal tricksters, who had held sway as the most corrupt government New Brunswick had ever been cursed with.

That party is in power today. Look at the Opposition. It is the galling fact, take it which way we can, that their superiors face them, and they know it, which makes the gang called the government of New Brunswick so anxious to probe down and destroy the Opposition by every political means they can devise, and make them if possible even unrecognizable by the electors, and outcast by their votes.

Some people say when it comes to graft and self-seeking, both parties are alike. "They all do it," is the cry. Scores of ultra Liberals and Liberal Conservatives have expressed such an opinion and seem to think that when one set of politicians accuses another of graft and fraud, and financial trickery, it is only "the pot calling the kettle black." It must be admitted, however, in the political realm of both sides, there are to be found many honorable men. A great deal of this black-face work is simply

Little Benny's Note Book.

BY LEE PAPE.

The Park Ave. News.

Sherry News. At a meeting of Company B at Lieutenant Benny's house last Saturday, General Sherry Martin was being presented with a sword by Lieutenant Benny and all the rest of the officers and Sargent Perry Weaver was standing around him in a circle saying, "All hail the great hero, when all of a sudden Lieutenant Benny's sword and sherry bottle came in and he grabbed his sword and swung it back in the wall and broke up the meeting."

Ed Warnick's Property Saves Many Lives. Ed Warnick was crossing Broad street last Wednesday and there was a broken bottle in the middle of the street, and Ed Warnick picked it up and layed it in the gutter, which if it had not some automobile mite of bumped into an other automobile trying to dodge the broken bottle, and many people mite of been killed, including some not in the automobile. Anyhow, he properly kept everybody from having a punishment.

Ed Hunt knows there's a penny in the slot waring machine that works without putting a cent in. Ed Hunt saying he ways 60 pounds by himself and 67 carrying home 5 pounds of sugar.

School Notes. Miss Kitty red the chus a poem about the bewitching corn field waving in the air last Tuesday which was she got throo she asked who could tell her wich way corn is the most bewitching. Pats Stukins raising his hand and saying, in corn fritters. Being kept after school to write, The bewitching corn stalks away in the breeze 600 times.

a dastardly attempt to injure others, better than themselves. A great deal of it consists of trumped up charges, not worth an investigation, and in some cases where the charges seem to possess an appearance of truth, they too are not worth the time, the trouble and the cost to the province which they entail. Even when a verdict is given, the electors are not influenced thereby to any great extent. Some newspapers hesitate not to say that even if the judge or commission gives a verdict of "innocent," the people will still hold their own opinion, and say "guilty." Of course that is a brazen case, where the wish is father to the thought, and rests on the "we know" theory, no matter what the evidence and the judge may say. Politics must rule the roost, and it is utterly impossible for a Tory to be innocent, no matter what he is charged with. It is, however, comforting to know that the vapors of such rabid sheets as the Telegraph and Times are not able to poison the minds of intellectual independent electors. Some day there will be another election, and the sooner the better, and it will then be seen how little effect mudslinging and dirty political tactics against such men as Murray Jones and others will have when the people decide. The heathen may rage and imagine vain things, but common sense people are not going to turn down well tried and faithful representatives, to please others not half as good.

The whole thing of these investigations seems to revolve round campaign funds. Both parties have them, both condemn them more or less and wish—so they say—they could do without them. Where electoral purity governed, they should not be required. Still there are legitimate expenses necessary which call for campaign funds but it has to be acknowledged that all campaign funds are not used legitimately. Men on both sides err in this respect, and it looks sometimes as if it cannot be helped. When the

Yours truly,
OLD TIME LIBERAL.

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