

Printers' Pie

A Page of Press Opinion, Wit and Humor

UNCLE SAM'S CHRISTMAS GIFTS.

(Commerce and Finance.)

We have peace, plenty and vigor, the three essentials of material well being. We have a more definite consciousness of nationality and a greater capacity for patriotic self-sacrifice and effort. These are the requisites of the spiritual and moral power over ourselves and others without which happiness is impossible. Our intelligence has been quickened and our democracy broadened by the experience of the war. The English language has become the Esperanto of civilization and the peoples who speak it practically one.

AS LOYAL FRIENDS.

(New York Tribune.)

There is an old saw that applies with homely force to the new Anglo-American entente: "Fate gives us relatives—thank God, we can choose our friends!" It was as relatives, as remote cousins, that our national quarrels and any later lack of sympathy with Englishmen arose. The fundamental bond was always strong, as our century of peace records. But superficially there was much friction and misunderstanding—as in every family. To-day, with a great war won through our comradeship in arms afloat and ashore, it is as loyal friends joined in a great common venture that we greet Britons the world around.

REFORMS ON PAPER.

(Yorkshire Post.)

We are unable to see that the advent of a "reformed" Germany has produced any noticeable amelioration of the lot of prisoners. The "New Fatherland" is no better than the old, and the Allies, in telling the present German authorities that no excuses will be accepted for the turning adrift of Allied prisoners with no provisions for travelling to civilization, have recognized effectively that there is little to choose between Herr Ebert, the "People's Commissary," and Herr Ebert, the "Imperial Chancellor," or any of his predecessors in that office.

AN ENGLISH WAY.

(London Times.)

The following letter, received from a correspondent, gives an account of friendly feelings evoked in a young American naval officer by his stay in this country.

The officer writes:

"Let me say before I go any further that while I used to have a great admiration for England and the English, the associations of the past year have taught me to love the country and its people very deeply indeed. And this is another peculiar opportunity of the last year. In ordinary times, due to the English reserve, it would have been quite unusual to have formed so many intimate friendships in one year. Yet I feel almost as much at home in glorious old England as in my own home-land in the West—the land of romance.

"Perhaps I can show you . . . my real appreciation by telling of an incident which occurred in Liverpool one spring evening. I was sitting alone at the Adelphi Hotel one evening just as dusk was settling. An English gentleman approached me, and noticing I was alone, asked me to come to his home for a quiet dinner. I was very much attracted by his winning personality, and during the ride to his home found to my pleasure that he was a retired colonel from the South African wars. During the course of the evening the talk turned to France. Several times they spoke quite naturally of the work of their son at the front. You may judge my surprise when I found out the next morning that their son had been 'killed in action' just a week before our quiet little dinner. To one who really understands, this explains and analyzes my feeling for the English. If America can learn this spirit and preserve it for the generations to come our costs will be small indeed."

A SHIP FOR A SHIP.

(Pittsburgh Gazette Times.)

The French claim to German merchant ships is a good one. They should be allowed to use a fleet of them until Germany can build new ones to take the place of those sunk without warning.

SOUND INSTINCT

(New York World.)

London seems to have outdone Paris in its reception of the President, and Americans may well accept it as evidence of the true attitude of the British people toward the United States. They are honoring the President as the great moral leader of the war, but there would be no such enthusiasm in their applause if they did not believe that nothing is more important to the welfare of the world than a full understanding between the American and British peoples at this critical time. Their instinct in this respect is sound. If the United States and Great Britain cannot agree, if these two dominant English-speaking democracies cannot work in full accord for the establishment of a peace of reason and justice, what hope remains for any agreement among nations for the accomplishment of any beneficent purpose?

A NATION QUILTS WORK.

(Pulp & Paper Magazine.)

The experience of Russia is showing the fallacy of stopping the production of wealth. There we see a nation that has quit work. There has been a general walk-out, and somebody has plugged the whistle. In many cases this did not seem sufficient, so the former employer has been shot and the factory burned, and now there is no place to work, no work to do, and no one who knows how to find work and organize it. It doesn't pay to throw the captain and mate overboard unless someone can navigate the ship. We must all keep sailing along in orderly fashion or the world will starve to death in mid-ocean of life, much as Russia has prospects of doing.

Surely with the assurance dawning of peace among nations, we are not going to be such fools as cut one another's throats at home!

INVESTIGATE FIRST.

(Richard Wyckoff, in The Magazine of Wall Street.)

A subscriber writes: "Please give me some information about Columbia Gas and Electric Co. I intend to buy some of this issue."

This man has the wrong attitude on a matter so important as the selection of a security. He has evidently reached a decision to buy, but merely as a matter of interest, or perhaps curiosity as to what we will say, he writes us.

An investor should not at the outset prejudice himself either for, or against, a stock or bond, but should make a list of the securities best adapted to his individual requirements, and after investigating all of them select the one or the few which are in the strongest and most promising position.

Investigate first, and then decide.

Another subscriber tells us that he has four stocks about which he appears to be concerned. One of these, he says, he was "advised to hold for a long pull, I did. The pull was too long. The rope broke, so I must be helped on my feet."

You are on your feet whenever you have a sound dividend-paying stock, although the price for the time being may indicate a paper loss, and if you have paid for your stocks you can always take advantage of a depression and use the certificates as collateral with your bank or your broker and buy more of the same security at the reduced figure or another stock or bond which is even better.

FATE.

The moving van moves on, and, having moved,
Departs along a highway torn and grooved,
You seek your new abode the hours go by,
The moving van, alas! has not arrived.

SHIFTING EXIGENCIES.

"What do you understand by socialism?"

"My ideas on the subject are not clear. As near as I can get it a Socialist is a man who is willing to try almost any kind of a government once."

SHE HAD THE MAN THO'.

"Has you made all arrangements fo' your marriage, Mandy?" Well, not quite all, Dinah. I've got to buy a trooso, an' rent a house, an' get mah husband a job, an' buy him a good suit o' close, an' get some reg'lar washin' work to do. An' when them's done I kin name the happy day."

ANOTHER INTERPRETATION.

"Charley, dear," said young Mrs. Torkins, "are we going to have freedom of the seas?"

"Why are you so interested?"

"I haven't forgotten the way we were treated at the beach last summer. I don't believe anybody has a right to rope off the ocean and then charge you fifty cents for the privilege of taking a bath in it."

THE FLIRT.

An old lady was being shown over a country seat in North Wales which is famous for its fine pictures. One of these was a portrait of "Nell Gwyn, after Sir Peter Lely."

The old dame gazed at this picture with marked interest.

"So that's the hussy, is it?" she remarked presently; "but I always thought it was King Charles II. she was after."

LIVING CHEAP.

Here is how one frugal Frenchman lived on the small sum of five francs a week. "Eet is simple, vaire simple," he explained. "Sunday I go to ze house of a good friend, and zere I dine so extraordinaire and eat so vaire much I need no more till Wednesday. On zat day I have at my restaurant one large, vaire large, dish of tripe and onions. I abhor ze tripe, yes, nd ze onion also, and togezzer zey make me so seek I have no more appetite till Sunday. Eet is vaire simple."

SAVED.

Here is a joke from the American Printer that book lovers will appreciate. A New York printer ordered several hundred dollars' worth of handmade paper and, knowing stock-cutters' ways and weaknesses, and fearing they would trim off these precious rough edges, he wrote on the job instruction envelope, "Save deckel edges." Several days afterward a bundle was placed on his desk. "What's this?" he asked in surprise. "Oh, them's the deckel edges you ordered saved."

WHERE DID HE GO?

A negro doughboy who had neglected to provide himself with the requisite pass tried to get by the sentry to go to town. The second time when he was challenged for his identity he replied, "Same niggah," and was again turned back. The third time he did not answer immediately, but sat down on a convenient stone by the roadway and began to sharpen a razor on one of his canvas leggings. Then he said slowly, as if talking to himself: "My father is in hell; my mother is in heaven; my wife lives on Lombard street. I've goin' to see one of 'em to-night!"