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The Science of Christmas

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THE Science of a thing is the organized sum of its proved facts. In the science of baking, for example, one knows that in order to obtain a good loaf it is necessary to introduce yeast or its equivalent in chemical properties. There is a science of Christmas just as surely as there is a science of baking, or astronomy or "mixed farming," and one of the fundamental facts in the science of Christmas is Goodwill. Goodwill is as necessary to the realization of Christmas as oxygen is to the realization of water. Another of the fundamentals of Christmas is Peace. These two are generally spoken of in the reverse order—Peace and Goodwill—but you cannot have Peace till you make terms with Goodwill.

Goodwill has had a sorry time of it just lately. Like sugar and coal there has been created a world shortage that has hit everybody.

And the shortage of Goodwill is due to exactly the same cause as the coal and sugar scarcity—human cussedness. There's abundance of the elements of sugar and coal on the earth, but for certain reasons the workers in the human hive whose job it is to render the sugar and dig the coal have got the sulks and won't work. Of Goodwill there's an inexhaustible supply on tap, but on account of a sourness having invaded the hive, many of the old workers are not working at it, or they've turned on the wrong tap.

Dr. Lyman Abbot points out that the laws of the bee-hive are not imposed on the bees by the beekeeper. They are wrought by the creator of the bees in their nature. And the laws of the human hive are not made by the men who inhabit it. They are written by man's creator in the nature of the human soul. Conformity to the laws of the social order which have been wrought by the Creator in the souls of men is the secret of justice, liberty and peace. The saying "The people can do no wrong" must be scrapped as we have scrapped the saying "The King can do no wrong." The infallibility of the majority is no better than the infallibility of kings.

Statesmen will not give peace to the world by a blind acceptance of the formula, "The self-determination of the

people." Consent of the governed does not make the government just. The consent of the governed may make the community contented. It may give the community peace and a certain degree of prosperity, but government is just when its laws conform to the eternal laws of the moral world. There are laws of the social order and the community that obeys them is prosperous and happy. Whenever these laws are set aside tragedy is the result. Some would have it that we are on the brink of tragedy to-day, but we do not share that fear: we have put all our money on the other horse.

Dr. L. P. Jacks says that the sense of our entanglement will "throw us back on the great simplicities and on the mother truths—where great ideas are born—the everlasting value of personal relations." Had we nothing but the wisdom of this world to guide us as it comes through the reasonings of philosophers, the doctrines of economists, the speeches of statesmen and the literature of reform, then the difficulty of it all would be overwhelming. But there is another wisdom far removed from all this, the wisdom of Nature in her calmest and holiest moods, the wisdom of the loyal heart, the flame of love that glows in simple souls. "I have come to believe," says Dr. Jacks, "that the man who is beloved counts far more as a builder of God's kingdom than a thousand who are acclaimed and voted for and lifted high on the tottering pinnacle of fame."

How ridiculous is that party wall of ill-will which human stupidity has erected between capital and labor! When the capitalist and the laborer haven't so much as a bathing suit between them, which is which? Fact is we are morally at a deadlock. Our first need is to get in actual touch with an ideal to which in spite of hereditary differences we can all live and work for; and if a key word is wanted to express that idea, what do you think of "Justice?" We are all endowed with besetting sins, and few of us are without a few besetting virtues. Let's give the Good Will virtue a "month's trial," keeping it busy during that period of probation, and we'll meet again say this time next month.

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Advertising copy in order to secure good position should be in our hands not later than the 15th of the month preceding date of issue.

"Justice is conformity to divine law.

"Liberty is voluntary self-enforcement of divine law.

"Peace is habitual harmony with divine law.

"Democracy is the spirit of justice, liberty, and peace in the community—in one word, brotherhood."