

APS
D4



THE NATIONAL NEGRO WEEKLY
DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF THE DARKER RACES

VOL. VIII, NO. 5

LONDON, DEC. 17th, 1937

U. W. O. LIBRARY Price 5 cents

The Spirit of Christmas

At no time within our span of life has the anniversary of Christ's birth been celebrated under such a cloud of universal fear, of distress, of disappointment and unhappiness, as this year.

It may therefore be that His birth has greater significance. The life of the "Prince of Peace" may teach a lesson to a world needing peace as never before.

"A little Child shall lead them," seemed fanciful, and yet has it not been so?

Shall we not all have to "become as little children?"

Thinking of a message that might be appropriate at this time, we recalled some passages from Henry Van Dyke's "The Spirit of Christmas" that, it seems to us might help our fellow-citizens as they have helped us. He says:

"It is a good thing to observe Christmas Day. It helps one to feel the supremacy of the common life over the individual life. It reminds a man to set his own little watch, now and then by the great clock of humanity which runs on sun time.

"But there is a better thing than the observation of Christmas Day and that is keeping Christmas.

"Are you willing to forget what you have done for other people and to remember what other people have done for you; to ignore what the world owes you and to think what you owe the world; to put your rights in the background, your duties in the middle distance, and your chances to do a little more than your duty in the foreground; to see that your fellow-men are just as real as you are and try to look behind their faces to their hearts, hungry for joy; to own that probably the only good reason for your existence is not what you are



Christmas!

Christmas is what we make it. To many, it is the day or greatest happiness. To those who recognize the opportunities it offers of taking a little bit of joy to the lonely, sick and poor, know that Christmas is the best day in the year—and there is no question in their mind as to why they do the very same things Christmas after Christmas. They know definitely why they hang stockings for the kiddies, light Christmas trees, decorate their homes, and spend endless hours in surging, struggling Christmas crowds to secure a tiny token for some friend. Certainly, they know the joy of Christmas Day is only for those who lose themselves in remembering others.

Gifts in themselves are of little value—they are symbols of something else—and behind the gift is the sentiment that is the real significance of Christmas. It is the spirit of love and good-fellowship—of peace and good-will.

going to get out of life, but what you are going to give to life; to close your book of complaints against the universe and look around you for a place where you can sow a few seeds of happiness—are you willing to do these things even for a day? Then you can keep Christmas.

"Are you willing to believe that love is the strongest thing in the world, stronger than hate, stronger than death—and that the blessed life which began in Bethlehem nineteen hundred years ago is the image and brightness of the Eternal Love? Then you can keep Christmas.

"And if you keep it for a day, why not always?

"But you can never keep it alone."

"HEAVEN" BURNS NEAR JORDAN

Kingston, N.Y., Nov. 15.—Father Divine's newest "heaven," a huge 80-room affair, burned here this week as a coterie of 'angels' stood watch and prohibited firemen from being effective in their effort to save the building. Water was pumped from the "River Jordan," but they were not able to stop the flames in time to save the structure.

This was one of several bits of bad fortune that has hit the little "god" in recent months. Not long ago it was reported that his one-time in-

Italians Admit Some Losses

Rome, Nov. 10.—Officially confirming the reports of heavy fighting which entailed serious loss to the Italian invaders in Ethiopia in September, a list of the casualties was recently published here. The list reveals that 99 officers and non-commissioned officers and five district commissioners were killed by Ethiopian guerilla bands during September.

The Italians have also officially published the losses sustained by the Italian air army since the beginning of the war. No less than 100 planes, 122 pilots killed and 76 wounded was admitted by a general of the Italian air force in the course of a lecture in Turin. It is interesting to note the number of planes lost when one considers that the Ethiopians had no air force and very few anti-aircraft guns.

In Paris, France, the Voce degli Italiani, organ of the anti-fascist Italians in France, reported this week that a large section of Ethiopia is under the control of the Ethiopians. Says the paper:

"Every day news is received of surprise attacks carried out by isolated groups which result in heavy losses for the Italian forces."

dispensable side-kick, Faithful Mary, was considering a union with Phophet Costonie, long-time rival of Divine. While Faithful Mary is reported to have denied intentions of any such merger, it is believed that the bad blood between Father and Phophet—first aroused two years ago when the two met over in Brooklyn and hurled miracles at one another—still exists.

The guard of "angels" around the "heaven" stopped all persons attempting to get close to the blazing building and interfered with the firemen to the extent that they left the scene. The damage was not stated.

A Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to One and All

MET. 5801