

RELATED THINGS

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HAD I BEEN ONE OF THOSE.

Had I been one of those
Who watched their sleeping flocks by night
And saw the heavens, joy-faint with light,
Beneath fair Bethlehem's rose;
Would I have known, could I have guessed,
Would I have followed with the rest
Upon that far strange quest?

And had I been
A guest in that small crowded inn
Where Mary and the child enstabled lay,
Would I, adoring too, have knelt to pray?

And had I heard
The hillside Preacher's word—
"Come unto me," and "Blessed are the meek,"
Would I have guessed, would I have known
This was the One we came to seek;
This is Messiah—He alone?

Would I have loved upon his breast to lean,
Or coldly asked, "Who is this Nazarene?"
In wrath for Him have raised the sword—
Incarnate God, the Spoken Word—
Yet thrice denied Him in one day,
Mayhap have kissed His life away?

Had I been one that day
To stand on Calvary's way,
Would I have joined the cry,
"Away with Him" and "Crucify";
And helped to plait the crown of thorns,
And held to Him the cup of gall,
And deemed Him lost whom the world scorns,
And said, "This is the last," and "This is all"?

How easy in these safe and pleasant days
To worship and to praise!
But if a sleeping babe now lay
Within a manger filled with hay,
And God's star pointed out the way,
Would I believe? Would I obey?

How many great hearts silently
Seek their Gethsemane
To pray and weep,
While we, forgetting, sleep!
For Truth is mocked and scourged away,
And Love is crucified each day.

Yet Love and Truth abide!
Love bursts the tomb and breaks the bonds of Death
And Hate, as ancient prophet saith.
Sweet Bethlehem's star
Still shines afar;
And Christ himself doth dwell
In every heart that doeth well.
So keep we still our Christmas-tide.

CELIA PARKER WOOLLEY.

DO WE REALLY CARE FOR PEACE?

Suggestions for Christmas.

For The Public.

As Christians do we care for Peace? Do we believe in a "Gospel of Peace"? We celebrate Christmas in honor of him who is rightly called the "Prince of Peace", whose disciples we profess to be. With our lips we join in singing the song which the angels in the skies are said to have sung at his birth: "Peace on earth, Good Will to men!"

Is all this only a mere empty form of words on our part? Or are we sincere and in earnest? If we are, what evidence of it do we give? What are we doing to check the unchristian spirit of militarism in the world, and to promote the Christ-spirit of peace? Christendom is an armed camp, with the death-dealing batteries of so-called Christian nations everywhere turned against other Christian nations. On every ocean the so-called Christian powers have fleets of fighting ships which are the most costly and perfect machines the world ever saw for wholesale murder; and the murder primarily contemplated is not simply of human beings, but of fellow Christians. Could anything be more shocking or more insane? Has not the time come for us either to stop singing the angel song, stop celebrating Christmas, stop pretending that we are Christians, or else speak out, and by actions as well as words, against this crushing burden on the backs of men, this crime against civilization, this standing insult to Him whose gospel we profess to accept? Shall we not this year have a Christmas season used as never before for real Christmas ends,—to do something actually to promote peace on earth?

What shall we do? I venture to suggest.

1. Shall we not, first of all, see to it that our Christmas gifts to our children, and to the children of others, include no toy soldiers; no swords or pistols or guns, toy or real; no soldiers' caps or uniforms or decorations; not only nothing that glorifies war or tends to make the soldier-idea attractive, but nothing that can even suggest soldiers or war?

2. Shall we not call to mind the very great psychological power of suggestion, especially upon children, and as a consequence proceed at once to take down all war pictures from the walls of our homes? And also shall we not resolve to do what we can, from this time on, to get all such psychologically evil pictures removed from public places, especially from school rooms and school buildings? We are told that Napoleon attributed his ambition for military glory to the silent influence of a battle scene which hung as a picture in the living room of his home during the susceptible years of his childhood. War pictures and military statues, wherever seen, are powerful influences in promoting the military spirit.

3. Shall we not at once, if we have not done

so already, rid our libraries and book shelves of all books that extol fighting, and that paint army life in attractive colors, and fill their places with others which will teach our boys and young men (yes, and our girls and young women, too,) that the truest field for patriotism is peace, that the noblest heroisms are those of peace, and that the glory of our flag lies in making it everywhere the emblem, not of war and destruction, but of progress, and human service, and Christian civilization?

4. If any of us as Sunday school superintendents or teachers, have failed to give our schools or classes proper instruction regarding peace, war, international arbitration, The Hague Court, and the like, or if any of us as ministers have been neglectful of our responsibilities to our congregations relating to these important matters, shall we not avail ourselves of the approaching Christmas season as a fitting time to make good our omissions, and to do our duty?

5. Last but not least, and as especially pressing at the present crisis time in our national history and in the progress of the cause of arbitration and peace among nations, shall we not at once set about doing whatever lies in our power to give our United States Senators at Washington to understand that the intelligence, the patriotism and the enlightened conscience of this country demand the prompt ratification of the just, reasonable and immensely important treaties of arbitration with Great Britain and France, which only await senatorial assent to become the most conspicuous and inspiring land-marks in the progress of the peace cause that the world has ever seen?

Having done these five things, that is to say, having thus proven our sincerity by turning in some measure our words in praise of peace into intelligent efforts to promote peace, we shall have earned the right to celebrate Christmas without appearing to be hypocrites, the right to call ourselves in some true sense disciples of the "Prince of Peace," the right, without blushing with shame, to join in the angels' song of "Peace on Earth, Good Will to Men!"

J. T. SUNDERLAND.



HARMONY.

For The Public.

Harmony—beatific word! Among the legion of sounds from the tongues of humanity can we find one more expressive, comprehensive and beautiful?

Doubtless when "the Lord spoke to Moses" admonishing him as to his leadership of Israel's children, that word, or its Hebrew equivalent, was the keynote of his discourse.

Where is the condition of life where harmony is not as necessary to effective action as the air we breathe? Yea, if we cannot harmonize with

our proper environment 'twere better we did not live.

As a commonplace illustration, take any business firm, shop or factory employing help; the most indispensable officer or manager is the one who has mastered the technique of business harmony, especially in its application to his own conduct towards subordinates.

The personality of the orchestra leader reflected in harmony in each member of his band, from first violin to the banger of drums and cymbals.

If the head of a business firm fails to cultivate and apply the principles of that magic word, the symptoms are in evidence from his general manager to the woman who mops the office floors. If he is a martinet, a task-master who grudges faithful employes proper remuneration or periods of vacation to relax, keeping them always keyed up tense and disgruntled, he is throwing his business keyboard out of alignment, and the result is destructive discord and discontent.

The sulking employe, balking at a little extra duty, or grouchy at needed and saving reproof, becomes a fly in the commercial ointment, or like a slippery fiddle-string which must be tightened or snapped.

If harmony could be injected into every marriage relation, every home, whether flat or mansion, would be a cooing dove-cote, and divorce lawyers and judges would be available for useful and productive employment.

Could honest harmony be established in politics and government, grafters, bosses and lobbyists would disappear like the bloodthirsty pirates of old, and we might be able to prevent the conditions which breed in one generation the criminals which we have to build jails for in the next.

The whole world groans and travails for peace 'neath the tread of the gun and bayonet-bearing martial host, armed and drilled to slay brothers. Could we inoculate the warring nations and their rabid dogs of war with the blessed serum of harmonious peace, rifles could be seen only in museums, and battleships would be selling for a trifle per ton as curious and antique junk.

It is not sacrilegious to suggest that even the church needs harmony to make consistent the Babel of creeds and dogmas, so that a reasonable faith would not be a rarity, and the prophecy of "One Church, one Shepherd" might be fulfilled.

If a cut-and-dried recipe for harmony could be marketed it would be more valuable than radium, and would be sought for like an elixir of life. Yet the great quality can be cultivated into a habit of mind. Such mental habit had those wise, immortal leaders, Washington and Lincoln, whose watchwords in practice were Truth, Forbearance, Reconciliation, Justice, Mercy, honorable Peace; all crowned with the winning kindly tone and smile that smoothes the frowns of discordant fol-