

TURNER'S PUBLIC SPIRIT.

Forty-Seventh Year

Ayer, Mass., Saturday, December 26, 1914

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State Librarian
No. 16. Price 10 Cents.

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PEPPERELL.

About Town.

Miss Kathryn Carter arrived at her home this week from Providence, R. I., for a two-weeks' vacation.

Boynton Merrill is quite ill from an attack of pneumonia at his home on Oak Hill. He arrived home from college on Saturday of last week, being then quite ill and almost unable to walk from the train to a carriage. He was taken home and the severe cold developed into pneumonia.

The students attending Lawrence academy at Groton are having a holiday vacation at their homes.

Margaret Boynton arrived home from Mt. Holyoke on Tuesday evening to spend the holiday vacation with her mother, Mrs. Ida Boynton. This is her first visit home since her mother and sister have been occupying the cosy tenement in the Hutchinson block.

Mrs. D. Tossy entertained her sister over Christmas day, who came from Boston to see her niece, the little Hungarian infant of about two weeks, and Mrs. Tossy occupying the small cottage near the Mould Show shop, where he is employed as watchman.

Gerry Nutting went to Nashua to St. Joseph's hospital on Monday for an operation for a granular eye, a nasal passage, which was successfully performed by Dr. Kittredge of that city. He returned home after a few days' treatment.

Mrs. Susan Dart went to Boston on Tuesday to spend her school vacation with her sister, Mrs. Baldwin, and relatives elsewhere.

Anna Boynton, a teacher in New York and Hays, Boynton, teacher at South Framingham, arrived home Thursday to spend their holiday vacations with their parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Boynton.

Glen Upson from Boston and his brother Norman from Middleboro spent Christmas day with their mother, Mrs. Adella P. Upson.

Fales Newhall, who is a student at Cushing academy, Ashburnham, recently took quite a "chick" walking from there to visit his uncle, George Newhall, who lives in town near the Townsend line. Fales is the son of the late Rev. William Newhall.

Mrs. Fannie Lawrence, recently of Pepperell, is spending the holidays with her aunt, Mrs. Mary Morrison, at Thompsonville, Conn.

W. H. Annis passed his eighty-fifth milestone on Monday, December 21, the day being observed in a quiet manner. He received an abundance of good wishes from relatives and friends, by postcard and letters. There were eighty-six in all, making one for every year and one to spare. Mr. Annis sincerely thanks all who so kindly remembered him on this anniversary and wishes them as many happy years.

Mark Shattuck of Groton was in town on business on Tuesday of this week.

Miss Ella Hagar of Orange is at the home of Mrs. Alfred Hagan and is rooming with the aged lady through the winter.

Mrs. Florence Robbins went to New Ipswich, N. H., to spend the Christmas with her daughter and family.

Mrs. P. A. Brown, wife of the superintendent at the Keyes farm, is entertaining her father from Hanover, Me.

Mrs. Austin Saunders went to Fitchburg Saturday for a week-end visit at the home of Mrs. Saunders, who has been quite critically ill.

The making of laurel wreaths and trimming has been just brought to a close, several hundred barrels having been shipped from this locality to the city. Mrs. Lavinia Groton street has just completed a large order for a Boston firm.

A two-pound infant daughter is the latest addition to the home of Mr. and Mrs. B. B. Winship. It was born on Monday, December 14, and for some days it was not expected to live. The district nurse has been in charge and like an incubator infant as could be accomplished without regular hospital paraphernalia. It is now thought it may live if it survives another week.

C. A. Swazy is obliged to have the assistance of Mrs. Julia Robbins in addition to his clerk, Harry Fagge, in his variety store during the holiday season. Mrs. M. E. Swazy also assists afterwards.

Dr. L. R. Qua averted a more serious disaster on Thursday afternoon of last week by running his auto into the high bank on the side of the hill near the Richardson farm on Jewett street. The hill is a steep one and was in a very icy condition. It is un-

derstood he was running his car without sand or chains and started to descend the hill coming toward the center and as the car became unmanageable he turned it into the bank and escaped injury. It was hauled back into the road by some assistance of men and horses from the Richardson place and the application of some sand and came home under its own power.

The high school gave their first entertainment of the school year on Friday evening, December 18, at Prospect hall. The program was as follows: Violin solo, Howard Shattuck; songs, Girls' Glee club; declamation in French, Eugene Nallette; vocal selection, Madeline Shiny; piano solo, Mary Hynes; experiments in science by Amos Saunders; Howard Shattuck; Martin Moran and Eugene Nallette. Also by Alice Connelly, Helen Marshall, Olive Lewis and Zilpha Wood.

In conclusion a spelling match was held between the juniors and the sophomores, which was won by the juniors. Much interest was shown by the boys and girls. The program was well filled. Duetting followed until twelve o'clock with music by the Standard orchestra.

Among the students arriving at their respective homes for the holidays were: M. Ardele Boynton from Mt. Ida seminary, Lillian Dunton from Yale, Arthur Tower and Frank Shattuck from Dartmouth, Karl Newhall from Boston university, Arlene and Marguerite Dewore from Smith college, Albert Pillsbury from the New Hampshire Agricultural college, Walter Sullivan from the Holy Cross college at Worcester and Dana Merrill from Amherst.

At the closing of the Townsend street school on Friday afternoon, December 18, the teacher, Miss Gladys Morton, had arranged "Christmas exercises and a charming little Christmas tree. The songs and recitations by the children were finely presented. The exercises included their parents and friends. The tree was tastefully decorated and well-laden with the gifts for the children. A program was presented by them as a fore-taste of the joys of the coming year.

Mrs. Lilla Hardy of Lowell has been staying for a few days this week with her sister, Miss Rose Alden, on West street, who was recently laid up by the death of her friend and housemate, Miss Litchfield.

Mrs. C. A. Pillsbury made a short week-end visit with her sister, Mrs. A. Reed, of South N. H., returning Sunday afternoon.

Miss Mae Merriam, instructor of music at Mt. Ida seminary at Newton, arrived home this week to spend her Christmas vacation with her parents, John Jewett, who has been in failing health for the past few weeks at his home at D. E. Weston's, passed his eighty-seventh birthday on Monday, December 14, and was fairly comfortable, but unable to see any callers, both on account of his weakness and because of the severe storm. His niece, Mrs. Alice Spencer, who is staying with her mother, Mrs. Walter Jewett, came down to make him a short call on Saturday, anticipating a storm later.

Miss Lila Stratton came from Massachusetts on Thursday evening to spend the holiday vacation with Rev. and Mrs. P. R. Stratton.

Mr. and Mrs. John Frossard spent Christmas with their daughter, Mrs. Nodding, and family, at Somerville. Mrs. Frossard went on Tuesday and Mr. Frossard just for Christmas day.

James Hone, who has been the guest of his sister, Mrs. P. R. Stratton, went to visit another sister at Rovee last week. Returning here on Monday he started on his return trip to his home in the Province of Quebec on Wednesday.

Death of Former Resident.
The remains of Mrs. Josephine Howe, widow of the late Dr. James S. N. Howe, were brought to this town on Tuesday afternoon for interment in the Howe lot in a section of Walton cemetery. Mrs. Howe passed away at her home at Malden on Saturday, December 19, and funeral services were conducted there at eleven o'clock on Tuesday, the body then being conveyed here by auto hearse, followed by a limousine containing the relatives.

Dr. and Mrs. Howe were former residents of Pepperell, leaving here about thirty years ago. They conducted a private sanatorium at "The Retreat," which later became the possession of the late Dr. William Heald, and is now occupied by his widow and his son, Dr. C. G. Heald. Mrs. Howe is survived by a son, Arthur Howe, of Milrose, a daughter, Mrs. J. B. Heald, of Malden, a daughter, Mrs. James Mace, of Melrose. Al-

so, by two grandsons and a granddaughter. She was eighty-seven years of age and has made her home for some time with her daughter, Mrs. Joseph Heald, who will be well remembered as a former resident here, also.

Grange Notes.
Present Grange met on Friday evening, December 18, instead of the regular date, a week later, which came on Christmas night. The literary program was omitted as the attendance was small. Some of the officers-elect having declined to serve the following changes were necessary: Henry Wilson was elected assistant steward in place of B. M. Stewart, who declined to serve; Miss Robinson was elected lady assistant steward in place of Mrs. Carrie Stewart. Ernest Hazard in place of Henry Wilson, elected an instant steward.

At the next meeting on Friday evening, January 8, which will be installation of officers, Millard S. Sawyer of Groton, master of the State Grange, will be the installing officer, assisted by Miss Florence Kemp.

Christmas Sunday.
Christmas was fittingly observed at the Congregational church, Sunday morning and evening. Special music was rendered at the morning service. Miss Helen Lovejoy accompanying the choir, which also played a solo. In the evening a concert was held by a committee from the Sunday school, which consisted of the selections of songs and recitations. Little Miss Gwen Parker gave the address of welcome very finely.

The vested choir of about thirty young people was a distinctly pleasing feature of the evening. The recessional being most impressive. The training of this choir was in charge of Miss Fannie Tower and reflects much credit on her as well as showing fine musical ability.

The church was finely decorated with laurel wreaths and banks of evergreen. The collection for the aid manager was taken by the boys from the Sunday school and the generous spirit of the audience was shown in the amount received.

Christmas services were held Sunday at the Methodist church, the auditorium being finely trimmed with evergreens and holly, and lighted by red and white carnations. In the morning the pastor delivered a sermon appropriate to the day. Special Christmas songs were rendered by the choir under the direction of the organist, Mrs. Goodwin, her son, register line assistance and support to the choir on the organ and Howard Shattuck of this town on the violin. They kindly played both at the morning and evening service.

The subject of the evening was "Welcoming the King." A large chorus choir from the Sunday school rendered several musical selections and songs given by the choir. There was also a song by the boys who are members of the Knights of King Arthur, a trio by Misses South Syvester and O'Neil, and a duet by Esther Martin and Nellie Harris. There were also many recitations by the children. At the close of the concert the members of the church and application to work in the streets to sing their Christmas carols at the home of many "shut-ins," which was very much appreciated.

Death.
Julia A. Litchfield died at her home on West street, Saturday night, December 19, about ten o'clock, the cause of her death being apoplexy. Deceased was the daughter of John and Cynthia (Blood) Litchfield, being one of a family of twelve children and was born in the old home place, which was occupied at the time of her death, December 20, 1857. Her age, therefore, was fifty-seven years lacking about two hours.

The deceased had been a resident of Fitchburg and Leominster during many years of her life, and came back to her old home place about ten years ago, as she was rather out of health by close application to work in a shop. She was accompanied by a friend who worked with her in Leominster, Miss Rose Alden. Together they called on the neighbors in the cottage and made a fine, heartful abode of it, the site being one which commanded a fine view of surrounding towns.

She was a woman of kind impulses and had arranged to have a tiny Christmas tree for the little boy who lived with them, the seven-year-old nephew of Miss Alden, John Hardy. About four o'clock they started down in the woodlot near the house with a little playmate of the boy, Roger Wetherbee, after some conversation in a short time Miss Alden was startled by the Wetherbee boy, who came running back exclaiming that she had fallen on the ice. Miss Alden hurried toward the spot and greeting Walter Spaulding with his team was taken back by him. Mr. Wetherbee and Mr. Williams also arrived on the scene and the horse was taken away. She was at once conveyed to her home. Dr. Heald was summoned and arrived shortly, pronouncing it a case of apoplexy, to which, he remembered, her family were subject. She never regained consciousness and passed away about ten o'clock.

The deceased was a fine, Christian woman, spoken of by all who knew her as thoroughly just and conscientious. Her companion for more than fifteen years, Miss Alden, mourns her death as that of a sister.

She is survived by one brother, George Litchfield, of Lunenburg. Also by four sisters—Mrs. Jennie Barber of Townsend, Mrs. Rita Rockwood of Brookline, N. H., Mrs. Robert Whitcomb and Mrs. William Kilbourn of Lunenburg.

Services were held in the Congregational church on Sunday afternoon at two o'clock, Rev. John B. Lewis, her pastor, officiating. Mr. and Mrs. O. M. Nash rendered these selections: "Sometime we'll understand," "Watching and waiting," "Jesus, lover of my soul," the last being a particular favorite of the deceased. Interment was in the family lot in Pepperell cemetery, beside her parents.

Church Sale.
The ladies of the Methodist society held a very successful sale at the store of that church on Thursday, December 17. The various articles for sale, especially those of a practical character, found ready sale. The large vestry was made bright and pleasing by trimmings of evergreen fastened with red crepe paper and the trappings of bitter-sweet berries. The

Overcoat Weather

The cold wave has come. It makes every man think of having warm, comfortable clothes. Here are a few of our many cold weather suggestions:

MACKINAWs for Men and Boys, all sizes, good patterns \$5.00 to \$8.50
OVERCOATS, genuine Irish Friezes, Chinchillas, Fancy Black Cheviots \$12.00 to \$24.00
FUR COATS—Special Values \$18, \$20, \$22, \$24

WINTER GLOVES
25¢ to \$2.50
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Shirts and Drawers
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Please remember that this Home of Good Clothes stands for the best of everything in its lines.

MEN'S REGULAR OVERCOATS \$10.00, \$15.00, \$18.00 and \$20.00
MEN'S FANCY MIXTURE OVERCOATS \$10.00, \$15.00, \$18.00 and \$20.00
BOYS' FANCY MIXTURE OVERCOATS \$5.00, \$7.47, \$8.47 and \$10.00

FUR OUTSIDE COATS

Many kinds of fur and all at extremely low prices for the quality of fur—Dogskin, Horsehide, Calfskin and Angoras—all made with large storm collars and heavy quilted linings.

\$20.00, \$25.00, \$30.00 and \$35.00

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Many kinds of Storm-proof Coats, all made large and long, with wide storm collars. They are made of Oxford Freize, Astrakhan and Montana Buffalo Cloth. They are storm and wind proof.

\$12.00, \$15.00, \$18.00 and \$20.00

SHEEP LINED COATS

The outside is made of Corduroy, Moleskin or Leather, all lined with Heavy Sheep Pelts. Some have Corduroy Collars and some have a Fur Collar. Also Duck and Corduroy Coats with Heavy Blanket Linings.

Corduroy, Sheep-lined.... \$5.50 to \$8.00
Leather and Corduroy, reversible.... \$5.00
Blanket-lined Coats..... \$2.50 to \$5.00
Sheep-lined Ulsters, 52 inches long \$12.00 to \$18.00

MACKINAWs

Handsome and popular garments at prices lower than you usually find for same quality.

Men's Mackinaws... \$4.00 to \$8.50
Boys' Mackinaws \$4.50 and \$5.00

CALENDAR WEEK—A CALENDAR FREE

We shall present to every customer who makes a purchase at our store a beautiful Osborne Art Calendar for the year 1915. These calendars are fine reproductions of high-class original paintings by well-known American artists. We feel sure that you will be pleased to have one and that you will find it well worth keeping.

Store Open on Monday, Friday and Saturday Evenings

Geo. H. Brown

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GEORGE H. B. TURNER, Publisher
JOHN H. TURNER, Editor

We publish the following Papers:
 Turner's Public Spirit, Ayer, Mass.
 The Groton Landmark
 The Pepperell Clarion-Advertiser
 The Littleton Guidon
 The Westford Wardsman
 The Harvard Hillside
 The Shirley Oracle
 The Townsend Tocsin
 The Brookline (N. H.) Beacon
 The Hollis (N. H.) Homestead

Entered as second-class matter at the postoffice at Ayer, Mass.
 Saturday, December 26, 1914.

WESTFORD.

Center.
 Merry Christmas and happy new year to the readers of the column.
 Miss Jeanette Sutherland and W. H. Christie were in town on Sunday calling on friends.
 Miss Edith Forster was an over Sunday guest with friends in Dorchester.
 Miss Clara Smith is spending the Christmas school vacation with Hopedale relatives.
 Miss Bernice Keith, of Milford, N. H., was the guest of Mr. and Mrs. Walter L. Cutter on Sunday.
 George T. Day has been pretty much confined to the house since the setting in of cold weather.
 Pleasance comes from Mrs. Morin and Miss Mary Morin, spending the winter in California, in which accounts oranges and roses play their part. Miss Morin is in much demand at her chosen work of nursing.
 The H. V. Hildreths and H. W. Hildreths go to spend Christmas with the Maiden relatives.
 Harwood L. Wright is spending Christmas with the Henry M. Wrights in Quincy.

Misses Pauline Wallace, Marjory Seavey, Gertrude Hamlin, Evelyn Hamlin and Lillian Sutherland are among the young people at home for the Christmas holidays.
 Among those entertaining large family groups of relatives and friends for the holiday are O. R. Spaldings, A. W. Hartford, S. B. Watsons and Charles L. Hildreth.
 Bay and Mrs. David Wallace and daughters went to Lunenburg to spend Christmas with friends.
 The academy pupils are having one week of vacation and the Frost school pupils too. At the latter school last week Friday the regular closing exercises took place with music, declamations, etc.
 Mrs. Lillian Lumbert is enjoying her Christmas with her daughter and husband, Mr. and Mrs. Kenney, in Brookline.

Members of the Tadnuck club are reminded of the first meeting of the year, January 5, at Library hall, when David G. Hickey will give his lecture "The fool and his money."
 Mrs. Charles L. Hildreth, Miss Eva E. Fletcher and Misses Gertrude and Julia Fletcher were luncheon guests of Mrs. Mabel Whitney Wright at her home in Brookline on Thursday of last week.
 The faithful H. F. D. men who have to work so hard to help others' Christmas observances, will have new year's day to themselves. The new will be delivered on that day.
 The newly located postoffice has been one busy place this week. With its pretty Christmas trees, streamers of evergreen and bright red bows and its efficient service it has been an attractive place to get one's Christmas mail.
 Our residents are reminded that the financial year for the town closes December 31, one month earlier than in former years.
 The storm on Monday was not very severe, but gave a real winter outlook to our doors. The car tracks gathered substance in snow during the forenoon to make hard work for the carmen during the first part of the afternoon, after which schedule time was maintained.

The school and county commission have issued orders for the closing of schools for a period of three days to all fishermen. This has been an attractive place for fishing by the summer colony and the schools were closed. It has been restocked by the commission with the foregoing orders.

Congregational Church.
 At the Congregational church last Sunday special and appropriate services were held morning and evening. In the morning the pastor's sermon was an able and dispassionate one entitled "The Christmas tree," and drawn from present conditions among Europe's warring nations. The girls' vest choir of fifteen under the direction of Mrs. William H. Taylor with Miss Hazel B. Hartford, organist, rendered a fine musical service. Mrs. Charles D. Colburn sang a beautiful offertory solo. There were pretty decorations of evergreen, ferns and red carnations.
 In the evening Mr. Wallace's message was "The Messiah," and the young people of the church sang "The Christmas Tree." Sunday evening a special program of Christmas music will be given in charge of Mrs. Wright. The new male quartet, consisting of A. E. Day, J. H. Colburn, Leonard Burland and Harry Ericson, will sing.

Thursday evening the Sunday school had its special good time beginning with a supper, followed by the Christmas tree and a general good time. This was in charge of Mr. and Mrs. Osgood and other Sunday school workers.

About Town.
 Past masters' night was observed by Westford Grange at the last meeting. The program for the evening was given by J. W. Haffer, master-elect, and Mrs. Josephine Prescott, lecturer-elect, responded with reports of the State Grange meeting held in Worcester. The retiring lecturer, Mrs. A. H. Sutherland, was given a rising vote of thanks for her efforts to make the lecturer's hour successful. A past masters' pin was bestowed upon the retiring master, W. R. Taylor. Vacancies in office were filled by electing Mrs. Arthur T. Blodgett, Flora; Mrs. Ryan, Cora; and Miss Martha Grant. Tomorrow newly-elected officers will be installed by W. M. Wright, past master, Thursday evening, January 7.
 The next meeting of Middlesex-North Pomona Grange will be held at Odd Fellows' hall, Bridge street, Lowell, Friday, January 1. The forenoon will be given over to the discussion of an important question not

yet worked up. The afternoon session will be an open one, at which time the newly-elected officers will be installed.
 The Parker village school celebrated Christmas with tree, presents and a fine literary program under the management of the efficient teacher, Miss Myrtle W. Fletcher, of Littleton.

Glad to hear from V. T. E. again and to learn that wounded or other veterans are ready for action and opinions like a verdant oasis in the Sahara desert.
 Samuel Naylor, of West Chelmsford, shipped on the ice at his summer camp at Knop's pond, Groton, Sunday, receiving a sudden and general shaking up with special emphasis on the back. Owing to the back he is not able to get to the front for several weeks. An expert traveling salesman, the occupation that he has been engaged in for many years, a closely friendly auto brought him to his home, where he is resting with comfort and pain.

Graniteville.
 At a meeting of the members of Cour Graniteville, F. of A., held in their rooms on last week Thursday night, the following officers were duly elected for the ensuing term: Chas. A. Abbot, W. H. Payne, J. B. Thomas, E. Denio, trustee; F. G. Sullivan, secy.; Dr. W. H. Sherman, physician. After the meeting a good substantial baked dinner was served at the rooms, without saying that this was thoroughly enjoyed. The cooking was excellently done by Miss Lettie York, all the members of the entertainment committee served as waiters. After supper an enjoyable smoker was held. The whole affair was a great success and proved to be very enjoyable to all.

A chimney fire at the home of Mrs. Rose Hemen caused considerable excitement here on last Saturday morning, but prompt work on the part of the Abbot Fire Engine and the volunteer department, F. G. Sullivan and others, soon put the fire under control without calling on the regular fire company. The damage was small, covered by insurance.
 A daughter was born to Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Carpenter on Thursday, December 17.
 The Christmas tree exercises were held in St. Catherine's church on Wednesday evening, December 23. The M. E. church were held on Thursday evening.

Miss Gertrude and Miss Mabel Loftus, of Lowell, have been recent visitors here.
Forge Village.
 The Sunday school children of St. Andrew's mission held their annual Christmas tree exercises in the recreation hall on last Wednesday evening. Previous to the arrival of Santa Claus an illustrated lecture was given by Rev. H. F. Hildreth, which was thoroughly enjoyed by all present, well laden tree of presents was quickly disposed of and all faithful children were well rewarded.
 Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Crockett, of Westford, the guests of Mr. and Mrs. William Hunt over the holidays.
 Cameron school closed on Friday of last week for the Christmas vacation and will reopen on January 4.
 Mr. and Mrs. John Merton, of Lowell, are the guests of Mr. and Mrs. Merton at their home. Miss Rose Merton was formerly Miss Rose Merton, of this village.
 Many from this village attended the Christmas tree exercises held at St. Catherine's church in Graniteville on Wednesday evening. A very fine program was carried out and all the children received a pretty gift from Santa Claus, impersonated by Joseph Wall.

Miss Ethel Collins is entertaining her cousin, Miss Lillian Bailey, of Lowell.
 Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Bennett and family recently returned from Spruce, Conn., where they went to attend the funeral of Mrs. Bennett's mother, Mrs. Vickers.
 Through the courtesy of the Abbot Water Company, a most enjoyable affair was held in Abbot hall on Monday afternoon. A Christmas tree laden with gifts was the center of attraction and Santa Claus was in readiness to distribute his gifts. Present were Mrs. Lillian Campbell and children, the Misses Woodard and Marys Campbell, of Westford, and Misses B. B. and B. C. Francis, of Westford.

Fine Work by the Children.
 Santa's surprise, a Christmas tree, and a supper were the main features of last week Thursday night for the pupils of Cameron school. The affair proved to be one of the most delightful and successful of the year. The tree and the hall was packed to its utmost capacity. The program opened at seven o'clock with "The Birth of Santa Claus," by John K. Hill, who sang "The Christmas Tree" and "The Birth of Santa Claus," which were ably rendered. William Campbell and John Veno were also heard in some fine solos which were well appreciated. The chorus was the school in the Christmas carols was executed in an excellent manner. A most enjoyable part of the performance was the folk dance by the Littleton girls. The date of the year and Danish folk dance given by Miss Payne's first grade, and the Klapp dance and Swedish folk dance by Miss Edith's second and third grades, showed careful training and being teachers deserve praise for the work done.
 The Christmas trees were prettily arranged, occupied prominent places on the stage. The musical supervisor, Miss Mary B. Raynes, together with the other teachers, are to be congratulated on the concert, and we are certainly the best children's concert ever given here. The efficient pianist at the cantata was Miss Edith Spinner. The proceeds of the affair will be used to purchase records for the Victoria recently purchased for the school.
 Among the out-of-town people who attended the cantata were noticed Ar. Boss, Day, Mr. and Mrs. Gunter, Miss Edith Forster of the William E. Frost school in Westford, and a number of the children, Supt. Frank H. Hill and Mrs. J. H. Hildreth, Miss Mildred Brennan, supervisor of music in the schools of Pepperell, and her mother, Mrs. Brennan, of Lowell, Mrs. Garvey, Mrs. Rose Garvey, and Gertrude Quigley of North Chelmsford and others.

FINANCING A SOLOMON
 Clerk—Mr. Goldbug, as I am to marry, I would like more salary.
 Boss—How much do you want?
 Clerk—Ten dollars a week.
 Boss—My gracious! How many women are you going to marry?

LUNENBURG.

News Items.
 At the meeting of the Methodist church on Thursday evening of last week the following were elected officers of the Sunday school: George H. Whitcomb, supt.; Claude A. Gray, asst. supt.; Carl Harrington, organist; Mrs. Arthur W. Adams, treas.; Miss Fannie Peabody, lib.; Miss Alice Peabody, Mrs. Lucy Jones, assis.; Mrs. James L. Hinckley, supt. home dept.; Miss Blanche Whitcomb, supt. cradle roll and organist; Henry B. Magoon, who has held the office of superintendent for seven consecutive years, and during all that time has been absent but six times, was given a vote of thanks as he retired from office for his faithful and efficient service.
 William R. Brown, who was so severely injured on December 12, as mentioned in the items of last week, is still unconscious at the Burbank hospital. He takes some nourishment and has spoken a few words, but they were not at all connected and he does not seem to realize that he has spoken at all or understand when an attendant speaks his name. A specialist from Boston has been called to see him and he thinks the chances are in his favor and that he may yet recover, although at the present time he is in a critical condition.

At the chapel of the Methodist church on Tuesday evening the Epworth League held its election of officers and business meeting. Chicken pie supper with hot mashed potato and "all the trimmings" with pies, cakes and puddings and it was a most enjoyable affair. The business meeting was held at 7:30 o'clock. The following were elected officers for the ensuing year: Lewis L. Harrington, pres.; Mrs. Leslie Eastman, Mrs. Alfred Noon, Mrs. C. Marden, Jr., and Miss Blanche Whitcomb, vice pres.; Miss Mildred Elliott, secy.; Miss Gertrude Barter, treas.; Miss Blanche Whitcomb, organist.
 At the Methodist church on last Sunday morning Rev. Alfred Noon preached from the topic "The greatest privilege." Orville Martin was leader for the evening service of the Epworth League. The subject was "The heritage of the Christ life." In the evening service conducted by the C. E. meeting at seven o'clock. Considering the bad travelling there was a good attendance.

John A. Gould had a narrow escape from a very serious injury last week Friday afternoon, when he received a kick from one of his driving horses, making a bad cut under his left eye. His face is badly swollen and much discolored. He was fortunate in not losing the eye.
 All the schools in town closed on last week Friday afternoon with appropriate Christmas exercises. The grade schools were closed for three days in town where it was thought "old Santa" might forget to call unless his memory was jogged a little by the children's requests. It was a happy thought to thus remember those who were less fortunate than they. Several feeble, elderly people were also comforted by baskets containing candy and other dainties of the season. Thus the children increased their own happiness by being mindful of the sick and "shut-ins."
 "Hilber of Harvard," a four-foot drama, presented at the town hall on Friday evening of last week by members of the Grange, met an enthusiastic audience which was greatly entertained. The parts were well taken, some of them especially so, and were well acted. It seemed like a happy foreboding of actual experience of the participants.

The Cradle and the Cross.
 Calvary's cross out of mind, the full significance of Bethlehem's cradle is missed. The great lesson of Christmas is not half learned except our thoughts project themselves beyond the scenes of the Redeemer's birth to the scenes of his death and the relation of his humiliation and suffering to our redemption be borne in mind.—Christian Intelligencer.

When Hope Was Born.
 Rise, happy morn; rise, holy morn; Draw forth the cheerful day from night; O Father, touch the east and light The light that shone when hope was born! —Tonyson "In Memoriam."

A TEST FOR LIVER COMPLAINT
 Mentally Unhappy—Physically Dull
 The Liver, sluggish and inactive, first shows itself in a mental state—unhappiness and irritability. Nervousness, depression, loss of energy, and loss of interest in their work. Keep your Liver active and healthy by using Dr. King's New Life Pills, the same remedy that has freed thousands from the griping, purging, and purifying the Blood. Buy at drug stores. Buckner's Anemia Salve, excellent for Piles.

NOTICE.
 The Annual Meeting of the Shareholders of the First National Bank of Ayer, will be held at the Banking Rooms in Ayer, Mass., on Monday, January 11, 1915, at one o'clock P. M., for the purpose of acting upon the following business:
 To choose a Board of Directors to serve for the ensuing year, and to transact any other business that may come before the meeting.
 HOWARD B. WHITE, President.
 Ayer, Mass., Dec. 10, 1914. 414

Furs
 Made, Repaired and Re-modelled at 151 Myrtle Ave., Fitchburg. 3m7
 MADAM GREENWOOD

Oh, Tender Tale Of Old!

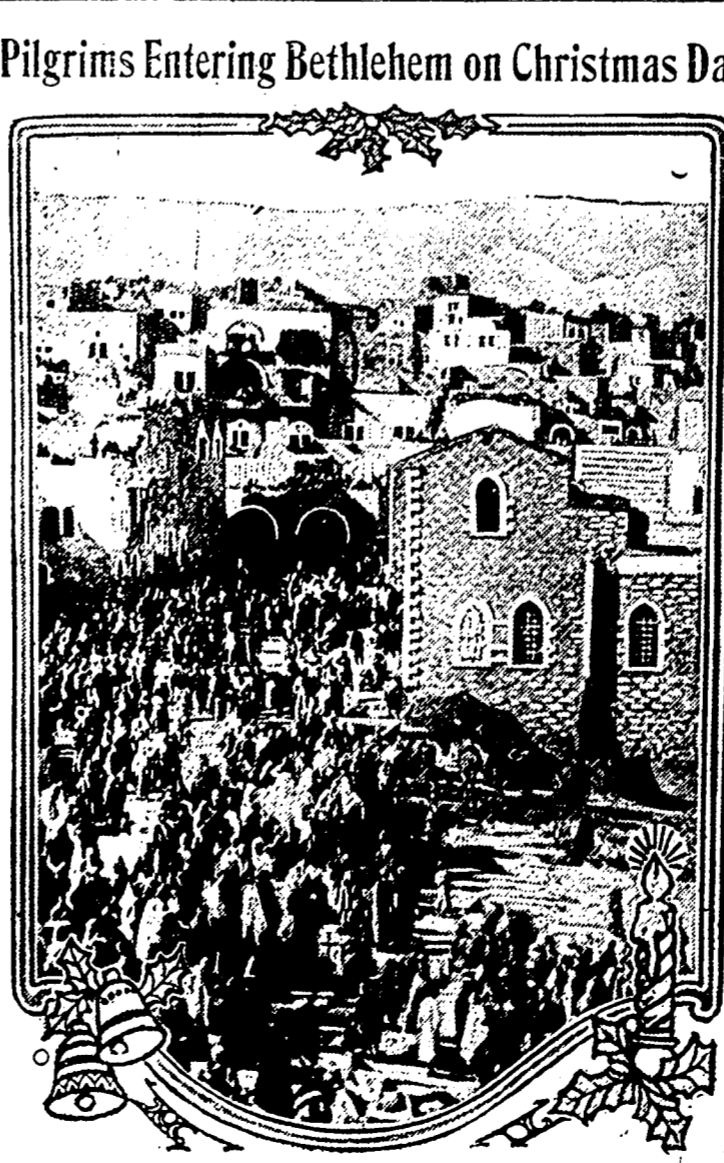
Oh, tender tale of old,
 Live in thy dear renown!
 God's smile was in the dark—behold
 That way his host came down.
 Light up, great God, thy word,
 Make the blest meaning strong,
 As if our ears, indeed, had heard
 The glory of their song.

It was so far away,
 But thou couldst make it near,
 And all its living might display
 And cry to it, "Be here!"
 Here, in the unresting town,
 As once remote to them
 Who heard it when the heavens
 came down
 On pastoral Bethlehem.
 It was so long ago,
 But God can make it now
 And, as with that sweet overthrow,
 Our empty hearts endow.
 Take, Lord, those words outworn;
 Oh, make them new for aye;
 Speak—"Unto you a child is born."
 Today, today, today.
 —Jean Ingelow.

Christmas, Christmas Everywhere.
 "We have received our first Christmas gift," said a citizen the other day, "in the shape of two little square, sack shaped paper packages of tea with Chinese characters put all over them. They came from our Chinese laundryman."
 "When we go for the washing and produce the ticket the Chinaman reaches for the bundle."
 "Ninety cent," he says, and as we are reaching for the coin he reaches under the counter and produces from there those two little square packages, which he lays down beside our bundle. We don't know what's in them or why he put them there, and as we put down the coin we take up one of the packets and say:
 "What's this? And then says the laundryman, smiling:
 "Kisimus."
 "And as we smile in return and pick up the odd little packets we think the Chinaman is really more or less adapted to the customs of the country."

The Message of the Bells.
 The Christmas bells are ringing. In every nook and corner they say to the poor: "Jesus was one with you. He chose to share your lot because it was that of the majority. In all that you have to bear you are a brother to Jesus Christ." Christ never took on his blessed lips the philosopher's cant. He never said that misery, poverty, disease and death were natural results of a divine law. They were as unnatural as hateful. But for them all he has a remedy. "That ye love one another as I have loved you."—Bishop Choey.

Pilgrims Entering Bethlehem on Christmas Day



Christmas Seal Of 1914

THE executive committee of the American Red Cross approved the design for the 1914 Red Cross Christmas seal, to be sold throughout the United States during this year's holiday season to help in the war on tuberculosis.
 A different design for this stamp is adopted every year. The 1914 stamp is brightly colored, with red and green predominating. It is taken up almost entirely by the ruddy face of Santa Claus. The background, in vivid green, represents part of a Christmas tree. At the upper corners are red crosses. At the bottom on an unrolled scroll are the greetings "Merry Christmas" and "Happy New Year." The legends "American Red Cross" and "1914" appear.
 Instead of an oblong design, as used during the 1913 Christmas season, the 1914 stamp is square.
 The Red Cross anti-tuberculosis Christmas seal first was used by the American Red Cross as a national body in 1908. Since then over \$1,800,000 has been raised through the sale of these stamps at Christmas time in the crusade against tuberculosis. Last Christmas over 40,000,000 of the stamps were sold in the United States. The Red Cross Christmas seal was first used by the Delaware chapter of the Red Cross in 1907 at the instance of the secretary of that chapter, Miss Emily P. Bissell, and the national organization took it up the following year.

The Star of Bethlehem.
 This old sobbing world of ours is one year older than it was when the last Christmas carol was chanted. It has had another twelfth month of experimentation and of experience of advancement on many lines of human research and acquisition. But it has not yet discovered a substitute. The star of Bethlehem is the only star that never sets. Jesus Christ alone can satisfy all human necessities and the loftiest of human inspirations. Christianity is the only universal religion, the only one adapted to all ages of life, to all human conditions, to all races and all nationalities. Other lights have arisen, waned and vanished forever. The Greek mythology is as utterly shaken to ruin as its own splendid Parntheon. The chief religions of Asia—Brahmanism, Buddhism and Moslem—all are limited and local; they are all moribund. While they make no inroads on Christianity, the religion of Bethlehem and Calvary makes constant inroads upon them. The systems of error which Paul and Peter fought have vanished out of sight, and the whole east is catching glimpses of the star that first dawned over Judaea's sky. In spiritual dynamics blood tells, and God has trusted his gospel of salvation to the most powerful races on the globe.—Rev. Theodore L. Cuyler, D. D.

Live Poultry Wanted
 Any number of Fowl, Roasters and Broilers for market. Also, any kind of fowls. Drop me a postal or call. Phone and team will call. Telephone Pepperell 59-12.
 O. B. OLSEN
 Townsend Harbor, Mass.

REAL ESTATE
 In Townsend, Mass.
 The subscriber, as administrator of the estate of Charles S. Wyman, late of said Townsend, deceased, by virtue of a license granted on the eighth day of December last, will sell by public auction at the office of Richard McElligott, in Fitchburg, in the Village of West Townsend, Monday, January 10, 1915, at one o'clock in the afternoon, the following described real estate:
 "Lot No. 1 known as the Craig lot containing about 12 acres, situated in the southerly part of Townsend about 2 1/2 miles from the west village, being the premises described in deed of Alexander Craig to Allen Wyman, recorded with Middlesex South District Deeds, Lib. 1212, folio 45. This lot has a heavy growth, mostly chestnut, now fit for telephone poles and R. B. ties."
 "Lot No. 2 known as the Green lot in the southerly part of said Townsend 2 miles south of the west village on both sides of the road leading from Rogers Mills, so-called, to Vinton pond, containing about 12 acres of pine and chestnut nearly large enough for cutting, and being the premises described in deed of Charles H. Green to Charles S. Wyman, recorded with said Deeds, Lib. 3137, folio 151."
 "Lot No. 3 known as the Sanders lot in the westerly part of Townsend and the easterly part of Ashby on the west side of the road leading from the Rogers Mill privilege to Fitchburg, containing about 48 acres, being the premises described in deed of Elisha Brown to Charles S. Wyman, recorded with said Deeds, Lib. 2848, folio 378. This is sprout land, the wood and timber having been cut recently."
 "Lot No. 4 known as the Trowel Factory lot in the westerly part of said Townsend on the south side of the road leading from West Townsend to Fitchburg, containing about 14 acres on which there is a young growth of wood, being the premises described in deed of James A. Dixon to Charles S. Wyman, recorded with said Deeds, Lib. 3522, folio 303."
 Terms made known at time and place of sale.
 RICHARD McELLIGOTT,
 Administrator of the Estate of Charles S. Wyman.
 West Townsend, Mass., Dec. 24, 1914.

AYER FRUIT STORE

10,000 OF THE LATEST
Christmas and New Years Post Cards
 To be Sold at One Cent each Ten Cents per Dozen
 OVER 500 VARIETIES
 Mail Orders Promptly Filled
GEORGE S. POULIUS & CO. Main Street, Ayer
HOLLIS FARM
 Few minutes' walk to village and advantages. Excellent two-story, 9-room House; Barns, and 26 1/2 Acres Tillage, cut 50 ton hay; 250 Fruit Trees. This is one of the best farms in the section. Price, \$6500.
 Also, 35-Acre Hollis Farm, few minutes from village, 20 Acres Tillage, balance Pasture, Wood and Timber; 250 Fruit Trees; excellent Fruit Land; 8-Ton House; Large Barn. Price, \$2500.
F. M. JAMESON East Milford, N. H.

Asparagus Bunchers
 BOTH FOOT PRESSURE AND HAND PRESSURE
 These machines press and cut off the butts at one operation with the raffia in place near the top of the bunch ready to tie and cut off with small knife on top of the clamp. The butts when cut drop through an opening in the top of table into box or basket.
 Send stamp for circular and price list to
S. H. Houghton
 Harvard, Mass.
 Phone 14-2 P. O. Lock Box 17

NOTICE.
 The annual meeting of the stockholders of the Townsend National Bank will be held at their Banking Rooms on Monday, January 4, 1915, at ten o'clock A. M. The Board of Directors for the year ensuing and act upon any other business that may legally come before said meeting.
 HENRY A. HILL, Cashier.
 Townsend, Mass., Dec. 8, 1914.

Plano Tuning
 TUNING AND REPAIRING PROMPTLY ATTENDED TO
J. F. Chaffin Co.
 Tel. 546-W Fitchburg, Mass.
 Or orders can be left at the Office of HUNTLEY S. TURNER, Ayer. Telephone 165-2.

REAL ESTATE
 Pursuant to and by authority of a license granted to me on the 24th day of November 1914 by the Probate Court for said County of Middlesex, will be sold at Public Auction on Saturday, January 9th, 1915, commencing at Ten o'clock in the forenoon, on the premises the first hereinafter described parcel of land in Pepperell, Mass., and directly after the sale of said first parcel, the second parcel hereinafter described will be sold on the premises therein described, and after the sale of said fifth parcel said sale will be adjourned until two o'clock P. M. of said day to be continued on the premises hereinafter described in and referred to as the "third" parcel, being in Groton, Mass., at which time and place all the land hereinafter described as being in said Groton, will be sold, and being all the Real Estate of Charles A. Dennen, late of Pepperell in said Middlesex County, consisting of five parcels of land, viz:
 First, A certain parcel of land, with the buildings thereon, situated on the southerly side of Main St. in said Pepperell, containing 84 sq. rods, more or less, and being the same premises conveyed to said Charles A. Dennen by deed of Rebecca G. Sibley, dated Dec. 21, 1892, and recorded with Middlesex So. Dist. Deeds, Book 2158, Page 161.
 Second, A certain parcel of land situated on the westerly side of Elm St. in said Pepperell, containing 1 1/2 acres, more or less, and being the same premises conveyed to the said Charles A. Dennen by deed of L. Florence Page et al. dated Dec. 2, 1892 and recorded with said Deeds, Book 2528, Page 371.
 Third, A certain parcel of land, containing about 26 acres and 10 rods, more or less, situated in Groton in said County, near Fitches Bridge, the last above described parcel and being the same premises conveyed to said Charles A. Dennen by deed dated July 1, 1880 and recorded with said Deeds, Book 1581, Page 278. Subject to the reservations as in said deed set forth. Also one other certain parcel of land, containing 6 acres and 20 sq. rods, more or less, adjoining the last above described parcel and being the same premises conveyed to said Charles A. Dennen by deed dated April 25, 1864 and recorded with said Deeds, Book 2037, Page 519.
 Fourth, A certain tract of pasture land situated in the westerly part of said Groton, containing 34 acres and 7 rods, more or less, and being the same premises conveyed to said Charles A. Dennen by Charles P. Hemlinway, by deed dated Dec. 20, 1878 and recorded with said Deeds, Book 1581, Page 276. Subject to the reservations as in said deed set forth.
 Fifth, A certain parcel of land, with the buildings thereon, situated at the intersection of Park and Sartelle Streets in said Pepperell and running southerly by said Park St. 150 ft.; thence running westerly parallel with and 150 ft. distant from said Sartelle St. 175 ft.; thence running northerly parallel with and 175 ft. distant from said Park St. 150 ft. to said Sartelle St.; thence by said Sartelle St. 175 ft. to the point of beginning, be all of said measurements more or less.
 For terms and full particulars apply to the undersigned. 3w15
WILLIAM F. DENNEN,
 Administrator of estate of Charles A. Dennen, Pepperell, Massachusetts.

FOR SALE—Second-hand Rank, with water tank, first class, belongs to C. E. Beals. Inquire of DR. BUTTERFIELD, Ayer, Mass. 2115

A GOOD ASSORTMENT OF HORSES FOR SALE
 —AT—
Whitney's Stable
 AYER, MASS.
 Telephone 29-3 3m7

A New Lot of Horses Received This Week
 Administrator's Sale of **REAL ESTATE**
 At Public Auction.
 Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Middlesex ss.

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 For terms and full particulars apply to the undersigned. 3w15
WILLIAM F. DENNEN,
 Administrator of estate of Charles A. Dennen, Pepperell, Massachusetts.

SHIRLEY.

News Items. Edwin I. Smith, of Plainfield, N. J., is spending the holidays with his wife and daughter in town at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur E. Felch, parents of Mrs. Smith.

Miss Ruth M. Graves, of Royalston, is at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. N. R. Graves, for the Christmas vacation.

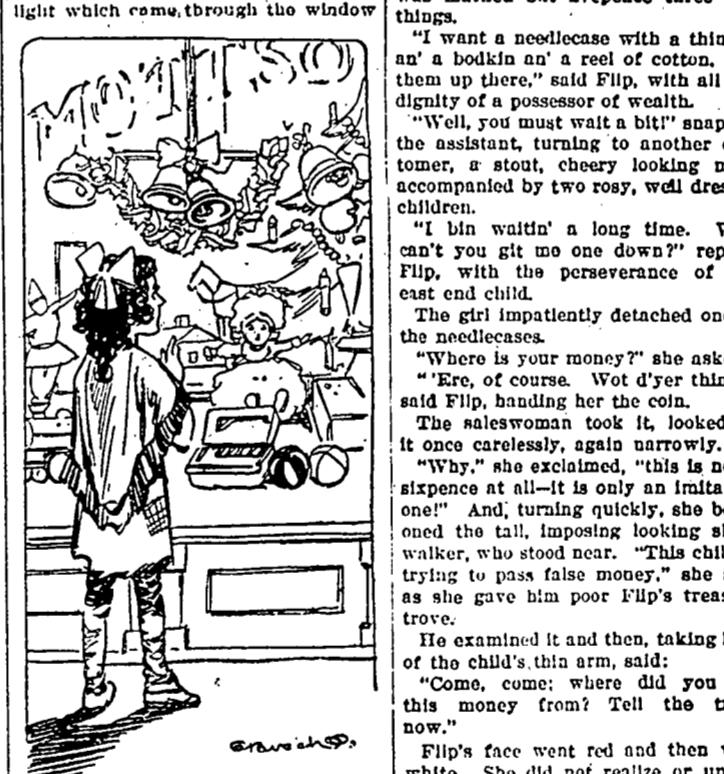
The Center primary and grammar schools are closed for a Christmas vacation of one week and will open again on Monday, December 23.

THE MAN WHO RULES THE WORLD TODAY



A Real Christmas

HER name was Philippa, a royal name for such a very small, poor English maid, but she had always been called 'Flip'.



an' presents! Fancy if I could give mother a present! I know what I'd like to give her—one of them cases to hold needles and thimble an' a bodkin which I saw at Amilton's bazaar.

J. J. Barry & Co.

Main Street AYER, MASS. Happy New Year! Next week we start our MID-WINTER SALE OF Ladies' and Misses' Suits and Coats and Children's Coats



Work in a Warm Room WHEN you take your sewing upstairs, take the heat along too. The Perfection oil heater is easily carried anywhere.

PERFECTION SMOKELESS OIL HEATERS

The Perfection is solid, good-looking, easy to clean and take care of. It is smokeless and odorless. Look for the Triangle trademark.

Chas. Bartz Is Prepared to do Electrical Work In all its branches AYER, MASS. CUTFLOWERS, PLANTS, FLORAL DESIGNS, ETC. HARDY ORNAMENTAL TREES, SHRUBS AND VINES

H. Huebner Florist Groton, Mass. Greenhouses near Groton School

Piano Tuning REPAIRING, REGULATING WILMOT B. CLEAVES Phone 20 HARVARD, MASS.

Printing THAT IS DISTINCTIVE WE can make your Printing what it should be and ought to be—that is what our experience counts for.

H. S. Turner Printing WITH GOOD SERVICE

JOB WORK is what we want just now. Doesn't matter how big or how little the job is. JOB PLUMBING WORK about now keeps us busy. We're patching up many a pipe and fixing plenty bath tubs, water tanks and faucets, that weren't half done and need repairing.

TOWNSEND.

Center. At the Congregational church on Sunday morning Rev. A. L. Struthers will preach on "Garrison's Union Service"...

Sale and Supper. The Ladies' Benevolent society of the M. E. church held their annual Christmas sale on Thursday of last week...

West. Miss Ruth Hayden, who teaches in Greenville, N. H., and Miss Lena Thompson, who teaches in Norwood, are at their homes here for the holidays.

The Granite Company quarries closed last Tuesday for the present. About fifty men were employed there during the fall and early winter.

Mrs. A. D. Winship has been quite sick at her home, suffering from stomach trouble.

Mrs. R. S. Ely has been spending a few days with relatives in Boston and vicinity.

Mrs. R. E. Brayton and son Randall, from Providence, R. I., are at the home of Mr. and Mrs. George Adams for the holidays.

George Adams and John Campbell attended the funeral of Comrade Daniel Brogan of the G. A. R. at the Center on last Sunday afternoon.

Kenneth Reed, son of Mr. and Mrs. Alexander Reed, is spending his vacation with his sister, Mrs. Dwinelle, in Lyndonville, Vt.

Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Wise have closed their house and are spending the remainder of the winter with their daughter in Boston.

Miss Florence Austin, from Cambridge, is visiting friends in town this week.

Miss Helen Marr is spending the holidays with relatives in Waltham.

Mr. and Mrs. Alden Sherwin and daughter Dorothy are spending the holiday at Mrs. Sherwin's home in Quincy.

Concert. The following program was presented at the Baptist Sunday school on last Sunday evening...

News Items. At home from school and college for the holiday vacation are Miss Mildred Flagg, Priscilla Junata and John Fairfield, Eunice Priest, Marion and Herbert Whitcomb, Olive Thacher, Heywood Knowlton, Evelyn Kimball, Miriam Cash, Cora Warren, Esther McEnnis, Abby McNeill, Edward Esten, Elizabeth Smith, Myrtle Fletcher, Maude Mitchell, Louisa Flagg, Marion Prouty, Stanley Flagg, Roland Houghton, Emily Robinson, Gladys Woodbury, Emily Sauler, Dorothy Blodgett, Warren Hartwell, Aria Stone, Ralph Hill, Grace Conant, Josephine Love, Miss Hussey, Miss Lucy Houghton went to Gloucester City, N. J., last week to visit her sister, Mrs. Carl Dodge, through the holiday season...

Miss Florence Wilcox has been visiting Cambridge friends, and Miss Mary Hager has taken her place in the home. Miss Beth Allard, of Orange, N. J., has been a guest of Miss Fannie Sanderson this week. The two ladies were college mates. Mrs. Fred Hartwell's mother, Mrs. Perry, passed away at her home in Hillsboro, N. H., last week after a protracted illness. Mr. Perry will spend the winter with his daughter in Littleton. The Alliance will meet on Friday afternoon at the Unitarian vestry for its January meeting. The music will be provided by Mrs. Alice F. Prouty and the address will be given by Miss Cora Warren on some phases of her interesting school work in the North End of Boston, instead of the subject given in the Alliance calendar. The annual parish meeting of the Unitarian society comes on Monday evening and this year will be accompanied with a parish supper to which all members of the parish are invited. Reports will be given, officers elected and the interests of the church talked over. Supper will be served at 6.45. A special meeting of the selectmen will be held at their office on Monday evening, December 28. All bills against the town should be presented to their respective departments before that date in order to be approved and paid before the books close on December 31. There are still a few delinquents who have not paid their water tax. The commissioners wish to bring this to their attention so that these accounts may be closed before the end of the month.

YOUR COLD IS DANGEROUS—BREAK IT UP NOW. A cold is readily catching. A run-down system is susceptible to germs. You owe it to yourself and to others of your household to fight the germs at once. Dr. Bell's Pine-Tar-Honey is the best for Colds and Coughs. It loosens the Mucus, stops the Cough and soothes the Lungs. It's guaranteed. Only 25c. at your Druggist.

New Advertisements. After Christmas REDUCTIONS. Barney & Berry Skates. ONE-HALF PRICE. 50c. Skates 25c. 75c. Skates 38c. \$1.15 Skates 58c. \$1.50 Skates 75c.

WEAR EVER ALUMINUM REDUCED 33 1/2%. Kettles, Saucepans, Double Boilers. Tea and Coffee Pots. Pie Plates, Etc.

Ayer Variety Store

We Are Here to provide you with your Groceries and good things for Christmas at a reasonable price. We have a full line of Candy, Nuts, Canned Goods, Etc., all Fresh Goods. We do not over stock in any one line and consequently we are continually getting in fresh goods. That is the advantage of dealing with a small store. You will find us ready to serve you with large or small orders and we are convinced that you will be a steady customer of ours if you give us a trial order.

Our Specialty is the Handling of the Very Best Vermont Butter and Cheese. EAST MAIN STREET GROCERY. JAMES E. GRIFFIN, Proprietor. East Main Street, Ayer, Mass.

WHY NOT SEE Thomas F. Mullin THE REAL ESTATE AGENT In Regard to Investment? Room 3 Bank Bldg. Ayer

BUY IT TO-DAY 300 PICTURES 250 PAGES 300 ARTICLES POPULAR MECHANICS MAGAZINE For Father and Son AND ALL THE FAMILY Two and a half million readers find it of absorbing interest. Everything in it is written so you can understand it. We sell 400,000 copies every month without giving premiums and have no solicitors. Any newsdealer will show you a copy; or write the publisher for free sample—a postal will do. \$1.50 A YEAR 15c A COPY Popular Mechanics Magazine 66 No. Michigan Ave., CHICAGO 9



The Goblins A Christmas Story

In an old abbey town a long, long while ago there officiated as sexton and gravedigger in the churchyard one Gabriel Grubb. He was an ill conditioned, cross grained, surly fellow, who consorted with nobody but himself and an old wicker bottle, which fitted into his large, deep waistcoat pocket. A little before twilight one Christmas eve Gabriel shouldered his spade, lighted his lantern and betook himself toward the old churchyard, for he had a grave to flush by next morning. He strode along until he turned into the dark lane which led to the churchyard—a nice, gloomy, mournful place, into which the townspeople did not care to go except in broad daylight; consequently he was not a little indignant to hear a young urchin roaring out some jolly song about a merry Christmas. Gabriel waited until the boy came up, then rapped him over the head with his lantern five or six times to teach him to modulate his voice. And as the boy hurried away, with his



hand to his head, Gabriel Grubb chuckled to himself and entered the churchyard, locking the gate behind him. He took off his coat, put down his lantern and, getting into an unfinished grave, worked at it for an hour or so with right good will. But the earth was hardened with the frost, and it was no easy matter to break it up and shovel it out. When he had finished work for the night and looked down into the grave with grim satisfaction he murmured: "Brave lodgings for one, brave lodgings for one. A few feet of cold earth when life is done. 'Ho, ho!' he laughed as he sat himself down on a flat tombstone, which was a favorite resting place of his, and drew forth a wicker bottle. 'Ho, ho, ho!' repeated a voice close beside him. 'It was the echoes,' said he, raising the bottle to his lips again. 'It was not,' said a deep voice. Gabriel started up and stood rooted to the spot with terror. Seated on an upright tombstone close to him was a strange, unearthly figure. He was sitting perfectly still, grinning at Gabriel Grubb with such a grin as only a goblin could call up. 'What do you here on Christmas eve?' said the goblin sternly. 'I came to dig a grave, sir,' stammered Gabriel. 'What man wanders among graves

on such a night as this?' cried the goblin. 'Gabriel Grubb, Gabriel Grubb!' screamed a wild chorus of voices that seemed to fill the churchyard. 'What have you got in that bottle?' said the goblin. 'Hollands, sir,' replied the sexton, trembling more than ever, for he had bought it of the smugglers, and he thought his questioner might be in the excise department of the goblins. 'Who drinks Hollands alone and in a churchyard on such a night as this?' 'Gabriel Grubb, Gabriel Grubb!' exclaimed the wild voices again. 'And who, then, is our lawful prize?' exclaimed the goblin. 'The invisible chorus replied, "Gabriel Grubb, Gabriel Grubb!" The sexton gasped for breath. "What do you think of this, Gabriel?" said the goblin. "It's—it's very curious, sir; very curious, sir, and very pretty," replied the sexton, half dead with fright. "But I think I'll go back and finish my work, sir, if you please." "Work?" said the goblin. "What work?" "The grave, sir." "Oh, the grave, eh? Who makes graves at a time when other men are merry and takes a pleasure in it?" Again the voices replied, "Gabriel Grubb, Gabriel Grubb!" "I'm afraid my friends want you, Gabriel," said the goblin. "Under favor, sir," replied the horror stricken sexton. "I don't think they can. They don't know me, sir. I don't think the gentlemen have ever seen me." "Oh, yes, they have! We know the man who struck the boy in the envious malice of his heart because the boy could be merry and he could not." Here the goblin gave a loud, shrill laugh which the echoes returned twentyfold. "I—I am afraid I must leave you, sir," said the sexton, making an effort to move. "Leave us?" said the goblin. "Ho, ho, ho!" As the goblin laughed he suddenly darted toward Gabriel, laid his hand on his collar and sank with him through the earth. And when he had had time to fetch his breath he found himself in what appeared to be a large cavern, surrounded on all sides by goblins ugly and grim. "And now," said the king of the goblins, seated in the center of the room on an elevated seat—his friend of the churchyard—"show the man of misery and gloom a few of the pictures from our great storerooms." As the goblin said this a cloud rolled gradually away and disclosed a small and scantily furnished but neat apartment. Little children were gathered round a bright fire, clinging to their mother's gown or gamboling round her chair. A fragrant meal was spread upon the table, and an elbow chair was placed near the fire. Soon the father entered, and the children ran to meet him. As he sat down to his meal the mother sat by his side, and all seemed happiness and comfort. "What do you think of that?" said the goblin. Gabriel murmured something about its being very pretty. "Show him some more," said the goblin. Many a time the cloud went and came, and many a lesson it taught to Gabriel Grubb. He saw that men who worked hard and earned their scanty bread were cheerful and happy. And he came to the conclusion it was a very respectable sort of world after all. One by one the goblins faded from his sight, and as the last one disappeared he sank to sleep. The day had broken when he awoke and found himself lying on the flat gravestone, with the wicker bottle empty by his side. He got on his feet as well as he could, and brushing the frost off his coat, turned his face toward the town. But he was an altered man. He had learned lessons of gentleness and good nature by his strange adventures in the goblin's cavern.—Charles Dickens.

WANTED. Capable Men to sell our full line of Fruit and Ornamental Trees, Shrubs, Roses, Etc., during this Fall and Winter season. Experience not necessary. Good pay to the right parties. Address CHASE BROTHERS COMPANY The Rochester Nurseries Established 1887 Rochester, N. Y.

E. D. STONE Fire Insurance Agent Automobile and Cordwood Insurance Esther A. Stone, Typewriting Page's Block Ayer, Mass.

TAX SALE. GROTON, MASS., DECEMBER 19, 1914. The owners and occupants of the following described parcels of real estate situated in the Town of Groton, in the County of Middlesex, in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and the public are hereby notified that the taxes thereon severally assessed for the years hereafter mentioned remain unpaid, and that the smallest undivided part of said land sufficient to satisfy said taxes with all legal costs and charges or the whole of said land if no person offers to take an undivided part thereof will be offered for sale by public auction at the lower hall in the Town House in Groton on Wednesday, the thirtieth day of December, 1914, at two o'clock P. M., for the payment of said taxes with interest, cost and charges thereon unless the same shall be previously discharged.

Collector's Notice. Sale of Real Estate. Groton, Mass., December 19, 1914. The owners and occupants of the following described parcels of real estate situated in the Town of Groton, in the County of Middlesex, in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and the public are hereby notified that the taxes thereon severally assessed for the years hereafter mentioned remain unpaid, and that the smallest undivided part of said land sufficient to satisfy said taxes with all legal costs and charges or the whole of said land if no person offers to take an undivided part thereof will be offered for sale by public auction at the lower hall in the Town House in Groton on Wednesday, the thirtieth day of December, 1914, at two o'clock P. M., for the payment of said taxes with interest, cost and charges thereon unless the same shall be previously discharged.

Assessed to Mary May. Described as follows: Situated in the central part of the Town, beginning at the end of Willow Dale Street, going easterly by land of William Clark to land of Kemp & Bennett, northerly, then southerly, then westerly by land of said Kemp & Bennett to land of Charles B. Baldwin, then easterly by land of said Charles B. Baldwin to point of beginning, including buildings thereon, containing about two (2) acres. Tax for 1911, \$4.00. Tax for 1912, \$1.00.

Assessed to Lincoln Potter of Worcester. Situated in the northerly part of said Groton on the westerly side of the road leading from Groton to Nashua, N. H., containing 14 acres, more or less. Bounded: Beginning at the north-easterly corner of the same at a stone bound on said road and land of John Gilson; thence north 51° 30' west 5 1/2 rods by land of said Gilson and land late of Stephen J. Woods to an oak tree at a corner; thence north-westerly by said Woods' land about 22 rods to a stone bound; thence south-westerly by land late of Mrs. Tully about 49 rods to a corner near a maple stump at land now or late of P. Doyle; thence by land of said Doyle and land late of E. F. Nutting N. 8° 11' E. 27 rods to a stone bound; thence by said Nutting's land south 51° 30' E. 52 rods to a stake and stones at said road; thence by said road northerly 27 rods to the point of beginning. Tax for 1912, \$3.50.

Assessed to Michael F. McGowan. Situated in the westerly part of said Groton, three parcels with buildings thereon. 1. Beginning at the northwest corner at the road leading from West Groton to Townsend; thence south 82° east by land formerly of Freeman Hopkins 192 1/2 feet to a stone post; thence south 70° 50' west by land now or formerly of George H. Bixby 173 feet to a stone post at a proposed street; thence westerly by said street 103 feet to said Townsend road; thence northerly by said road 183 feet to the point of beginning. 2. On easterly side of road leading from West Groton to Townsend, beginning at a stone post at the south-westerly corner of the premises by said Townsend road; thence easterly by land of McGowan 143 feet to a stone post by land late of Freeman Hopkins; thence northerly by said Hopkins' land 83 feet to a stone post; thence westerly by said Hopkins' land 200 feet to a stone post by said road; thence southerly by said road to the point of beginning. 3. Westerly side of road leading from West Groton to Townsend, beginning at a stone post at the south-westerly corner of the premises and at said road; thence running easterly by land now or late of M. F. McGowan 143 feet to a stone post at land now or formerly of Freeman Hopkins; thence northerly by said Hopkins' land 85 feet to a stone bound; thence westerly by said Hopkins' land 200 feet to a stone bound at said Townsend road; thence southerly by said road 110 feet to the point of beginning. Tax for 1911, \$44.00. Tax for 1912, \$44.00.

JEROME C. SHATTUCK, Deputy Tax Collector for the Town of Groton.

For Our Holiday Trade

MANICURING INSTRUMENTS in neat cases for home use, also in soft leather folding cases for traveling. TOILET ARTICLES—Combs, Brushes, Etc. Ivory Pyralin is the very latest finish for Toilet Articles and we have a full line of such articles at reasonable prices. STATIONERY in large and small boxes. Our stock includes Crane's Linen Lawn and Highland Linen. Tinted stationery is again in style and we are offering Highland Linen in several tints. Paper and Correspondence Cards with Old English letters. PERFUMES—We have a stock of Perfumes and Toilet Waters which includes the following well-known brands: Richard Hudnut, Hanson & Jenks, Lazell, Harmony, Colgate. CANDY—A fresh stock of Lowney's, Nobility, Quality, Liggett's, in plain and fancy boxes. PIPES—A large assortment of Pipes with Amber Mouth Pieces, either with or without a case. Cigar Cases, Ash Trays and Accessories for the Smokers. CIGARS—All of the well-known brands in boxes of 12, 25, 50 and 100. We gladly help the ladies in selecting their gift cigars.

WM. BROWN Main Street DRUGGIST Ayer, Mass.

WE WISH ALL A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR. The DEMPSEY STUDIO Main Street Ayer, Mass.

Millinery Model and Tailored Hats Mrs. Jennie T. Ryan 26 MAIN STREET AYER, MASS. Terms Cash Telephone 148-12

ETHEL K. BRUCE PARLOR MILLINERY Phelps' Block AYER, MASS. Marked Down Sale

The Woman Who Takes the proper help to keep her digestion right and her system free from poisonous accumulations, is not troubled with headaches, backache, languid feelings, unnatural sufferings. All women who have tried BEECHAM'S PILLS know this famous remedy to be the proper help for them. A few doses will make immediate difference and occasional use will cause a permanent improvement in health and strength. They cleanse the system and purify the blood and every woman who relies on Beecham's Pills, not only enjoys a better physical condition, with quieter nerves and brighter spirits, but she Enjoys A Clear Complexion Directions of Special Value to Women with Every Box. Sold everywhere. In boxes, 10c. 25c.

Mrs. E. F. Chandler LADIES' HATTER East Main Street AYER, MASS. Telephone 35-5 MARKED DOWN SALE Ladies' Hats and Millinery Novelties

N. A. SPENCER & SON

Wish to call your attention to their stock of CEMETERY MEMORIALS

which they would be pleased to have intending purchasers inspect and obtain prices.

Ayer, Mass.

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Mullin Bros

They have never shown a larger and better stock of good things for the Holidays.

Nuts Dates Oranges Grapes

A Splendid Assortment of CANDY AND SUNSHINE COOKIES

We will give you a good trade in China

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Union Cash Market

Ayer, Mass.

LOOK OVER THESE PRICES

Table with 2 columns: Item Name and Price. Includes Western Eggs, Smoked Shoulders, Good Sirloin Steak, etc.

Remember the Place UNION CASH MARKET, Main Street Ayer, Mass.

A Nice Assortment of Democrat Wagons

CONCORD BUGGIES

Carriages, Butcher Carts Harnesses

A GOOD ASSORTMENT AND AT ALL PRICES

CALL AND SEE THEM

Carriage Repairing in All Its Branches Promptly Done

ALSO, HORSESHOEING AND GENERAL BLACKSMITHING

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SHAFTING, BELTING, PULLEYS, ETC. FOR SALE—Cheap for cash. All in good condition. Apply to Turner's Public Spirit Office, Ayer, Mass.

HOLLIS, N. H.

About Town. Miss Lavina Richardson, who has worked for A. P. Hildreth as a telephone operator for a few months past, has completed her work there and returned to her home.

Miss Olive Clement left New York on December 23 and sailed for the south where she is employed for the winter.

Mrs. Albert Muzzey was taken to St. Joseph's hospital a short time ago, where she is being treated for a mastoid growth.

Fred Willoby attended the meeting of the State Grange last week which was held in Lacombe.

Mrs. Andrew H. Spaulding visited with her sister in Alstead for a week or so recently.

The schools in town closed on last week Friday for their usual Christmas vacation of two weeks.

Miss Lena Ladd and her brother Robert were at home on last Sunday with their parents, Mr. and Mrs. George A. Ladd.

Miss Beatrice Stinson has returned home after being employed several weeks at William E. Lund's.

The installation of Grange officers comes on the first meeting in January.

Arthur W. Lund is at home for the present.

Miss Mary Cleasby and friend were recent visitors at Mr. and Mrs. George E. Cleasby's.

Arthur E. Strong's sister, who has been in the hospital for several months past, has returned to her former position in Fitchburg.

Carol C. Read, who attends a Maine university, is at home with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Jason Read, for a two-weeks' vacation.

Miss Annie B. Newton went to her home in South Ashburnham on last Saturday, where she will remain during the school vacation.

The usual Christmas concert was given by the children on last Sunday morning and took the place of the usual Sunday services. It was well attended and the children done their best.

In the evening a Christmas sermon was preached by the pastor, Rev. Robert French, in the main auditorium.

Mrs. George Frost was quite ill last week. Her illness was caused by eating oysters, which poisoned her. She was attended by Dr. George S. Hazard and has recovered from it.

The many Hollis friends of Herbert Hadley of Peterboro, N. H., were pained to hear of his death last week. He had visited Hollis Grange many times and made pleasant acquaintances.

Mrs. Edward S. Cave, while going to the henhouse, fell on the ice and broke her ankle. The break was very painful, but she was reported as comfortable at last reports.

Mr. and Mrs. George W. Woodin spent Christmas with their daughters, Mrs. Munn and Mrs. Bosworth. Their grandchildren, Theresa and Clarence Stickney, spent the holidays in Waltham with their father, George Stickney, and other relatives.

The suit of Perley A. Lund vs. Franklin Worcester, to recover damages for injuries received in the latter's saw mill on February 2, 1914, came to trial on last week Wednesday and Thursday. The jury having viewed the scene of the accident and heard the evidence, rendered a verdict in favor of Mr. Lund, setting a damage at \$2,600.

The high school team played the Conant high school of East Jaffrey an extremely fast and exciting game of basketball in the town hall last week Friday evening which resulted in another victory for the Hollis boys, the score being 36 to 27.

The Jaffrey boys proved to be the fastest team that had been in the town hall, far being especially clever at passing. The game was followed by a short drama entitled "Too clever by half," which was well attended. This week's game will be played on Saturday evening, Friday being Christmas night, and will be between the high school and the alumni. It is expected to be a very close game as some of the fastest players that Hollis high has ever produced are home for the Christmas vacation.

Harry Powers, Sidney Wentworth, Bertram Clement and Carroll Reed are attending the school who are at home for the Christmas vacation.

The selectmen will have their regular monthly meeting on Saturday evening of this week in the selectmen's room.

Auto Plates in Large Numbers. The 1915 automobile plates have been received by Edward N. Pearson, secretary of state. The consignment weighed twenty-one tons and numbered more than 16,000 plates, which were done up in 288 packages and occupied an entire freight car. These are now being sorted out preparatory to sending them out to the various cities and towns of the state during the last week of this month. They will be in the hands of automobile owners by January 1. The largest number by far for the pleasure machines owned in the state, 10,000 being the number. The plates for next year have the same colors as this year, with a difference, however, which precludes the old plates being of any use to the holders. The 1914 plates have green figures on a white background. Next year's have white figures on a green background.

The parcel post has been a big money saver for the state in distributing the automobile plates. This year they will be sent out at a cost of seven cents a plate. Before parcel post days they went by express at a cost of from twenty-five to sixty cents a plate, based on the distance from Concord and the directness of the means of transportation.

News Items. Mrs. Andrew Jewett was kindly remembered this week with a plant all in bloom. The gift was a present from her former Sabbath school class.

Miss Hattie Kendall has returned to her sister's, Mrs. Andrew Jewett, after a few days' stay in Boston.

Henry Blaine's horse was taken very seriously ill last week Friday when he was returning from Pepperell with a load of grain.

Carroll Reed is at his home for a two weeks' vacation from Bates college.

Miss Ethel Goodwin is staying with Mrs. William Pierce, assisting her with her housework.

Supes in a performance of "Aida," given in Chicago recently, broke up to leave the stage more quickly, they walked across what was supposed to be the River Nile.

LITTLETON.

News Items. On Monday afternoon, December 28, the Women's club will listen to the following program: Vocal solo, Miss Eunice Priest; address, "An afternoon with Tennyson," Mrs. Carrie D. Leland; vocal duet, Mrs. Mattie K. Priest and Mrs. Nellie M. Hartwell. The name of Mrs. Dorothy Gardner Spear, proposed for membership at the last meeting, will be voted on.

The Mary Frances sewing class will meet next week Wednesday afternoon with Louise Caulkins. Each member is reminded to respond to her name in the roll call by giving a quotation.

The date of the holiday dance to be given by the Backlog club in the town hall has been changed to this week Friday night. Musicians will be furnished by the Hyperion orchestra, of Concord.

Roy Jewett has moved his household goods into his new house on New South road and Mrs. Jewett has gone to his father's to care for Mrs. S. H. Jewett, who gains but slowly, if at all.

The Christmas service, chiefly musical, at the Baptist church on last Sunday evening met all expectations and provided a very fitting expression for the true spirit of the season.

Apart from a few words calling attention to the devotees of the music, the principal feature was the presentation of the cantata, "The story of Bethlehem," entirely by our own local singers.

Mr. and Mrs. Wallace B. Conant, of Concord, and Miss Julia S. Conant are holiday guests of Mr. and Mrs. N. B. Conant.

Mrs. John A. Kimball is surrounded by a family of twenty children and grandchildren at Christmas.

Misses Fannie and Gertrude Sanderson spend the holiday with the Arthur Blanchards in West Acton.

Jesse Dodge and family are guests at F. A. Homer's.

J. W. Thacher and daughter are enjoying the hospitality of the J. P. Thachers.

The W. H. Tenney join their relatives at Mrs. Henry W. Bird's in Boston for Christmas celebration.

PROMPT ACTION WILL STOP YOUR COUGH

When you first catch a Cough (often indicated by a sneeze or cough), break it up at once. The idea that "it does not matter" often leads to serious complications. The remedy which immediately and easily penetrates the lining of the throat is the kind demanded. Dr. King's New Discovery soothes the irritation, loosens the phlegm, and feels better at once. It is one of many honest testimonials. See your doctor.

New Advertisements.

Rev. O. J. Fairfield will welcome his family to the festive board.

F. C. Hartwell's children are expected home for the week-end.

W. H. Titcomb's family will join the George A. Cooke in holiday festivities at the West End.

The children and grandchildren of suburban Boston will join Mr. and Mrs. William Griffiths in the parental home.

Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Frouy extend hospitality to their children and grandchildren.

Mrs. Hawes, of New York, is a holiday guest of Mrs. E. C. Jones.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Chase spend Christmas with his mother in Westboro.

At N. H. Titcomb's are Misses Lucy and Emily Adams, the Misses Porter West Acton and Miss Mabel Webster.

The D. G. Houghton family and the several priest families spend Christmas at P. B. Priest's.

There is a large family gathering at A. E. Conant's.

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New Advertisements.

When Eggs Are Golden

Make sure all your layers are on the job. Regular use of Pratts Poultry Regulator

will accomplish this. It keeps the digestive and reproductive organs in perfect condition.

Prevent and cure roup and colds, with Pratts Resp Remedy, Pills or Powder. 25c, 50c, and \$1.00.

Accept no substitutes; insist on Pratts. Money back if not satisfied.

Have your Pratts 160 page illustrated Poultry Book

A. E. Lawrence & Son Ayer East Pepperell

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Wright & Fletcher Westford

Gale, Dickson & Co. Harvard

Conant & Co. Littleton

Clarence Stickney West Townsend

C. W. Lane Townsend Harbor

Central Avenue Ayer, Mass.

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NUTS

FIGS

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HOLIDAY GREETINGS

FROM

AYER

TO THE FOLLOWING POINTS

Table with 4 columns: Location, Rate, Location, Rate. Includes Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Vermont, and other cities.

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Table with 4 columns: City, Rate, City, Rate. Includes Buffalo, N. Y., Chicago, Ill., Detroit, Mich., Montreal, Que., New York, N. Y., Philadelphia, Pa., Pittsburg, Pa., Poughkeepsie, N. Y., Washington, D. C.

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THE MESSAGE AND ANSWER INCLUDED IN ONE LOW RATE

THINGS WORTH REMEMBERING

- 1. You will not be charged on such a call if you do not get the person for whom you ask.
2. You can make a toll call from any telephone.
3. You can obtain rates to any office by asking the Toll Operator. No charge for such a call.
4. You can talk about 100 words per minute—the average speed of a telephone message.
5. You can learn the cost at the termination of your message by asking the Toll Operator who records the details of your call.
6. If you can't find the number in your directory, you can call for the party wanted by giving name and address.
7. If the person wanted has no telephone, we will try to arrange to call him to a pay station, if the caller will pay a small additional charge for messenger service.
8. When you leave your office or your home, tell your associates where you are going and your toll call will follow you.



New England Telephone and Telegraph Company

L. B. Vail, Manager.

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Agent for DRAKE'S CAKE—All Varieties

Canned Goods of All Kinds Bottled Olives, Catsup, Jellies, Jams, Salad Dressing, Pickles, Onions and Mustard

Cart in Ayer every Tuesday and Saturday. Your patronage solicited.

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Farm Property written; also all kinds of property placed in good, strong companies.

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Hams Shoulders AND Bacon

to be Cured and Smoked Satisfied

is he who has us do it for him

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Page's Hall, Ayer Afternoon at 3 sharp Evening at 8 sharp

Don't Forget that there are Two Shows Every Saturday—Afternoon and Evening

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DON'T FAIL TO SEE MY CHRISTMAS DISPLAY

Ornaments add to one's attractiveness, and in selecting the Watch, the Chain, the Ring, the Bracelet, etc., that a friend would treasure as a gift we want what is stylish and durable and of good value. In my large stock you will find just what you need to meet these requirements.

JAS. P. FITCH, JEWELER Main Street Ayer

Now Is The Best Time

to buy a Farm—prices will be higher in the spring. We have them—all sizes, kinds and prices—in the following towns: Littleton, Boxborough, Harvard, Westford, Groton, Ayer, Shirley, Pepperell, Townsend and Lunenburg.

Bliss Farm Agency R. P. HARRIMAN, Mgr.

89 East Main Street AYER, MASS.

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This Paper is Sold by W. A. Drumme... East Pepperell Kate E. Hazen... Shirley E. P. Talbot... Groton Conant & Co... Littleton Common C. W. Hildreth... Townsend L. Sherwin & Co... Ayer

Watch the Date on Your Paper The date with your name is stamped on the margin and shows to what time your subscription is paid, and also serves as a continuous receipt.

Change of Address Subscribers wishing the postoffice address of the paper changed, must send us both the old and new address and the name of the paper they receive.

Saturday, December 26, 1914.

HARVARD.

News Items. Mrs. C. R. White gave a reception and ball to her juvenile class in dancing on Friday evening, December 18. There were thirty-four in the class and for the first hour and half gave an exhibition of the work in the new dances much to their own and the instructor's credit.

Henry H. Dickson is serving a ten-weeks' sentence in the State Prison for non-residence in Worcester. Miss Harriet Mason is at home for the holidays from Winchester, where she is attending school.

Kent Royal from Colby college is home here with his parents for a few days' recess. Jerome Johnson with two friends, Messrs. Bright and Perry, all from Cambridge are staying at the pond for two weeks in one of Mr. Warren's cottages.

While in town Sunday Mrs. M. Sherman Raymond was the guest of Mrs. Mary D. Sherman and her sister, Miss L. W. Dyer. One of our town boys, Willard Houghton, of San Diego, Cal., writes of the beautiful climate of that city. Strawberries, raspberries and other small fruits are now to be had in abundance.

At the Bible school session which begins at twelve o'clock on Tuesday review will be taken of the principal events in the life of Jesus. Much interest in the new graded courses is being manifested and the work for 1915 promises to be of unusual value.

The "V" class of the Bible school has accepted the responsibility of providing books containing opening and closing exercises for the use of the primary schools. This is made necessary by the new form of text book which makes no provision for this particular need.

Owing to bad traveling there was but a small attendance at the Monday class this week. Consequently the assignments last made will hold good for next Monday.

The Woman's Benevolent society held its annual meeting on Tuesday of this week. The general officers were elected: Mrs. S. W. Lawrence, pres.; Mrs. H. B. Mason, vice-pres.; Mrs. N. A. Dill, sec. and treas.; Mrs. S. A. Thayer, Mrs. T. West, Miss S. S. Davis, Mrs. Kemick, board of directors.

The regular monthly devotional service will be held at the church parlor on Wednesday, December 30, at 2:30 o'clock. This will be the preparatory service preceding the January communion.

At the close of the service the regular session of the Sunday school will be held. Probably Mr. Wilson will have some good things to say to the children.

The violinist who played at the Unitarian church last Sunday was Mrs. Marietta Sherman Raymond long identified with women's orchestras in Boston. She played beautifully and those not present, missed a treat.

The regular monthly meeting of the Unitarian Men's club will be held in the lower town hall, Sunday evening, January 3. Lunch will be served at seven o'clock. The speaker will be Dr. Auslin Peters of this town will deliver a lecture on the "Hoof and mouth disease," which should be very interesting to all men, especially those owning live stock. All men are welcome.

Last Sunday evening the annual Christmas concert was given in the church, the program, largely musical, being arranged and given by local talent. The singing of Christmas carols by the choir was excellent and much appreciated. There were readings and recitations by the younger members of the school, and an offering amounting to nearly five dollars was taken for the Belgian relief work.

On Wednesday evening, December 23, there will be a supper and entertainment in the vestry. The committee in charge has secured Mrs. Lucia Hutchins of "Richburg," who comes highly recommended, who will entertain with readings of poems, short stories and monologues. There will be a small admission fee charged quite sufficient to cover the cost of the entertainment.

Last Saturday afternoon Eliza Bateman and Mrs. Haynes attended a college club meeting in Boston and heard Mrs. Norman Marshall sing. There were several falls on the stairs recently, but fortunately no broken bones, although Edward Portley in falling cracked the bone in his elbow and as a consequence has been unable to get about for some time.

Miss Ethelyn Russell returned from her teaching in West Burke, Vt., on last Saturday for the mid-winter vacation. Wednesday morning was the coldest thus far this winter—five degrees below at the railroad station and five above in the village.

One of our ladies in the village had an experience a few days ago that was quite interesting. A Christmas present was sent to her by mail from abroad. The value was one dollar. A duty of fifty cents was called for by means of the red-tape stamp required, and an extra five cents for something else, making it cost the lady eighty cents to get her gift. She hopes that not many more come from abroad.

Ornithological Weddings. There was a poetic appropriateness in two weddings which were celebrated in London some time ago in which Mr. Bird led Miss Linnet to the altar and Mr. Wren was linked to Miss Nightingale.

Although it is seldom that one comes across two of these "ornithological" weddings in one day, they are by no means uncommon.

On one occasion a church near Dublin was the scene of an interesting marriage in which a Mr. Crowe was united to a Miss Crowe by the Rev. Canon Peacock, the wedding march being played by Mr. Hook. Much more remarkable, however, was a match which set Edinburgh in a flutter some years since. The bride was Miss Henrietta Peacock, and the bridegroom was Robin Sparrow.

The Rev. Mr. Daw performed the marriage ceremony; Philip Haverd officiated as best man and Miss Larkins as principal bridesmaid, while the marriage lines were extracted by John Crow, session clerk. "It is worthy of further remark," adds a reporter, "that the sexton's name is Raven, one of the few openers is a Gull, and the assistant sexton is a Henry Jaycock."—London Tatler.

Echoes Made to Order. Are you aware that it is possible to make echoes? It is, indeed, easier to make than to destroy them. In the past men built their great temples and cathedrals with no thought of acoustics. Hence, when the preacher preached echoes rolled freely amid the groinings of the roof, down the rows of sculptured columns and round and round the nave.

With wires strung here and with tapestries spread there many of the echoes of the old world buildings have been obliterated. There are echo chambers—builders acquainted with the science of acoustics, who by speciality is echoes' destruction. Sometimes their tasks are hard.

Today an architect takes thought of the echo. His building is constructed so as to exclude this intruder. And, knowing how to exclude it, he knows how to welcome it also.

Architects are frequently called upon in landscape work to put up summer houses and arrange rocks around them so as to create an echo there. And this they can satisfactorily do.—London Tatler.

An Engine That Wouldn't Down. A light American automobile was sold to a tea planter of upper Assam, a region in the Himalayan foothills with scarcely any good roads and a rainfall of from 300 to 500 inches a year. Six months after it was purchased the planter's native chauffeur drove it into a washout on the Cherapunji road and it went rolling 500 feet into the rain-swollen river.

A week's search failed to reveal any person to tie your thumbs together as tight as he pleases, and he will not, of course, be trying them, because you have hold of the string, yet it will appear to him that he is doing so. Ask him to place a hat over your hands. Then blow upon the hat and say, "Be loose," slipping your thumbs from under the hat string. Direct him to remove the hat and show the thumbs free. Request that the hat be again placed over your hands. Then blow upon the hat as before and say, "Be tied," slipping your thumbs under the string again, and when the hat is removed your thumbs will appear to be tied as tight as at first.

After you have performed the trick you must pocket the string deftly into your pocket so that it may not be detected.

Hunt the Whistle. Tie a wooden whistle on to one end of a piece of string and a large safety pin on to the other end. Those who know how to play the game remain in the room while the others go out. A circle is formed, seated, and one by one, the others are called in. One passes to the center of the circle, where one will explain to him that there is just one whistle in the ring. It is not to go outside of the circle; nobody is allowed to hold it, etc. While this explanation is taking place the one to whom his back is turned is planning the whistle to his coat. When that is done he blows it, and that is the signal for the hunt. You cannot imagine the fun it causes to see them darting first this side, then that, catching first the hands of one, then of another, and declaring that they have it. When they learn that it was fastened to them all the time it is certainly funny to see the faces. Keep the whistle blowing; you will laugh until your face aches.

How Tinfoil is Made. In making tinfoil the melted tin is poured into molds making thin plates. These plates are then passed through rollers, first singly, and then as they grow thinner several are run through together until, finally, as many as 300 sheets pass under the rollers at once, which reduces each sheet to a thickness of one-tenth of a millimeter. Then it is still further beaten out by hand with wooden mallets. The metal is often alloyed with 1 or 2 per cent of copper, while for the cheaper kinds, such as is used for wrapping tea, tobacco and candy, lead is used as the alloy.—St. Nicholas.

Hearing Heart Beats. If you hear your heart beat in one ear, as many persons do, it is no proof of anything wrong with the heart. It is much more likely to be a local defect such as chronic catarrh of the middle ear or stiffness and retraction of the drum. This on the authority of Dr. Robert H. Babcock of Chicago.

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An' then she grabs an' hugs me tight An' rubs my cheeks till they're shiny An' says, "I love you, I love you, I think she's most as nice as pa."

I tell you what, I love my ma; I think she's most as nice as pa. —Suburban Life.

What a handsome and intelligent countenance is shown by the dog in the picture! Surely every one who sees it will echo this sentiment. This dog is named Collar and is one of the numerous dogs selected in Canada by Sir Ernest Shackleton to take to the antarctic in his proposed trip across that frozen end of the world.

It is doubtful if Sir Ernest will succeed in his quest. The experiences of explorers in the arctic and antarctic have proved that dogs provide the best means of transportation. Ponies have been tried and found to be of little use in long journeys over the ice. Admiral Peary, who discovered the north pole, was accompanied by dog teams, as was also Roald Amundsen, who first reached the south pole. Captain Scott, who with several companions perished in the snow after reaching the pole, took ponies, but they died long before he reached the pole.

A String Trick. Lay a piece of string across the palms of your hands placed side by side, letting the ends hang down; then bring your palms quickly together, at the same time secretly catching hold of the middle of the string with your fourth and fifth fingers. Then direct any person to tie your thumbs together as tight as he pleases, and he will not, of course, be trying them, because you have hold of the string, yet it will appear to him that he is doing so.

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For Young Folks

Intelligent Face of a Canadian Sledge Dog.



Photo by American Press Association.

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RATS LIKE TO GNAW TUSKS.

And Thus the Rodents Are a Help to the Ivory Workers. There is a curious but little known fact that well illustrates the ravages that rats can inflict on the hardest substances with their sharp little teeth.

Many of the elephants' tusks imported into London for the use of ivory ornament makers have their surfaces grooved into small furrows of unequal depth, as if cut by a very sharp edged instrument. Surely no man can have taken the trouble to do that, for what would be the profit of his labor?

The rats are at the bottom of the mischief. They have found out the tusks that contain the most gelatin or animal glue, a sweet and delicious morsel for the rat's dainty palate, and having gnawed away as much as suited their purpose, have left the rest for the ivory cutter. He, for his part, is able and willing to profit by the fact that the rats have made clear.

The ivory that contains a large amount of gelatin is softer and more elastic than that which does not, and as elasticity is the (thing most needed for billiard balls the ivory worker chooses this rat marked ivory and turns it into beautiful, elastic billiard balls. The elasticity of some of the balls is so great that if thrown down forcibly on a hard pavement they will rebound into the hand to the height of three or four feet.—Exchange.

WHERE RAIN IS A NOVELTY. Think of Having a Shower Only Once in Twenty-four Years! The Chilean provinces of Atacama, Tarapaca and Tagna are in the rainless region, or desert country west of the Andes, and are entirely devoid of vegetation. The winds in all of this region are from the east and in passing over the elevated perpetual snows of the Andes are stripped of their moisture and arrive on the coast perfectly dry.

The last rain, a slight shower which fell in Antofagasta, in Atacama province, was the first rain which had fallen in sixteen years. The last rain which fell in Iquique, in Tarapaca province, was the first in twenty-four years. With both of these showers a notable phenomenon occurred. The bare hills back of these cities assumed a green tint from a little plant which sprang up almost in a night. The query is, "From where did this plant come?"

The whole of the coast presents a most dismal and discouraging appearance from the sea, but the climate is healthy, being especially adapted to pulmonary and throat troubles from its extreme dryness and freedom from germs. The heat is modded by a local sea breeze, and the sea bathing is most invigorating, as the water is cold.

No Tip For Him. Tipping is at least an ancient custom. In the eighteenth century an Italian visitor to England remarked that "it is polite to dine with the nobility, where you pay the servants for ten times as much as you eat." And an Irish peer replied to the Duke of Ormonde's invitation to dine: "If your grace will give me a guinea to pay your servants, I will, I am not poor, else!" An American actor who once took an English house for the summer expected printed for his servants the bedroom mantelpiece and put them on a peculiar dislike to a very British side whiskered butler he had taken over with the house, and the list, after enumerating the sums to be paid to the chauffeur, the housemaid, and so on, finished with, "The guy with the black whiskers you will meet in the front hall—not a cent."—Argonaut.

Dodged. Jones' little boy came home from school one day very boastful of the fact that he could spell dog, but when he was asked by his father to do so he hesitated. "What kind of a dog?" he asked. "Why, any kind of a dog," said Father Jones. "A dog like Blank's dog?" "Yes." "Well, Blank ain't got any dog."—Woman's Home Companion.

Typhoid and Coconut Milk. An English writer tells of a colored woman in Trinidad who was dying, beyond all hope, of typhoid, and pleaded to be allowed to drink of coconut milk. She was beyond the reach of food or drink, so she had her coconuts peeled and drank the juice, not of one but of eight in succession—perhaps a gallon of liquid, and the orgie indisputably saved her life.

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An Old Hero's Story

By F. A. MITCHEL

An old Frenchman, a veteran of the Franco-Prussian war, who had been in America long enough to speak English as he would if it were French, told me this story over a glass of French wine raised in California:

It was in the beginning of the war when ze Prussian haf not yet conquer ze French people and we do not think zey will overrun ze country and dictate terms of peace in Paris. I was with General Le Fevre, who commanded a brigade near ze frontier. We have ze railroad and ze locomotif and ze cars, but when ze Prussians cross ze border all ze employees of ze road run away.

In ze evening just before sunset an officer ride up to ze camp of ze Ninety-eighth regiment of ze line and say: "Any of you men locomotif engineer?"

I have been locomotif engineer before I enlist in ze army, so I shake my hand in ze air. Ze officer he took notice and he call for me to come to him. I go with him to General Le Fevre's headquarters, and ze general ask me how much I know about locomotif, and after I tell him he say to me:

"I send a thousand men to ze other terminal of zis railroad at once. Zeze is one company zere and ze captain telegraph zat ze Prussians are coming to occupy ze high ground zere, but eef he have a thousand men he can hold eet till General Bazaine send a large force. Eet is sixty miles to go, and you must tak ze train zere in leetle more than an hour. Eef you git zere before ze Prussians you may save France. Zeze are six or seven miles from ze place and march on foot."

I say, "Yes, general, I tak ze men zere in one hour if ze locomotif will pull it so fast as zat."

It was ver' dark when we start. Ze moon only leetle crescent, nearly gone down. We run from north to south, ze same way as ze border line between France and Prussia. We do not know if ze Prussians haf advanced so far as ze railroad. Eef they haf zey fire into ze train, zey try to throw it off ze track, zey do all zey can to keep us from going on.

My engine ver' good engine, one of ze best of zis kind. I run sixty miles an hour, sometimes more, sometimes less. When I come to ze curves I slow down leetle bit, but make eet up when I have a straight road before me. A few Prussian cavalrymen, ze advance of ze Prussians, have come so far as ze railroad, and zey put obstructions on ze track. Suddenly I look ahead and see a tree felled on ze rails: I reverse, ze shut my eyes to wait for ze smash. Eet does not come, only a leetle bump.

When an engineer runs into ze dark night he feels like Columbus when he sail into ze dark ocean. I nevaire know when I round a curve, but I run into a big rock or some othaire obstruction zat kill me and wreck ze train behind me. I see specter all ze time. Suddenly a great black something seem to spring up on ze track right before me. I reverse, but before I come to a full stop I see zat it ees nothing but a leetle bug which haf fly on ze glass before ze headlight.

All at once I hear a crackling above ze noise of ze train, and bullets whistle through ze cab. Some Prussian horsemen fire zere carbines at us. But zey do little damage, nothing but break my right arm. So I cannot hold ze throttle with zat arm. But what for I want two arms when one will do as well, except for sudden reverse, and by zat time I come within about ten miles of ze end of ze journey? Nevaireless I call ze fireman, who come and look ovaire my shoulder.

Ze Prussians were by zat time ver' near ze point we wish to reach, and we both approach at an acute angle. Zey hear ze rattle of our train, and we hear zere buzzes. By gar, we have to stop to take away zis zem scouts put on ze track, and while we make no sound we hear zere tramp at double quick. Zen we hear a gun, and I think we too late. Ze Prussians must be attacking ze post. But I go on, and pretty soon I come to a leetle earthwork our men haf thrown up here beside the railroad and see that they have a gun there and have dropped a shell into ze Prussian advance.

In a few minutes we reach our point. I whistle down ze brakes, ze train stop, and our men jump out and run up to ze top of ze hill, where ze French have work two, tree days on ze fortifications.

Zat was ze end of my work. I get surgeon to fix my arm and am ready with my musket to receive the Prussians when zey come. Zey have twice as many men as we, but we have very strong position and no trouble to hold out till Marshal Bazaine send large force.

When I get back to my command my general he throw his arms about me and hug me like a bear. He say to me: "You have done great service. You shall be a captain; you shall have a medal. I will report what you have done to the emperer."

Pouf! What was it all worth? Ze Prussians march right on to Paris, and after the capitulation our people pay big ransom to get zem out, besides giving our beautiful provinces Alsace and Lorraine. Some day when we get strong we tak zem back. But what good zat do me? I'm too old now to fight, and by zat time I sleep under ze sod.

Christmas Gifts

Our stock is full of good things for the Holidays—Watches, Fobs, Pendants, Neck Chains, Lockets, Cuff Links, Rings, Bracelets, Silverware and Novelties.

These are just suggestions. Make us a visit.

P. S.—What about a Diamond Ring, Pendant or Scarfpin?

W. A. Kemp The East Pepperell Jeweler

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS. Middlesex, ss. Probate Court. In and for said County, do hereby certify that SARAH H. SPAULDING, late of said County, deceased, has presented for allowance, the account of her administration upon the estate of said deceased.

You are hereby cited to appear at a Probate Court to be held at Cambridge, on the twelfth day of January, A. D. 1915, at nine o'clock in the forenoon, to show cause, if any you have, why the same should not be allowed.

An administrator is ordered to serve this citation by delivering a copy thereof to all persons interested in the estate of said deceased, in the manner provided in the Statutes in that behalf made, or by publishing the same once in each week, for three successive weeks, in the Northern Register, a newspaper published in Ayer, the last publication to be one day at least before the day of the hearing, and to show cause, if any you have, why the same should not be granted.

Witness my hand and seal of said Court, this 21st day of December, in the year one thousand nine hundred and fourteen. W. C. ROGERS, Register.

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS. Middlesex, ss. Probate Court. In and for said County, do hereby certify that OLIVE A. HOSLEY, late of Ayer in said County, deceased, has presented for allowance, the account of her administration upon the estate of said deceased.

You are hereby cited to appear at a Probate Court to be held at Cambridge, on the fourth day of January, A. D. 1915, at nine o'clock in the forenoon, to show cause, if any you have, why the same should not be allowed.

An administrator is hereby directed to give public notice thereof, by publishing this citation once in each week, for three successive weeks, in the Northern Register, a newspaper published in Ayer, the last publication to be one day at least before the day of the hearing, and to show cause, if any you have, why the same should not be granted.

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