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Forty-Ninth Year

Ayer, Mass., Saturday, December 30, 1916

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HARVARD

News Items.

The entertainment for the next meeting of the Women's club, Monday, January 1, will be a club magazine, Mrs. Herbert B. Royal and Mrs. Henry H. Putnam, editors. This is to be entirely original, all the matter being contributed by club members, and is to be profusely illustrated with tableaux.

Master Raymond Sawyer, of Groton, was a guest this week with his grandmother, Mrs. Edna Parker.

Mr. and Mrs. F. S. Savage, Sr., took dinner and spent Christmas day with James L. Whitney and household.

Miss Alice Preston is home this week for the holidays.

The Daitley boys, from Charlestown, are visiting this week with their cousins, W. J. and the Misses Kerley.

Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Thayer spent the Christmas dinner hour with Mrs. Thayer's father, E. T. Alling, Groton.

Harvard postoffice had the largest mail for any one day last Monday. The morning mail brought 29 bags, the noon mail 5 bags, and the evening mail 9 bags. Mr. Hynes, the R. F. D. carrier, had two pung sleighs loaded full for his day trip of 2 1/2 miles.

Mr. and Mrs. George Cobb entertained on Christmas Mr. and Mrs. Humphreys.

Allen Bacon, Jr., is a guest this week with Stanley Turner. Mr. Bacon is from Albany, N. Y.

Ruth Stanwood Patch, daughter of A. Warren Patch, who formerly resided in this town, and for many years a successful commission merchant in Malden, was united in marriage on Tuesday evening to Dr. E. W. Barton, superintendent of the Boston Children's Dispensary. Rev. R. E. Sykes, pastor of the First Universalist church, officiated. Mrs. Barton is a graduate of the Malden high school and Radcliffe college '09, and is a member of the Monday club of Malden and of the college clubs of Malden and Boston. Dr. Barton was graduated from Tufts in 1906 and Harvard medical school in 1903.

Still River.
The Christmas tree and exercises at the vestry Saturday evening went nicely. Miss Edna Planders assisted by Eleanor Haskell and Vera Willard made the arrangements. The smaller children of the primary department did good work in exemplifying the story of the three bears and then the little ones gathered around Mrs. Haynes and she told them how they came to trim the Christmas trees with silver and gold tinsel etc. Santa was unable to be present so his mother (Mrs. Fannie Haskell) came in his stead and with her aids distributed presents to all and the smaller ones pulled bags of candy from two large puddings.

The annual Christmas concert was held on last Sunday afternoon at three o'clock. "The first Christmas" a concert program sent out by the Baptist Home Missionary society, was used. There was singing, "Watchman tell us of the night," "Good Christian men rejoice," recitation, Luther Williams reading, Bernice Walker singing, "There dwelt in old Judea," recitations, Rachel Haskell and Rowland Willard; singing, quartet; recitations, Hope Willard, Estlin and Winona Mitchell; reading, Vera Willard song, "The first Nowell"; recitation, Luther Willard, Alvin and Allen Walker; reading, Mr. Bateman; song, "The shepherd song," remarks by the pastor, Rev. L. H. Morse; song, "Ring out ye bells."

A party of twelve went from here

to Boston on Thursday to hear Billy Sunday—Rev. and Mrs. L. Morse, W. E. Haskell, Eleanor Haskell, Miss Florence Daddum, Miss Moffat, Ethelyn Russell, Madeline Russell, Rogers Morse, Ruth Willard, Mrs. Mabel Sprague and Mr. Buse.

Last Sunday, towards the evening, a lot of girls went to the houses of the shut-ins and sang Christmas carols.

On last week Friday night the high wind blew down one of the large ash trees in front of the parsonage. Fortunately it blew across the street rather than into the house. The telephone and electric light wires on the opposite of the street were torn from their fastenings, but were not broken, so no serious trouble was caused. Tree Warden Maynard and men from Harvard were early on the ground and had the street cleared in good season in the morning.

Miss Ruth Willard chaperoned a party of young people on a sleigh ride to Ayer and return on last week Thursday evening.

Miss Vera Willard spent Wednesday evening with her friend, Miss Pauline Bodman, of Clinton.

Little Rowland Willard slipped and fell on the ice near his home on Wednesday forenoon, striking his head in such a way as to cut a large gash on his forehead. Three stitches had to be taken to properly close the wound.

The Ladies' Mission circle met with Mrs. Madam again this week to read from the book, "Lady of Chesham courtyard," and they find it so interesting that they plan to meet often to finish it.

Levi Howard has been ill this week, but is reported as improving.

John Smith, who has worked for Mr. Viles for over two years, concluded his duties there on Monday and left for parts unknown.

Mrs. Lottie Daddum is spending the winter with her sister, Mrs. Abbie Daddum.

Christmas Gatherings.
Christmas saw some family parties, among them Mrs. Joyce entertaining her children, Misses Agnes and Nellie Joyce, Mr. and Mrs. John Kenney and two children and Mr. and Mrs. Thomas, all of Boston; Miss Nellie Neyland and her niece, Catherine Brosnan, of Bellows Falls, Vt., were with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Neyland; Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Haskell and daughter Eleanor dined with their son Carl and family; Mr. and Mrs. Charles Haskell dined with their friends, Mr. and Mrs. Burnett, in Clinton; Mr. and Mrs. Arna W. Robinson entertained their son Hubert and wife, of Fitchburg; Miss Marion Higgs of Boston was with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Higgs; Mrs. Carrie Skurde dined with Mrs. Abbie Daddum; Mr. and Mrs. Haynes took dinner with her father in Shirley; Mrs. Anna Vaughn, of Melrose, was the guest of her mother, Mrs. McBride; Rogers Morse, with his room-mate, Mr. Buse, were with his parents, Rev. and Mrs. L. H. Morse, for the holidays from their studies at Bates college; Misses Grace and Edith Farnsworth, of Malden and Springfield, are at their home here for the holidays; also, Warren K. Harrod and Kenneth Russell, of Worcester, and Miss Ethelyn Russell, of Vermont; Mr. and Mrs. Arthur E. Holland spent the day in Jamaica Plain, they expecting to attend the wedding of his sister, but she was ill with typhoid fever, and thus the ceremony was postponed; F. W. Eaton and sister, Miss Ella, spent Christmas and Tuesday with their brother Luther and family in Arlington.

TOWNSEND

Center.
Miss Carrie Walker of Townsend Hill returned Thursday from spending the week-end and over Christmas at the home of her brother, Meriton Walker, at Fitchburg.

Quartermaster Warren Barnaby and family, who have been spending the Christmas season with Mrs. Barnaby's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Copeland, returned to their Philadelphia home Wednesday. Miss Sarah Copeland leaves the last of the week for Montclair, N. J., to resume her duties as teacher.

Mr. and Mrs. Robertson and little daughter of Woburn spent Christmas with Mrs. Robertson's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Morse.

Mr. and Mrs. Winfield Morse and family of Brockton enjoyed the Christmas tide with Mr. and Mrs. John Morse.

Word has been received from Mr. and Mrs. Aaron Hinds that they are well and enjoying the winter with Miss Ethel Hinds in Everett.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Stickney pleasantly entertained the following guests at Christmas dinner on Monday: Mr. and Mrs. Perley Pierce of Brookline, N. H., Mr. and Mrs. John Martin of New Bedford, Mr. and Mrs. Pepperell, Clarence Stickney of Boston and Miss Grace Whitcomb of Brookline, N. H. Miss Alice Lawson from Peppercorn and Mr. and Mrs. George H. Kendall from the Center.

Another pleasant gathering held on the hill was that of the Copeland family held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. George Hartford on Christmas day. There were many of the Christmas trees attractively decorated in the homes of this rural community, which brought added joy and happiness to the boys and girls on Townsend Hill.

The Townsend Brotherhood will hold their next meeting in the Methodist hall this week Friday evening when Edward S. Gregory, assistant to the Income Tax department of Boston will be present and give a most interesting talk on the income tax problem which is of special interest to all just now. Mr. Gregory has been a member of the tax commissioners' department for a number of years and has been connected with this new income tax law since its organization. This new law goes into effect January 1. After Mr. Gregory's talk the public are invited to ask questions they may wish to have explained. There will be vocal and instrumental music and a social time to follow. Everybody welcome.

At the Congregational church Sunday morning Rev. A. L. Struthers' sermon subject is "What I have written I have written."

At the Methodist church, Dr. Charlton's Wednesday morning sermon subject will be appropriate to the closing of the year. Epworth League service in the evening, followed by a watch night service until the opening of the new year.

Monday evening of New Year's day at 6:30 o'clock the Methodist Sunday school will give a supper to the children of the Sunday school, followed by a prayer service and a social. Every evening during the week of prayer a service of praise, intercession and instruction, will be held in the Methodist vestry.

Tuesday afternoon the Woman's Missionary society will meet with Mrs. W. P. Taylor when the study of the "King's highway" will be continued. Miss Emilie Lawrence will be in charge of the report of recent missionary convention.

Harbor.
Mr. and Mrs. Billy Buckley spent Christmas at Fitchburg.

The last meeting of the Monday Whist club was at Sachem Villa, Mrs. Noyes hostess. Mrs. Josselyn was the winner of the first prize, and Mrs. Harvey second. A social hour and luncheon followed in pleasant afternoon.

The As You Like It club will not meet through the winter months. Although much regretted by the club the traveling makes it impossible for but a few to attend. Meetings each week will be gathering little gems for the reopening in the spring. The last meeting was with Mrs. Smith. Although but a few were present a merry time was enjoyed. Subject, "Our best and worst Christmas."

Lester Spear, of Reading, spent the holiday at Westview.

Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Gray visited relatives in Worcester on Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Albert Porter and little daughter, of Fitchburg, were the guests of Mr. and Mrs. Lorenzo Doran on Monday. Howard Doran, who went to Seattle, Wash., a year ago this fall, sent Christmas greetings to many of his eastern friends and neighbors.

Mrs. Frank Jones, of Natick, with her son and daughter, is spending the week with her sister, Mrs. Adney Gray. Miss Myrtle Gray, of Brockton, and Harold Gray, of New Haven, were home from the holidays.

The pleasure of the holidays was greatly enhanced to the employees of the leatherboard mill by a gift from the J. Spaulding & Sons Co., of five percent of the wages received within the year by each man.

A merry family party gathered at the S. J. Harvey homestead on Monday, when sixteen were seated at the bountiful Christmas dinner.

Mrs. Lizzie Baldwin, Miss Blanche Baldwin and Carl Laddell spent Christmas with Leslie Baldwin and his family in Worcester.

Mrs. Lorenzo Doran and daughter, Miss Ruth, handsomely entertained the Whist club at its last meeting. The highest scores were made by Mrs. C. Smith 37, and Major Jones 41.

Mrs. Bailey and daughter, Miss Sibyl, of East Boston, were Christmas guests of relatives in this village.

The George Fessenden estate has been sold to a young man of Lowell. Mr. Fessenden and his family will move to West Groton.

SHIRLEY

News Items.
About thirty-five juniors went to the town hall in Shirley Center on Thursday evening and the entire party enjoyed themselves immensely. Games, dancing and music, with the serving of refreshments, were the features of entertainment. The entire party reported a fine time. Mrs. Charles Stebbins, of Fitchburg, and Mrs. Fessende chaperoned the party.

Mrs. Ann Lawrence, about seventy-five years of age, was severely burned

"FAIR AND COLDER"

You'll see these words a lot this winter, we believe. This country is about due for one of those old-fashioned winters. Have you seen our

Hart, Schaffner & Marx Overcoats?

They're husky enough to stand any wind or cold weather; not heavy or cumbersome, just warm, comfortable, business-like and above all, stylish. If you're out in the cold much here's what you want.

How about GLOVES, CAPS, MUFFLERS, SWEATERS, OVERSHOES? We are headquarters for all kinds of Winter Wear for the Men and Boys. Satisfaction guaranteed or your money back.

Fletcher Bros. AYER - MASS.

Store Open Monday, Friday and Saturday Evenings

Opposite Depot

AYER - MASS.

about her body on Thursday afternoon at about four o'clock, when her dress caught fire from the kitchen stove. Her son, George F. A. Lawrence, was in the barn adjoining the house, and upon hearing her cries for help, rushed into the house and done quick work in extinguishing the fire, which in a few seconds more would have enveloped her whole body. Dr. Pelce, who rendered the necessary medical aid, says her chances for recovery are fairly good.

George Wilson, of Davis street, has been confined to his home with sickness this week.

Joseph Sandlin of California and Mary Sandlin of Bridgeport, Conn., are visiting in town. Both are former well-known residents.

Fred Provost, of the navy, is at his home on Center road on a ten-day furlough. Mr. Provost is cook aboard the Gunboat Austria, stationed at Detroit.

The public schools will re-open on Tuesday. Pupils attending the high schools will also return to school duties on that day.

Old Shirley chapter, D. A. R., met Tuesday evening with Mrs. Anna Cram. It was decided to feed the birds as has been the custom for several years. Christmas poems were read by several members, and Christmas gifts brought by each member were distributed by Mrs. Abbie J. Wells, each one opening her gift before the next was given out. Dainty refreshments were served by the hostess, assisted by her sister, Mrs. Ella F. Lawrence. Each lady was given a pink when leaving by Mr. Cram.

The Altruistic club will meet on next Thursday afternoon at three o'clock in the vestry of the Congregational church. The meeting is in charge of the education committee, Mrs. Mary C. Park, chairman, who has received as a speaker, Miss Wilcox, of Boston. At 7:30 the meeting will be open to the public and it is hoped that all who can will attend to hear this most interesting subject.

The annual roll call of the Congregational church will be held at the church on Wednesday evening, January 10. Social from 6:30 to 7:30 supper at 7 o'clock.

Mrs. Mary C. Park is spending this week at the home of her daughter, Mrs. William Adriansen, in Winchester.

Center.
Mrs. Ruth Clark, of Springfield, is spending a few days this week with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. N. R. Graves.

Miss Edna Holden, of Lancaster, and Arthur R. Holden, of West Groton, spent Christmas with their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Holden.

Mrs. Henry Chisholm, who has been staying at the home of Mrs. Cynthia Lynch on Center road, was called to Boston last week by the death and funeral of her husband, who has been ill in a hospital for some time.

The Girls' Sewing Guild held a very pleasant and well attended whist party at the home of Mrs. H. F. Groat on Wednesday evening. Howard M. Longley made the highest score, and Miss Helen Bradford was the second. Ice cream and cookies were served.

Rev. Grover Harrison of Groton School will conduct the service at Trinity chapel Sunday afternoon at 1:15. Sunday school immediately after the service.

Ralph N. Graves, who is attending Bryant & Stratton Business college in Boston, has taken a position with the Associated Press in Boston.

New Advertisements
1916 STEELBAKER SIX, \$850, in first-class condition; run less than 1200 miles; original cost \$1125. AYER AUTO STATION, Ayer, Mass. Phone 862-3.

FOR SALE—Two Heifers: one new milch, the other to freshen soon. F. S. SAVAGE, Sr., Harvard, Mass.

TOWN OF GROTON

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Geo. H. Brown
RELIABLE CLOTHIER
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Overcoats

OF EVERY KIND FOR MEN AND BOYS

You will find here a very large stock of handsome and desirable Overcoats. Every man will find here an Overcoat that will be sure to please him. Here is the Dressy Overcoat in Black or Oxford with Velvet Collars and cut 42 inches long. Here is the very attractive Fancy Mixture Overcoat in a variety of styles of fabrics and colorings, all very stylish and well tailored. Here is also the long Storm Coat with the large Storm Collar, cut 52 inches long. We are offering every one of these coats at prices that range from \$2.00 to \$5.00 under the market value today.

Come in and look them over as it is the only way you can be convinced of their superior values.

- Men's Fancy Mixture Overcoats \$10.00, \$15.00, \$18.00, \$20.00 and \$22.00
- Men's Black Kersey Overcoats \$15.00, \$20.00 and \$22.00
- Youths' Fancy Mixture Overcoats \$8.47, \$10.00, \$15.00, \$18.00 and \$20.00
- Boys' Fancy Mixture Overcoats \$5.00, \$7.47, \$8.47, \$10.00 and \$12.00

Fur Coats

A good stock of FUR COATS and all at remarkably low prices. We cannot replace them at anything like present prices—Dogskin, Horsehide and Galway Calf, made with heavy quilted linings and with large storm collars.
Prices—\$25.00, \$30.00, \$35.00 and \$40.00

Winter Caps

Every kind of Winter Caps; also, a good line of Toques and Toques and Scarfs. Remarkably low prices for the qualities offered.

- Men's Warm Caps 50¢ to \$1.50
- Men's Golf Caps 50¢ to \$1.25
- Boys' Golf Caps 25¢ and 50¢
- Toques for Boys or Girls 50¢
- Toques and Scarfs \$1.00 to \$2.00
- Toques for Children 25¢ and 50¢

Sheep-lined Ulsters

Sheep-lined Ulsters, ankle length, made of Duck or Mole skin outside and with large fur collars. An ideal coat for the man who drives an automobile in cold weather. They will interest you—better step in and have a look.
Prices—\$15.00, \$18.00, \$22.00 and \$25.00

Sweaters

How about a good Sweater? We have them—all kinds and colors.
Men's Sweaters 50¢ to \$7.00
Boys' Sweaters 98¢ to \$3.00
Children's Sweaters 50¢ to \$2.00

Calendar Week

Next week will be *Calendar Week* at this store. As per our custom for many years past, during the coming week we shall present to all customers making purchases at our store, a *Beautiful Art Calendar* for the year 1917. We are sure that you will like our calendar and you will find it well worth having and keeping. Our town customers who cannot get here will receive one by parcel post upon request.

Store Open on Monday, Friday and Saturday Evenings

Geo. H. Brown

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- We publish the following papers: Turner's Public Spirit, Ayer, Mass. The Groton Landmark The Pepperell Clarion-Advertiser The Littleton Guild 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 30, 1916.

WESTFORD

Center. The engagement is announced of Miss Evelyn Hamlin and Ernest Reed of Providence, R. I.

Miss Pauline Dole was a Christmas guest at Mrs. Alma M. Richardson's. Mr. and Mrs. S. B. Watson and Mrs. Edmund Day entertained a pleasant group of kinspeople numbering twelve for the holidays.

William A. Robinson, who recently bought the W. C. Merritt place, has moved his goods from Newtonville this week and is now living with his mother in his new home.

Mr. and Mrs. Perley E. Wright and son Harold, and Mr. and Mrs. Perry Shupe spent Christmas day with another sister, Mrs. F. J. Anderson, in West Somerville.

Mr. and Mrs. Wesley O. Hawkes, of Graniteville, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Hawkes, Wesley Hawkes, Jr., and Miss Dora Hawkes, of Melrose, were Christmas guests with Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Hartford, enjoying a family dinner party and Christmas tree.

The first meeting of the new year for the Farmers club will take place on Tuesday afternoon at Library hall, and will be in charge of the literature and library extension committee, Mrs. William C. Roudenbush, chairman. There will be current events by Hon. Herbert E. Fletcher; Mrs. Louis H. Buckhorn will give a book review, "The Channings," a beautiful old English story by Mrs. Henry Wood, and last, but by no means least, Mrs. Fred L. Roberts, of Lowell, will be the soloist of the afternoon.

A Christmas dinner party of fourteen were entertained on the holiday by Mr. and Mrs. John S. Greig, followed by a Christmas tree.

Mr. and Mrs. H. V. Hildreth went to visit the Malden relatives Christmas day. Mr. and Mrs. Harold W. Hildreth entertained the latter's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence, of Brockton, over the holiday.

The hospitable home of Mr. and Mrs. Frank C. Wright was the scene of a pleasant reunion for Christmas. Their children, grandchildren and Mrs. Wright's brother, were present. Springfield, were their visitors, which made up a group of sixteen.

On last Saturday evening at the Congregational church a Christmas gathering for the children was held. There was a supper, games and singing, followed by a tree with distribution of gifts. At the Sunday morning service there was special music and sermon. The evening service was under the leadership of Mrs. Charles H. Wright, with Miss Hazel B. Hartford, organist, gave a splendid musical service. Mrs. Charles Colburn and Miss Lillian Sutherland were the solo part of the program. Rev. Howard A. Lincoln preached an able sermon on "The message of Christmas." At the evening service Mr. Lincoln gave a reading of the Christmas legend of "The other wise man," by Henry Van Dyke.

The annual appraisal at the town farm, followed by a dinner to the town officers, takes place this week Saturday.

The Edward M. Abbot hose company give their ninth annual concert and ball on Friday evening, January 5, at the town hall. The concert will be from eight to nine o'clock, and dancing will be enjoyed from nine to one. Poole's orchestra of Boston, one of the best in the state, and which has been so successful in the past at these occasions, will furnish the music.

Home M. Seavy is confined to his home and under the doctor's care with the grippe. Postmaster J. Herbert Fletcher is also sick and under the doctor's care with the same trouble.

The Harry B. Prescott household are convalescent from a siege with hard cold.

Deaths.

The many friends of John P. Wright extend their sympathy to him in his recent bereavement. The Christmas tide was saddest for him by the sudden death of his brother, Fred Atwell Wright, of Washington, D. C. Mr. Wright died in Washington on Saturday, December 23, after an illness of two days. He was the result of apoplexy. He was born in Lowell on February 22, 1862, and received his earlier education in the schools of that city, graduating from the high school and later from Amherst college. The deceased had been employed by the government for the last twenty-five years and the more recent of these years had been in the secret service division.

Mr. Wright came to Westford this last autumn and had enjoyed a reunion with his brother and family, and also his brother, Walter G. Wright, and family, of Chelmsford. He is survived by his wife and these two brothers, Harwood L. Wright, of this village, was his cousin, as was also Henry M. Wright, of Chelmsford.

The funeral was held on Tuesday from the Talbot Memorial chapel at the Lowell cemetery, Rev. A. R. Hussey, of the Unitarian church, being the officiating clergyman. The bearers were John P. Wright of Westford, Walter G. Wright of Chelmsford, brothers of the deceased, Harwood L. Wright and Henry M. Wright, of Chelmsford, his cousins, and Samuel T. Wright of Chelmsford, and Percy B. Willis, New York nephews.

About Town.

The committee to select a list of directors for the new Farm Bureau organization meet this week Saturday afternoon at one o'clock in the town hall, Concord.

uals who are friendly to this new movement to get together by centralized instruction and demonstration.

At the Unitarian church last Saturday afternoon the Sunday school children had a delightful uplift of their own aspirations, aided by a little adult supervision, such as Miss May Balch in the role of an original Christmas story. The children rendered recitations, etc., and enjoyed various games. The impersonation of Santa Claus was cleverly and entertainingly done by Harold Hildreth.

At the last meeting of the Grange, business meeting, the speaker made a general regret that the expected address on game laws could not be on the lecturer's program. This disappointment was in part offset by the held on next week Thursday evening, when the annual installation of officers will take place. State Master Chapman, assisted by Mrs. Barrow, of Littleton, will be the installing officers.

The next meeting of Middlesex North Pomona Grange will be held at Odd Fellows' hall, Bridge street, Lowell, Friday, January 5. The morning session will be devoted to the closing of the year business, and then switch to the transaction of listening to interesting beauty spots in the United States, and by Mrs. E. H. Hayward, of Tewksbury in a recent tour. Next will be Charles A. Wright, of Billerica, as delegate of the Pomona to the State Grange.

Others noticed in town for the holidays were Joseph Thompson of New Jersey, E. Reed of Worcester, A. Collins of Salem, and Mrs. Albert Jones of Worcester, and Mrs. John Burnett Blodgett, Mr. and Mrs. John Burnett of Clinton, all at the Burnett home. Mr. and Mrs. Houghton and daughter journey to the family home at Leominster.

Skating season has opened here and merry parties can be seen every day wending their way to the lake. Later this Saturday morning at ten o'clock some very good games are expected to take place.

Master George Goucher is suffering with pneumonia.

Miss Margaret O'Hara, R. N., of Concord, N. H., was a recent visitor at the home of her sister, Mrs. Dore.

LITTLETON

News Items.

The First Congregational society of Bedford holds a service on Sunday night commemorating the 100th anniversary of the erection of their meeting-house, and one of the speakers is to be Rev. O. M. Bedford, who was once settled there as minister.

The lyceum entertainment on Tuesday evening is to be an illustrated lecture given by Dick Sears, the brilliant Boston newspaper man and lecturer. It is the annual management to give as the sixth number of the course an introduction to some person of ability and attainment. A year ago we had with us Hon. John C. O'Neil, former mayor of Lowell, a noted newspaper writer, lecturer and moulder of public opinion.

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Stephens spent the Christmas season very pleasantly with their daughter, Mrs. Frank Plummer, and family, in Marblehead.

Miss Evelyn Hamlin, of Cranston, R. I., was the mid-week guest of her uncle, A. T. Kimball, of Russell street.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles V. Flagg and son, Junior, of Lowell, and Miss Flagg of Detroit, Mich., and Miss May Stone at the residence of the bride's parents in Lowell on Tuesday.

Holiday greetings have been received from Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Blodgett, now pleasantly located in St. Petersburg, Fla.

Leonard Roberts, of Northfield, was in town for the holidays.

The Back-Log dance Christmas night was the occasion of a pleasant reunion of young people from school and college and their Littleton friends. Financially we are in doubt.

The King's Daughters will meet on next Tuesday afternoon at the usual place, when the annual reports and election of officers will be made.

A social dance will be given in town hall on Tuesday evening, January 9, by a colonial orchestra.

Mr. and Mrs. Elmer L. Boynton entertained as guests on Christmas day Mrs. E. S. Morse and son, mother and brother of Mrs. Boynton; also, Mr. Boynton's mother, sister and husband, all of Marbleboro.

The Rev. H. L. Calkins family attended the Calkins-Graustein wedding in Medford last week Thursday.

A daughter was born on Christmas morning to Mr. and Mrs. Harold Rice of Roxbury.

A citizens' caucus will be held Friday evening, January 5, at 7:30 in the town hall.

Mr. and Mrs. Carl Austin Dodge and children of Gloucester City, N. J., were in town for the holidays.

Mr. and Mrs. Houghton entertained their children and grandchildren on Christmas day.

Dr. Grace P. Conant of Deaneville, Ill., is spending the holiday season with the home people.

Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Cox went to Barre and visited their son Warren and family over Christmas.

The Conant & Houghton Wedding Company presented the employees each with five dollars Christmas.

Richard Conant of Passaic, N. J., was at home over Christmas.

House-Warming. C. E. Needham, formerly of Waltham, who has recently returned to his home town and bought the old Deacon Brown farm in the south part of the town, had a house warming on December 24 in the form of a Christmas party.

The three brothers were present with their families, making a happy company of sixteen. An elegant turkey-dinner was served by the hostess, after which a well-laden Christmas tree was the center of attraction. The three brothers were present with their families, making a happy company of sixteen.

Three brothers of no great renown. Just boys born in this good old town. Of humble parents, but good and true. Who toiled for a living, as you have to do.

In 1857 the first did appear. And being the first, it had no peer. The friends all came, from far and near. To see this boy and pronounced it a dear.

On September morn in '61, Two boys were born instead of one; The neighbors all, abashed with glee, And the parents' pride was vain to see.

From childhood to youth these brothers With chums and playmates not a few; From youth to manhood, then for the first To fight life's battles day by day.

One chose for a home the town of his birth; The others in distant cities to gain their wealth. Each tolling on, year after year. For home and loved ones, to them so dear.

Time has left its mark on these brothers three. But still they are happy as happy can be. For around their own fireside are their joys and pleasures. Knowing well that each have their own great treasures.

O'er yonder hilltop is the setting sun. And life's short journey seems but just begun. But when the last call from the master shall come, May each respond, "Thy will be done."

Church Notes. The Sunday morning service at the Orthodox Congregational church was most satisfactory. It was a very fitting and happy introduction to the Christmas season. Mr. and Mrs. A. P. Gardner, assisted by Mrs. C. K. Houghton, J. W. Dods and Mrs. L. A. Haker, are credited to much credit for the exceptionally fine musical program which held so prominent a place in the service, and for which the worshippers were most thankful.

In the evening the pastor told an interesting original Christmas story, beautifully illustrated by colored slides.

The Christmas tree and entertainment held in the church vestry on Saturday afternoon were also very successful and thoroughly enjoyed. Mrs. C. A. Kimball had charge of the program and was very fortunate in securing as soloist for the afternoon Miss Florence Hunt, one of our very pleasing singers and promising music students. Mrs. J. H. Kimball accompanied her as pianist. The program also included recitations, Milton Ruggles, Clifford Hunt, diet, Josephine Ruggles and Sally Kimball; recitations, Catherine Pickard, Josephine Ruggles; song, "Santa Claus," group of children; recitation, Richard Kimball; solo, Charlotte Pickard, accompanied by Carolyn Conant; recitations, Carleton Hunt, Richard Dods; song, "Silent night," group of girls; recitation, Laura Oddy. Santa Claus, impersonated by the Sunday school superintendent, made the usual happy hit with the children.

On Sunday evening the subject of the meeting will be "American ideals and the European crisis," in charge of A. P. Conant.

The missionary barrel has room for several more garments and pairs of shoes. Please favor Miss Thatcher with prompt contributions, so that the barrel can be packed and sent to those in need of the contents. The call is urgent.

The annual business meetings and parish dinner will be held in the Congregational vestry on Saturday, January 5. Committee, Mr. and Mrs. Charles V. Flagg, Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Robinson, Mrs. Elmer Fletcher, Mr. and Mrs. George W. Conant, Mr. and Mrs. Albert Conant, Mrs. Parkin, Mrs. Oddy, Mr. and Mrs. Wallace Robinson, Miss Elizabeth Houghton.

The Intermediate C. E. will meet on Sunday afternoon at 3:30.

The "Philanthropic" classes on Sunday morning, the morning service and the Sunday school hour. Please be prompt.

The committee that arranged topics for the Sunday evening meetings has a program for the winter and spring meetings.

The United Workers will meet next Wednesday afternoon, when Miss Marion W. Flagg will take charge of the program. Subject, "Reclaiming the southwest." Hostess, Miss M. H. Kimball.

The annual parish supper of the First Congregational society, Unitarian, will be held in the vestry on Monday evening. The supper will be served at 6:30, to be followed by the annual meeting of the society.

At the Unitarian church Sunday morning, Rev. G. J. Fairfield will take as the subject for his sermon at the closing service of the year. "The soul's destiny shown in man's capacity for endless growth."

SLOAN'S LINIMENT EASES PAIN Sloan's Liniment is first thought of mothers for bumps, bruises and sprains that are usually gotten by children. It quickly penetrates and soothes without rubbing. Cleaner and more effective than mussy plasters or ointments. For rheumatic aches, neuralgia, pain and that grippy soreness after colds. It is a sure, prompt relief. Have a bottle handy for bruises, strains, sprains and all external pain. For the thousand ills that come from outdoors, the pains and aches following exposure are relieved by Sloan's Liniment. At all Druggists. 25c.

New Advertisements Alice Worcester Weeks Teacher of the ART OF SINGING Windsor Ave. West Acton, Mass. Telephone Connection FRANK S. BENNETT Successor to ARTHUR FENNER Insurance Agent and Broker Main Street Turner's Bldg. AYER, MASS.

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS. Middlesex, ss. Probate Court. In and for the County of Middlesex, do hereby certify that the next of kin, creditors, and all other persons interested in the estate of ROBERTA BLODGETT late of Townsend in said County deceased, intestate.

Whereas a petition has been presented to said court to grant to said administratrix of the estate of said deceased to GEORGE W. BLODGETT of Townsend in the County of Middlesex, without giving a surety on his bond.

You are hereby cited to appear at a Probate Court to be held at Cambridge, in said County of Middlesex, on the eighth day of January A. D. 1917, at ten o'clock in the forenoon, to show cause if any you have, why the same should not be granted.

And the petitioner hereby directed to give public notice thereof, by publishing this citation once in each week for three successive weeks in the "Ayer" a newspaper published in Ayer, the last publication to be one day, at least, before said Court, on the eighth day of January, A. D. 1917.

F. M. ESTY, Register.



OLD TIME CALLING. NEW YEAR'S EVE CAKE.

The overcoat of our 1850 dandy was of several fashions, like our own day. The box coat was affected by boys, men and sporting characters—the long tailed short waisted surtout by the more fashionable.

In the midst of the excitement attending Kossuth's visit to America the soft felt hat worn by him was affected by a few even with the feather, but it never attained the dignity of a fashion. Talma, were also worn.

The dress of the ladies was as rich as possible as for dinner, an evening party or the opera, and for the fashion I must beg them to turn to a magazine or fashion book of the day. Many gentlemen proceeded in carriages from call to call, thus saving time and preserving their attire from rain, snow or dust.

Upon entering the parlor the caller advanced gaily toward the hostess or a lady he knew, saying, "I wish you a Happy New Year," or he extended his wish to all the ladies by saying, "I wish you all a Happy New Year." The old or elderly gentlemen who were on intimate terms with the family or were relations were often permitted to salute the young ladies or all the ladies they were safe in honoring. Some old gentlemen, indeed, claimed it as a rite or ceremony descended from colonial times. The caller then seated himself and exchanged a few remarks.

In a few moments the caller arose and said he must go. He was then asked to take some refreshment, which he generally did, more or less according to the circumstances of his being more or less devoted to the table, his intimacy with the family or the number of tables at which he had already partaken. Relatives and intimate friends having seen the table spread and knowing the strength of it in certain delicacies they might be fond of made vigorous assaults on it, which the ladies frequently saw with regret, not being able to renew the supply and fearing there would be none for favored callers. Others, more frugal and circumspect, kept these choice matters for the latter part of the day, when the "particular" callers came.

The clergymen of that day kept open house not only for their congregation, but when famous, like Beecher, Dr. Storrs, Dr. Bethune and others, were accessible at all hours to all who might call.

Then came the war that did away with more than one delightful old custom. But neither the war nor anything so caused the custom of New Year's calls to decay as the rapid growth of the city, the sharply drawn lines of the different classes and the great distances between the dwellings of friends. So it died out and became only a pleasant memory.—W. H. Wallace, N. Y. Evening Post.

So excellent is the German New Year's cake that it cannot be used for a charm, like the New Year's eve cake of Ireland, for this was thrown against the wall and was broken into pieces. The first fragment to touch the ground was eagerly sought, for he who ate it was sure of a year's happiness. There was much pleasure in the baking of the cake. It was placed on a gridiron before the open fire, and incantations were sung to secure the success of the charm. In many countries the baking and eating of New Year's cake have been attended by quaint customs and beliefs.—New York Times.

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 8, 1917, 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.

CHARLES A. NORMAND, Cashier. Ayer, Mass., December 8, 1916.

Plano Tuning TUNING AND REPAIRING PROMPTLY ATTENDED TO J. F. Chaffin Co. Tel. 131 Fitchburg, Mass. Pianos, Piano Players, Victrolas and Full Line of Records, Music and Musical Instruments

For Father and Son 360 PICTURES 360 ARTICLES EACH MONTH ON ALL NEWS STANDS 15 Cents POPULAR MECHANICS MAGAZINE

MEAN to be all through the year. As good as good can be. And listen to the voice inside. That softly speaks to me.

Sometimes it's a happy voice; Sometimes it's very sad. It tells me that some things are good. And others—very bad!

IF I don't listen through the day, It talks out loud at night. And makes me feel so much ashamed. I want to do what's right.

So this New Year I'll try my best, As all good men have tried, To listen hard with all my might. And mind the voice inside! —Little Folks.

Do you ever have the "blues"?

That discouraged feeling often comes from a disordered stomach, or an inactive liver. Get your digestion in shape and the bile acting properly—then the "blues" will disappear. You will soon be cheerful, if you take

BEECHAM'S PILLS

the people's remedy for life's common ailments. They act thoroughly on the stomach, liver and bowels, and soon regulate and strengthen these important organs. Purely vegetable—contain no harmful drugs. Whenever you feel despondent a few doses will

Make Things look Brighter

Largest Sale of Any Medicine in the World. Sold everywhere. In boxes, 10c, 25c.

To Close Out

CHRISTMAS BOX PAPER

We Shall Sell Our \$1.50, \$1.00 Boxes for 75c 75c. Boxes for 50c 50c. Boxes for 35c

HAVE YOU TRIED OUR CIRCULATING LIBRARY

2c per day

AYER VARIETY STORE

Telephone Connection

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360 PICTURES 360 ARTICLES EACH MONTH ON ALL NEWS STANDS

15 Cents POPULAR MECHANICS MAGAZINE

WRITTEN SO YOU CAN UNDERSTAND IT All the Great Events in Mechanics, Engineering and Invention throughout the World, are described in an interesting manner, as they occur. 3,000,000 readers each month.

Ship Notes 20 pages each issue tell us of the latest news of the world, and how to build boats, motor-cars, wireless, etc. NEW SALE BY 35,000 NEWS DEALERS

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Popular Mechanics offers no premiums! Cash and prizes in "drawing" are given to employes no solicitors to secure subscriptions

AUGUSTUS LOVEJOY Insurance Agent and Broker Farm Property written; also all kinds of Property placed in good, strong companies. 84 East Main Street, Ayer

What Will the New Year Bring?



That this shall be a better year than any passed away I dare not at its open door To wish or hope or pray.

Not that the years already gone Were wearisome and lones, That so with hope too long deferred My heart has timid grown.

Nay, rather that they all have been So sweet to me and good That if for better I should ask 'T would seem ingratitude.

And so with things far off and strange I do not care to cope, But look in Memory's face and learn What largess I may hope.

Another year of setting suns, Of stars by night revealed, Of spring grass, of tender buds By winter's snow concealed.

Another year of summer's glow Of autumn's gold and brown, Of waiting fields and ruddy fruits The branches weighing down.

Another year of happy work, Which better is than play; Of simple cares and love that grows More sweet from day to day.

Another year of baby mirth And childhood's blessed ways; Of thinker's thought, and prophet's dream, And poet's tender lays.

Another year at beauty's feast, At every moment spread; Of silent hours when grow distinct, The voices of the dead.

Another year to follow hard Where better souls have trod, Another year of life's delight, Another year of God.

—John White Chadwick.

New. Only a night from old to new; Only a sleep from night to morn. The new is but the old come true; Each sunrise sees a new year born. —Helen Hunt Jackson.

The Woman's New Year

The recent years have brought to women a sane knowledge of health conditions and of pure food requirements. They have brought the great prize of an awakened feminine conscience and a sense of responsibility which has resulted in better school conditions and in mothers' clubs and societies which have to do with the welfare of the young.

And, as it is fitting that all New Year's meditation shall have to do somewhat with resolutions, it would seem that the modern woman's outlook should include the determination to seek new paths of effectiveness and achievement. And since her allegiance is to her husband, her children, her home, her friends, her work, to the world, she should resolve that the new year shall bring the broader viewpoint, the wider sympathy, the receptive mind, which shall make her respond to the needs of those whom she loves and shall make her a gracious and useful member of society.

For myself I am glad that hope and health and friends have come to me in my New Year's ships, but I go beyond this to be grateful for the wonderful treasures of idealism and opportunity which the New Year's ships are bringing to you and to me and to all the privileged and fortunate women of this wonderful land of ours.—Temple Bailey in Philadelphia Press.

New Year's Day In Grandfather's Time

Our grandfather's time—and before him for a score of generations—New Year's day was celebrated in a most delightful manner. It was really a field day for romance. Many a truth has been hastily plighted as a result of a seemingly formal New Year's call, many a man and maid have seen each other for the first time on this day.

The old-fashioned New Year's celebration—the normal, healthy, happy, sane and delightful observances of the going of the old and coming of the new twelve month always started off with an informal social gathering on New Year's eve.

People divided themselves into groups of friends. One year they would all go to the house of one, the next year to the house of another. They used to gather about 9 o'clock. There was nothing formal about these parties. They were there for a good old-fashioned social time. The women chatted together of home and babies. The girls chattered together of beaux and balls, and the men sat over mugs of toddy and, comfortable with their pipes, told stories.

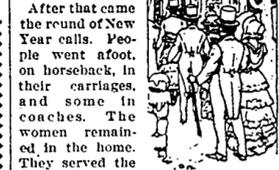
Just before midnight the harpsichord was moved into the center of the room. The guests gathered about and sang songs. Hymns, ballads and old folk songs were enjoyed. Then when midnight came the host, unless a clergyman was present, repeated a short prayer, giving thanks for favors of the past year and asking Providence to shower blessings upon them all during the coming twelvemonth.

In accordance with the old custom, another drink in which all stood and drank to each other, and they dispersed. And when they awakened on the following morning their heads were clear and their hearts glad, for they had greeted the New Year and they had given thanks at the midnight hour to Providence.

The celebration had then only begun. As early as 9 o'clock in the morning services were held in the churches, and every one went. It was a short service—a hymn, a prayer, a ten minute talk on making the most of the new year—and then the people flocked homeward.

After that came the round of New Year calls. People went afoot, on horseback, in their carriages, and some in coaches. The women remained in the home. They served the callers with cakes and wine. By nightfall every one in town or city had called upon his friends and relatives.

In the evening there were balls and parties, and a great New Year's cake, baked especially for the occasion, was always served. Today the paper boy does your paper up into a wad and tosses it up beside your front door. That is all. The letter carrier makes his single holiday trip and hurries on, anxious to complete his work. But in the good old days, in the days when romance and sanity and real joy all went to make up an enjoyable New Year's day, the newsboys used to deliver an attractive carrier's address. This was a New Year's poem of greeting. Sometimes it was from a well known poet, but more frequently it was written for the occasion. And the faithful carrier always received something at every house along his route.—Boston Herald.



Every One Went to Church.

Many a Troth Has Been Hastily Plighted.



The Guests Gathered About and Sang Songs.

SHIRLEY

News Items. Miss Mary Gleason, school teacher in Brookfield, is spending the school vacation at her home here.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Clark, of Bridgeport, spent the holidays at their home in town. Mr. Clark will return to his work in Bridgeport, but Mrs. Clark will remain at her home in town.

Doris has been spending this week's school vacation at the home of her sister, Mr. and Mrs. Harold W. French, in Fitchburg.

Walter Desmond, of Boston, spent Christmas day with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Desmond, at the Shirley Inn.

Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Farnsworth, of Ayer, spent Christmas day with Mr. and Mrs. P. H. Authier at the Brookside. Mrs. Farnsworth is a sister of Mrs. Authier.

Dolly Knowles has been spending this week's school vacation at the home of her sister, Mr. and Mrs. Ernest W. Walker, North Leominster.

The community Christmas tree on last Sunday evening was a big success. The tree was erected in the bandstand in Depot square and was illuminated by colored electric lights, surrounded by an electric star.

The Christmas tree, which included the residents of the town, regardless of creed or class. The singing of Christmas carols, accompanied by instrumental music, was especially fine and the assistance given by the boys from the State Industrial school, who played an important part in the exercises of the evening, was worthy of special mention.

The committee in charge of the celebration is to be congratulated on the success of the evening. The houses nearby illuminated for the occasion were the Shirley Inn, John M. Stevenson, Mrs. Louise Butler, Edwin H. Conant, Jeremiah O'Neil and Charles R. Miner.

Mrs. Ernest Herson and daughter, Miss Florence Herson, of Fitchburg, were at home on Christmas day at the home of Mr. and Mrs. George H. E. Clark.

Mr. and Mrs. William H. Brown and family of Lancaster road enjoyed Christmas at the home of their daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Alton Lancy, of North Leominster.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Marshall had as guests Christmas day Mr. and Mrs. R. C. Dean of Charlestown.

A daughter was born to Mr. and Mrs. Everett Hurl, of Charlestown, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Michael Day, parents of Mrs. Hurl.

Mr. and Mrs. Herbert W. McCoy spent Christmas holidays with Mr. McCoy's brother at Manchester, N. H. Mr. and Mrs. John T. Smith spent Christmas day with Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Smith of Dorchester.

Miss Bertha Weeks of Boston is at the home of her father, Fred D. Weeks, for a few days before leaving for Deland, Fla., where she will assist at a hotel.

Charles Maylin was brought home last Saturday from the Clinton hospital, where he has been under treatment for a severe form of pneumonia while working at F. D. Weeks' mill.

On Monday evening "The soul of a woman," with the famous actress, Emily Stevens, in the leading part, will be the feature picture at the "Grand" theater. The play will also be shown a two-reel episode of the famous Beatrice Fairfax series.

On last week Friday the intermediate and grammar schools observed Christmas with exercises being held at the school. Christmas tree, with gifts for the teachers and pupils, was the attractive feature. The following program was given: "Shine on Bethlehem stars," school; "Christmas bells," Ruth Lynch song; "There's a song in the air," school; recitations; "Grandma's mistake," Doris Knowles; "Three kings," Kathleen; "Kathleen," Miss Gray; "While shepherds watched their flocks," school; recitation; "Jesus' fore Christmas," Richard Lilly; "Sing me to sleep," Hazel, Ruth and Edythe; "The Christmas story," school; "Dinner," Louis Cutler; song, "O, little town of Bethlehem," school.

Miss Helene Desmond, who is at the King's County hospital, Brooklyn, N. Y., training to be a nurse, spent the holidays at her home in town.

Miss Agnes Lynch, of Lawrence university, Canton, N. Y., is spending the Christmas holiday vacation at her home here.

Rev. Douglas H. Corley will occupy his pulpit at the congregation church on Sunday morning at 10:45; subject, "Recall of the past."

Stanley F. White, of Newark, N. J., spent the Christmas holidays at his home in town. Mr. White is now a chemist for the Swiss Colours Co., at Newark.

Mrs. C. R. White will hold her dancing class session in Odd Fellows' hall this week Saturday afternoon at one o'clock. All pupils are requested to make an effort to be present.

W. A. Dadmun, with his two daughters, Berrie and Helen, and his son Walter spent Christmas at the home of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Lafayette Dadmun, at their home in town.

Mr. and Mrs. George W. Balch entertained on Christmas day Master Vernon Russell of Newton, Misses Stella Balch and Marcia Amosen of Leominster, Edith Year of Westminister, and Mr. and Mrs. Ralph S. Wheeler and family of Shirley.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry W. Brockelman entertained over Christmas holidays Mr. and Mrs. Norfiner and niece; also Mr. and Mrs. Richard Grenfell of Dorchester, and Mr. and Mrs. Albert E. Lenox of Windsor, Conn.

Mrs. J. Albert Dearden, with son Albert, spent this week at the home of her parents in Clinton.

Miss Margaret Love left Tuesday for Deland, Fla., where she has accepted a position as head waitress in a large hotel, and will return to Shirley about next April.

Thomas Love, who has been in the far west, has arrived at the home of his mother, Mrs. Will, for a visit.

Miss Gladys Lillian Annis, a graduate of the Fitchburg Normal school, has accepted a position as teacher of intermediate grades in Putney, Vt., and will commence the duties of her position on Monday. Miss Annis has a host of friends in town who wish her success in her new position.

Edward Lilly, of Holy cross college, arrived last Saturday at the home of his parents, Dr. and Mrs. T. E. Lilly, and will return to college at its opening, January 8. Miss Sadie Harkins, school teacher in Milton, sister of Mrs. Lilly, is also spending the school vacation at the Lilly home.

Miss Ruth Wheeler was the guest of her aunt and uncle, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Wheeler, over the Christmas holidays. Miss Wheeler is with the Frances Willard Settlement in Boston.

Mr. and Mrs. Elmer H. Allen spent the Christmas holidays with Mr. and Mrs. Dana B. Somes, of Boston, and Mr. and Mrs. W. Lloyd Allen in Newtonville.

Mrs. Julia F. Kilburn entertained Mr. and Mrs. H. D. Allen, of Brookline, Christmas day.

H. O. Peasley has had his telephone number changed. It is now 18-4.

Misses Annie and Nina Holbrook spent the Christmas holidays with relatives in Spencer.

Miss Mabel Miner, of Keene, N. H., spent Christmas holidays at her home in town.

At the regular meeting of Mary A. Lyman for Bethel lodge, held last week Friday evening, the following officers were elected for the ensuing year and will be installed on January 1: Jennie S. Knowles, president; E. B. Dammun, secretary; Agnes M. Howes, treasurer; Frances A. Herson, trustee; Agnes M. Holden, trustee 2 years.

Distributed Gold to Employees. The employees of the President Suspendor Company were each given gold pieces for Christmas. The presentation took place on last week Friday afternoon, the closing of the hour, and came as a genuine surprise to the employees, as the company had given the help turkeys for Christmas, which has been the custom for some years past, and they had not expected anything further. Heads of all departments were each given twenty dollars in gold, and all help who had worked for the company over one year were each given ten dollars in gold, and all employees who had been in the employ of the company less than one year were given five dollars in gold. In addition to the above, all employees who have worked for the company twenty-five years or more were given an additional twenty-five dollars in gold. The company also gave turkeys to the employees. About \$4000 was the total given in gold and it is needless to say the 300 or more employees appreciate the generosity of the company, of which C. F. Edgerton is president.

Christmas Tree Exercises. The Baptist church held its Christmas tree exercises last Saturday evening with a visit from Santa Claus and distribution of presents. The following program was rendered: Song, "Bethlehem," scripture and prayer, pastor; greeting, Henry Dunn; "Christmas story," Mabel Parmenter; "Writing to Santa Claus," Arnold Hocquard; "Why Santa is happy," Edward Wheeler; exercise, "What are we doing for the poor?" Mrs. Mabel Parmenter; "Advice," Mabel Peneseau; a story, "Austin Dunn"; Grandma's mistake," Mabel Wheeler; recitation, Margaret and Agnes Parmenter; "Christmas," Olive Evans; Mabel Peneseau; "The marriage of Santa Claus," Annie Parmenter; "Santa Claus' last," Bertha Peneseau; song, Henry Parmenter; enter Santa Claus and wife.

The Universalist church held Christmas tree exercises last Saturday evening in the church vestry at seven o'clock. A beautifully laden tree and a visit from Santa Claus with distribution of gifts were the special features. A pleasing program of entertainment, which consisted of recitations and songs by the children of the church, was given by Mrs. Mabel Parmenter, Misses Marion and Hazel Ballou and Miss Peabody. The committee for Christmas tree arrangement consisted of Mrs. L. R. Binney, Mrs. Laura Ballou and Mrs. John H. Will.

Christmas tree exercises were held at the Congregational church last Saturday evening with a visit from Santa Claus and the distribution of gifts to those present. The following pleasing program was given: Piano solo, McClellan and Rev. Douglas H. Corley; recitation, Doris Knowles; doll drill, Celia Hodgman, Ruth Hooper, Dolly Knowles, Kathleen Miner, Doris Knowles, Ruth Nelson, Hazel Dinmore, Myrtle and Alice Cole, Blanche Barnard; recitation, Ernest Cole; taper drill, Gladys Annis, Grace Tewksbury; recitation with her mother, Mrs. Cora Ruth Knowles; Phelps; reading, Mrs. Bessie Collyer.

Center. Hattie P. Holden and Robert H. J. Holden spent the week-end and holiday at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Harrie P. Barnard at the Village.

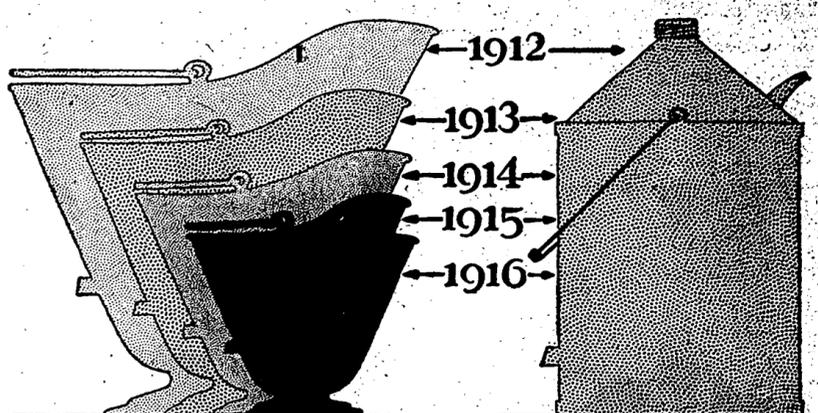
Miss Mildred Evans of Bolton is spending her Christmas vacation at the home of her mother, Mrs. Ida Evans.

Miss Helen Bradford is enjoying a ten days' vacation from her studies at Fitchburg Business college.

Robert H. J. Holden of Harvard Law School is spending a ten days' vacation with his mother, Mrs. Hattie P. Holden, on Horsepond road.

The Girls' Sewing Guild of Trinity chapel will hold its regular meeting on Saturday afternoon, December 30, with Miss Edith Longley.

Capt. William Blair at Woodsville, who has been confined to his home for several weeks with a broken rib, is reported to be gaining slowly.



Advertisement for SOCONY KEROSENE. Text: 'And it's still shrinking THE coal-hod now holds less for the money than it has at any time since the 1904 strike. Prices for domestic sizes range from \$12 a ton to 15 cents a paifull—if you buy in small quantities. Save money—burn SOCONY KEROSENE. SOCONY Kerosene is about where it has been for years—an average of 10 to 15 cents a gallon. Burned in a Perfection Oil Heater, you get 10 hours of comfort from every gallon. Not a cent's worth of fuel is wasted. A Perfection is on when you want it and off when you don't. Carry it upstairs, downstairs, wherever extra heat is needed. No coal; no dirt; no ashes. Say SOCONY to the grocer's boy. STANDARD OIL CO. of NEW YORK (Principal Offices) New York Albany Buffalo Boston'

The Center primary school opens on Tuesday, January 2, after a Christmas vacation of ten days.

Raymond Bradford of Water town spent the holiday at the home of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Bradford.

Miss Marion L. Holden of Templeton is spending her Christmas vacation at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Holden.

Mr. and Mrs. Clifton Derby of North Leominster spent Christmas at the home of Mr. and Mrs. George Holden.

Mr. and Mrs. J. Edward Adams of Boston spent the holiday with Mr. and Mrs. A. A. Adams of Clark road.

A crowd of the young people of the Center made the rounds of the Center Sunday evening and sang Christmas carols at the various homes.

Mr. and Mrs. G. L. Snow entertained a number of guests over Christmas, sixteen being present for Christmas dinner.

James Mackaye of Cambridge spent Christmas with his mother, Mrs. Steele Mackaye, on Parker road.

At the next meeting of Shirley Grange, which occurs on Tuesday evening, January 2, the installation of officers for 1917 will take place. The supper is in the charge of Mrs. George Holden, Lester Holden, George Hewes and Dean Hewes. At this meeting the programs for 1917, which have been prepared by the lecturer, Thos. H. Evans, will be distributed.

William Freeman at Woodsville leaves soon for Gloucester where he has a position carpentering.

Everett Buxton of Worcester spent Christmas with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. G. Buxton, at Woodsville.

Miss Christine G. Longley arrived home last week from Halifax for a two weeks' vacation with her mother, Mrs. M. W. Longley. She was accompanied by Miss Evelyn Snow, who is spending the vacation with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. G. L. Snow.

Edward Farnsworth of Ayer is working in town and is living in his cottage on Great road at the North, which has been empty for some time.

Good First Mortgages on Real Estate

The North Middlesex Savings Bank will take good first mortgages on Real Estate at reasonable rates. Application may be made at its office in Ayer. 3m6.

This advertisement is one of a series designed to effect closer cooperation between the company and its subscribers. There are three parties to a telephone call—the person calling, the person called, and the operator who connects them. The quality of service rendered is determined by the spirit in which all three work together, rather than by the individual effort of any one or two of these three persons. We shall gladly send complete sets of the series to those desiring them.

Give Numbers Clearly

Everyone realizes the possibilities of error in telephoning when 7-8-3-6 is asked for in that way.

When numbers are given to our operators in that disconnected, hurried or otherwise indistinct fashion, it is more than likely that there will be an error and a wrong connection made.

There is an absolute necessity for the clear enunciation of all telephone numbers: the operation of our switchboards is directed wholly by numbers. A wrong number or a misunderstood number invariably means an error call, for which our operators should not always be held responsible.

"Sev-en eight five six" is the better way to give the above number. Clearly pronounced numbers uttered directly into the telephone transmitter will obviate a majority of error calls.

When you have given a number to our operator, she repeats it. You should listen for that repetition, for when you may correct her if she has misunderstood you. That will save a great deal of delay and trouble; and, if you will also say "Yes" or "That's right," if she repeats properly, she will have your assurance that she is doing her work correctly.

Advertisement for NEW ENGLAND TELEPHONE AND TELEGRAPH COMPANY. Text: 'NEW ENGLAND TELEPHONE AND TELEGRAPH COMPANY. H. F. JACKSON, Manager. CONSTIPATION CAUSES BAD SKIN. A dull and pimply skin is due to a sluggish bowel movement. Correct this condition and clear your complexion with Dr. King's New Life Pills. This is a cathartic taken at bedtime will assure you a full, free, non-gripping movement in the morning. Drive out the dull, lathic feeling resulting from over-loaded intestines and sluggish liver. Get a bottle today. At all Druggists, 25c.'

WHY NOT SEE
Thomas F. Mullin
 THE REAL ESTATE AGENT
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E. D. STONE
 Fire Insurance Agent
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 Page's Block Ayer, Mass.

F. EARLAND GILSON
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We carry in stock the following first-class cheeses:

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Mullin Bros
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 Florist
 Groton, Mass.
 Greenhouses near Groton School

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 Wagons
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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

FREDERICK WHITNEY
 AYER, MASS.

Union Cash Market
 Ayer, Mass.

PORES OF LAMB	13c. lb.
ROAST PORK	17c. lb.
BEST TOP OF ROUND	28c. lb.
BEST SIRLOIN STEAK	30c. lb.
GOOD SIRLOIN STEAK	25c. lb.
RUMP STEAK	35c. lb.
SMALL HAMS	22c. lb.
POT ROAST	15c. lb.
FIRST RIB ROAST BEEF	20c. lb.
SAIT SPARE RIBS	13c. lb.
FAT SALT PORK	16c. lb.
CRANBERRIES	8c. quart
HIGH-GRADE COCOA	23c. lb., 5 lbs. \$1.00
KELLOGG'S CORN FLAKES, 8c. pk.	
SHREDDED WHEAT, 10c. pk.	
VAN CAMP'S MILK, 10c. can	
VAN CAMP'S SOUPS, 2 for 15c.	
RUMFORD'S BAKING POWDER, Large can 23c.	

Union Cash Market
 Main Street, Ayer, Mass.

State Income Tax

In this column there will appear each week an article explaining the things you should know about it. These articles are written under the direction of the Tax Commissioner. Questions will be gladly answered by mail or in this column if addressed to the State Income Tax Attorney, State House, Boston. If reply by mail is desired enclose postage. No attention will be paid to questions on any other subject. Mention newspaper in which you read this. So far as possible the state will furnish speakers to explain this law to any organization on request. Save these articles for future reference.

JOSEPH E. PERRY,
 State Income Tax Attorney.

THE NEW TAX LAW IN DETAIL

(Third Article)

What is Unchanged.
 Taxation of Massachusetts corporations, banks, inheritances, polls and the various license taxes remain unchanged by the new law.

"Non-Taxables."
 So also there is no change (except as noted in this paragraph) in the list of non-taxable securities. The following have been, and continue to be non-taxable:—Shares of stock in corporations organized under the law of Massachusetts, bonds of the United States and certain bonds of Massachusetts and its various towns, cities and districts, deposits in Massachusetts savings banks and deposits up to \$1000 in the savings departments of Massachusetts trust companies, and loans secured exclusively by mortgages of real estate taxable as real estate, situated in Massachusetts, to an amount not exceeding the assessed value of the mortgaged real estate. Income derived from such sources need not even be mentioned in the tax return. The same is true as to dividends from American Telephone & Telegraph Company, New England Telephone & Telegraph Company and Western Union Telegraph Company.

The only securities hereafter taxed which heretofore have been non-taxable are shares in partnerships, associations or trusts, the beneficial interest in which is represented by transferable shares.

THE SIX PER CENT TAX.
 Except as to income derived from the non-taxables mentioned in the preceding paragraph, there will be levied in 1917 a tax of six per cent. on all income received during the calendar year of 1916 from (a) interest from bonds, notes, money at interest and all debts due the person to be taxed; (b) dividends on shares in all corporations and joint stock companies organized under the laws of any state or nation other than Massachusetts, except national banks; (c) dividends on shares in partnerships, associations or trusts, the beneficial interest in which is represented by transferable shares. There is a provision whereby certain of the organizations included under (c) may file an agreement with the Tax Commissioner to pay direct to him the tax levied against the dividends on such shares, and if that is done the individual shareholders are relieved from paying the tax thereon.

Very Important.
 Anyone—man, woman, child, executor, administrator, trustee in bankruptcy, receiver, partnership for the benefit of creditors, assignee, or corporation acting in a fiduciary capacity—receiving any income of the kinds just enumerated must make his return under oath even though on account of deductions he may have to pay no tax, and even though he has received but one dollar of such income. Similarly such persons and organizations must make a return if they have received during 1916 any income from annuities or from profits from the sales of securities as will be explained more fully in these articles.

Net Not Gross.
 As the intent of the act is to tax net, rather than gross, income, Section 3 provides for certain deductions from the gross income taxable at the six per cent. rate. To prevent wholesale evasion of taxes, the deductions are carefully safeguarded and the taxpayer who is affected by the provision should study the exact language of the act and if in doubt as to its application to his particular case should consult the Income Tax Assessor or some Deputy in his district.

While it is true that anyone receiving any income of the taxable classes above enumerated must make a return of such income, nevertheless, under Section 4 he is entitled to an exemption of three hundred dollars of that part of his income derived from such sources if during 1916 his total income from all sources did not exceed six hundred dollars. Except in the case of minors or others who do not earn their own living this exemption will affect but few persons.

ANNUITIES.
 Section 5a levies a tax of one and one-half per cent. (1½%) upon income from annuities, with the same exemptions as are provided in Section 4, but no persons shall have exemptions under this paragraph and under Section 4 exceeding in all three hundred dollars of income. United States pensions are not regarded as annuities and are not taxable, but some kinds of city and state pensions are taxable. If you have a pension find out from your district assessor whether it is taxable or not.

SAFETY DEMANDS FEDERAL CONTROL OF THE RAILROADS

Only Way to Meet Emergencies of Nation, Says A. P. Thom.

STATES' RIGHTS PRESERVED

Principles Which Railways Hold Should Govern Regulatory System in Interests of Public and the Roads—Compulsory System of Federal Incorporation Favored.

Washington, Dec. 4.—That the interests of national defense require that control of railway lines should rest with the federal government and not with the states was the claim advanced by Alfred P. Thom, counsel to the Railway Executives' Advisory Committee, in concluding his preliminary statement of the case for the railroads before the Newlands Joint Committee on Interstate Commerce.

"We must be efficient as a nation if we are to deal successfully with our national emergencies," said Mr. Thom, "and we must appreciate that efficient transportation is an essential condition of national efficiency. If we are to halt and weaken our transportation systems by state lines, by the permanent imposition of burdens by unwise regulation, we will make national efficiency impossible."

States' Rights Would Not Suffer.
 Mr. Thom cited many instances in which shippers in one state were injuriously affected by selfish regulations imposed on the railroads by neighboring states. He pointed out that federal regulation would be no invasion of the rights of the states but would be the means of preserving the rights which they acquired when they entered the Union, one of which was the right to the free movement of their products across state boundaries.

What the Railroads Advocate.
 The principles which the railroads believe should be incorporated in any just system of regulation were summarized by Mr. Thom as follows:

1. The entire power and duty of regulation should be in the hands of the national government, except as to matters so essentially local and incidental that they cannot be used to interfere with the efficiency of the service or the just rights of the carriers.
2. As one of the means of accomplishing this, a system of compulsory federal incorporation should be adopted, into which should be brought all railroad corporations engaged in interstate or foreign commerce.
3. The Interstate Commerce Commission under existing laws has too much to do and is charged with conflicting functions, including the investigation, prosecution and decision of cases. The latter duties should be placed in the hands of a new body which might be called the Federal Railroad Commission. Regional Commissions should be established in different parts of the country to assist the Interstate Commerce Commission by handling local cases.
4. The power of the Commission should be extended to enable it to prescribe minimum rates and not merely maximum rates as at present. This would increase their power to prevent unjust discriminations.
5. It should be made the duty of the Interstate Commerce Commission, in the exercise of its powers to fix reasonable rates, to so adjust these rates that they shall be just at once to the public and to the carriers. To this end the Commission, in determining rates, should consider the necessity of maintaining efficient transportation and extensions of facilities, the relation of expenses to rates and the rights of shippers, stockholders and creditors of the roads.
6. The Interstate Commerce Commission should be invested with the power to fix the rates for carrying mails.
7. The federal government should have exclusive power to supervise the issue of stocks and bonds by railroad carriers engaged in interstate and foreign commerce.
8. The law should recognize the essential difference between things which restrain trade in the case of ordinary mercantile concerns and those which restrain trade in the case of common carriers. The question of competition is not the only fair criterion.
9. The law should expressly provide for the meeting and agreement of traffic or other officers of railroads in respect of rates or practices. This should, however, be safeguarded by requiring the agreements to be filed with the Interstate Commerce Commission and to be subject to be disapproved by it.

"My legal proposition," Mr. Thom said, "is that the Constitution as it now is gives full authority to Congress to regulate the instrumentalities of interstate commerce in all their parts. If the power of regulation is to reach the public requirements, it must be co-extensive with the instrumentalities of commerce."

Mr. Thom explained that the roads are not asking either of the Committee or of Congress any increase in revenues, but that they are merely asking the perfection of a system which will be responsible to any need that may arise.

HOLLIS, N. H.

News Items.
 Wallace Bascom is at home from Middlebury college, Vt., for the holidays.

Mr. and Mrs. William Woodin, of Boston, spent the week-end with Mr. and Mrs. Charles Woodin. Mrs. Woodin is stopping here for a few days longer.

Miss Olive Clement started for Florida Wednesday.

Miss Ida Clement, of Boston, spent the Christmas season with her parents.

Mr. and Mrs. Percy Foster, of Concord, spent the week-end with Mrs. Foster's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Charles E. Hardy.

Luther Tarbell spent Christmas with Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Hardy.

Elwyn Wheeler, of Kingston academy, is spending the vacation with Wallace Bascom.

Mr. and Mrs. F. Leo McEnnis moved to Nashua last week.

Miss Grace Hardy and Earl Davis, of Keene, and Frank Hardy, of Nashua, spent Christmas with Mr. and Mrs. George H. Hardy.

Mr. and Mrs. Gansloff and family are visiting with George W. Hardy.

Mr. and Mrs. Whitcomb, of Worcester, Lena Ladd, of Concord, and Robert Ladd, of Fitchburg, spent Christmas with Mr. and Mrs. George A. Ladd.

Mr. and Mrs. F. B. Quinley are spending a short time at Francis K. Sweetser's.

Mrs. Francis K. Sweetser is at home from Auburn, Me., for the Christmas vacation.

Robert Bean is spending the vacation in Boston with his father.

Mrs. Eugene Wheeler was operated upon at the hospital last week. She is getting along well and expects to be home the last of the week.

Harvey Guething is at home for a short time.

Harvey Powers is at home from Tufts college.

Ralph Lovejoy is at home from Durham for the vacation.

Miss Mildred French and Miss Ruth Hazard, from Wheaton, are at their respective homes.

Miss Lillian Keyes is at home from Keene Normal school.

Mrs. Mandana Verder and her son George spent Christmas in Worcester. George Verder came home this week, but Mrs. Verder will stay for some time.

Miss Jennie Stratton is at home for a week or so.

Carroll Reed came home last week from Maine university.

Miss Frances Leighton, of Framingham Normal school, is spending the vacation with Mr. and Mrs. C. J. Bell.

Miss Helen Dutton has gone to Pinehurst, N. C., for the winter.

Ralph Muzzey is at home from Dartmouth college for the Christmas vacation.

Harry Bell of Boston university is spending his vacation at home.

Next Tuesday night the Grange will hold its regular meeting. It is installation of officers with Clarence Russell of Brookline as installing officer.

The Philanthropic society meets on Monday afternoon in the vestry.

The society of the church meets on Tuesday afternoon in the vestry.

Thursday at ten a. m. the annual church meeting will begin. Everyone who is interested is cordially invited to attend and all members are requested to be present or send a response if possible.

Last Sunday morning the children gave a Christmas concert.

At the Y. P. S. C. E. meeting Wednesday evening Miss Hazel Lougee, Raymond Lovejoy and Nelson Parkhurst were received as active members.

BROOKLINE, N. H.

News Items.
 The Misses Jessie and Frances Parsons of the Whittier school in Merrimack, Mass.; Miss Edna Whitcomb, of the Westbrook seminary, Maine; Miss Eva Cory, of Tilton seminary, and Esther Farnsworth, of the Brookline school, Watertown, Mass., are home enjoying the annual Christmas vacation.

Mr. and Mrs. Alpha Hall have closed their home on the Mason road for the winter months and have taken up their residence at the Charles Russell house on Milford street.

Two of the children in Joseph Ouellette's family are suffering from chicken-pox.

Mrs. Emma Gilson, of Groton, Mass., was a holiday guest at the home of her sister, Mrs. William Matthews.

Mrs. George Betterley spent Christmas at the home of her son, Percy Betterley, in Worcester, Mass.

Mrs. Oscar Elliot spent several days last week visiting friends and relatives in Fitchburg.

Mrs. Mary Cox entertained her daughter, Mrs. Fanny Evans, of Boston, over the week-end.

Thomas Kilroy spent the week-end and holiday visiting his sister and other relatives in Cambridge and Boston.

Frank Rollins, of Worcester, Mass., was a week-end and holiday visitor at the home of Delbert Porter.

Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Russell spent Christmas day at the home of his brother in Townsend.

Miss Hazel Goss was home for the week-end and holiday from her place of employment in Wilton.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Stickney entertained Mr. and Mrs. John Martin and daughter Esther of Pepperell, on the holiday.

Mrs. Patrick O'Connell is entertaining her sister, Miss Nellie Lynch, of Cambridge.

Miss Ellen Andrews, of Cambridge, Mass., and Miss Ruth Andrews, of Meriden, Conn., were the holiday guests of their parents, Capt. and Mrs. John Andrews.

Mrs. Charles Dunbar spent last week visiting her son and daughter, Mrs. John Pingree and Morton Klein, of Fitchburg.

Mrs. Edwin Taylor and her two daughters were visitors in Milford and Nashua last week Wednesday.

Miss Eva Winn, who has taught at the North primary for some time, has resigned her position to return to her home in Hudson, as her father's health is poor.

A. A. Hall and O. D. Fessenden took a business trip to Boston last week Thursday.

Mrs. Charles Gilson is entertaining her daughter, Mrs. Victor Maxwell, of Plymouth.

Delbert Porter and Mrs. Jeannette Woods were visitors in Milford and Nashua on last week Thursday.

LUNENBURG

News Items.
 Rev. A. T. Kempton, now of Cambridge, but for several years a pastor here, will give one of his drama sermons in the Fitchburg Y. M. C. A. hall Saturday afternoon. His many friends here and former parishioners will be delighted to know that he has been invited to preach in the Congregational church in the morning.

Misses Emma and Lilla Lancy, teachers in the schools of New Jersey, spent the holiday season at home with their parents.

Christmas Festivities.
 Christmas festivities were universally observed throughout the town. At the Methodist church, on last week Friday evening, despite the storm and other unfavorable weather conditions, a large and enthusiastic audience gathered to listen to the program presented. The evening opened by the audience joining in singing "Joy to the world," to the good old tune of Antioch. The address of welcome was then given by Master Clarence Gowoll. This was followed by a recitation, "The Christmas story," by Dorothy Barter; recitation, "Why Christ came," Helen Percy; three little misses, Dorothy Peabody, Doris Ellis and Gladys Peabody appearing as "little lights"; address, Rev. Mr. Noy; recitations, Beatrice Brown, Maurice Gilchrist, Raymond Eaton and "Good night" by Harold Gowoll. Supper was then served to the members of the church and Sunday school, followed by the distribution of the gifts from the Christmas tree, under the direction of Lewis L. Harrington and assistants.

On Saturday evening the usual annual Christmas entertainment, social supper and tree exercises were held in the East schoolhouse, when the two neighbors, in Milford and Fitchburg, combine in the festivities of the season. Two little plays were given by the children, "The unwelcome guest" and "The Christmas mouse," guided and trained by their teacher, Miss Ruth Willard. The distribution of gifts from the Christmas tree then closed the exercises and sent the people home in a very happy frame of mind.

On Sunday evening a very pleasing entertainment was given in the Congregational church under the direction of Miss Fannie C. Graves and H. Guy Bolles, when "The glory of the star," recitation, was nicely rendered by the choir of young people, with Mrs. Nettie F. Barter, reader of the descriptive part.

On Monday evening was held the usual Christmas exercises by the Congregational church and Sunday school and was opened by singing of Christmas songs by the Junior and Intermediate classes in chorus. Dorothy Francis, Gladys Merrill, Margaret Proctor, Roger Bigelow and Ivan Kelley then took part in a bible exercise, which was followed by prayer by the superintendent, John H. Davidson. "Little feet be careful," was then sung by Edward Field and Alfred Gilchrist, and the chorus given by the primary department; Raymond McInnis, Prescott Bigelow, Rachel Field, Katharine Merrill and Alice Gilchrist were "Christmas sunshine bringers"; recitation, "Kitty's Christmas," Carleton E. Lancy; song, primary department; "Buying Christmas presents," Emory Merrill; "A suggestion," Rachel Field; song, "Christmas bells," Helen Mead, Alice Gilchrist, Velma Emerson, Ruth Cornwell; recitation, "The Christmas stocking," Elizabeth Gilchrist, after which came the play, "The mouse's joke," given by Mrs. Nettie Barter, Velma Emerson, David Cox, Carolyn McIntire, Roland and Forest Lancy; Ariene Emerson, Julia Stone, Helen Mead, Ruth Cornwell and Carolyn McIntire represented "Christmas candles." "The day that Christ was born" was then sung by the Junior boys and was the closing number.

Gifts from two large trees were then distributed, after which the audience went below to the vestry, where each child was given a box of candy and a fine large orange, and everybody was treated with delicious cake and ice cream, which with the social hour following closed a most delightful Christmas festival.

WORMS MAKE CHILDREN FRETFUL.
 victims of worms. Begin treatment at once with KICKAPOO Worm Killer. This candy laxative in tablet form kills the worm and removes it quickly and easily. Don't retard by the continued draining of his vitality by worms. Get KickapoO Worm Killer at your Druggist, 25c.

Colonial Rugs

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Mrs. Ralph Perkins was called to Milford last Saturday to attend Mr. Perkins' mother, Mrs. Fred Perkins, who is quite ill.

The rain and slush of last week Friday made the traveling most uncomfortable, but a goodly audience filled the hall in the evening to greet the children of the three schools at their Christmas entertainment and tree. The exercises were opened with prayer by Rev. Charles Dockrill, followed by recitations, songs and sketches by the children, after which Santa Claus, represented by George Nye, made his appearance, much to the delight of the little ones. A large Christmas tree lighted with colored electric lights and beautifully trimmed and loaded with all kinds of toys and good things was soon attacked by Santa and his assistants and gifts were freely distributed to all the children present and even some of the big folks came in for a goodly share. After the distribution of the presents a social time was enjoyed until a late hour.

Christmas was observed at the church on last Sunday morning. In place of the regular morning service there were songs and recitations by the children and a special musical program by the regular choir. The children in their holiday attire seated among the evergreen and potted plants decorating the church formed a pretty picture each with a little song or recitation, telling of the Christ child and the glory of Christmas. After the children had concluded, Mrs. Clara Russell gave, by request, the reading, "White gifts for the King." The services closed with a blessing by the pastor. Sunday will be observed as new year's Sunday and Mr. Dockrill will preach a sermon in keeping with the day.

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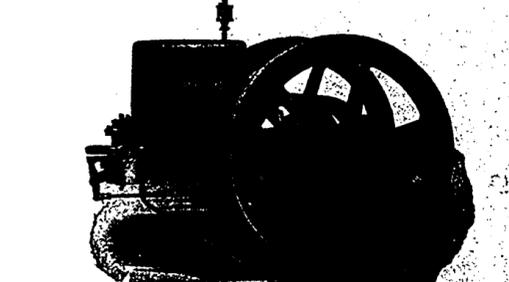
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