

## THE WORLD'S BEST NEWS

"Unto you is born this day in the City of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord."

## YOUNG PEOPLE'S PAGE

"Let no man despise thy youth"—I. Timothy 4-12  
Editor: REV. W. H. MULLEN, Westchester, N. S.

## MERRY CHRISTMAS

Young People's Editor wishes all the readers of this page a very Happy Christmas.

## EDITORIAL

## THAT PEACE MAY COME

In another place on this page you will find a prayer "For Those Who Fly in War." From many a home across the country special prayers will ascend to God during this season for the young men in the service of our nation—young men who would like to be home for Christmas!

It is a long way from the cheerful atmosphere of home on an old fashioned Christmas morning, complete with sparkling tree and mysterious presents, to the "pill-boxes" on the Siegfried Line, the long, bleak runways of a forward air base, or the ice-coated deck of a destroyer in the North Atlantic.

Christmas and war have little in common. While we admit it is possible to celebrate the birthday of Christ at the front line of battle, there is still something paradoxical about the heart singing, "O Little Town of Bethlehem" and the hands that would be flinging death dealing grenades.

The incongruity, however, is one of necessity. Peace does not come automatically—it must be bought, sometimes with blood. Hence, even though we have great stakes in this war—our brothers and sisters, fathers and sons—let us try to understand the larger issues involved, including the necessity of complete victory over our enemies.

But though victory must come first, it is only a negative quantity. Military success over our nation's foes will but clear the way for a re-examination of Christianity and its power to produce a positive peace. Force will give us the temporary cessation of hostilities that we need, but permanent peace can come only as men accept in their hearts and governmental organizations the doctrines of Him who came to bring peace to the earth and good will among men.

## NOTABLE SAYINGS OF JOHN WESLEY

I must declare just what I find in God's Book.

God can do His work by pleasure as well as by pain.

Whatever clouds may interpose between, His banner over you is love.

This world never made any one happy and it is certain that it never will. But God will.

Love supplies all the essentials of good breeding, without the help of a dancing-master.

Bear your cross, and it will bear you. Seek an inward, not an outward change.

When our mind is hurried it is hardly possible to retain either the spirit of prayer or of thankfulness.

It is plain that God sees it best for us frequently to walk in a thorny path.

I look upon all the world as my parish. In whatever part of it I am, it is my bounden duty to declare unto all that are willing to hear the glad tidings of salvation.

## MINUTE BIOGRAPHIES OF GREAT CHRISTIANS

## Cotton Mather

Our subject today is another New World character, not very well known to many, but whose contribution to the learning of his time, and whose humble service to God cannot be lightly passed over.

## Date and Place of Birth

Cotton Mather was born Feb. 12, 1663, in Boston, Mass., the son of Increase Mather, one time President of Harvard College.

## Remarkable Ability

Mather, as a boy, became so proficient in Latin, Greek, and Hebrew that he did not bother to go through all the intervening grades between ordinary school and the university. He received his first degree at the age of 16, and at 19 became a Master of Arts. For the latter degree, which necessitated a thesis, he produced a very complicated paper on an important but obscure technicality of the Hebrew language. The thesis was a masterpiece, revealing the genius of this young scholar.

## Conquers Handicap

Cotton Mather early in life was interested in religious things, and had joined a society while but a lad, but his desire to become a preacher was frustrated by a very serious impediment in his speech. He thought it impossible, at first, to overcome the difficulty, but after diligent application and perseverance, he conquered his handicap, becoming a very effective speaker, and a noble example for any who should begin life with such disadvantage.

## Ministry and Writings

At the age of 20 he was called as pastor of North Church in Boston. Besides his ministerial duties, he spent many hours in reading and writing, considering time a very valuable possession which he endeavored to fill to the full. On one occasion when a person had needlessly occupied his time, he said: "I had rather given him a handful of money than have been kept thus long out of my study."

His literary output was tremendous. He published about 382 books in his life time, three of the most famous being **Christian Philosopher**, **Directions to a Candidate for the Ministry**, and **Ecclesiastical History of New England**.

Throughout all his life, Mather's mind was very keen as evidenced by the mastery of the French, Spanish and Iroquois Indian languages at the age of 45. It is said of Mather by one authority that he had "the reputation of being the greatest scholar and author that America had then produced." From our short study of this notable character we can readily see that there is no incompatibility between vital Christianity and true scholarship.

## Death

Mather has come under considerable condemnation by later writers who feel that he took the wrong attitude in the famous "Witch Trials" at Salem, Mass. Whatever the true facts are, he lived a life that was rich and intense, and died in the faith, one day after

## SONG FOR CHRISTMAS

By Blanche Lea Walden

What shall my song for Christmas be,  
A tinselled tree and baubles bright,  
A lilting whirl of gayety  
Throughout the night

Ah, no, I'll sing more worthy things:  
A mother's love, a star, a song  
Which angels sang—a song that rings  
Through ages long.  
I'll sing of faith the Wise Men had,

The love the shepherds brought with them  
To bow before a little lad  
In Bethlehem.

Of glory in the midnight sky  
Above the old Judean hill,  
Of voices singing sweet and high,  
"Peace on earth—good will!"

—Selected

## FOR THOSE WHO FLY IN WAR

By P. R. Hayward

For those who seek in the skies the path of life or death, I bring thee, O Lord, my prayer.

For this new power by which men mount up with wings as eagles, I come unto thee in wonder and in praise.

By their stern discipline of mind and body, let my easy living stand condemned.

In their high vision, empower them to look deep into the meaning of life.

By their scorn of the earth, grant them the gift of putting all things in their proper place.

Be thou their companion in danger, their solace in pain, their stay and guard in death.

Grant us all to hasten the days when by the skill of these men, medicines and Bibles and goods shall be borne to distant places to bind together the nations of the world.

Whatever thy will may bring, grant them and us happy landings of the spirit—here and in the world to come, now and evermore. Amen.—Selected.

## ETERNAL CHANGE

By Frances McKinnon Morton

The seasons change: bright summer fades

Into the tenderness of autumn days;

Then scarcely have we set our feet

To linger lovingly with autumn's ways

Till winter's chill is in the air.

Then, gathered close about our firesides warm,

Or walking in the crisp starlight

We yield ourselves to winter's icy charm,  
And ponder well the snow-bound truth

That generous winter spends her priceless dower

Of strength and quietness to bring

The spring's exquisite resurrection hour.

There are no sharp-edged lines to mark

The first or last of deeds or seasons here

But all our days and deeds are linked

To make a character or mark a year.

—Selected

his birthday, Feb. 13, 1728. His last words were: "I am going where all tears shall be wiped away from my eyes."

W. H. M.