

## OUR CHRISTMAS SUNDAY SCHOOL CELEBRATIONS.

We can now see the wisdom in departing from our usual custom of having joint S. S. Christmas celebrations, and having each school have its own Christmas service. In the first place we were able this year to have many more children and friends attend and then the interest and pleasure were intensified because of locality.

Our first Christmas tree was at Grace Chapel, Hickory Grove, at 3:00 Christmas afternoon.

The weather was ideal and everybody attended with a will. The Chapel was beautifully decorated and the tree was unusually attractive; and the music very bright and appropriate. The Rector made a short address and then the scholars were made glad by receiving candy and presents. Both the Superintendent and assistants are to be congratulated on so successful and appropriate ending of their year's work.

The next night the School at St. Luke's Chapel, Buckland, had their Christmas celebration. This was their first Christmas tree in their own Chapel. They seemed to have tried to excel all the other schools in the size of the tree, for it reached to the ceiling. A splendid congregation assembled and entered most enthusiastically into the service. The school tried to excel itself in their music and showed the benefit of thorough practice. The Superintendent has every cause for thankfulness for such a successful culmination of his year's work.

The next night was our tree at St. Paul's, Haymarket. The Church was well filled with scholars and interested spectators. The tree seemed even prettier than usual and the music sweeter. After a few remarks by the rector, the scholars received their candy and presents and every one went home feeling that it was good to have been there. The Superintendent and teachers deserve the thanks and appreciation of every one for their unceasing interest and fidelity in behalf of our little ones.

On Saturday night, Holy Trinity Sunday School had its first Christmas tree in their Chapel. The congregation and scholars completely filled the building, and the tree was as large if not larger than the one at St. Luke's, and was beautifully decorated. The music was bright and appropriate and was joined into heartily by the congregation. There were an unusually large number of presents and prizes distributed and the little folks were all delighted. The Superintendent and the others assisting him are to be congratulated for their faithful efforts in behalf of the children of their school.

The Rector desires to express his thanks and appreciation to all the Superintendents and assistants of the schools, for helping him so faithfully and successfully in this the most important department of the Church's work. For the future life of our Parish depends largely on the Sunday Schools.

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The Bible which King Edward has given to old Bruton Parish Church at Williams-

burg, Va., rests upon a lectern which President Roosevelt gave. This lectern is one of singular beauty. Rising from a symbolic base is the angel of peace, a draped female form, whose upper raised hands and folded wings support its desk. The figure stands on a globe with one foot resting on Great Britain and the other on the United States. The globe is supported by the British lion and the American eagle. Between these figures is the coat-of-arms of the English Washington family. Each of the three tablets at the base of the lectern bears an inscription. On one are the words:—"To the glory of God;" another, "And commemorative of the three hundredth anniversary of the permanent establishment of English civilization in America, 1607-1907," and on the third, "Presented by Theodore Roosevelt, President of the United States."

The lectern is the work of J. Stewart Barney, of New York.

### GEORGE G. GALLEHRR.

What! Dead, they say! Our dear, good neighbor dead?

The good man never dies. He lays his head A little while upon his mother earth, Serenely waiting for the newer birth, Which comes to him as comes the wakening dawn.

After the dark and quiet night is gone, Ah! no, not dead! The good man never dies; He drops upon his couch with wistful eyes, And with a longing, yearning look at those He loves the best, he lets his eyelids close To sleep, in dreaming sleep, but not for long.

For like the lark, which lifts its voice in song, And mounts on light wings to the far-off sky, So soars and sings the good man's soul on high, Then grieve not, wife; dear women, do not weep, For God hath given your beloved sleep— Sweet, restful sleep, and he will wake to wear The crown he won whilst walking with you here. Ah! blissful sleep, from which the righteous rise!

Ah! blessed truth—the good man never dies! —H. M. CLARKSON.

A handsome window, from the studio of The Colgate Art Glass Co., has recently been placed in the Chancel of St. Paul's Church, the gift of Mr. and Mrs. W. M. C. Dodge, in memory of their infant son.

The subject of the window is from the sixth verse, eleventh chapter of Isaiah, and has been most artistically handled. The colors are soft and restful, and the window is a beautiful addition to the chancel.

Just beneath a cross, near the top is the inscription "A little child shall lead them," and at the base is inscribed, To the glory of God, and in loving memory of William Morehead Chapman Dodge, Jr.

Born 1905. Died 1906.

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The following subscriptions have been received since last issue of the Messenger:— Miss L. Veade, 25c. G. A. Simpson, 25c. R. L. Phillips, 25c. Miss Buckner, 25c.

Those who are in arrears will please send us their subscription at once as we must have it to keep the paper up.

## NO LIQUOR ON MAIL ROUTES.

CARRIERS MUST NOT TRANSPORT SUPPLIES WHILE CARRYING LETTERS.

Washington, Jan. 6.—Postmaster-General Meyer has issued an order forbidding the carrier of mails on any star, screen wagon, mail messenger or special service route from transporting intoxicating liquor from one point to another upon such route while in the performance of mail service.

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### LIST OF OFFERINGS TO BE MADE DURING THE YEAR 1908.

- January 19th—2nd Sunday after Epiphany—Sunday School Expenses.
- February 16th—Septuagesima—Convocation Missions.
- Lenten Week Day Offerings—Parish Missions.
- March 8th—1st Sunday in Lent—American Church Building Fund.
- April 17th—Good Friday—Conversion of the Jews.
- April 19th—Easter Day—General and Diocesan Missions.
- May 17th—4th Sunday after Easter—American Bible Society.
- June 7th—Whitsun-Day—Education Society of Va.
- July 3rd—3rd Sunday after Trinity—Sunday School Expenses.
- August 9th—8th Sunday after Trinity—General Diocesan Missions.
- September 13th—15th Sunday after Trinity—The Bishop's Fund.
- October 11th—17th Sunday after Trinity—Optional.
- November 26th—Thanksgiving Day—Optional.
- December 25th—Christmas Day—General Clergy Relief.
- The Sunday Schools Offering from Advent to Trinity—Convocation Missions.
- From Trinity to Advent—Parish Missions.
- Sunday Schools Lenten Mite Boxes—General and Diocesan Missions.

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### THE HARDEST FIGHT.

This grace of silence under trial is one of the most rare and difficult graces; but it is one of the most pleasing to God and most conducive to strength and beauty of Christian character. None of us loves to suffer, and we all shudder at the sight of the probe or the amputating knife. But when the infinite Love is engaged in cutting out a selfish lust or cutting off a diseased limb, our duty is to submit. Ah! the battlefield often requires less courage than the hospital! The onset of service, with drums beating and bugles sounding, does not so test the mettle of our graces as to be thrown down wounded, or to be commanded to lie still and suffer. To shout a battle-cry at the mouth of the cannon is easier than to put our hands on our mouths and be silent, because "God did it." If He is silent as to explanations of trying providences, let us be silent in our final submission. God knows what is best for us; that is enough.—REV. T. L. GUYLER, D. D.

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