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THE ASSEMBLY HERALD

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A. W. HALSEY, D.D., JOHN DIXON, D.D., WILLIAM H. SCOTT, Committee

CONTENTS FOR DECEMBER, 1914

| | |
|---|-----|
| FOREIGN MISSIONS..... | 642 |
| MINISTERIAL RELIEF AND SUSTENTATION | 676 |
| HOME MISSIONS | 654 |
| PRESBYTERIAN UNITED MOVEMENT | 640 |
| PUBLICATION AND SABBATH SCHOOL WORK | 685 |
| EDUCATION | 682 |
| TEMPERANCE | 688 |
| THE COLLEGE BOARD | 674 |
| CHURCH ERECTION | 680 |
| FREEDMEN | 671 |
| INDEX | 693 |

OUR CHURCH, ITS BOARDS AND OFFICERS

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For churches that have not yet adopted the scheme of weekly offerings set forth in the Directory for Worship Chapter 6, it is recommended that the first Lord's Day of the following months be set apart for contributions to the Boards:

1. Home Missions, November or other opportune time;
2. Foreign Missions, January and April;
3. College Board-February;
4. Sab.-School Work, May;
5. Church Erection, July;
6. Ministerial Relief, September;
7. Education, October 5;
8. Temperance, October 26;
9. Freedmen, December.

The money so received to be sent to the Board's Treasurer as designated above.

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DECEMBER, 1914



“I Want to Give It All”

A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM JOHN T. FARIS, D.D.

WHERE shall I get money for Christmas presents?” was the question of a little girl of eight, six weeks before Christmas. A few days later her father told her if she should secure fifteen perfect marks in spelling during the next four weeks he would give her fifty cents, which she might spend exactly as she chose. For days she talked of the things she would buy—for herself. A week later she said to her mother, “I believe I’ll spend twenty-five cents of that money for presents.” In another week she said: “I don’t need so much, do I? I guess I’ll spend forty cents for presents.” A week before the money was due she was found puzzling over a Christmas list. “I have it all planned out,” she said. “I can get five ten-cent presents.” “But where do you come in?” she was asked. “Oh, I don’t need anything. I want to give it all.”

Are we learning the lesson she was learning and teaching?—the lesson which Christ came to teach? How ready are we to give ourselves and all that we have in the name of Christ? It is a glorious thing to know that Jesus was born at Bethlehem. But that knowledge avails nothing to any of us except as we ask Him to be born in us, to dwell in our hearts through faith, that we may know His love and be transformed in His image. We must not forget the quaintly worded message of the poet:

“Though Christ a thousand times in Bethlehem be born,
If he be not born in thee, thy soul is all forlorn.”

A Christmas Prayer

Our Father, may the song of the angels echo in our hearts and sound from our lips. Not only on Christmas Day, but on every day in the year, may we be careful to live in the spirit of Him who brought blessing to the world by His birth, His life, His death, His resurrection from the dead. As the shepherd brought gifts to Bethlehem, so may we gladly give ourselves to our Lord. As the men from the East forgot their wisdom while they stood before the Babe, so may we empty ourselves that Christ may fill us full of divine wisdom. Bless our homes today, as thou didst bless the home in Nazareth. Teach those who do not yet know our Saviour that he died for them also, and forgive us that we are so slow to tell them of the gift of life through Christ. Amen.

Board for Freedmen

EDWARD P. COWAN, D.D., *Gen. Sec'y.*
REV. JOHN M. GASTON, *Associate Sec'y.*

A Christmas Carol

BY REV. S. J. FISHER, D.D.

*Oh, lovely night! Oh, sacred night!
When Bethlehem seemed so still
And every heart was sleeping,
Save shepherds their watch keeping.
No sound was heard,
Only a baby's first low cry
Only a mother's grateful sigh.
And then the night air stirred
With angel music falling.
And angel voices calling
To hearts that mourn—
That "Christ is born;"
And at that holy name
The skies are radiant and aflame.*

*Oh, holy child, with power so mild
Thou break'st the despot's arm!
No more shall men enslaved and fettered stand
Within our transformed land.
Bereft of knowledge, hope and power,
Forbidden thought and taught to cower.
Peace, peace on earth, the dear Christ's birth
Has brought good-will to men.
The dark face glows with holy light
For all are equal in His sight.*

*The shepherds knelt within the stall;
The wise men brought their richest gifts of all.
Then let us at His feet our treasure lay,
And show our gladness on this Christmas Day.*

*No more the angels sing their wondrous song,
No more their music floats the sky along,
But hearts redeemed may answer to the skies,
And from enraptured souls perpetual anthems rise.*