

# HERALD AND PRESBYTER

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## THANKSGIVING DAY

It is the duty of all men to adore the superintending providence of Almighty God and to acknowledge with gratitude their obligations for benefits received and to implore such further blessings as they stand in need of.—CONTINENTAL CONGRESS OF 1777.

I recommend that the people gather in their several places of worship and devoutly give God thanks for the prosperity wherewith he has endowed, for seed-time and harvest, for the valor, devotion and humanity of our armies and navies, and for all his benefits to us as individuals and as a nation, and that they humbly pray for the continuance of his divine favor, for concord and amity with other nations, and for righteousness and peace in all our ways.—PRESIDENT MCKINLEY.

For the very reason that in material well-being we have abounded, we owe it to the Almighty to show equal progress in moral and spiritual things. With a nation, as with the individuals who make up a nation, material well-being is an indispensable foundation. But the foundation avails nothing by itself. Upon material well-being as a foundation must be raised the structure of the lofty life of the spirit, if this nation is properly to fulfill its great mission and to accomplish all that we so ardently hope and desire. The things of the body are good; the things of the intellect better; but best of all are the things of the soul; for, in the nation as in the individual, in the long run it is character that counts.—PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT.

True appreciation of God's goodness involves a corresponding sense of obligation. Thanksgiving Day is a time not simply for enjoyment and self-congratulation, but for self-examination and new consecration. Some one says that "the first step towards intelligent thanksgiving is to square accounts with the Almighty, to pay him all that is his"; to realize that we are not our own, but are bought with a price, even the precious blood of the Son of God; and to determine, in view of his mercy and constrained by his love, that we will henceforth live not unto ourselves, but unto him.

The spirit of praise is the spirit of helpfulness. "If God so loved us, we ought also to love one another." As he has blessed us we should bless others, remembering his words, "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me."

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**"PRAISE THE LORD."**

The Pilgrim fathers and mothers were thankful, and had reason for thanksgiving. They had made the journey from the Old World to the New in safety. They had built their homes and cleared patches of ground, and planted corn and gathered it. There was game in the woods, fish in the sea, and plenty of firewood, and good water and air and sunlight and clothing enough to keep them comfortable. The Indians were friendly, and even in case of hostility they had their guns and ammunition. They were free from oppression, and had the Bible and the church and their faith in God and hope for the world to come, and could worship according to the dictates of their own consciences, with none to molest or make them afraid.

Certainly they had reason for appointing a Thanksgiving Day. Their ship might have sunk with them in mid ocean, or they might have reached a barren land, or their crops might have failed, or the natives might have destroyed them.

Some, in reading their story, may say that they had more trials than blessings, and more reason for lamentation than thanksgiving, but their history, and, particularly, their thanksgiving day are a testimony to their appreciation of the mercy and providence of God.

Their spirit was that of the one hundred and seventh Psalm, "They that go down to the sea in ships." These see the works of the Lord and the "stormy waves," and are "at their wits' end," but God had brought them "to their desired haven." So they took up the song of the Psalmist, "O that men would praise the Lord." "Hungry and thirsty, their soul fainted in them," but the Lord "delivered them and gave them a city of habitation." "O that men would praise the Lord."

If the Pilgrims had reason for thanksgiving, what shall we say of our selves? Instead of their few acres of corn among the rocks and stumps of the New England Coast, we have boundless prairies, rich beyond anything dreamed of. Instead of a few wild turkeys and other game and fish we have the cattle upon a thousand hills. "The pastures are clothed with flocks, the valleys also are covered over with corn. They shout for joy. They also sing." And we should sing with them. God crowns our years with his goodness and our "paths drop fatness." If the Pilgrims gave thanks in their poverty, much more should we in our prosperity.

We have much more, however, than flocks and corn. We have our glorious land, our free government, our educational system, our business prosperity, our churches and benevolent agencies, our family and social ties. And, beyond all

these, we have what the Pilgrims also had, the hope of the gospel. God's best gifts are common and free to all. The air and water and sunlight, the Sun of righteousness, the bread and water of life and an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and unfading, are for all who will accept them.

Thankfulness does not depend altogether on blessings received, certainly not on the proportion of blessings to crosses. It is a matter of the heart. All have received enough and more than enough to inspire praise, and one of the greatest blessings is a heart inclined to praise.

Thanksgiving Day is a good time to meditate on and to emulate the example of the Pilgrims, not only in their thankfulness and recognition of God's providence and love, but in their stern sense of righteousness and devotion to duty. The best glorification of our Pilgrim ancestry is in cultivation of the Pilgrim character.

**'THANKSGIVING EVEN FOR' THE SORROWFUL ONES.**

It is very easy to make expression of gratitude when the skies are clear above our heads, when the paths are smooth beneath our feet, and when peace and prosperity abound in our homes and in all our borders. It is easy under such circumstances to serve the Lord with gladness, to call upon our souls and all that is within us to bless and magnify his name, to enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise.

But if all is bright and glad with us, we are compelled to remember that it is not so with many of those who are around us. If there is to be no thanksgiving save by those who have had unbroken prosperity and gladness during the year, there will be many close about us whose voices shall be mute at this annual festival of praise. If many are compelled to be silent because they have been stricken, our own voices shall be subdued as we sound out the jubilant notes, and we shall almost feel that we are making a discord if we are jubilant while others are sorrowful.

There is, however, a call to universal thanksgiving, and, consequently, there must be some universal element in which we have all participated, that calls us to universal praise. This is the fact of God's goodness. This is always the same. This comes out to all. We do not, all of us, have the same experiences entirely, but we do, all of us, have the same good and loving tenderness manifested toward us by our Heavenly Father. To some he has come in one way during the past year, and to others in different ways, but to all his children he has been the same in his lovingkindness and his tender mercy. Being the same to us all the time, and doing

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ministration of affairs should be followed by instant discharge. The case is different from that of private employment. The government fixes the salaries of public officials at what it deems just. One has the option of entering the public service or not. To permit any organization of policemen to control discipline or to evade orders is to turn the city over to them to loot, if they desire. It would be a cause for armed resistance on the part of citizens. The police and all public officials must be under the control of superior officials for the protection of the people. The only protection the public has is the power of removal from office, and a policeman should be subject to removal at any time, perhaps with pay for a certain time in advance as compensation.

#### A LOMBROSO FAD.

One of Lombroso's fads was that criminals have long arms. In seeking to make facts fit his theories, he noticed that the anthropoid apes all have long arms, in some cases reaching below the knee. So, as he assumed that the criminal was not a full developed man, he thought he must have long arms, and said in his books that he had. More recently Dr. Perrier, a French specialist, undertook to measure the arms of all the prisoners in a large number of prisons in France. Strange to say, he found that their arms were slightly shorter than the average. All of Lombroso's work of this kind is worthless, because he merely sought facts to fit his theory, which tended to relieve the criminal of responsibility for his crimes. We need the doctrine of human responsibility.

#### VITAL STATISTICS.

Many paragraphs in the various periodicals claiming a lengthening of human life are liable to be misunderstood. They are usually based on the death rate per thousand people. The actuaries report that during the last fifty years, in this country, the death rate has been reduced from twenty-eight in the 1,000 to 21 per 1,000. The reduction is mainly in the death rate of children under five years of age. A much larger portion of infants survive than formerly; and as the death rate is counted for the entire population of all ages, this does not of itself prove that people live to be any older, or that a man's chances of life are better. It is probable that there has been a slight lengthening of lives chosen from any period; but the showing of the figures is based mainly on the saving of the lives of children.

#### A NEW DANGER.

The dangers to the country through the development of the sport of ballooning are indicated in the report of Edgar W. Nix, an American, who won the long-distance prize from Zurich to Warsaw, in Russian Poland. He says "the guide rope dragged over farm houses, breaking tiles and chimneys." Later, although he threw

out ballast, "the guide rope dragged over the wires of the fortresses and railroad stations, creating consternation among the yelling population." The question is whether men are to be permitted to sail over the country, destroying chimneys, tearing down telegraph wires and damaging railroad stations.

President Taft completed his thirteen thousand mile speech making junket last week.

During the inauguration of the Lord Mayor of London, some women threw rocks through the windows of the hall to attract attention to their yell, "Votes for women." They proved their rowdiness, not their fitness for suffrage.

Mrs. Eddy, owner of Christian Science, has settled with her son, Geo. W. Glover, and her adopted son, E. J. F. Eddy, for \$290,000. The consideration is, that they relinquish all rights to her estate. Christian Science, even though it can not prevent sickness, seems to be eminently successful in keeping the wolf away—from some doors.

The National Geographic Society has voted Peary a gold medal for reaching the North Pole. This society is only a voluntary association, but its officers are noted men in their departments.

An inventor claims a new electric gun, to be run by power conducted from a battery, at a distance. It has long been known that missiles could be hurled by electricity, but not with the force of powder or other explosives, and the electric gun is not likely to prove practical.

The segregation of negro and white children in public institutions is recommended by the State conference on charities, and it is hoped the legislature will grant relief at its next session. Because of politics white and colored children are placed together in the reform schools, and in all charitable institutions of the State.

The Common Council of Cincinnati proposes to take up the "Bread Question," and to require that all loaves shall weigh one pound, or double loaves two pounds, and that all bread offered for sale must be baked in clean bakeries and under sanitary conditions. It is proposed to appoint a Bread Inspector, to be recommended by the Board of Health. This is excellent legislation, which should be a part of the municipal ordinances of every city. The only danger is that the Bread Inspector may be only a political appointment, making one more place for the party in power.

The Conservative party in Cuba announces that it will no longer support Gomez, the President, and claims that his administration has been a failure. Although its members voted for a rival candidate in the national election, they hoped that Gomez would make an honest effort to give the country a good administration, and therefore supported him as a party against other opponents. They now propose to organize an opposition for the purpose of gaining members in the lower house.

A cable dispatch from Rome says that the Pope has determined to sell no more titles of nobility. It appears that the Vatican has derived much revenue from this source. The title of "count" has been sold for ten thousand dollars, and that of "duke" at the same price, cash in advance. It is said that France is crowded with Vatican noblemen who have thus bought their titles for cash. The Pope's act is regarded as a step in the right direction.

An American firm has just signed a contract with the Chinese Government to place \$150,000 worth of telephones in China, which are to be installed by February next.

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