

# St. Dunstan's Red and White

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Subscription, 75 cents a year ..... Payable in advance

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VOL. XXXVI.

DECEMBER, 1944

No. 1

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## — EDITORIALS —

### CHRISTMAS PEACE

Again we approach Christmas, a feast which once evoked an almost universal adoration of the Christ Child, but which now appears to be more and more characterized by an exchange of material things among friends. The true significance of Christmas was partially lost from the moment man began to lose sight of Christ's mission on earth.

In a day when the lust for power was rampant, Christ came meekly on earth as a child to redeem man and show, by His life, how we might reach out intended reward, heaven.



By His lifelong example He taught man that peace of soul was the real source of power. What a contrast there existed between Him and the tyrannical rulers of His day.

Despite the so called progress of the past twenty centuries, nations are yet locked in combat for material superiority, which is but a transient something. How fitting then it would be that Christ be confirmed in His kingship over this world that the great energies expended in hatred might be directed towards charitable ends, thus saving man from ruin.

With our weakened intellects we try to solve our problems in our own simple way. Christ was well aware of this great error when He offered Himself as "The Way, The Truth, and The "Life", the only way to lasting peace. His lowly birth seemed a very mockery of wealth. By His death on the cross He manifested infinite love for man.

Christ, as God, died that man might again be free. Would that our minds could grasp the significance of this great truth. How much easier it would then be to ensure our eternal happiness by following the example of Christ on earth.

Let us for a moment reflect on that first Christmas and picture, if we can, the Christ Child in a lowly crib, His arms outstretched to all mankind, present and future. Today that same child, with outstretched arms, utters the same message to the world. But how few there are who escape from the confusion of the world and adore as fervently as did those humble shepherds on that "silent night."

Forgetting the cares of the world, let us once again go forth to render thanks and adoration to God for having sent His only begotten Son to lead and redeem us.

Let our special joy on this coming Christmas be in singing the praises of the Giver of Eternal Peace.

*Red and White* extends to its readers sincere good wishes for a holy and joyous Christmas.

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#### IN RECOGNITION

For many years *Red and White* readers have been treated with thought-laden lines from the pen of its most faithful contributor, Lucy G. Clarkin. The invariable presence of these short poetic stanzas, which have graced the literary section of our magazine for so long, bear testimony to the



wide reading which the simple and uplifting phrases have ever enjoyed. All will agree that in them lies poetic literary art with simplicity, melody, sincerity, and conciseness. Each season brings to our pages appropriate and timely gems of thought clothed in enviable expression. Pope spoke truthfully when he said:

"True wit is nature to advantage dressed,  
What oft was thought but ne'er so well expressed."

Besides verbal recognition of this faithful friend of St. Dunstan's, this year we formally present to her an award, many times merited, a Literary D—small recognition of favors so great, nevertheless, the highest award of *Red and White* to its contributors.

*Red and White* staff and readers express deep gratitude and sincere thanks to a never failing friend.

#### A LIBERAL EDUCATION

In the field of education two chief theories exist with vastly different goals. One theory emphasizes the pursuit of the practical and aims at producing the "practical" man, while the other clings to the liberal arts and strives to mould men of culture.

Education today seems more and more concerned with practical subjects; this situation is largely a result of the idea that the purpose of education is to fit one for making a living. The true concept of education is being sadly missed. An education is not a perfecting in mechanical skills, such as typewriting, carpentry, or the assembling of radios, but rather the development of the mind. It is the opening and improving of the mind, fitting it to use its full powers, and broadening it to appreciate all that is great in the achievements of the human race.

There are many signs that educators are not fully satisfied with the present state of education. It seems timely, then, to repeat that there is a serious need for a return to the type of education whose function has been summed up for all time by Cardinal Newman in his *Ideal of a University* "Not to set the loom in motion nor to direct the steam carriage, ...but to open the mind, to correct it, to refine it, enable it to know, and to digest, master, rule, and use its knowledge, to give it power over its faculties, application, flexibility, method, critical exactness, sagacity, resource, address, eloquent expression."