

THE CONSHOHOCKEN RECORDER Established 1865. Printed Tuesdays and Fridays. H. B. HEYWOOD, President. W. L. HEYWOOD, Sec'y & Treas.

AMERICA MUST BE THE MERCY NATION

on the top of a hill, to which the people flock in large numbers when the sun goes down. He would have us see the interior of that building, the audience, the choir, the preacher, to recall again the burning messages, and the results which followed, when men and women in large numbers turned their faces to the Kingdom of God.

God's Goodness Must Pass Into Us. It is all that it takes to make a Thankful people? If so, we might expect to find Israel from that time such a grateful Nation as Jehovah wished them to be.

It was so with Israel. God's Goodness had passed before her, but not into her. But that time was to come and it did come, as it must come to every nation, and to every individual when the Goodness of God passes not only before Him, but into him, burned in, as by fire.

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And such was the critical situation for Israel. The first and second stages in the making of a thankful people had been passed. Then the richest gold of God passed to her in the form of the Person and the Teachings of Christ.

God must pass beyond us. It must pass beyond us in the form of Justice. God has poured out on America His marvelous blessings. What doth He expect of us? "He looked for Justice," says the Book. And does He find it? "He looked for Justice and behold a cry."

And He looks for Mercy, the giving of more than people deserve. And He looks for Truth, and for the Thankful Nation, which, out of gratitude will bear His truth to the world.

It may conceivably be a Mercenary Nation, or a Materialistic Nation. In the present world crisis, the financial supremacy has passed to us. Men are proudly saying that "The American Dollar now rules the world."

America may also, conceivably, emerge from this crisis as the Militaristic Nation. A period of nervous dread is passing over the land lest this be so.

America may also, conceivably, emerge with a far greater and nobler ideal, namely, that of the Missionary Nation. I use that term in its original meaning, of the Nation, which, thankful to God for His abundant mercies, believes it has a mission to the world.

Not long ago, there was held, in one of the cities of Belgium, a large meeting of the citizens. At one end of the hall, conspicuously displayed so that all could see, was a sign which, told the purpose of the gathering. It read "Merci aux Americains."

But will there come a prouder day? Can we look forward to a time when in a gathering of all the nations, there shall be such a sign, and not for the material bread alone, of which we have a generous amount, but rather for other things, for deeper things, for ideals of life, for ways of living, for the picture of a Nation of God and bringing forth the fruits thereof.

May God make us a thankful, and therefore, a lasting people. May His Goodness pass before us, and into us and beyond us. May we be the Light Bringer to the Nations, the Apostolic, the Sent-people, of Jehovah. And, in the day of our triumph which injures none, and helps all the peoples of the world, may we reverently say "Not unto us, Oh Lord, not unto us, but unto Thy name give glory, for Thy mercy and for Thy truth's sake."

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GULF MILLS

ITEMS OF INTEREST GATHERED BY OUR LOCAL CORRESPONDENT FOR OUR READERS.

Mrs. Sallie McDowell is making improvements to her property at this place.

Concrete steps and walks have been laid in front of the Masterson residence at Mechanicsville.

Miss Sara J. Campbell, of Philadelphia, spent Tuesday with her sister, Mrs. William Spragg at this place.

Music lovers from Gulf Mills attended a musicale given in the Calvary Baptist Church in Norristown on Tuesday evening.

Evon Pritchard, who has been passing a week with his sister, Mrs. William Lennan of this place, returned to New York on Tuesday.

Mrs. Anna E. Esler, one of the oldest residents of Gulf Mills, is spending some time with her sister, Mrs. Sophia McGuire in Germantown.

Raymond Graham has secured a position as driver for Irvin Fulmer. During the summer and early fall he was employed by the Bryn Mawr Ice Company.

The schools of Upper Merion township closed on Wednesday afternoon and will remain closed until Monday morning in observance of the Thanksgiving holidays.

Services were held in the parish house of Trinity Mission at 10:30 o'clock on Thanksgiving morning, and in the evening at 8 o'clock. Rev. Robert M. Beckett, minister-in-charge, preached the sermons.

Mrs. Dianna Bleckin, of Gulf Mills is visiting her sister, Mrs. Hilton in Newark, N. J. The latter has been quite ill for some time, and grave fears are entertained for her recovery. She is suffering from ailment due to advanced age.

The books of the library of the Gulf Christian Sunday School will be renumbered and classified in order to have the work done as soon as possible, the superintendent has requested that all books be returned to the library on Sunday.

Miss Elizabeth Stiles, of Norristown, who will be married to Clarence Thomas, of King-of-Prussia, in the near future, was tendered a linen shower on Monday evening at the home of Miss Sarah Bachenheim, of Powell street, Norristown. Prior to the "surprise," five hundred was played.

Mrs. Charles Wellard and daughter Lea, left on Sunday for Culpepper, Va., where they will spend some time with the former's parents. Mr. and Mrs. Ryder, just previous to the Christmas holidays they will be joined by Mr. Wellard. Mrs. Wellard, who formerly resided in the South, has been a resident of Pennsylvania for about two years.

When Reuben Gregg, a stone cutter at the Millard-Schwayer marble quarries at King-of-Prussia, failed to return to his work on Monday after he had gone to his home in Phoenixville on Saturday, a telephone message to the foreman, J. S. Baldwin, on Monday evening informed him that Gregg committed suicide in a barn near the Phoenixville race track. Gregg's son who also works at the quarry, was horrified to hear of the sad news, and left immediately for his home. He said his father was very melancholic the past year.

Thomas Williams, aged about 31 years, son of Mr. and Mrs. Conly Williams, of New Centerville, and a graduate of the Norristown High School died on Monday at Denver, Col. He had gone West two years ago for the benefit of his health. Death was due to tuberculosis. Besides his parent he is survived by a widow and the following brothers and sisters: Mrs. Nelson Hofer, Mrs. Charles M. Daub, Frank Williams, Arthur Williams and Miss Clara Williams. Thomas Williams was well known at Gulf Mills. He was born at King-of-Prussia where his parents resided for many years.

The Countryside Magazine.

Beauties of the wintertime in east west, north and south are pictured and described in the extremely attractive Christmas number of The Countryside Magazine, whose cheer cover shows the "Countryside Girl" against a background of snow and evergreens. The spirit of the holiday season is on every page. There are four full pages of striking photographs of the world outdoors.

Two interesting serials are concluded this month: "A Woman's Story of Her Car," by Alice Litchfield, and "The End of the Quest," by C. S. Burton. Our regret at the conclusion of Mr. McFarland's twelve "My Growing Garden" articles is tempered by the knowledge that this delightful garden story is now in book form. "Good-bye, Old Year," by Margaret Woodward, is a self-allegorical essay on winter's benefits and the gifts the passing year has left us all. But if you want to escape the snow and cold, turn to "England's Forgotten Wayside Villages," by Mary Rankin Cranston, the story of a solitary walking trip through some of the loveliest spots of all the English countryside; to "Discovering a Part of America," a two-part story by Frank A. Waugh, which reveals possibilities for joyous adventure in the wilds of Massachusetts; or to the idyllic "Legend of Indian Summer," by Harriet Woodward Clark.

"Palms for Winter Culture" are entertainingly discussed in an illustrated article by Georgia Torrey Drennan. There is a poem by Dr. Bailey. An article of great interest for all who would improve our country schools is "The Hill-Top School" by Ethel Harriet Nash. "When Our Friends Call in the Evening," by Emma Gary Wallace, offers young people a wealth of suggestions on making their homes attractive to guests. "Togery" for the Countryside shows some of the chic things the outdoor girl will include in her wardrobe this winter; and "The Shop Window" illustrates and describes two pages of appropriate holiday gifts.

Advertise in "The Recorder"

PLAN EXTENSION OF FAIRMOUNT PARK

Philadelphia's proposed metropolitan park system extending into adjoining counties and connected by boulevards with Fairmount Park, was taken up Wednesday by the Fairmount Park Commission. Upon the recommendation of Chief Webster, of the Survey Bureau, the commission authorized a survey to be made and plans and estimates of cost prepared for an extension of Fairmount Park along both banks of the Wissahickon from the county line to Fort-Washington.

Authorization for such survey was made under the provision of an Act of Assembly of June 18, which appropriated \$3000 for that purpose. The project establishing a metropolitan inter-county park system has been under consideration for several years and preliminary surveys of the proposed Fort Washington extension were made in 1912, by a committee of citizens and city officials.

It will be the first time that the city, as exercised its rights to extend its park system outside the boundaries of Philadelphia county. The Act of Assembly authorizing the official survey and estimated schedule of cost of acquisition of the land, special provisions that the land to be taken shall follow the contours of the Wissahickon creek and shall include also historical spots on either bank of the stream known as Fort Hill, embracing about 50 acres on the east bank, and Millita Hill and about 25 acres on the west bank, near White marsh.

The original study made by the Park Extension Committee contemplated further extension of this section of Fairmount Park along the Wissahickon Creek to Lansdale. Such scheme would carry the Park within a short distance of the country home of Senator Edwin H. Ware at Ambler, who was a member of the committee. The act of Assembly passed by the last Legislature, however, limits such present extension to Fort Washington, a distance of about four miles from the county line. The preliminary plans for this section of the extension contemplates the acquisition of about 600 acres of land bordering on the creek to provide an average width of about 1000 feet for a public recreation park, or, inclusive of Fort Hill and Millita Hill, a total acreage for metropolitan park purposes of about 1900 acres in Montgomery County.

Taxpayers and property owners of the West Point section are considering a proposition to call a public meeting for the purpose of preparing a petition to be laid before the Board of Commissioners of Montgomery County, urging that West Point be permanently improved by constructing a macadamized road, the petitioners to argue that increased traffic over the highway merits the betterment.

Donated Concert.

An unnamed alumnus "donated" a concert given last Friday night by Miss Kathryn Floodgood, contralto, and Mrs. Edith Hatcher Hareum, pianist, in Taylor Hall to the students of Bryn Mawr College. Miss Floodgood's share of the program included an aria from "Samson et Delila"; Hugo Wolf's "Verborghenheit"; Augusta Holmest's "Conto de Fees," and Astor Rubinstejn's "Since First I Met Thee." Mrs. Hareum, at the piano, gave Beethoven's "Moonlight Sonata"; Chopin's "Berceuse Ballad in A flat, Debussis's "Clair de Lune" and "The Magic Fire Music" of Wagner-Brassin.

Presbyterian Church

At the Sabbath 10:30 A. M. service the pastor will preach on "To Them Who Believe He is Precious"; at 7:30 P. M. Miss Bertha G. Johnson from India will speak; Sabbath School at 9:15 A. M.; Men's Class at 9:10 A. M. to be addressed by Mr. Joseph Porter, of Chestnut Hill; Y. P. S. C. E. prayer meeting at 6:45 P. M., theme: "Home Mission Work to be Done in Our Own Community." Luke 15: 4-22; Monday the Ladies' Aid will meet at the home of Mrs. Elizabeth Maxwell Barry; prayer meeting Wednesday; Services preparatory to the communion Friday to be addressed by the Rev. Dwight C. Hanna, pastor of the Leverington Presbyterian Church, all at 8 P. M.

First Baptist Church.

Rev. Abner James Davies, Minister. Announcements for Sunday. The session of the Bible School at 9:15 A. M.; "The Growing Grace of Gratitude" is the theme of the pastor's sermon for Sunday morning. Services at 10:30; Christian Endeavor Society meets in the upper social room, at 6:15 P. M.; The evening service will be of special interest, being a recital by Miss Marion G. Walker, assisted by the Church Choir and special talent. The hour of starting is 7:30; Wednesday evening next, 7:45 P. M., the mid-week service; we shall be glad to have you with us.

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