

Perry Lucker

Merry
Christmas

The Houghton Star

Happy
New Year

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The Gray-Lhevirne Recital

R. W. Hazlett

In an age of superlatives and superficialities, in this "jazziad" of exaggeration and exploitation, so to speak—when the person or the product with the most ingenious press agent and the largest advertising subsidy is assured of the greatest popularity and financial returns; when publishers herald the cheapest fiction as a masterpiece, and producers screamingly headline the latest cinema atrocity as the world's most stupendous spectacle; when in short, the banal flaunts itself as daring originality and the mediocre passes itself off as sheer genius—one finds it a very difficult matter to determine true merit or even relative values. Amid this welter of conflicting claims and opinions critical judgment is well nigh impossible, and in self-defense, one must affect a suave sophistication or take refuge in a courteous skepticism. We confess, for instance, an appreciably less enjoyment in reading the piquant rhymes of Nathalie Crane, the child-wonder poetess of Brooklyn, since she and her royalties and the janitor's red-headed boy have begun figuring the newspapers in what the cau-

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Christmas, Theme of Society Program

A very vivid description of "War-time Christmas in Germany" was given by Mr. VanWormer Monday night in the Athenian Literary Society. His talk in which he told of the "dough boys' " Christmas tree, dinner, and boxes from home, was the more interesting because he spoke from experience.

Following this the Girls' Quartet, composed of Merrill Linquest, Viola and Luella Roth, and Verna Crouch, sang a very beautiful Christmas selection, "At Midnight".

"A Christmas Experience" was the subject of Hazel Sartwell's reading which was very well interpreted.

The concluding number on the program was a talk, "Christmas Festivities and Their Meaning" given by Ruby Hogg. She told in this of the origin of the Christmas tree which was a very old Roman custom, of the Santa Claus idea, and of the "white Christmas".

There was a good attendance and a great deal of interest was shown.

The Angels' Peace Message

On old Judea's hills were shepherds tending
Their snowy flocks by night,
When, with the mellow beams of starshine blending,
Soft crept a mystic light,
Till all about them lay the heavenly splendor,
And in their midst appeared
An angel form, who from His roval Sender
Brought calm to those who feared.
And suddenly there came a great host singing
"Praise God this holy morn,
Good will to men and peace today are winging,
For, lo, the Christ is born."
So came the tidings by an angel herald
Who told the Savior's birth,
So was the glorious welcome carolled
Of peace upon the earth.

The
First



Christ-
mas

And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed.

(And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.)

And all went to be taxed, everyone into his own city.

And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem: (because he was of the house and lineage of David).

To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child.

And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered.

And she brought forth her first-born son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

And lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them; and they were sore afraid.

And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

And this shall be a sign unto you: Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us.

And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in the manger.

Faculty Supper

Feasted on Bear and Deer

At the cordial invitation of Mr. and Mrs. Molyneaux, the faculty and families with Rev. and Mrs. Pitt advanced their gustatory education Monday evening. To some it was a review, to others it was a novel experience to eat bear and venison. A few suggested that they had eaten "dear" meat before but to come down to bare facts they may have eaten beef and mistaken it for bear or venison. A few of the august assemblage tried to bring away samples of the skins as alibis to convince their incredulous friends.

After grace by our pastor the throng passed in review before the long tables laden with good things. In spite of vague hints by certain individuals regarding the time-honored custom of dieting, the table once an oasis became a desert.

After the company had waited patiently for Allen Baker satisfactorily to dispose of his third doughnut, Professor LaVay Fancher arose as toastmaster. Professor Douglass, in reciting the adventures of the world's greatest hunter, achieved a reputation as the community's greatest exponent of the hyperbole. Next Mr. Molyneaux told of his success and effort in bagging both a deer and a bear. Miss Risbell favored with a vocal solo with Miss Miller at the piano. Professor Wright maintained that we have a little of the bear and deer in us beside that which we ate. Man with his soul and power of choice should hold his animal nature in abeyance.

After the toastmaster had extended a vote of thanks to the host and hostess Rev. Pitt dismissed the assembled friends. Everyone reported an enjoyable evening of companionship, wit, and the more material blessing of an excellent supper.

Scholasticism Receives Recognition

Faithful painstaking work always receives its reward. Sometimes the reward does not receive proper recognition. However New York State has recently provided a method whereby her Honor Students may have the privilege of wearing an emblem to show good scholarship. This emblem is to the High School what the Phi Beta Kappi key is to the College World. Miss Dorothea Petrie having attained

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Editorial

[Prize editorials solicited from Section A of the College Rhetoric Class.]

We don't need to be told that Christmas is coming, for we are eagerly looking forward to the home-going at this happiest time of the year. We are planning to lay aside all our text-books and go home to see the flames in the fire-place leap beneath a row of small stockings. We will watch our small brothers and sisters as they listen with rapt attention to the sweet old story that is ever new. We will forget abuses, and we will right wrongs. Perhaps we haven't spoken to a neighbor for months; but on the morning of the 25th, we will wish him a "Merry Christmas". We just can't help it—the spirit is in the air.

Of course, we are planning gifts that are to be sent. Let's make things a little different this year. For grandma, shall we get a frilly white apron trimmed with lavender instead of the black shawl that we had planned? We won't get dad the annual tie, but a book he will enjoy in leisure moments. And for mother? O, yes, we had decided to get a new crumb-tray or rolling pin; but I really believe she would prefer a dainty boudoir cap or something exclusively for herself. Christmas is the time for things we really want—frivolities if you like. There are 364 other days to buy gloves, stockings and bedroom slippers.

This year our STAR, as did that other star of old, sends a message of

cheer in its rays.

Remember
This December
That love weighs more than gold!
Help us spread the news to young
and old;
Friendship bought and sold
Leaves the giver cold.
The right gift
Is the bright gift,
The kind thought and cheer:
Send your loving heart—
That's the greatest part,
So will Christmas crown all the year.
—Selected

—Erma Anderson

Again we come to Christmas, the anniversary of the Greatest Gift. Christmas is the season of birth, not merely of another child into a lowly Nazarene family, but of the Christ. Christmas, the real Christmas, has nothing in common with the Xmas of Pagan thought, the feast of what is at best unknown.

Christmas is more than an opportunity for the exchange of gifts, more than the merchant and tradesman's best season. Christmas is not a festival in honor of a mythical Santa Claus. As the great Christmas Gift was given to those who stood in dire need of Him, so should our gifts be to those who need them. They should be gifts in the truest sense of the word.

Christmas is a time of joy and laughter and merriment, of love, and of friendship. Home and family, friends and neighbors—when are we more appreciative of the import of these blessings than at Christmas? When is the pure joy of living more keenly felt than at Christmas?

We wish you joy, fellow-students, faculty, friends. May all Christmas cheer be yours!

Our gift to God? Our thanks, our praise, our lives

—Ralph Long

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the splendid average of 93 per cent, in 52 counts of Regents work is the second pupil of Houghton Seminary to join this league within a year.

A trip to New York always sounds alluring; but when a trip to New York is the reward obtained from successful competition in a contest it has an added joy. Last June the Women's Division of the Democratic Party offered a series of prizes for the best essays written on suggested historical topics. Ralph Jones submitted an essay on the topic, "Samuel J. Tilden." This essay

was given first place in his home county and was rated among the first sixteen, and therefore it entitles him to a three day sight-seeing trip to New York to take place during the Christmas vacation. While in the city the party will be the guests of the Womens Division of the Democratic Party. The essays were submitted to the following judges: Alfred E. Smith, Franklin Roosevelt, and Ida Tarbell. Such recognition is praiseworthy to any student.

Greetings

Dear Students,

In behalf of the faculty I desire to wish you a "Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year". May your vacation be just as bright and happy as it can possibly be.

This wish will be fulfilled in just the proportion in which you live the unselfish life. Plan to give yourself to father and mother during the home visit. Dad says but little, but you never know how much you are to him. It goes without saying that you are the apple of your mother's eye. Do your best to make father and mother's Christmas the best they have ever had. Then don't snub or neglect little brother or sister who is worshipping you afar off. Your influence will go a long way toward making or marring their lives.

Above all, remember the One whose birth we celebrate. The greatest thing that any human being can do is to come into right relation with Jesus Christ.

Very truly yours,
James S. Luckey.

"Christ Who Is Our Life"

Bad roads and freezing weather cannot daunt the courage nor chill the fervor of Houghton's gospel messengers.

The services at Fox Hill and Allen Center were conducted by their regular leaders. Good meetings were reported at both places.

The evening service was held at Pike Baptist Church. This service was well attended by an appreciative congregation. Mr. VanWormer ably led the song service and conducted the meeting.

After a short testimony meeting and specials rendered by the Male Quartet, a message from Col. 3:4 (Christ who is our life) was delivered by Miss Hazel Sartwell and Mr. Carl Lutz.

Rev. Bain was in town last week. His many friends are glad to see him on the road to health.

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tious reader suspects is merely a shrewd publicity stunt.

But all those who heard Madam Estelle Gray-Lhevinne on the evening of December 10th, whatever their mood or motive, whether they came out of curiosity or in a vein of skepticism, went away convinced that they had listened to one of the world's greatest artists, and that here indeed was authentic genius, who needed only to be heard to be recognized as such. Whether she is the world's premier violinist or not really does not matter—we are willing to bestow that accolade upon her if it would mean anything—but every member of her audience is witness to the fact under her faultless artistry and the spell of her charming personality, never did two hours pass with such unbelievable rapidity or with such breathless enjoyment.

After all that is the supreme test of art—the degree to which it can be translated into terms of common experience and made to express universal emotions. Our theory is that music is meant to be enjoyed—both by the performer and the audience—and that classical music if presented in the proper manner and proportion can be appreciated by the average person and will gradually displace those popular forms which, though indubitably enjoyed after a fashion, are certainly not real music.

Madame Gray-Lhevinne apparently holds this same belief. It is truly a happy surprise to find a great artist so eminently human and approachable; in

this respect, she offers a welcome to other concert players who too often seem merely to tolerate their audience and to respond to applause with a bored or grudging air. Her creed is to make music vital, and her mission to interpret the heart of music to the masses. She does not pose as a high priestess of Art, demanding of her votaries a servile homage. Rather she seems to share a very delightful personal experience with her hearers; she adapts her music to her hearers instead of demanding that her hearers adapt themselves to the music. A severely objective attitude and an overbalanced program of heavy classical music or showy concert pieces is decidedly opposed to her conception of what her art demands of her or what will best suit the needs of the public. Her method of talking intimately to her audience and explaining the compositions she is to play, of course adds immeasurably to her programs. Probably no one could imitate her successfully, for above all she is distinctly individual and her genius is like that of no other.

Her program, which was well adapted to her distinctive style and purpose, was varied and colorful. Her first two selections consisting of Godard's Adagio Pathetique and Concerto Romantique respectively, were her "heavy" numbers in which she established beyond all cavil her supreme mastery of technique and her claim to virtuosity. The amazing virility of her bowing and the smoothness of her phrasing, by which she evoked a tone of ravishing beauty and mellowness, were pre-eminent.

A rough classification of her lighter numbers might be attempted. In what might be termed the first group consisting of popular classics; such as, Bach's chastely beautiful Air for the G String, Hayden's charming Minuet, Hubay's exquisite Zephyr, and another melody on the G string by the modern composer, Arthur Pryor, entitled "After Sunset", she demonstrated that it really requires a great genius to play a so-called short, easy piece effectively. In another group might be mentioned selections representing racial characteristics of historical development of music—examples of which are two Celtic pieces of the Fourteenth Century which must have been the great-grandfathers of all Irish jigs and hornpipes since, Wieniawski's characteristic Polish dance "Kuyawiak", and a Gypsy air that skillfully caught the Romany spirit. Still another group would include descriptive pieces, chief of which were a typically Gallic imitation of "An Old Cat and Some Mice", and the mordantly beautiful Danse Macabre of Saint-Saens. One should not fail to mention a group of her own compositions, simple but hauntingly beautiful songs full of heart interest which she played with tender understanding. "Heart of My Opal" and a song dedicated to her small son, Laddie, perhaps were most appealing. She concluded her program dramatically with Sarasate's fiery Habanera.

Frankly we liked the concert and the artist immensely. The fact that here is a clean-cut American musician, unspoiled by adulations and unafflicted by artistic complexes and temperamental vagaries, who is more than holding her own against the invasion of foreign artists after American dollars, naturally does not decrease this liking. Neither is our admiration any the less because Madame Gray-Lhevinne has demonstrated to the world that a genuine home life and an artistic career are incompatible. Much of this aspect was revealed to the music students and other privileged music lovers who were fortunate enough to meet her and her husband after the concert at an informal reception at President Luckey's home.

We have so far intentionally omitted any mention of Mr. James Gray, Madame Gray-Lhevinne's husband, who acts as her personal representative and accompanist. But we wonder just how much of Gray-Lhevinne's success is attributable to Mr. Gray, who furnished one of the most sympathetic accompaniments that it has ever been our pleasure to hear. In fact, the background was more than aesthetic; it was spiritual. A gentleman of unus-

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ually fine sensibilities and a musician of rare ability, he is content to merge his personality with that of his talented wife, and together achieve a triumph that neither could accomplish alone. They exhibit a belief and a faith in each other that is truly refreshing in this sordid age, and that is a lasting refutation of the fallacy that opposites attract each other.

But here end with the assertion that the violin is the king of musical instruments, and that Gray-Lhevinne is the Queen of Violinists!

The Name of Jesus

After reading Psalm 103, Mr. Rees, in leading prayer meeting, left with stu-

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dents two vital truths; first, that we are absolutely sure to meet God sometime; and second, that we do not know when that time will be. The spirit of the prayers and testimonies certainly re-affirmed and proved what the poet has said, "Oh, how happy are they whose Savior obey!" Surely, as one mentioned while speaking, the marvel is that any person could attend such a service without yielding to God—yet, human tongue has failed to express half of His goodness. The meeting closed with the exhortation to take the name of Jesus with us as we go home during vacation.

LOCALS

Mrs. Ephriam Willard of Erie, Pa. was brought here for burial Wednesday afternoon.

Mrs. Frank Acker, of Rushford, was calling in town Tuesday.

Miss Grace Terry made a call at the Clinic Hospital in Olean. Monday.

Frank Henshaw, who was called home on account of his father's death, is in school again this week.

Miss Harriet Remington spent last week-end at Silver Springs.

Miss Helen Crosby, a former student of Houghton, was visiting in town last week.

Several former Houghton students attended the concert here last week, including Miss Esther Haynes, and Mark Bedford, instructors at Belfast high school, Professor Earl Tierney, principal of Pike Seminary high school and Miss Laura Baker instructor at Fillmore high school; all of whom were members of the college senior class of '25.

The annual Christmas entertainment of the district school is to be given next Wednesday night, Dec. 23.

Pancake Feed

On the evening of December 11, the Theological Department enjoyed a social evening on the campground.

Miss Hampe stirred pancake batter while the curious eyes of the girls followed her. Professor Wright took off his coat and showed his skill at flipping cakes. Others poked over the sausage for fear it would burn.

Many games and tricks were played after supper. Several talks were given. Mr. Boyd demonstrated a marvelous ability to hold his audience in unsatisfied suspense while Professor Wright had a hard time with the Trouble of Smell, the organ of which he viewed as the mountain top of facial topography.

The evening closed with songs, sung to the accompaniment of the guitar.

Leadership

Rev. Harburn, pastor of the Methodist Church at Fillmore, recently conducted the chapel in a most pleasing manner.

He drew several helpful conclusions from the work of the timid little beaver that accomplishes so much through perseverance. To be a leader one must work. Rev. Harburn said, "We have too many lazy, indolent people in the world." The next essential qualification for leadership is thought. "Be a thinker," for "clear thinking is the great need of the nation." Perseverance, honesty, and purity were the other qualities mentioned.

Are we as students training ourselves to meet the responsibilities of each day or are we shunning the hard things? Let us arise and respond to every noble challenge that comes to us!

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