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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15, 1927
 17th
 as "XMAS."

Now that Christmas is just around the corner again one expects to encounter the abbreviated "Xmas" in many places, and hear many complaints and protests from those who object to this shortening of the word "Christmas."

One objection to shortening Christmas to Xmas is the pitfall of pronunciation. With the use of the brief form has grown a tendency to read it "Exmas," an unpardonable barbarism. So pronounced, the word is quite open to the criticisms of it which clergymen and others have expressed.

X, however, as an abbreviation of Christ, has a history as old almost as Christianity. In catacomb inscriptions it stands for Christus, the first letter being chi. The letter X, the English equivalent of chi, meaning Christ, has the sanction of ancient usage unquestionably.

Dictionaries and encyclopedias include Xmas among the abbreviations of recognized standing, also Xn for Christian. They do not stigmatize it as colloquial or vulgar. Still there is a feeling for words that impels most persons with a verbal conscience to spell Christmas in full. To many Christmas is a beautiful word, while Xmas is not.

On the score of good taste the appeal for the disuse of Xmas is persuasive. However circumstances can alter cases. Certainly not even the ministry object to use of the contracted form in the newspaper headlines, where space is as precious as it was on the tablets of the catacombs.

Xmas is a respectful term to those who look upon the X as symbolical of the Christian cross, and it is unlikely any would object to its use if this symbolism were universally recognized.

GROWTH OF CHRISTIANITY
 Religious controversies precipitate

vague reports that the church going population was in rapid decline. That the contrary is true is not known better than by the millions of church members in the United States.

An Eastern clergyman discloses that at the time of the American Revolution there was only one professed Christian in Princeton University and two in Harvard University. Today nine-tenths of the university and college students of both sexes are members of some Christian church.

Diminishing church rolls are almost unknown in the United States, while millions of dollars are expended annually for new church edifices in the cities, towns and rural sections of the country. Every denomination is annually reporting increased national memberships.

Evidence of the stability of the church in America may be found in the general financial status. There has been a decisive increase in the salary standards of the ministry. Church buildings are better maintained and more luxuriously furnished. A few years ago only the most exclusive city churches could afford paid choristers, pipe organs and skilled organists. Today these are not uncommon in the smaller towns and are customary in the smaller cities.

Whatever the present ecclesiastical debate may have done for good or evil, manifestly has not detracted from church attendance.

FRUIT CAKE

Petunia's makin' fruit cake! Don't dare to get under her feet now, for her mind is on candied citron peel and spice and how many cups of flour and just the right proportion of brown sugar.

Fruit cake has the delightful quality that the older it is, the better it tastes. They bake it with a paper wrapper on—womenfolk are laughing at this description, but never mind—and the whole house smells of fruit cake all the evening.

Just the top of a fruit cake, with its little hills that hide nuts in them and little upsticking bits of cherry or raisin, its mysterious valleys that are full of sweet congealment, its browned crustiness—oh, gee, Ma, can't we have just one piece spicce tonight, and make the rest do for

Christmas. Ma is firm. She has had those sumptuary supplications before, and she knows how to be firm when firmness is required. The fruit cake is the first thing she prepares for the Christmas dinner, just as it is the last thing to be consumed.

And the best part of it is, that usually when you come to the fruit cake part of the main Yuletide meal, you're so full that there's no room for as much fruit cake as you'd like to eat, and so there's always enough of that, at least, to bring the New Year's dinner to a fitting and fine conclusion.

In The Melting Pot

Casus belli:—A rather small world containing numerous very large appetites.

If he has begun to think he looks distinguished, he is a little past 40. The hardest job a kid faces is that of learning good manners without seeing any.

Still, an intellectual doubtless enjoys life when nobody is about to watch him sneer. Virtue is relative. Most of the people who boast of their self-control haven't much to control.

Still, the man who knows it all wouldn't be objectionable if he'd keep it to himself.

Which are smarter, girls or boys? Well, which are more successful at dodging work through life?

Man's three ages:— Hates work; works cheerfully as a matter of duty; wishes he could work.

NOT FORGOTTEN

Jarvis and neighborhood have come to the front. Yes, they have performed their duty nobly, thanks to the wisdom and foresight of that body of tireless workers, better known as the Women's Institute. On that memorable day of October 30th 1927, Jarvis turned over a new leaf that now goes down in the annals of posterity—an epoch in world history—for on that day her noble and patriotic citizens unveiled to the world their love and remembrance for our glorious dead. In the heart of Jarvis there now stands—like a beacon light on memory's page—the citizen's humble tribute that will recede through the space of time as a symbol of our love and homage to those gallant boys who gave their lives as a ransom for our happiness and liberty from the clutches of oppression and slavery. As history repeats, we must go back to the original time in 1914, when a certain gentleman, then known as the Kaiser, Emperor of Germany

and King of Prussia, was suddenly seized with malaria dreams of a world conquest. He decided to make himself a second "Caesar of Rome" by cloaking in the powers of a despot. He called millions to his colors and in a short time had a following worthy of an Ethiopian Satrap. At Potsdam, Germany, previous to the outbreak of hostilities, the Kaiser, in an address to a large section of his army, referred to Great Britain as merely a "speck on the horizon" like a defunct in the ocean and could be submerged or conquered with one mighty blow. Such words drove his troops to the highest zenith of enthusiasm. At last when all was thought ready to strike, this potent sign fool—ironically speaking—gave the Lion's tail a twist and the greatest upheaval in the history of the world had begun—even ever perpetrated in the holy days of the prehistoric ages. The Lion roared louder than he ever did before, and the echo of his clarion call resounded to every nook and corner of the compass. Everywhere the world over, the King's subjects, true to the nomadic nature of the British Crown, laid down their peaceful tools of toil and took up the gauntlet. From pal-


(Continued on Page 5)

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Mouson Toiletries are the result of more than a century of experience in making superior toilet goods. They are priced quite reasonably. Make a trial purchase to-day.

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 The Jarvis Record



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W. M. HODGE
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Westinghouse
 BATTERYLESS AND BATTERY
RADIO and RADICLAS

West Indies Cruise of Recaptured Adventure



THE "MONTROYAL"
 Four hundred years of strife with piracy and rioting are encompassed in the history of the islands of the Spanish Main. For all these bright islands are monuments of the days of conquest of explorers and pirates. The West Indies mirror the world in miniature or the way of the world, and one sees them today lying peaceful under tropical skies.

A modern voyage of re-discovery is no longer a matter of years or even months as is emphasized by the schedule of the proposed cruises to this region of romance by the Canadian Pacific liner Montroyal which sails from New York on January 28 and February 29, each returning in 29 days.

Judging by the popularity of these cruises, the West Indies are still as tempting as they were to Columbus, Ponce de Leon, Drake, Cortes, Hawkins and a hundred others. Although there remain today no pirates, no rich galleons to sack, few buried treasures to seek, there still remains the bracing air on silver seas, the beauties of coral islands, and of tropical life and many evidences of a historic past. Even in the matter of buried treasure everyone would like to surprise the world as did Lieut. George Williams who found amid some old ruins of Panama last year, by means of a violet ray detecting instrument, a treasure worth \$50,000. This mass of gold and jewels was unearthed on the site of San Jese Church which was destroyed in 1671 by pirates under Sir Henry Morgan.

Every spot on the west Indies cruises offers living testimony of a connection with the Old World. There is Cub, the beautiful Island

CAPT. H. SIBBONS, R.N.R.
 once the pride of Spain; Jamaica, headquarters in the old days of famous pirates; Panama, the former highway of Spanish treasure trains and now a name of the world's greatest canal; Colombia, stronghold of Hispaniola; Curacao, a little bit of Holland in the Caribbean; Porto Rico, where Columbus landed and whence Ponce de Leon set forth to find the Fountain of Youth; Nassau, in the Bahamas, with its coral formations and sea gardens and Bermuda, the "Isle of the Blist". Such names as these recall exciting days of the past and furnish highlights in a voyage of recaptured adventure.



Santa Claus invites the children to meet him in Hamilton

The Christmas Tables of Hamilton

All year round the Hamilton market is supplied with the richest of the land in garden stuff, in dairy produce and the delicacies from your farms.

Before the morning breaks you come to supply our needs—week in, week out, rain or shine.

—Especially this Christmas and New Year Season—do we appreciate your efforts.

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