

# THE ROYAL CHRISTMAS

### Baby Gurglings, Plain Fare, and Good Cheer at Sandringham—A Treat for Little Princess Elizabeth—How the Queen Buys Her Christmas Presents—A Real Empire Xmas Pudding

Hectic hotel attractions and the decline of some jollifications have tended to change the character of our old English Christmas festivities. But among those who prefer the old way are the King and Queen. Their Christmas is old-fashioned; but in the standards of the ultra-modern; but in few homes is it celebrated in a truer spirit of jollity, goodwill and light-hearted gaiety.

When the King was a little boy one of the great events of the year for him was the visit to Sandringham for the Yuletide festivities. That is many years ago, but never once has he missed a Christmas among the beloved folk of Norfolk in the converted manor which was a favorite residence of his father.

Christmas for the Royal Family, as for so many other families in the land, means a reunion; it means a family gathering, and the celebration of the day with just such fun as makes the homes of old England aglow with the radiance of hearts intent on goodwill and kindness.

The first event of the day is the simple service which the Royal Family attends in the Parish church which stands in the beautiful grounds of Sandringham House.

A stranger dropping in might easily imagine that the little group in the chancel pews consisted of the Squire and his family, so inconspicuous is the setting. And it is as a Squire that the Sandringham folks regard the King.

Nearly always, after this simple service, the Royal party walk back to the House. The Christmas dinner is held in the dining room, a fine paneled room with a vast open fireplace in which burns a truly Yuletide fire of scented logs. Dinner is served in the evening, but before that there are many things to be done.

The Queen has been preparing for this festival for weeks. Driving in her car to Wolferton and King's Lynn, it is no uncommon thing for Her Majesty to pull up before some quite humble little shop, and leave it later with many parcels.

It is an unwritten rule that nobody must be forgotten. It is also a characteristic of the Queen that every present must be one that just suits the requirements of the recipient. And one last point—it must be of British manufacture, a rule from which the Queen never departs.

A story showing how well the Queen, herself a mother, understands shopping for the youngsters, is told by a certain maker of children's toys.

**The Royal Children.**  
The Queen was being shown dolls' houses. She admired their clever and pretty workmanship, and then said: "A doll's house should always be made to open," an opinion that most little girls will share with her.

Naturally, then, the children at Sandringham are not forgotten. After the church service, the youngsters in their red cloaks and jerseys troop up to the great redbrick mansion with the pointed gables, to receive from the Queen the carefully chosen gifts.

It is the same with the members of the Royal Household—each one receives a gift, and each gift is just right. Outside the Royal Family itself, guests are few at Sandringham for Christmas.

During that period when there were no young children in the Royal Family, the festivities lacked the final touch. But now there are children again.

Last year Princess Mary spent her Christmas at Goldborough Hall, and she will probably do so again this year. But the Duke and Duchess of York will leave their fine town mansion in Piccadilly and go north by the Royal Train to join their parents.

Little Princess Elizabeth's first treat will come in the afternoon, when the Christmas tree is unloaded of the presents that weigh it down. This feat is the homely party takes place in the bright, spacious saloon. Afterward, the Queen usually retires to the drawing-room, the windows of which overlook the terrace.

With Christmas dinner comes the turning of the "grown-ups," and it is

## Sunday School Lesson

January 1. John the Baptist and Jesus, Mark 1: 1-13. Golden Text: "We must increase, but He must decrease."—John 3: 30.

**ANALYSIS.**  
I. SIGNS OF THE TIMES: JOHN THE BAPTIST PROCLAIMS THE COMING OF THE MESSIAH, 1-13.

II. HOW JESUS WAS REVEALED TO HIMSELF, 9-11.

**INTRODUCTION.**—None of our evangelists has been able to tell the story of Jesus without a preliminary reference to the mission and work of John the Baptist. The reasons of this are obvious: 1. The work of John formed the historical preparation for the work of Jesus; 2. John's preaching was, under God, the means by which Jesus discovered his own vocation. He came to John for baptism, bending his head, so to speak, to the authority of John's message, and at that moment God's higher summons to himself took place.

John the Baptist is one of the most extraordinary figures in the history of Israel. Prophecy asleep for centuries, seemed to have found a new voice in his thrilling and impassioned message, and our Lord, as we know, ranked him above all the prophets. Matt. 11: 7-14. Like the prophet Elijah, he came from the desert, and frowned on the soft and corrupt life of cities. Like Elijah, he summoned the people to decide for God, and to be done with evil. Even his dress and manner recalled the ancient prophet. But his announcement of the immediate coming of the Messiah was new. It had been supernaturally revealed to John that the Day of Judgment, the Day of the Lord, was at hand, and he came forward summoning men to repent.

**I. SIGNS OF THE TIMES: JOHN THE BAPTIST PROCLAIMS THE COMING OF THE MESSIAH, 1-13.**

V. 1. The words are equivalent to "Here begins the joyful news concerning Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God." Note that Mark, which is our earliest Gospel, does not speak of Jesus' birth, but confines itself to his public work which began with his baptism by John.

Vs. 2, 3. The Christian church sees in the mission of John the fulfillment of ancient prophecies. Two such prophecies are here quoted. The first is from Malachi 3: 1, and refers to the expectation of Elijah's return, Malachi 4: 5. As the reader will notice, the language has been slightly changed. Instead of "before me" (Malachi) we have "before thee" (a reference to Christ), because John prepares the way for Christ. John is a herald-who announces the king's coming, and urges preparation for it. The second quotation is from Isaiah 40: 3. This prophecy was originally uttered at the time of Israel's release from Babylon.

The prophet hears a voice commanding that a road be built across the desert, by which Israel may return to Zion. This is now regarded as a prediction of John's preaching of repentance. The early Christians were much interested in such Old Testament forecastings of Christian history, and called them "testimonies."

V. 4. John instituted the ceremonial rite of baptism as a sacrament of cleansing from past sins. He was dealing with many who by their evil lives had put themselves beyond the pale of the ordinary legal purification. The second half of the verse means: "He preached a baptism indicating repentance, and pointing forward to the remission of sins."

V. 5. The national character of John's mission is now stressed. His report spread throughout the whole land.

V. 6. John's ascetic dress and diet are emphasized because they recalled Elijah (2 Kings 1: 8), and because they added to the impressiveness of his appeal.

V. 7. John proclaimed the coming of a mightier One, namely, the Messiah of current expectation. John did not yet know that Jesus would be the Messiah. The words about the Messiah's "shoes" mean that John counted himself less than a slave in comparison with the Messiah. It was a slave's duty to unlodge and carry his master's shoes.

V. 8. It was believed that the Spirit would be bestowed in the last or Messianic days, Joel 2: 28-29. So John announces that the Coming One will "baptize" not like himself, with water, but with the Spirit.

**II. HOW JESUS WAS REVEALED TO HIMSELF, 9-11.**

V. 9. Note the simplicity with which Jesus' coming to John is announced. Nothing is said as to his personality, character, or appearance. Nor is any

## GOOD HOLIDAY RECIPES

**Prepare a duck for broiling.** Cut it into several pieces and place in a broiling pan.  
Boil a strong chicken broth boiling hot mix two cups of chopped celery, two bay leaves, salt and pepper to season. Pour this over the duck and cook one and one-half hours, turning the pieces of duck when one side is done. Then add two tablespoons of butter. Stir until it boils, then add two tablespoons of tomato catsup, one-half cup of cooked mushrooms, one-half teaspoon of salt and pepper and four tablespoons of sherry. Pour the sauce over the pieces of duck arranged on a hot platter. Garnish the platter with squares of toast, each square garnished with a cube currant or guava jelly.

**Broiled Duck Liver.**  
Marinate duck livers in a French dressing and allow them to rest in it for fifteen minutes, then broil. Serve with melted butter sauce.

**Cranberry Jelly With Celery.**  
To one quart of washed cranberries add two cups of sugar and one cup of boiling water. Bring to the boiling point and boil for twenty minutes. Strain through a sieve. When the mixture begins to congeal add one and one-half cups of celery, cut into thin slices crosswise. Turn into a mold and chill. When serving, turn out the mold and garnish with crisp celery curls.

**Pumpkin Pie With Honey.**  
One and one-half cups of steamed and strained pumpkin, one cup of honey, one teaspoon of cinnamon, one-half teaspoon of ginger, one-half teaspoon of salt, two eggs, one cup of milk and one-half cup of sweet cream. Mix the ingredients in the order given and bake in one crust. Garnish each piece of pie with a little whiff of whipped cream with a drop of honey in the center.

**Sauce for Plum Pudding.**  
Beat one tablespoon of butter with one cup of powdered sugar, add two well beaten eggs, and a little by little one wineglassful of sherry and a

little molasses. Set the bowl into the top of a tin kettle of boiling water and heat for a minute or two; serve at once.

**Squash and Nut Pie.**  
One cup of cooked squash or pumpkin, one-half cup of sugar, one teaspoon of cinnamon, one teaspoon of ginger, one-half teaspoon of salt, two eggs, well beaten, and one cup of sweet milk. Mix in the order given. Bake until firm in a pan lined with flaky pastry. When cold cover with a thin layer of whipped cream flavored with vanilla. Sprinkle finely chopped nuts over the top.

**Maple Sugar Pie.**  
Cook together two cups water and one cup maple sugar for five minutes, add one teaspoonful of butter and boil until syrupy. Mix two tablespoons of flour with a little water and form into a smooth paste. Add one-fourth teaspoon salt and two beaten eggs. Stir egg mixture into syrup, cook until it thickens and bake in one crust. Just before serving heap whipped cream on each portion.

**Pepper Soup.**  
Wash and remove seeds from green peppers. Cook in boiling water until tender. Drain, season with salt and pepper and put through a sieve. To the pepper add two cups of the water in which they were cooked. Blend together four tablespoons butter and three tablespoons of flour and add three cups of sweet milk. Stir this into the pepper mixture, cook until smooth and serve.

**Jolly Boy Doughnuts.**  
Mix together three cups rye meal, one cup of wheat flour and one-half cup white corn meal. Add one-half teaspoon salt, one-fourth teaspoon cinnamon, two tablespoons sugar, two teaspoons baking powder, one tablespoon New Orleans molasses, one beaten egg and sweet milk to make a thick batter. Drop by spoonful in hot fat and cook until brown. Roll in powdered sugar and sprinkle lightly with pink or green confectioner's sugar.



**A SMARTLY SIMPLE FROCK**  
This smartly simple frock will be found suitable for all daytime wear. The bodice opens at the centre-front, and is joined to the skirt, having two plaits at each side of the front. There is a belt across the one-piece back, and buttons adorn the front and pointed cuffs on the long tight-fitting sleeves. No. 1605 is in sizes 34, 36, 38, 40 and 42 inches bust. Size 38 requires 3 1/4 yards 39-inch, or 2 1/2 yards 54-inch material. Price 20c the pattern.  
The secret of distinctive dress lies in good taste rather than a lavish expenditure of money. Every woman should want to make her own clothes, and the home dressmaker will find the designs illustrated in our new Fashion Book to be practical and simple, yet maintaining the spirit of the mode of the moment. Price of the book 10c the copy.

**HOW TO ORDER PATTERNS.**  
Write your name and address plainly, giving number and size of such patterns as you want. Enclose 20c in stamps or coin (coin preferred; wrap it carefully) for each number and address your order to Pattern Dept., Wilson Publishing Co., 73 West Adams.

"Is Mr. Smith at home?" inquired the stranger. "Which one, sir?" asked the maid. "There are two brothers living here." For a moment the caller seemed at a loss for an adequate description, then he had an idea. "The one who has a sister living at Folkestone," he explained.—Tit-Bits.

Betsy: "But, darling, before you married him you used to say there wasn't another man in the world like him." Betty: "I did, dear; and now I should hate to think there was."—Sydney Bulletin.

## England and Egypt Nearing Agreement

### Important Decisions Expected in Cairo From the Current Negotiations

Cairo.—The political situation in Egypt since the return from London of the Premier, Sarwat Pasha, has given rise to considerable speculation in regard to the future of the country. Official circles are observing the utmost reticence regarding the precise nature of the negotiations which took place in London and are being followed up here between the Premier and the British High Commission, but certain reports which have found their way into the press make it clear that developments of a far-reaching character are imminent.

That no definite agreement has been reached between the British and Egyptian authorities is certain, but it is evident that the broad lines of an agreement have been laid.

According to the Almokattam, a leading daily which is generally well informed, Sarwat, while in London, succeeded in allaying the fears of the British Government regarding public security in Egypt should British troops be withdrawn from the capital to the Suez Canal. He further obtained the British assent to modification of the capitulatory regime, provided other powers would agree, and succeeded in getting Great Britain to give up the idea of taking part in the protection of foreigners.

After the conclusion of an Anglo-Egyptian treaty whereby the status quo which preceded the murder of the Sirdar will be restored, Great Britain would support Egypt's candidature for the League of Nations and would not object to an increase in the Egyptian army so as to enable Egypt herself to defend the Suez Canal.

Madge—"If you think Jack wants to marry you for your money, why don't you test him? Marie—"Well, there's an objection to that. You see, I might find out that he does, and what I really want to find out is that he doesn't."



**HOW SHE WORKED IT**  
"I always get so many Christmas presents I don't know what to do with them."  
"That's not a problem you see yet I always use them for birthday presents throughout the coming year."

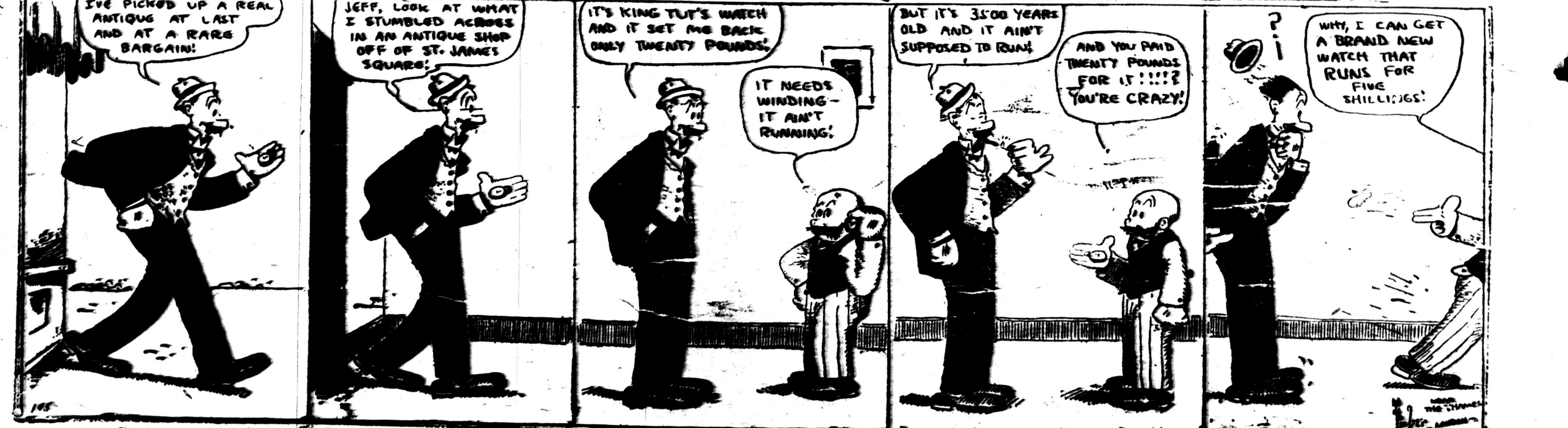
### For Shorter Speeches

A number of humanitarian Members of Parliament are forming a group the members of which are pledged not to speak in the House of Commons longer than fifteen minutes at a time.

Sir Samuel Chapman, organizer, declares it will get 200 adherents, and hopes the Speaker of the House will favor them instead of the long-winded orators.

John J. McGraw, manager of the New York Giants, says it will not be long before the professional baseball teams will be doing all their traveling by airplane. Should this ever be the case, however, the pitchers presumably will still be sent by train, as the boxman should never be allowed to go up in the air.

## MUTT AND JEFF—By Bud Fisher.



## Jeff Thinks Mutt Got Stung.

"I'VE PICKED UP A REAL ANTIQUE AT LAST AND AT A BARGAIN!"

"JEFF, LOOK AT WHAT I STUMBLED ACROSS IN AN ANTIQUE SHOP OFF OF ST. JAMES SQUARE!"

"IT'S KING TUT'S WATCH AND IT SET ME BACK ONLY TWENTY POUNDS!"

"BUT IT'S 3500 YEARS OLD AND IT AIN'T SUPPOSED TO RUN!"

"AND YOU PAID TWENTY POUNDS FOR IT!!!! YOU'RE CRAZY!"

"I'VE PICKED UP A REAL ANTIQUE AT LAST AND AT A BARGAIN!"

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"IT'S KING TUT'S WATCH AND IT SET ME BACK ONLY TWENTY POUNDS!"

"BUT IT'S 3500 YEARS OLD AND IT AIN'T SUPPOSED TO RUN!"

"AND YOU PAID TWENTY POUNDS FOR IT!!!! YOU'RE CRAZY!"

"WHY, I CAN GET A BRAND NEW WATCH THAT RUNS FOR FIVE SHILLINGS!"

**EFFICIENCY**  
**Why Many Men Badly Hurt**  
When you are that it impairs your work as well as your leisure hours is time you lose you do not, a almost sure to in nearly all which doctors general debility, blood that is weak your whole lose appetite, nerves trouble y less.  
What you need your blood and once to make you by taking Dr. You will soon in your health by increased vigor, the new blood hams' Pink Pills, organs of the bo and so the syste and strength. I of sorts begin of days by taking Pills.  
You can get druggist or by from The Dr. W. Brockville, Ont.  
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**Teeth of M Tr Stenden can, thousands, for manmoths, far can elephant, banks of the V orange free the Orange Free St the outcome of investigation fum sumed to have dous, recentl mound digger a the first time been found sh the Old World. The two feet as belonging to and, says Profes by to the know of man in this like no one ca eken ever before the moun**  
**British London Times fan, without c any further gu involved in the proposals, is no diplomatic acti erable effect European situat came acute. British prestige as it is today, which the pre carefully built taken great care form of extrav been no depart patient effort achievement.  
I reckon, get up card neighborhood fore three o Another famer par of his wo The first farm speaking the test him. A got up at two the neighbor's the back door wife opened it hand" asben to hear that k found Bern answered his v who is to  
All this at a slighter  
Enon see the day. To relieve hi Th "old world" You may be Keep Minr's**