

No. 21 - 1908

San German P. R.

Prepared for Quincea & Mayaguez

SERMON

BY

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Text, 1 Chron. 16 34 "O Give

Thanks unto the Lord"

Subject, Thanksgiving

1908-87
1908-80

- Thanks.

1 Chron. 16 ³⁴ "O give thanks
unto the Lord!"

Another year has gone.
We stand at the close of an-
other harvest. The last
sheaf has been tossed
into the snow. Every
day of the year has been
filled full. Some have
gathered and stored up
chaff, others - good grain.
We have forgotten most
of that which filled our
plots and busied our hands
during the year. Each
moment found us
doing something

There was only One among
our friends who that it
worth while to record ~~all~~
our every act. So that One
we come today to speak
our word of gratitude. "O
give thanks unto the Lord."

Probably nothing has
been exactly what we
planned. Many things
were better than we
hoped; some things crashed
at our feet, and others
still lie buried deep. These
we will cherish and work
to bring them to fruition
during the coming year.

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As we stand in review of
our lives we note that
there were times when clouds
and darkness gathered about
us but thanks be unto
Him the sunshine of His
face has always chased
our gloom; there were days
when it took courage to
face and do the right things,
when great opportunities
came our way for service
and we have tried our
best to be equal to the
occasion. And here
we are today. The year
is ended while our lives

flow on in their separate
channels growing ^{we trust,} deeper
and clearer and stronger
at each bend ~~and~~ of the
way.

Our country has passed
thru. a great political
strife leaving it bitter
for the wholesome airing
of the various machines.
There is certainly a deep
desire on the part of a
great majority if not
all to see the coming
^{day} when merit alone
shall stand paramount.
It has also had its share

of fires & floods & drought.
 Worst fires have been
 more furious than
 ever this year. Ints.
 upon mountains of
 fine timber and village
 after village of now homeless
 people have been swept
 before them and only ashes
 remain to tell the story.

A drought such as has
 not been since the 50's
 has cut short the crops
 of the middle States, while
 floods have been num-
 erous in many parts.
 Death has removed from

our immediate presence
many of the illustrious.
The most ^{in the list} of these is the
name of our only ex Pres. from
Cleveland - a brave man,
and a good President,
Dr. Nicholas Sen, the widest-
known surgeon of the U.S.
Morris K. Jessup, banker
and philanthropist, David
P. Barhydt probably the
last of those who held office
in the Rep. of Texas. Dr.
D. Sankey, the hymn writer
and composer and fellow-
laborer of D. L. Moody.
Joel Chandler Harris, the

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man who immortalized
"Uncle Remus" and "Bess
Rabbit." are no more.

Many others might be men-
tioned of church and state,
of political and social life
from students of science
and art, to all of whom
we are indebted. Let us
rejoice in the influence
of noble lives that never
die.

Our land has made great
advances during the
past years. It comes
as a surprise to some
of us to read of the pro-

Puerto Rico. In 1901 P.R. imported produce to the amount of \$8,917,136 or about \$300,000 more than the amount of exports for the same year.

~~But~~ In 1905 she imported \$25,826,645 and exported \$30,644,490. an excess of about \$5,000,000 above the imports.

P.R. produced \$5,000,000 more than she consumed whereas

in 1901 she consumed more than she produced.

Since 1901 the industries have advanced greatly,

Coffee fr. 1 mil. to 4 mil. \$

Sugar .. 4 mil. \$ to 18 mil. \$

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About \$16,000,000 worth of iron and steel have been placed along side of \$17,000,000 worth of wood & lumber for the strengthening of her industries. \$2,000,000 worth of agricultural implements are revolutionizing farming of the island. Men no longer can use the old crooked stick for a plow and expect to compete with steel and steam plows.

In 1901 there were few good well equip'd school bldgs. Now every town has its one, two or more bldgs, and few barrios are without

the school. In 1901 there were
few churches & fewer
members, now churches
tower & greet you in almost
every town and the country
has its chapels. Ignorance
is rapidly giving way
before knowledge. The
advance we note in
this island is equaled
only in our own western
country. In N.Y. they are
bldg. monuments, while
fr. ~~Alaska~~ Alaska to Texas
they are breaking the fallow
ground for the coming genera-
tions. "Forward" is the

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watchword of a united pro-
Remembering the great men of the past - they
are pushing on to greater things in the future
gressive people. Let us
give thanks unto the Lord
for all this.

No artist has as yet sketched
it all for us.

No one can find a more
diversified climate, a
more picturesque land-
scape than ours. No artist
has as yet sketched it all
for us, no eye searched
out one half its beauties. The
deep Colorado canyon and
the geysers of Yellowstone
Park; mts. of snow and
mts. of verdure, brooks and

and great rivers, pools of
water in the pasture and
the Art. Lakes separating
nations, beautifully green
carpeted and silver-streamed
valleys, nestled snugly
between the hills and
the sloping, treeless, un-
broken plains. Fir trees
and palms, the scrubby mes-
quite and the monarch red-
wood. Perpetual Spring
in Porto Rico and perpetual
winter in Alaska; or 4 distinct
seasons of the northern
States. Think of the showers of
Spring and the buds & flowers

(7)

and song of the birds; of
the gold of autumn with
snow and ice and the
happy shout of the school
children. - The dew, ^{of Spring} on blades
of grass and leaves of trees
dangling now in myriads
of icy prisms and swayed
back and forth in the bor-
rowed rays of sun by the
cold, ^{winter} wind. - Think of the
warm fire side with music
and books and happy hearts
that are spent in glee as
the evening hours go by, till
mother takes the little babe
and tucks it snugly in a warm

fraternal, then returns to
the family as they sit in the
red glow of the dying coals
of the hearth they repeat
a psalm then kneel in
prayer ~~after which~~ while
the winds struggling to get
thru the treetops moan
on and on thru the night. ~~This~~
~~is home~~ This is the crowning
beauty of the grandeur
of the world and of our own
native land. For this "O give
thanks unto the Lord."

Nature would lose its
charm, work its import-
ance, ~~lose its sacredness~~ and life itself its

meaning were there no
God to thank. Were there
no supreme hand to shape
the destiny of our nation, to
guide the hearts of the home,
to insure the perpetuity
of the good, to hold in
check the wrongs of the
wicked, to inspire the
efforts of the noble and
to instill motives of
higher and greater things in
mankind - the years
would be a burden on our
hands, work wd be a curse
and war the vocation of
all. The God who

stays the storms with a
"Peace, be still" and sets
the bounds of the sea
saying "Hitherto shalt thou
come, ~~but~~ ^{and} no further, ~~but~~
here shall thy proud waves
be stayed," the God whose
"eyes run to and fro
throughout the whole earth
to show himself strong
in behalf of those whose
heart is perfect toward
him", the God of Heaven
and earth is our God, both
yesterday, today and forever.

"O Give thanks unto the
Lord" for our life amidst:

such wonderful opportunities,
for our homes and our
health, for our nation
and all its wealth, and
for His added —
blessing, Himself.