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# THE BRITISH COLUMBIA MONTHLY

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## Christmas and After

Writing with Christmas and the New Year not far off, human beings are naturally disposed to reflect on the past and to anticipate the future.

While joining in the joyous goodwill with which Christmas is greeted, thoughtful folk find themselves asking how far they and their fellows really believe in the miracle of the Divine-human associated with that day. If even a fair proportion of the members and adherents of all the "Churches" of Christendom heart-wholly accepted the Incarnation as a fact, or in other words faced this life on earth with the conviction dominating them that the Eternal Creator of the Universe was peculiarly, and once and for all manifested in the God-man Christ-Jesus, how very different would human life be and become! . . . But light travels at the rate of 186,000 miles *per second*, and the nearest "fixed star" is "light years" distant from our Solar system; and, by the latest computation of human scientists, the starry universe is believed to extend, not only three thousand or thirty thousand, but *three hundred thousand light years!* . . . And men continue to ask or exclaim: "Who can by searching find out God?" . . . "O that I knew where I might find Him!" . . . And it is written: "No man hath seen God at any time: the only begotten Son . . . hath declared Him."

Readers, what think you?

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### NEW DAYS AND NEW YEARS

Reciprocity in well-wishing between human beings at Christmas and New Year time, as practised by written and spoken words and mementoes, fosters goodwill and strengthens friendly ties. In earlier periods we have used alliterative English in wishing friends "peace, progress and prosperity," and we do not know that we can improve on that phrase now—as we extend the Season's greetings to readers and friends of this Magazine in Vancouver, elsewhere in Canada, and also in other parts, including (1) the Central Homelands; (2) the United States; (3) New Zealand; (4) South Africa; and (5) Australia.

Increasing experience of life qualifies our ways of looking upon recurring seasons, and suggests to us that

as we live but a day at a time, we should let our resolutions and ambitions be influenced accordingly. "Man never is but always to be blest," and "Hope springs eternal in the human breast." It is well that it is so, for we have only to consider the world as we learn of it at the end of this year of grace 1926 to recognize that amid all the wonderful inventions and improvements of the age, there remains abundant room for improvement in the conditions of nations nominally Christian, in international relationships, in continents still "dark" and unsettled so far as the current standard of civilization is concerned, and in human society generally.

Optimism is the duty of every sane soul who believes that the Universe is governed by "a Power that makes for righteousness." But to be optimistic does not mean that men should wilfully ignore the facts of life and experience. With eight years passed since the Armistice of the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month of 1918, Europe is still far from settled, and conditions in these days give no guarantee that peace will long prevail. Of the making of more instruments for war by land and sea and air there seems to be no end. What wonder that others besides the interpreters of Prophecy question if an even greater war than the last may not be well nigh upon us?: that some men maintain that "the end of the Age" is

at hand; and that only the personal return of the Christ will bring in the long-looked-for era of lasting peace and goodwill on earth?

Whatever we say or do, let us not be among those who laugh at and pooh pooh the beliefs or convictions of others affecting subjects or events to the study of which we have given little time. Besides, is it not somewhere written: "As it was in the days of Noah, so shall it be". . . .

\* \* \*

### "SO LITTLE DONE, SO MUCH TO DO"

That line from Tennyson's "In Memoriam," which some folk associate solely with the Imperialist Cecil Rhodes, (who quoted them shortly before he passed on to the larger life) sums up a feeling common to many as they near another year-end. Perhaps indeed that is a state of mind inseparable from all human aspirations after mind- and heart- and soul-satisfying achievements. And if it inevitably suggests a measure of disappointment, it may no less have a hopeful and encouraging side. We should be glad that there is still "much to do," especially if we have health and strength and will to do it.

Let us therefore, while grateful for the opportunities of service given us in the past year, go forward with confidence, ready for more work and alert to learn this life's lessons. With all

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### "FIRST THINGS FIRST"

Sometimes lesser things become first things. To no reader of this Magazine would we wish *one dollar a year* to be of much moment, but collectively the single dollars of subscribers are of considerable importance from the publishers' point of view.

THIS IS CANADA, and we are confident no fair-minded Canadian will take offence if we state plainly that the dollar a year subscription cannot cover additional notices by mail.

Kindly therefore comply with this request to check your renewal date and remit NOW (\$ ).

Won't you list a friend?

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