

Christmas affords a breathing time in the ceaseless hurry and rush of life. This glad season is looked forward to with fondest anticipations by the young, and the old also welcome its approach, although perchance with more sober step and with hopes more subdued by the passing years. To the young, especially, it is a time of delight. They anxiously look forward to its approach, and consider old father Time all too tardy in ushering in the day when their eager hopes and anxious thoughts will be satisfied with the good things *Santa Claus* so liberally bestows. At length the long looked for morning arrives, and their longing eyes now beam with delight, and youthful hilarity and childish glee for the time hold full sway. Those more advanced in years with chastened memories recall the past, and their hearts are once more aglow with joy and gladness. It is well that such is the case. It is pleasant at intervals to rest along life's weary toilsome way. In the work, the care, the unresting hurry and the mad rush of life, *selfishness* is all too easily engendered, thoughts of peace and good-will are, if not altogether stifled, at least too often subordinated to baser motives and man forgets the brotherhood of man. But now a short release from care is at length obtained, the machinery of business moves more slowly, animosities, bitterness and party strifes are for the time being forgotten, and the bright halo of kindness, peace and friendship encompasses the earth.

Christmas favors the student too with a short respite from continuous study, close consecutive thought, and severe mental toil. Lectures now no longer demand his presence and attention, the familiar class-room is vacant, his books repose quietly on their shelves while *he* speeds away to home and friends, a welcome and honored guest.

Is it not true that all in this highly-favored land may on this day learn why the comforts, privileges and blessings which they enjoy are thus vouchsafed to them? Their thoughts go back to that auspicious morning when the Saviour of mankind was born in Bethlehem, and they hear resounding down the ages the celestial harmonies of the angel's song:—" *Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good-will towards men.*" Then the era of mercy and grace was ushered in, and because the great *Deliverer* appears, therefore earth's nations have been richly blessed. Wherever the full meaning of that glorious anthem has taken entire possession of any heart and life, there the mighty power is working, that elevates man to his true position and brings him into loving communion with his Lord and Master. We should never forget that the many and lasting benefits and blessings that Christianity confers are *ours*; and whilst in possession of them, ought not gratitude to temper our joy and thanksgiving accompany our festivity and mirth? Our grateful feelings should become *practical*, by allowing them to overflow in acts to the deserving poor and in relieving the wants of the needy and