

THE SONG OF THE SHEPHERDS

By Edwin Markham.

And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen.—Luke ii. 20.

It was near the first cock-crowing,
And Orion's wheel was going,
When an angel stood before us and our hearts were sore afraid.
Lo, his face was like the lightning,
When the walls of heaven are whitening,
And he brought us wondrous tidings of a joy that shall not fade.

Then a Splendor shone around us,
In the still field where he found us,
A watch upon the Shepherd Tower and waiting for the light;
There where David as a stripling,
Saw the ewes and lambs go rippling
Down the little hills and hollows at the falling of the night.

Oh, what tender, sudden faces
Filled the old familiar places,
The barley-fields where Ruth of old went gleanings with the birds!
Down the skies the host came swirling,
Like sea-waters white and whirling,
And our hearts were strangely shaken by the wonder of their words.

Haste, O people; all are bidden—
Haste from places high or hidden:
In Mary's Child the Kingdom comes, the heaven in beauty bends!
He has made all life complete;
He has made the Plain Way sweeter,
For the stall is his first shelter and the cattle his first friends.

He has come! the skies are telling;
He has quit the glorious dwelling;
And first the tidings came to us, the humble shepherd folk.
He has come to field and manger,
And no more is God a Stranger;
He comes as Common Man at home with cart and crooked yoke.

As the shade of a cool cedar
To a traveler in gray Kedar
Will be the kingdom of His love, the Kingdom without end,
Tongues and ages may disclaim Him,
Yet the Heaven of Heavens will name Him
Lord of peoples, Light of nations, elder Brother, tender Friend.

Welcome Home.

Canada—Western Ontario—London, welcomes back her brave Canadian soldier boys who return from service on the fields of South Africa. To those who thus happily return, safe and sound, a Christmas greeting, a hearty grip of the hand! For those whose soldier-boys return no more, there goes out the deeply-felt sympathy of all.

It is matter for proud congratulation that our Canadians have so acted on the tented field as to cover themselves with credit, their country with honor. They have shown the stuff of which Canadians are made. They have won the sincere encomiums of the most popular military captain of the age, Lord Roberts. They have helped to cement the different sections of the Empire into one enthusiastically loyal whole. They have made the name of Canadian, as never before, known and respected throughout the world.

The Liverpool Post, in its patriotic send-off, entitled "The Return of the Royal Canadians," voices the general feeling of the Empire.

God-speed, my bonnie lads and brave,
To your glad homes across the waves,
An Empire's plaudits in your ears—
The echoes of a million cheers!

We know the gallant work you've done,
The bloody battles you have won
Against a stealthy, stubborn foe,
Who plotted Britain's overthrow.

You're freemen from a great free land;
None better know or understand
The precious worth of equal laws,
And how to shield a noble cause.

God-speed you, then, with favoring gales
To bright Canadian hills and vales,
Where "See the conquering heroes come"
Will be your glorious welcome home!

The Day We Celebrate.

The Christmas custom is an old one. How often in our lives have we said "A Merry Christmas." It is a day on which to throw away every feeling of resentment. It is the time of universal brotherhood, when all become one family, when kindness rules. Unselfishness, and a desire for the happiness of others, is, beyond question, more in evidence at Christmas time than at any other in the year. Yet what exists at Christmas time should exist the year round, and happily does with some. There is no manifestation of our natures that produces so much happiness as usefulness. It is almost a universal possession, perhaps shown but little by many, but shown at times by everyone. People on the whole are better than they seem. When each one reflects that he never knew anyone in whom he did not see something to be liked this will be admitted, but it is often not realized, and Christmas time comes as a reminder to throw away all animosities, and harsh judgments, and to generously view the conduct of others.

Judge not; the workings of his brain
And of his heart thou canst not see;
What looks to thy dim eyes a stain,
In God's pure light may only be.
A scar, brought from some well-won field,
Where thou wouldst only faint and yield.
Christmas time, with its merry greetings and its happy gatherings of

all kinds, and best of all its happy home gatherings, when the home circle is as complete as it can be, and when memory fills each vacant place, is surely one of the times of the year fullest of true happiness. It is well to reflect, too, that our memories of those who once filled the vacant places are not sad memories. We remember the happy faces and the happy times we spent with them. Why they are not with us still is in many cases a mystery, and as we cannot have ourselves, we cherish the memory. As Moore says:
Let Fate do her worst, there are relics of joy,
Bright dreams of the past, which she cannot destroy;
Which come in the night-time of sorrow and care,
And bring back the features which joy used to wear.
Long, long be my heart with such memories filled,
Like the vase in which roses have once been distilled—
You may break, you may ruin the vase if you will,
But the scent of the roses will hang round it still.

Christmas brings its goodwill for the present, and its memories of the past, while its good effects project themselves into the future. In this year 1900, the last year of the century, we wish every reader "A Merry Christmas."

Our Convict Population.

The most important statement in the annual report of Hon. David Mills, Minister of Justice, on the penitentiaries of the Dominion, is that relating to the operation of the Act for the Conditional Liberation of Prisoners, which was passed at the session of 1899, and went into force on Nov. 24, the same year. The Minister points out that certain principles have been adhered to in issuing these tickets-of-leave. Unless under very exceptional circumstances, they are in all cases issued to first offenders only; they are not, as a rule, granted to prisoners who are serving their second term. In advising the issue of a ticket-of-leave, regard has also been had to the age of the convict, the nature of the crime, and such circumstances connected therewith as would enable the Minister to judge whether or not the case was one in which there existed a probability of release on the part of the convict. Information has also been obtained from the warden of the penitentiary or prison, and from other available sources as to the applicant's character and conduct. In short, the utmost care has been exercised to prevent the granting of these tickets-of-leave to those not found to be entitled to them on account of their antecedents or their conduct in prison, or both.

Though it is yet too soon to speak with anything approaching absolute certainty as to the eventual results, the Minister thinks the information in his possession warrants him in saying that so far their operation has been attended with very satisfactory results. Taking the results for the first year, it is found that 145 tickets-of-leave were issued, of which 115 were issued to penitentiary convicts, and 30 to persons confined in jails, and other public prisons. Of the total number, 145, four have been forfeited, as provided by the act, on account of the holder being convicted of an indictable offense, and one has been canceled for breach of its conditions, making a total of five licenses revoked, a proportion of 3.45 per

cent. This very small proportion of licenses forfeited and canceled shows at least that the very great majority of the recipients were not unworthy of the consideration shown them, and it warrants the Minister to hope that by administering the act with proper caution the results in the future will be such as to fully justify its enactment. The following is a complete statement of the penitentiary population on the dates named:

	July 1, 1899.	June 30, 1900.
Kingston Penitentiary	670	647
St. Vincent de Paul	417	463
Dorchester, N. S.	226	204
Montreal	112	106
British Columbia	80	104

Totals.....1,445 1,424
The following is a statement of the average penitentiary population in the years named:

1894-5	1,250
1895-6	1,214
1896-7	1,135
1897-8	1,145
1898-9	1,147
1899-0	1,430

It will be observed that up till last year there was a steady increase in the number of criminals confined. The small decrease chronicled for 1899-0 is undoubtedly due to the operation of the ticket-of-leave system, which is thus of benefit to the taxpayer as well as to the convict.

The majority of the convicts seem to get into trouble between the ages of 20 and 30, nearly one half of those in custody last year being between those ages when convicted. Last year 43 of the convicts were over 60 years of age; in 1897 only 22 were over that age. The large majority of the prisoners are undergoing sentences of from two to seven years. Fifteen are twenty year terms; one, twenty-two years; one, twenty-three years; four, twenty-five years; one, twenty-five and a quarter years; one, thirty years, and 62 are serving life sentences. Two prisoners are reported to have been insane when sent to the penitentiary. They should certainly not have been sent to the penitentiary if insane when convicted. There is not much chance for escaping from custody once a prisoner is in the penitentiary. Not one of the prisoners got away from any of the penitentiaries last year, though several made an attempt.

The races represented in the penitentiaries last year were:

White	1,306
Colored	75
Indian	22
Half-breed	9
Mongolian	12

Of the last-named, three were Japs and nine Chinese. In the total were 942 single persons, 445 married and 37 widowed; 153 stated they were abstainers, 742 temperate, and 619 intemperate. Of the 1,424, 250 could not read or write, and 86 could read only. The following statistics with regard to the religious creed of the convicts are given:

Roman Catholics	762
Church of England	239
Methodist	164
Presbyterian	115
Baptist	78
Lutheran	15
Jewish	3
Congregationalist	2
Other creeds	9
No creeds	27

The following is a brief statement of the net expenditure last year compared with that of 1895-'96:

	1895-'96.	1899-'00.
Kingston	\$126,887 48	\$115,569 48
St. Vincent de Paul	95,856 61	97,783 91
Dorchester	42,635 48	61,714 22
Montreal	43,828 33	44,341 78
British Columbia	36,122 38	38,762 00

Average daily population.....1,314 1,430
The cost per head last year was \$248 59.

The cost per head per day 68 cents. The Inspector reports that the improvement in the management of the Kingston Penitentiary has been quite marked, especially in the business and industrial departments.

Western Ontario.

Mrs. Kibayah, a widow, and the eldest woman on the Sarnia reserve, died Friday morning at the residence of Philip George, aged 91 years. Mrs. Kibayah's husband built the first frame house on the reserve.

It is understood that the congregation of the Anglican Church at Amherstburg has extended a unanimous call to Rev. J. F. Parke, rector of St. Paul's, Clinton, and that the bishop approves the call. Mr. Parke has the matter under consideration.

Wallaceburg Herald: The prospects of securing a beet sugar factory for Wallaceburg grows brighter as the days go by. The question of acreage is practically settled, and there is no longer a doubt that the 4,000 necessary can be secured. The capital is being negotiated by Mayor Gordon, and \$300,000 has already been secured.

At the meeting of Sarnia Presbytery, Mr. Graham, of Petrolia, was appointed moderator for the next six months. At the last meeting of the Presbytery, held in Stratford, it was decided that the moderator hereafter wear a gown and Rev. Dr. Thompson, of St. Andrew's, presented a very



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A Very Merry Christmas

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208, 210, 210½ and 212 DUNDAS STREET, LONDON.

THEY FEAR THE SECOND INQUIRY.

West Pointers Expect Exoneration by the First, but Tremble Over the One to Follow.

West Point, Dec. 24.—Neither the cadets nor the officials of the West Point Academy fear the war department inquiry now in progress, but they don't hesitate to express apprehension of the congressional committee inquiry, which will be held after the holidays. The Booz case is most unfortunate, because a popular verdict was almost rendered before the cadets' side was heard.

As a matter of fact, the hazing at West Point is not in the same class with that at Harvard, Yale, or any of the big universities. The major part of so-called hazing, it is claimed, is merely moral or physical discipline, administered by the cadets to lower class men. The moral discipline is to inculcate into the cadets the code of honor, that is, to teach the strict conduct of a gentleman and an officer. The physical is to compel new members to discard the slovenly gait and carriage of the civilian, and adopt the straight-backed, full-chested military bearing of a soldier. It is a fact that many immature lads break down under the strict discipline and severe drilling and study. When dropped or forced to resign, they not infrequently find in hazing a convenient and unembarrassing pretext for returning to civil life.

The board will probably say that Booz was driven to resign because of deficiency in studies, and possibly because officials thought him lacking courage and character.

Breth will probably be placed in the same class. They will find that both men were hazed, but that every other cadet was similarly treated and received no injuries. As an outcome of the inquiry a shake-up of the officials of the academy is not improbable. The story of the fight between Kellar and Booz, in Fort Putnam, on the 6th of August, 1898, was told by Kellar himself, as well as by some of the seconds and the sentinels who were posted to watch out for officers who might interfere and punish the party. They all agreed that Booz was not badly punished, and that he practically told down. One of the men advised Booz to hide himself in his tent and not come out again until he decided to fight squarely. Several witnesses testified to the lack of mental vitality possessed by Booz.

Cadet W. R. Bettison, of Kentucky, who spoke to Booz when the latter was doing sentry duty, corrected him for not covering his post properly. In reply to Gen. Crooke, Bettison acknowledged that it was a violation of the regulations to talk to a man on guard, and also that the fight between Booz and Kellar was the outcome of that interference. Gen. Crooke, speaking very angrily, told Bettison that he had no right to place Booz in that position.

Cadet Fred L. Deer, of Texas, who, when a "plebe" in the academy, fought an upper class man, and was only beaten after fighting 66 rounds, was one of the last witnesses.

100,000 PASTORS JOIN CRUSADE.

Opening of New Century To Be Marked by a Great Evangelical Movement in the United States Entirely Undenominational.

New York, Dec. 24.—One hundred thousand ministers within the next ten days will start on the greatest crusade for Christianity in the world's history. At a secret committee meeting held in this city, details of the plan, over which prominent clergymen and laymen have been studying for months, were perfected.

This monster revival, to usher in the twentieth century, was the thought of the late Dwight L. Moody. After his death, friends took it up and enlisted in its support the most prominent Christian workers in the country. It is to be national in scope, with New York as the center, with the towns and hamlets in valleys and on mountain tops as outposts.

ENTIRELY UNDENOMINATIONAL.

It is to be entirely undenominational in character. "Christ and the Bible" is the only battle cry. Practically every branch of the Protestant Church, and all the great religious societies identified with it, are united in the crusade. It will be a gigantic and carefully organized effort by ministers and laymen of all Protestant creeds working together with denominational lines obliterated and differences buried.

To Dwight L. Moody, the great evangelist, lying at rest at Northfield, Mass., belongs the honor of conceiving the movement. It was his hope to celebrate the incoming century with a mighty crusade for God in this country with denominational barriers swept away, and all Christian churches working shoulder to shoulder. When death came Mr. Moody was at work upon plans for this movement, which would have been the crowning achievement of his noble career. Friends of the dead evangelist took up the work as it fell from his dead hands, and bent their energies to it with a will.

SECRET MEETINGS HELD IN NEW YORK.

For several weeks these leaders of the mighty movement have been holding secret conferences in this city at the office of William Phillips Hall, No. 44 Broad street, perfecting the plans which herald a new era in religious effort. These leaders, banded together as a national central committee, are now opening their well-matured campaign, backed by pledges of support from the most eminent ministers and laymen of every Protestant denomination.

The make-up of this committee eloquently emphasizes the brushing away of denominational lines and the supreme Christian unity that underlies the movement.

TESTED BY TIME.—In his justly celebrated Pills Dr. Farnese has given to the world one of the most unique medicines offered to the public in late years. Prepared to meet the want for a pill which could be taken without nausea, and that would purge without pain, it has met all requirements in that direction, and it is in general use not only because of these two qualities, but because it is known to possess alterative and curative powers which place it in the front rank of medicines.

Finding Them Out.

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THE WAYS OF MEN.
The pessimistic boarder frowned.
Because his piece of pie was small;
The optimistic boarder smiled.
To think they'd any pie at all.