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"Hark! are the Waits abroad?"

The great festival of the Christian Church is close upon us, and the cheery salutation: "A Merry Christmas to you" is being passed around the world. Across the seas, outward and homeward-bound ships are bearing loving messages to dear ones in distant lands, and in every country under the sun there will reign, if only for one brief day, a spirit of gladness, thankfulness, and charity. Cheerfulness will chase away the memories of great national sorrow throughout the British Empire, and the laughter of children, the greetings of friends, and the pealing of bells will soon enliven the dying century, and usher in the dawn of its last Christmas Day.

That the needy and the suffering will not be for-

gotten during the festive season goes without saying in the good city of Montreal. Yet, it may be well to remember Charles Dickens' advice to the missionary—to clothe and feed the ragged and hungry before telling them of Him whose thoughts were so much with the poor, and who had compassion for all human sorrow. Let us then assist those who labour among the needy to soothe the suffering, and to alleviate the evils of poverty, and thereby add to our own enjoyment of a day of great rejoicing.

To our readers, at home and abroad, we tender the compliments of the season—

"A Merry Christmas  
and a Happy New Year."