

## TRINITY. OUR CHRISTMAS NUMBER.

BY REV. CANON LOCKYER.

To-morrow, December 25th, is the day appointed by the Church to be observed as:

"The Nativity of our Lord, or the Birthday of Christ, commonly called Christmas Day."

"Yea, Lord, we greet Thee Born this happy morning. Come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord."

Christmas Day is the happiest festival of the Church Year, and as such demands our spiritual expressions of special joy and thankfulness, for all that the birth of the Christ-child—the Incarnation of the Son of God—means to us in this world and the next. These expressions, though not exclusively so, are most fully and best fittingly shown in the service of Holy Church, and especially in the Eucharist and there, on the holy, happy Christmas Day, as at other times during the season, will the songs be wended and the hearts be prepared of those to whom Christ has all that God and His Church would have it be; and all that any of us could wish that we had made it when through the grave and gate of death, we are about to pass into the more immediate presence of the Saviour, in the Paradise of God.

To God's Church, on Christmas Day we should bring all our home and social enjoyments that we have planned for the Season, and there lay them before God, that they may be accepted by His acceptance, and thus made doubly capable of our highest enjoyment, because they bear the stamp of God's approval. We need to realize the truth, that: "religion never was intended to make our pleasures less," whilst at the same time we need to realize none the less, that, religion is always intended to make those pleasures consistent with the object of their expression, as well as with the object of our profession as Christians, and hence the more enjoyable.

As creatures endowed with the spiritual prerogative of freedom of will, we may in this path of life, do largely as we please, irrespective of God's wishes for us. Whilst to those who live but little or no regard for either God or His wishes—eating or drinking in excess, or any other form of life, may constitute a sufficiently well kept Christmas; a moment of serious reflection will expose the awful inconsistency of such conduct, when engaged in at any time; but especially when it is offered as a fitting celebration of the annual reminder of the sinless Son of God having come down into this poor life of ours, to enter that by His life and death, He might save us from sin, and win for us eternal life. Eternal life! Life everlasting! "The Gift of God—eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." This is the Gift for which we are bidden to thank God on Christmas Day—at Christmas time.

When we even but faintly realize that the Incarnation of the Son of God at Christmas means to us, we cannot well restrain our expressions of joy and happiness: (1) In God's Church. (2) In our homes. (3) In our social life. And when it is expressed in this order, with the last we understand the guidance and restraint of the first—surely the Son of God, who is also the Son of Man, looks down with the smile of His approval, on our whole-hearted expressions of innocent enjoyment, and we are all the better in soul and body, because of the coming of another Christmas.

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### TRINITY SKELETON STORY.

An incident, the details of which have been changed much again to comedy, took place in Trinity a few years ago, and was revived about a month ago. Some small boys, in an unofficial investigation of an old store, came face to face with a human skeleton, at full length on the upper floor. They got such a fright that they left in double quick time, without waiting for an introduction. The proper civil authorities were advised of the facts, and of more than the investigation, the circumstances looked decidedly serious, as if murder or suicide!

The local medical authority was called in to decide the question. He, however, had seen several persons who as this as the specimen under suspicion; and what to others was a skeleton, and took them back in thought to the desperate days of Trinity a hundred and fifty years ago, was to him first class comedy, and took him back in thought to the student days. The following explanation was offered, and found to be the true one. A medical student came from Montreal to Trinity the summer before, for vacation, and he had brought with him a skeleton for the purposes of illustration in anatomy. With a medical student's familiarity with such things, the bones had been laid out by him to dry, on the upper floor of the old store, and forgotten.

These explanations were satisfactory to all concerned, and the tragedy shifted to comedy. Official instructions were given for immediate interment, and the student promised compliance. With a medical student's calm indifference to such things, however, the interment was forgotten, and as no small boy nor big boy ever went near the place again for two years, it was overlooked, and the bones were undisturbed in either order or locality.

About a month ago the store was being taken down, and the realization of the presence of the aforesaid gentleman, revived the interest that had been taken in him years before; and it resulted in a private interment. It would still be interesting to know who the person was, that in life owned the bones; but as probably this is impossible to ascertain, we dismiss the subject with the reminder, that it is none of our business, anyway.

### CHRISTMAS GIVING AND THE "SPUGS."

The giving and exchanging of simple gifts, bearing a sacred sentiment, by Christians at Christmas, to remind each other of God's gift of His Son at this holy season, has been permitted gradually to wander so far from its original spiritual meaning and intention, that many people now dread the coming of Christmas. They do so, because, in order to prevent being misunderstood, they are supposed to make presents, often beyond their means, and they are disappointed when they do not receive gifts in return, to the same value.

A reaction has set in, and it becomes the duty of every one who is anxious to restore to Christmas its deep spiritual significance, to set their faces against useless expenditure in this connection; and in the substitution of simpler gifts, to make them, as of old, reminders of God's greatest gift to the world—His own Son at Christmas.

A Society was formed years ago with this in view. It was known as the SPUG Society, i.e., Society to prevent useless giving. It may have emanated from people with a negative rather than a positive disposition; that people are beginning to realize that there is something wrong in this connection; and there is. If you wish to help to change it—join the SPUGS.

### CHRISTMAS MUMMERING IN TRINITY 40 YEARS AGO.

Christmas of forty-one years ago was to be my last Christmas in Trinity for many years to come. Those of us who had been enjoying to the full, the mummering of preceding years, decided to mark this one by introducing a new, and a more realistic feature. An Italian hurdy-gurdy man had been through the district the summer before; so we decided to reproduce him and his outfit as true to life as we could. Sam Maidment sent up a small packing case from "the shop." Heber Maidment contributed ten dozen brass tacks. Nat Morris supplied the green baize, and Jim Hunt was the cabinet maker, under my instructions.

The box was neatly shaped and covered with green baize and brass tacks. The cover was hinged, and a low seat was fastened to one end inside for the "works" to rest on. I took the handle from my father's grindstone, and it was run through the box from side to side, with the "wink" projecting. Scientific arrangements were made for the carrying of the box from house to house; and it was all ready for the "musical works." This we had arranged for in the person of a boy who embodied the two necessary qualifications: (1) small in person; (2) big in knowledge of concerning playing. (He and I are the only two of the group living today, and no doubt he will recall the circumstances.) In due time we all met at my grandfather's old house, where the organ had been built, and we sallied forth, happier than either words or pen can describe.

A transferrable head-dress, etc., had been prepared for the "handicapped," as his turn came to "grind" under the music. The "musical works" was on hand, and off we went. The first house at which we sought admission was William Hart's. We halted on the upper step; the cover was lifted; the "works" stepped in and took his seat, and we were admitted to the big kitchen. The dancers took their places on the floor; the "Italian" took his place in the corner, with his hurdy-gurdy on the table. All being ready, he turned the "wink," and the boy with the grindstone did the rest, and did it well. The "Italian" interspersed the selections with appropriate remarks in his native tongue, and in the absence of a monkey, did his best to do the "tricks" himself.

### SIR JOHN FRANKLIN AND TRINITY.

I have just read "The Voyage of the 'Fox' in Arctic Seas, in search of Franklin and his companions, by Admiral McClintock, R.N."

It is deeply interesting reading, and cannot fail to fill the reader with admiration for those brave and gallant gentlemen, who in the face of terrible odds against them, undertook (and accomplished) a work, which they knew was fraught with danger; and which we know cost them terrible sufferings and their lives. Even though Franklin did his heroic work, and died before many of us were born, yet we have heard the old people tell about it so often, that we are inclined sometimes to believe that we remember when it all happened.

Whilst in this way many of our people of this generation in Trinity are familiar with this work of Sir John Franklin, and his brave companions, I wonder how many know that Trinity was individually associated with it at the time! And yet it was so. One of the officers on board H.M.S. Erebus, which was commanded by Sir John Franklin himself, was Lieutenant H. T. D. Le Vesconte, a brother of Doctor Le Vesconte, who lived, and practised his profession in Trinity at the time.

Lieut. H. T. D. Le Vesconte entered the Navy in 1829; served through the Chinese War; distinguished himself on several occasions, and by repeated acts of conspicuous gallantry winning his lieutenantcy in 1841. As lieutenant he continued in active service, and was appointed to the Erebus in 1845.

A skeleton, supposed to be that of Lieut. Le Vesconte, was found by the relief expedition of Mr. C. F. Hall, of Cincinnati. It was brought to England, and reverently entombed in Greenwald Hospital. One of the silver spoons found in a deserted house belonging to the expedition, had Lieut. Le Vesconte's crest and initials on it. One of the headlamps southward from Irving Bay was named in honor of him, and is known to-day as Point Le Vesconte. Old Doctor Le Vesconte often told me interesting things, when I was a boy, about the Franklin expedition, and his brother in particular. Doctor Charles Le Vesconte, of King's Cove, is a nephew, and Mrs. Murphy, of King's Cove, is a niece of this brave and distinguished Lieut. H. T. D. Le Vesconte.

### INTERESTING ITEMS ABOUT TRINITY.

Trinity, including Penguin Cove and God's Cove, has 105 occupied dwelling houses, and 15 houses unoccupied.

It has 3 Churches, 1 Mortuary Chapel, 1 Parish Hall, 3 School Houses, a Post Office, a Court House, a Jail, a Telegraph Office, a Bank, a Custom House, a Printing Office, a L.O.A. Hall, a Hotel.

It has 10 Shops, 2 Forges, 1 Tin Shop, 2 Carpenters' Shops, 1 Electric Repairs Shop, 3 water-side business premises, a railway station, 5 automobiles, 2 Garages, 2 motor ferries, etc., etc.

It has 2 resident clergymen, a doctor, a magistrate, a police officer, a telegraph operator, a sheriff, a customs officer, a post-mistress, 3 Bank officials, 80 school children, and 3 school teachers, etc.

### TRINITY NOTES.

A very pretty and helpful Parish Almanack for 1921 is being circulated amongst the people, by Rev. Chas. M. Stokings; and doubtless will find an honored place in every Church home.



When I asked last week for such information as would lead to the finding of the fourth cross of the tower of old St. Paul's, that has been missing for over fifty years, I hardly dared to expect to get this information. Yet, I have not only received the information, but I have also found the cross. It was found a few years ago amongst the odds and ends of things, in the workshop of a carpenter of fifty years ago, and has been in the possession of the finder ever since, without his knowing where it had come from, or just what it had been made for, until he heard of my inquiring about it. I thank the person for it, and I shall hand it over to the Church Wardens, to be placed with other things in the Church's collection of souvenirs that remind us of the doings of our forefathers.

Mr. Eric Rankin, Manager of the Royal Bank, in Trinity, will spend Christmas Day at his home in St. John's.

Mr. Walter Toop, who has been working in Grand Falls, contracted a heavy cold there, and has come home to Trinity for the Christmas season. He is getting better.

The model snow plow, with its realistic equipment of horse, driver, boys, and snow on the track, is attracting a good deal of attention, on exhibition in Briggs' shop; and if it was for sale it would have been in new surroundings long ago. Some day we may see it in practical operation.

Mr. Aubrey Crocker has opened up a retail fresh meat shop, which is a convenience to many. Fresh beef is selling, by the quarter, at 20 cents a pound.

Every fine day has been a busy one in Trinity during the last fortnight. There is not that reckless expenditure of money that we experienced last year at this time, but there is a good deal of money in circulation, all the same.

The Grant-Palmer Motor Co. are enlarging their Repairs Shop.

The members of the L.O.A. will attend Divine Service in St. Paul's Church, on the morning of St. John's Day. The service will be conducted by the Rector.

Mr. McCarthy, of Bonavista, was a guest at Garland Hotel last week.

### THE CHRISTMAS BELLS OF TRINITY.

Ring out ye bells of Christmastide, Nor cease to toll as years roll on. The wondrous love of God to man—The birth of Christ at Bethlehem.

Respond ye sons of fallen man, Join with the angelic choir again—With thankful joy repeat the strain—The Gift of God at Bethlehem. Trinity, Christmas Eve.

### No "Scrips" Required FOR STAFFORD'S ESSENCE OF GINGER WINE.

DIRECTIONS:—Dissolve 1 1/2 lbs. of sugar in 2 quarts of water and add contents of one bottle of Stafford's Essence of Ginger Wine.

This will make 120 ounces of Ginger Wine. One wineglass contains two ounces. Just imagine 60 glasses for 12 cents. Practically one cent per glass. The proof:— 1 1/2 lbs. sugar at 25c. . . . . 37c. 1 bot. Stafford's Ess. Ginger Wine. 20c. 57c.

We have over ten thousand bottles (10,000) ready for sale at the present time. The past two years we have not been able to supply the demand on account of the difficulty of procuring the ingredients, but this year we have been able to obtain large stocks.

Stafford's Essence Ginger Wine only 50c. bot. Postage 10c. extra. DR. F. STAFFORD & SON, Wholesale and Retail Chemists and Dispensaries, St. John's, Newfoundland.

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New Soft Shelled Almonds.  
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Shelled Walnuts.  
Jordan Almonds.  
Ground Sweet Almonds.  
Blanched Almonds.

### FRESH DAIRY BUTTER.

New Dessert Raisins.  
Fresh Tunis Dates.  
New Smyrna Figs.  
Filled Dates.  
Filled Figs.

Canton Ginger in Jars.  
Crystallized Ginger Cubes.  
Glaze Cherries.  
Crystallized Cherries.  
Glaze Apricots.  
Glaze

Pink and White Pears.  
Glaze Greengages.  
Crystallized Rose Leaves.  
Crystallized Violets.  
Glaze Angelica.

### Huntley & Palmer's CAKES & BISCUITS

Sh Mince-meat.  
Plum Puddings.  
Fig Puddings.  
English Jams & Jellies.  
Fruit Salad.

English Ox Tongue in Glass.  
French Green Peas (Petit Pois Fins).  
French Beans (Petit Verts Extra).

French Mixed Vegetables. (Macedoine).  
Asparagus Tips.  
Champignons.

Bantam Corn on Cob.  
English Soups in Glass.  
Iced Fruit Cake.  
Iced Plain Cake.  
Marzipan Confections.

### ENGLISH CHEDDAR CHEESE.

ENGLISH STILTON CHEESE.

### "Huyler's" Confectionery.

"Durand's" Chocolates.  
"Cadbury's" Chocolates.  
"Moir's" Chocolates.  
Perrier Water.  
White Rock Water.  
Schweppes' Minerals.  
Lemon Squash.  
Lime Juice Cordial.  
Welch's Grape Juice.

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The Patsy Book . . . \$2.00	Shakespeare Tennyson,
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Arabian Nights . . . \$1.80	Byron Keats,
Bible Stories . . . \$2.00	Wordsworth Dante,
Indian Legends . . . \$2.25	Milton Swinburne,
	Whittier

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The Christmas season is a time of peace, of love, of joy, of smiles will hang from every face. The Christmas spirit, for a time, will make our lives a thing sublime. Alas, be shrew me, and dogged! The Christmas spirit does not last! A day or two it warms our hearts, then straightway shrivels and departs; why, does it chase itself so soon, and leave our lives all out of tune? It is because we eat too much of turkey, pudding, pies and such; the Christmas spirit cannot dwell where people with dyspepsia yell. The Christmas morning finds us calm; the season, like a soothing balm, has healed the troubles and the cares that man through weary workdays bears. We look with kind and loving eyes upon our smiling fellow guys; we send some presents to the poor, and think the Spirit will endure. And then we eat a gorgeous meal, including turkeys, ducks and veal, and pies—the kind that kind and marmalade—and through long hours the floor we walk; and in the morning, cold and gray—the morning after Christmas Day—we groaning leave the sleepless berth, and care no hoot for peace on earth. And now I spring some good advice, which, followed up, will cut much ice. Eat humble grub on Christmas Day, and give the gorgeous things away.

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