

the family will live peacefully and harmoniously during the coming year.

Returning to our own hemisphere let us visit Peru. Here, also we find joy and good-will. The door of every household is opened to whomsoever may wish to enter, and if a foreigner or a stranger should partake of the hospitality, double attention is paid to him. On Christmas eve processions are formed—all ranks of people, monks and soldiers swell the numbers. In the centre, a statue of the Madonna, bearing in her arms the Holy Child is carried. The enjoyment lasts till twelve, when all enter the churches to hear midnight mass.

In the United States and Canada, Christmas is regarded as *the day* of the year. Friends, who have not seen one another for many years, exchange gifts and greetings. For weeks before the festival, the mails are choked with letters, cards and parcels. Some are of the opinion that the people are spoiling the Christmas spirit by sending so many gifts, but happily they are few and far between. Our watchword should always be:—

Christmas comes but once in a year
Let's be merry and of good cheer.

At the present day, Christmas, throughout the entire Christian world, is the holiday specially set apart, on which all classes of society must rejoice. In centuries gone by, it was often marked with shameful revels and debaucheries, but today, most of the unpleasant features have disappeared and innocent amusements and pastimes are indulged in by all. In the morning of the day, the faithful attend their respective churches, to adore the Child-Redeemer and to offer thanksgiving to God for his bounties. Returning from the performance of their religious duties, the family gather around the Christmas table. It is last Christmas since many have been home—it is the single day in the year that all the chairs round the festive-board are filled. Fond memories of the past float back again. Happiness is marked on every visage and it is the fervent prayer that next Christmas, all may once again celebrate the joyous festival, under the parental roof. Harmony and peace hold sway, and one cannot help but recall the message of the angels to the shepherds—"Gloria in excelsis Deo; et in terra pax hominibus bonæ voluntatis."

J. A. TALLON, '14.