

THE CIVILIAN

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Communications on any subject of interest to the Civil Service are invited and will receive careful consideration.

Ottawa, Dec. 18th, 1908

A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A
GLAD NEW YEAR TO ALL
OUR READERS.

Before another issue of THE CIVILIAN can appear, the great festival of the Christian world will have come and gone. Another year of time will have ebbed to its close, and yet another have been born. At such a time we should be something more or something less than human if we had not a word or two of greeting for the faithful.

Christmas, as has been said, is the time "when all the world shows that it has a heart, and is proud of it." This, come to think of it, is something of a miracle. That hard hearts should be softened, that the envious

should be made charitable, the vicious made virtuous, and all of us made kinder and more sympathetic, — if only for a week or even a day, — this surely is some acknowledgment of Divine leadership, and some evidence of the existence of the Divine in man himself. And truly, upon such evidence all hope for this world must rest; for unless we have some innate love of Virtue for her own sake, we are little better than a kind of ape, and vastly more vicious and dangerous. The fallen archangel himself,

— "felt how awful goodness is,
and saw

Virtue in her shape how lovely;
saw and pined

His loss."

But granted the spark divine, and all things are possible. Man has then the potentiality for making his entire life a harmony, even though his present life be but as broken music. This is the steadfast hope of the Christian; the secret of his faith.

And what meaning has all this for you and me, who are "intensely practical" perhaps, and inured to "the faithless coldness of the times"? It has this meaning, if we will reflect: that true progress in material, social and political directions will be made only to the extent that the now-temporary Christmas Spirit takes up its permanent abode with us.

WANTED: A FAIR FIELD AND
NO FAVOR.

It is with considerable satisfaction that we present to our readers in this issue an article from the pen of Mr. John S. Ewart, K.C. Mr. Ewart is too well known to require any com-