

mas Day, do not interest me. There is, to my thinking, too much special pleading on both sides. Certain it is that the Scriptures, or (to accommodate myself to secular phraseology) the documents of that period, say nothing about the precise date of His birth. What matter? Suffice it for me that the Church—I mean the Christians of the early days in their corporate capacity—determined to keep *some* day to commemorate the birth of One whom all admit to have been a tremendous factor in the ethical and spiritual evolution of humanity. What if the Church—I mean organized Christianity—did adopt the season of the pagan Saturnalia? A better time could not have been chosen, at least for the northern hemisphere; the time of the solstice, when the sun, which has been growing weaker and weaker, takes a turn for the better, and nature's hopes revive as every day sees a little more than the last of the life and light-giving sun. A most typical time to observe the birthday of the Christ. And so we wish all our friends and readers "A Merry Christmas."

*December, 1901.*