

## PARISH AND HOME.

homage to the new-born yet ever-living King, to listen once again to the angel's message, "Behold I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David, a Saviour which is Christ the Lord."

Then might not each one of us do something to brighten up the lives of others. *At home*, in our own family, the bright smile, the cheering word, the loving gift, it matters not whether large or small if from a loving heart. Oh the power of little things to make home happy!

But do not let us stop *at home* altogether in our preparations for Christmas, there are so many poor and neglected and old people—yea, sometimes rich and lonely ones. Let us seek out those whose lives we can brighten and not only wish, but do our parts to give them a merry and a happy Christmas.

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It is told of the first Bishop of Toronto, the late Dr. Strachan, that once being asked when he came to this country he replied: "On the last day of the last month of the last year of the last century," that being the date he landed. With this issue we come to the last month of the 19th century.

What wonderful changes have been wrought in Canada, yea, throughout this continent and the world during these hundred years.

Think of the vast tracts of land that have been taken possession of, reclaimed from the wilderness and made to blossom as the rose, of the cities and towns that have come into existence, and are now throbbing with life and activity, of the great discoveries and advances in art, science and knowledge of every kind—and, we ask, has the Church of the living God grown and extended her borders as she should have?

While we have much to thank God for, while there has been much land possessed, yet we have much also to humble ourselves for and confess that we have been slow to obey the Master's command, and do the Master's work, preaching His Gospel to every creature.

Comparing December, 1799, with December, 1899, and noticing the

great increase in Christian and philanthropic work at home, and missionary activity abroad, we have much reason to thank God and take courage; but, comparing the Church's success with her opportunities and the world's needs, we have reason to humble ourselves in the dust. When we consider the poverty and sin and shame, even in Christian lands, and also remember that one-half of the people of the world do not know that there is a God who loves them and a Christ who died for them, surely we will ask for grace to gird on our armour and do our part for the world's evangelization and redemption.

May the closing days of the passing century be as a trumpet call to all Christians to awake, arise, shine, yea, brightly, with lamps trimmed and lights burning, lest our King come suddenly and find us unprepared.

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THE following extract of a letter (as published in the *Montreal Star*) from a Canadian mother to her son ere he started with the Canadian Contingent for South Africa, will touch the hearts of many these Christmas times by its patriotic self-sacrifice:

MY DEAR SON,—I was never more surprised than when I received your letter informing me of your intention to be a soldier and go to the battle field at once. No matter, dear boy, how this affects me, I will not be guilty of making you feel sad or taking the courage out of your heart at this moment, the courage you need so much to keep you manly and brave. You are only following in the footsteps of your forefathers—they were all British to the core. Your great grandfather, both your grandfathers and your father, all were true to their king and country. Now, dear boy, you have been well brought up —; but I will say, be a good and obedient soldier, and respect your commanding officers, no matter who they are. We all here will pray for you, and may our dear Lord keep you and bring you back safe to us.

Good-bye, and may God bless and protect you from danger. With love, your very affectionate,

MOTHER.

## LOVE'S MINISTRY.

The following was written in a young Nurse's album by a clergyman-friend in Toronto.

Ask God to give thee skill  
In comfort's art,  
That thou mayest consecrated be  
And set apart  
Unto a life of sympathy;  
For heavy is the weight of 'll  
On every heart,  
And thou in Christ's own hands may be  
In every part  
God's messenger in ministry.

## THE SUITABLENESS OF OUR CHURCH SERVICE.

By the Rev. DVYSON HAGUE, M.A., of Wycliffe College.

This is one of the most wonderful things to my mind about our Church of England service; its adaptation to every life. It suits everybody,\* in every place in every condition.

There are, to begin with, services for every period of life in our Prayer Book. There is the baptismal service for little infants; the catechism service for the growing children; the confirmation service, for the youths and a little older maidens; the marriage service, for the beginners of new homes; the churching service, for the mothers; the visitation service, for the sick; the communion service, for all times; and the burial service, at life's close. Thus the Church is attentive and studious to supply every spiritual want in every period of our changeful life.

Then notice how impartial and free it is to all. The pauper is buried with the same stately service as the king. The labourer's child is baptised with the same beautiful service as the children of royalty.

Then consider how there is provision for every time and condition, every want and emergency. Such a minuteness and completeness, as Simeon said, is rarely found even in men's private devotions, and those very particularities are founded in the deepest knowledge of the human heart, and the completest view of men's spiritual necessities.

\* "There is no possible situation in which we can be placed, but the prayers are precisely suited to us, nor can we be in any frame of mind wherein they will not express our feelings as strongly and forcibly as any person could express them even in his secret chamber."