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BEFORE our next issue, Christmas — that day on which the heart of the Christian pulsates with ineffable joy—will have come and gone. Christmas is the happiest and brightest day of all the year! Amid the shouts of innocent children, the ringing of church bells ajar with vibratory joy and the songs of rejoicing multitudes, we consign our petty prejudices and personal differences to the broad ocean of true Christian Catholicity. May this be the most gladsome Christmas of our history. Let kindly interchange of friendly interest strengthen the bond of mutual love. Let every home—no matter how humble—be brighter and every heart happier for its rising sun, and in its serene setting may it leave us with a deeper devotion, a purer patriotism and a more general “good-will” that shall promote peace throughout the earth. And meanwhile let us not forget the Babe of Bethlehem. His influence is moving mightily upon the world to-day. His power shall yet prevail over superstition and infidelity, and then the flowery vales and the vine-clad hills and the blooming isles, like recovered Edens, and the happy continents, from sea to sea shall sing, from shore to shore shall ring, from the deepest depths shall cry, from the highest depths reply, and thrill the enchanted sky with the good news on earth and the glad tidings from heaven “that Christ Jesus came into the world.”

Ring the joy-bells again, join the angels refrain,
Hallelujah, hallelujah, peace, good-will to men!