

The new year has come in well. Celestial fireworks were a prelude to its birth, and Catholicism in vigil awaited its coming. Hymns of thanksgiving were borne on its first breeze, a universal prayer was offered at its cradle. A year begun so well will, let us hope, pass well, and be a fitting preparation for the twentieth century.

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The war in South Africa still rages. We cannot but think—and we certainly wish—that British pluck and perseverance will, in the end, triumph, and that the Cross of St. George will be firmly planted in the Transvaal, guaranteeing liberty and equality to all. Some may entertain doubts as to the justice of the present struggle; but now when the integrity of the Empire is at stake, it behooves all loyal subjects of the Queen to rise in the might of their union to sustain the “flag that braved a thousand years the battle and the breeze.” Nor do we think that a fair consideration of the causes that led to the war will throw the responsibility on our Mother Country. Some sectarian papers of the day seem anxious to create the impression that in the present crisis Catholics, as such, are in strong sympathy with the Boers. But this is simply the old, old story begotten of prejudice, and nursed in the lap of narrowmindedness. The most cursory glance at the history of our country will show that from the reign of Elizabeth, when they rose as a man to defend themselves and their persecutors against a foreign foe, they have ever been to the fore in fighting the battles of the Empire; and in the present struggle to overthrow an assumption of oligarchy, their lives are freely given to their country’s cause.

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Since the beginning of the present term several new students from various parts of the Maritime provinces have entered the College. We are glad to see that the influence and reputation of St. F. X. is growing stronger and better.