



"Hark! the glad sound, the Saviour comes!"

**THE THOUGHTS OF THEOBALD.**

**THE LIGHT THAT SHONE WHEN HOPE WAS BORN.**

A part of Tennyson's "In Memoriam" is very applicable to many homes at this Christmas Season. He was, as you know, mourning the loss of his greatest friend, Arthur Hallam, who was suddenly snatched away by sudden death in the 23rd year of his age. In Newfoundland there are those who have lost relatives and friends, some by natural causes, and some in the suddenness of this horrible war. And there are the many with relatives and friends at the Front, who suffer almost as much in suspense, never knowing when the casualty list will contain the names of their loved ones. In Advent, while Christmas is still in the future, Tennyson tells of the sound of Christmas bells, from far and near which soothes his spirit and blends the experiences of boyhood with present sorrow:

The time draws near the birth of Christ  
The moon is hid; the night is still.  
The Christmas bells from hill to hill  
Answer each other in the mist.

This year I slept and woke with pain,  
I almost wish'd no more to wake;  
And that my hold on life would break  
Before I heard those bells again.

But then my troubled spirit riled,  
For they controll'd it when a boy;  
They bring me sorrow touch'd with joy,  
The merry, merry bells of Yule.

But then Tennyson, like many a home in Newfoundland, although at first doubtful whether he ought to make the attempt, determines to keep the usual festivities for custom's sake, even if he no longer finds delight in them. Just follow his thought on Christmas Eve in the following:

With such compelling cause to grieve  
As daily vexes household peace,  
And chains regret to his decease,  
How dare we keep our Christmas-eve?

Which brings no more a welcome guest  
To enrich the threshold of the night  
With shower'd largess of delight  
In dance and song and game and jest?

Yet go, and while the holly houghs  
Shutwine the cold baptismal font,  
Make one wreath more for Use and Want,  
That guard the portals of the house;

Gid sisters of a day gone by,  
Gray sisters, loving nothing new,  
Why should they miss their yearly due  
Before their time? They too will die.

The festivities are accordingly entered upon with a show of zeal. But the gladness is feigned, and the attempt to sustain it breaks down in an outburst of tears. Under the influence of song, this, however, gives place to a gentler feeling which gradually rises from Peace to Hope. "Faith lends her realizing light," and the dead are seen to be living still, their love unchanged and their life spiritualized and glorified.

With trembling fingers did we weave  
The holly round the Christmas heart;  
A rainy cloud possess'd the earth,  
And sadly fell our Christmas-eve.

At our old pastimes in the hall  
We gambol'd, making vain pretence  
Of gladness, with an awful sense  
Of one mute Shadow watching all.

We paused; the winds were in the beech;  
We heard them sweep the winter land;  
And in a circle hand-in-hand  
Sat silent, looking each at each.

Then echo-like our voices rang;  
We sang, tho' every eye was dim,  
A merry song we sang with him  
Last year; impetuously we sang:

We ceased; a gentler feeling crept  
Upon us; surely rest is meet;  
"They rest," we said, "their sleep is sweet."

**AND SILENCE FOLLOW'D, AND WE WENT.**

Our voices took a higher range;  
Once more we sang: "They do not die  
Nor lose their mortal sympathy,  
Nor change to us, although they change;

"Rapt from the fickle and the frail  
With gather'd power, yet the same,  
Pierces the keen seraphic flame  
From orb to orb, from veil to veil."

Rise, happy morn, rise holy morn,  
O Father, touch the east, and light  
The light that shone when Hope was born.

So with this blessed thought of Hope, let not those who mourn and those anxious ones fear to open their hearts to the call of the Christmas Season but take the joy that it offers, feeling

"'Tis better to have loved and lost  
Than never to have loved at all."

**AT THE FRONT.**

Stronger than all discipline is the spell which Christmas casts over the war. We remember how again and again we heard of what happened last Christmas Eve and how the unconquered forces of nature brought English and Germans together, and how there was singing upon one side answered by the other, and how the men rose and advanced to meet each other as if there was no deadly war going on. And some say the darkness became strange and beautiful with lights as well as music, as if the armies had gathered there not for war but for the Christmas Feast. The English began to sing Christmas carols; salute the happy morn, and the Germans answered in their beautiful Christmas hymns—the Christmas Eve in all and they were no longer German and English to each other, but men. And so I should think it will be this year, and I anticipate even more wonderful (yet how natural!) reunions on this Christmas Eve. "I believe," one officer has written, "that the war will come to an end because everyone will get fed up and refuse to go on shooting." Certainly if it were left to the Saxons and the Englishmen, the war would be over before this. But the Prussian element is too powerful yet.

However, it is good to think that in most of the theatres of war, there will be a cessation of hostilities for some hours on this Christmas Eve, while the grand old Carols will echo from trench to trench, and the torches and lights will flare in recognition of the Little Child Jesus who comes

the broken heart to bind  
The bleeding soul to cure;  
And with the treasure of His grace  
To enrich the humble poor.

**Christmas, 1915.**

Feast of the Christ-Child's birth,  
Divinely sweet, can Earth  
Greet thee from out the strife,  
Bloodshed, and din of life  
To-day?

Peace was the message clear  
For all mankind to hear:  
Love and good-will to all  
Strangely those echoes fall  
To-day.

Yet hath the human race  
Gone and the Christ-Child's grace,  
Hunger and thirst for love,  
War's rage and hate above,  
To-day.

**NEW YEAR'S NIGHT—Keep it free for John Bull's Patriotic Pierrettes, who will give an Entertainment, consisting of Concert, Play and Operetta, under the direction of Mrs. Chater and Mr. Hutton, in aid of our Sick and Wounded. Particulars later, dec 11, 31, 11, 18, 24**

**War News.**

**Messages Received Previous to 9 A.M.**

**DARDANELLES CASUALTIES.**

LONDON, Dec. 23. Great Britain's loss of officers and men at the Dardanelles up to Dec. 11 was 112,221. This is the grand total of officers and men, including naval lists of killed, wounded, and missing. The number killed was 25,279. An additional total of casualties, number of sick admitted to hospitals was 96,832. The losses were distributed as follows: Killed, officers, 1,609; men, 23,670; wounded officers, 2,929 and men, 72,222; missing officers, 337; men, 12,114.

**KAISER SERIOUSLY ILL.**

LONDON, Dec. 23. Despatches from Amsterdam and Geneva agree that the Kaiser's illness is much more serious than reported officially from Berlin. Great specialists have been hurriedly summoned to Potsdam, and the Crown Prince has been recalled from the Front. It is authoritatively announced that the Kaiser's projected journey to the Western theatre of the war and Constantinople have been abandoned. It is feared that his illness is due to a recurrence of the malady which proved fatal to his father.

**LLOYD GEORGE ATTACKED.**

NEW YORK, Dec. 23. New York this morning published the following cable from London correspondent: "Feeling is growing here that Lloyd George is being used by Lord Northcliffe, as a monkey to pull the prescription chestnuts out of the fire. His demand for 330,000 men to make munitions, before the figures of those who have enrolled under Lord Derby's scheme to do the real fighting for the Empire are made public, has convinced the Liberal, Labor and Irish members of Parliament, that Lord Northcliffe has made an impression upon the great Little Welshman of the necessity of a dictatorship to conduct the war, and there are those who do not hesitate to say that having failed with Carson, Northcliffe is ready to become the political godfather of a man whom his newspapers once denounced, if by doing so he can upset the Cabinet. It is because of this report on every tongue that Mr. Redmond, Mr. Thomas and others warned the Government that the Labor and Irish parties will not submit to conscription."

**SHEER BLUFF.**

NEW YORK, Dec. 23. The London correspondent of the New York Herald cables the reports that Germany is concentrating great armies to attack and conquer Egypt, and smash the Allies on all other fronts, are regarded here as sheer bluff. I am in a position to say, if censor will permit it that the Turkish-German combination will receive the greatest surprise of the war, if the Egyptian campaign is pursued. Moreover, I am able to tell you on unquestionable authority, that the descent on Arma is only a small part of the great campaign, which Russia is almost ready to resume against the Austro-Germans.

**THE GREEKS PLEASED.**

LONDON, Dec. 23. An Athens despatch says the news of the landing of Russian forces at Varna has created a favourable impression, and as correcting the erroneous ideas of Entente leniency towards Bulgaria.

**SUNK WITHOUT WARNING.**

LONDON, Dec. 23. The news that the Japanese liner Yuzuki Maru, previously reported as having been sunk in the Mediterranean by an Austrian or German submarine, was sent to bottom without warning. According to the owners of the ship, the steamer carried 120 passengers and crew, 160, all of whom were saved. One American passenger—W. J. Leigh—was among those rescued. The news of the sinking of the Yuzuki Maru reached Tokyo to-day and caused great excitement. Ad- vices received here say she was sunk by a submarine near Port Said.

**A TURKISH REPORT.**

CONSTANTINOPLE, via London, Dec. 23. The Turkish War Office to-night gave out the following statement: Along the entire northern front our troops are approaching the barbed wire entanglements of the enemy trenches. On the Dardanelles front near Seddul Bahr there have been temporary artillery and bombing encounters. Our artillery on the Anatolian Coast of the Straits successfully bombarded Martalman, and the landing places of Tekke Burnu, near Martalman. We sunk two small boats and near Tekke a small ammunition vessel. In one section cleared by the enemy we found provisions of all kinds, sufficient for an Army Corps for a long time, 1,000,000 sacks and some thousands of tents, 500 blankets, 400 stretchers, one motor near Aghime Dero and many mortar bombs hidden in the ground. On the Caucasus front the enemy attack in the neighbourhood of Id in Turkish Armenia, on Dec. 20th, cost him eight officers and 3,100 men, while our losses amounted to only one third this number.

**NOT ANXIOUS TO ASSUME OFFICE.**

LONDON, Dec. 23. The Athens correspondent of Reuter's writing under date of Tuesday, sends the following: The Cabinet is sitting in Council to-night and important decisions are expected. Premier Skouliadis finds the strain of office very heavy and is anxious to retire now that the elections are over and there is a majority for Mr. Couras. The latter, however, at the present juncture, does not desire to assume the reins of Government and would continue to support the present Ministry composed of leaders of all

parties. The Central Powers are concentrating their forces on Giveli Section in Southeastern Serbia and are expected to take offensive this week.

**BAKING RESTRICTIONS.**

VIENNA, Dec. 23. A Ministerial decree has been issued prohibiting the baking of rolls, biscuits, and other fancy breads and permitting only the making of loaves of ordinary bread. The order does not apply to households.

**RAID TO VARNA.**

LONDON, Dec. 23. It is authoritatively reported that two Russian torpedo boats pursued the Bulgarian torpedo boat on Tuesday to the Bay of Varna, where the coast batteries opened fire on the pursuing vessels, says a Petrograd correspondent to Reuter's Telegram Company. The Russian ships left the zone of fire undamaged. During the raid two Turkish sailing vessels were sunk.

**QUIET ON FRONTIER.**

LONDON, Dec. 23. The Saloniki correspondent of Reuter's in a despatch dated Tuesday says the situation on the Serbia-Greek frontier is unchanged, no sign at present exists of an invasion of Greek territory by the Teutonic Allies, he states.

**OFFICER WILL BE PUNISHED.**

LONDON, Dec. 23. The Athens correspondent of Reuter's sends the following in reply to representations made to German and Bulgarian Governments regarding the Kozitza incident, in which a Bulgarian detachment in alleged pursuit of small Serbian forces transgressed the Greek frontier, the Greek Government has assurances that the Bulgarian officer responsible will be punished.

**RELEASE ON PAROLE.**

AMSTERDAM, Dec. 23. The newspaper Rotterdammer announces that British officers interned in Holland may be released henceforth on parole.

**OFFICIAL.**

LONDON, Dec. 23. The Governor, Newfoundland, has announced that Lord Northcliffe has made an impression upon the great Little Welshman of the necessity of a dictatorship to conduct the war, and there are those who do not hesitate to say that having failed with Carson, Northcliffe is ready to become the political godfather of a man whom his newspapers once denounced, if by doing so he can upset the Cabinet. It is because of this report on every tongue that Mr. Redmond, Mr. Thomas and others warned the Government that the Labor and Irish parties will not submit to conscription."

**DEFENSE OF REALM ACT.**

LONDON, Dec. 23. An addition to the Defense of the Realm Act, gazetted to-day, prohibits the holding, without special permission from the Minister of Munitions, of any exhibition which might affect prejudicially the production of war materials. A British industrial exhibition, which was to display war materials, and the method of their manufacture, was in process of organization for 1916.

**RUNCIMAN ON BRITISH COMMERCE.**

LONDON, Dec. 23. As far as commerce is concerned, Germany is a beaten nation, and it is for us to see to it that she does not recover, Walter Runciman, President of the Board of Trade, said in the Commons this afternoon, reviewing the steps taken by the Board for re-organization of British industries after the war. There is scarcely a department in public life, Runciman said, about which we have not been thinking what lively will happen when the war is over, and how best to prepare for future contingencies. Nothing in commercial life will start off when the war is over, in the same condition as when the war began; and in every one, relationship with the Central Powers and Zollverein is bound to be altered with our interests. After enumerating subjects, which the Board of Trade was specially investigating, among them being ownership of real property by aliens, Runciman instanced the danger of ownership of the Midlands, owned by Germans and trading under an English title, which now was idle, and that the British were prevented from exploiting the coal field. He added that this cannot continue after the war. The Board is taking great care to allow no German to stand in the way of England. We are not going to be especially tender to the Germans. Runciman specially referred to the German control of oil fields in Europe, remarking that this raw material was of such vital interest to Britain that the Board was taking steps to see how much of German control of this product could be transferred to Britain, so that the latter's interest would be safe-guarded. Continuing, he said that German trade in South America and in the East has received a serious blow, and it is the duty of the Board to see that our business men have every advantage. Runciman referred to indications of a belief on the Continent, that Britain in thus looking ahead, was inclined to think of the return of her commercial prosperity, rather than throwing ourselves heart and soul into the attainment of the main object. That is entirely untrue, he said. I would not like it to be imagined in France, in Russia and Italy that in preparing for future contingencies we were contemplating an early peace. There is no peace to which we could be a party if it would in any way conflict with the interests of our Allies.

**MUNSTER EXPLOSION.**

LONDON, Dec. 23. Reuter's correspondent at Amsterdam sends the following regarding the powder explosion at Munster, Westphalia, which, according to some reports yesterday, caused the loss of 300 lives. The Munsterischer Anzeiger says that a greater number of windows were shattered, and adjoining buildings were slightly damaged by the explosion of a shell depot, but that there were no fatalities.

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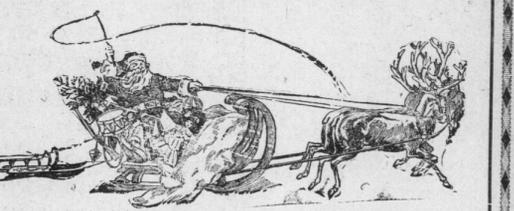
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