

A MERRY CHRISTMAS!

"A Merry Christmas," is the greeting which we would salute our readers this morning—A Merry, Merry Christmas—to young and old, rich and poor, gentile and simple.

From the very first, Christmas has been the season of gladness, and people of the Anglo-Saxon race have, in their celebration of it, remembered this. The great Yule log, by whose ruddy light our forefathers feasted, and the mistletoe bough, beneath which the youths and maidens of olden time sported, may have been relics of the old heathen days, but the instinct which brought to the observance of the greatest of Christian festivals everything that served to make it a glad and merry time, was a true one. The joyful music, the beautifully decorated churches, the hearty service of praise and thanksgiving, all showed that the religion founded by Him, in honor of whose birth the day is kept, is no gloomy one. Sorrow, and pain, and anxiety must come to all, but peace and love leave no place for bitterness of spirit or darkness of countenance.

That Christmas is the festival of Home is another debt we owe those rude, but true-hearted ancestors of ours. And what a debt it is! That once a year, at least, the whole family should meet as when they were little children under the same roof-tree, and around the same table does more to know how much to keep hearts tender and pure. The love of Home which draws busy men and careworn women together on Christmas Day, prevents that estrangement between children of the same family which is one of the saddest things in the world to see. Then who that has ever known the delight of them would forget the Christmas days of childhood? The glad awakening, the delightful surprises, the warm kisses and tender caresses, the long day spent in happy companionship, the Christmas feast in which all their little world shared, and from which care and discord were alike excluded, have left behind priceless memories which are the best reward of those who, often, at no small sacrifice, provided the joy for them. It is those that have known the close fellowship of a united home circle who can most readily understand the truth that all mankind is one great family.

In this hard, work-a-day world, we are apt to forget this. We make too much of the petty annoyances and vexations which we inflict upon each other. We imagine our corners are trodden upon purposely, and our feelings intentionally wounded. We as little suspect that our rough fellow-passenger on the world's highway bears a tender heart beneath his rugged exterior, as he does that his irritable companion would patiently bear a great injury or generously forgive a grievous wrong. It is when some case of real distress appeals to the better feelings of both that each realizes the worth of the other, and feels that the world is very far indeed from being the cold, unloving place he had imagined it to be.

The giving of presents at Christmas is another very old way of trying to make the day a happy one, and it is a custom as good as it is old. The spirit of the season enables us to offer to those in need what at another time, we might fear would wound their honest pride, and the thought and time we spend on Christmas boxes for our friends or relatives, lead to the simplest gift a value of its own. "It is more blessed to give than to receive," are we told, and we know it is very delightful to receive what has been offered by generous hands and warm hearts. But, after all, there are no gifts more valuable, or more tenderly cherished, than kind words and loving looks, and the hundred other ways by which we can, if we will, fill the hearts of one another with great joy.

THE BOYCOTT.

President Gompers, when addressing the Convention of the American Federation of Labor at Birmingham, Alabama, a few days ago, spoke on the subject of the boycott. He strongly disapproves of local organizations taking upon themselves the power to proclaim boycotts and to require the operation of other organizations in other parts of the country. He is of the opinion that opportunity should be given for investigation in order that different members of the Federation may be able to decide whether it is called for or not. It is his opinion that no boycott should be recognized unless approved by the Convention or the Executive Council. Mr. Gompers showed his good sense and his intelligent regard for the rights and interests of labor by speaking in this way. Boycotts, which are the outcome of petty disputes, or the results of personal spite and vindictiveness, should be frowned upon by the members of labor organizations. Outsiders lose their respect for labor organizations when they see them, without enquiry, aiding and abetting unprincipled and spiteful agitators in their attempt to be revenged upon employers who have really done them no wrong.

The boycott cannot be said, under any circumstances, to be a desirable means of advancing the cause of labor, but when it is recklessly used by unprincipled men to carry out their own selfish ends in a lawless way, and at the expense of the privations and sufferings of innocent women and children, it becomes a form of tyranny of the most hateful and oppressive kind. The readiness with which labor organizations have no knowledge whatever of the merits of the dispute join in a boycott, is to all lovers of fair play most surprising. Ex parte statements of interested parties are received as gospel, and acted upon. Evidence which would not be received by the most partial, and the least intelligent justices of the

peace, is sometimes considered sufficient to condemn concerns whose operators are supplying the means of supporting in comfort thousands of the working class. When a man of the standing of President Gompers protests against such a way of proceeding, he does great service to the cause of labor.

THE QUEBEC DIFFICULTY.

Governor Angers has taken the second step in the course which he has marked out for himself. He first dismissed his ministry. This was, no doubt, a high-handed act, which can only be justified by the most evident and the most urgent necessity. When the subject of the dismissal of a ministry by a former Lieutenant-Governor of Quebec was discussed in Parliament, Sir John Macdonald quoted British constitutional authorities of high standing to prove that "the power of dismissal has almost, if not quite, dropped out of the reality of our constitution." And Sir John was right, as he generally was on all constitutional questions. The power to set aside the advice of his ministers, who are supported by a majority in the Legislature, and to dismiss them is a power which can be easily abused, and the abuse may be attended by consequences dangerous to the peace and the good government of the country.

Having exercised his power in this unusual manner, it is, in our opinion, both reasonable and right to appeal to the people for a justification of his use of the prerogative. From the people Parliament derives its power, and a constitutional Governor cannot be seriously blamed for making the people the judges in the dispute between him and his ministers.

Some supposed that Governor Angers would try to avoid an appeal to the people just at present. It was thought that he would rather meet the Legislative Assembly than the people at the polls. There are opportunities, as Quebec politicians well know, of obtaining support in the popular branch of the Legislature by availing himself of which a leader of a Government may make his position secure more speedily, and with less risk of failure than by an appeal to the people. A First Minister with a talent for intrigue, and who is not very scrupulous as to the means he uses, would in Quebec be inclined to try his strength in the Assembly before he went to the people. A dissolution would remain as a last resort if a majority could not be obtained in the Legislature. But Mr. De Boucherville has preferred the more direct method of proceeding, and it is not for the lovers of popular Government to complain or to find fault.

It is said that by dissolving the Assembly now, Mr. Angers will violate the constitution which specially provides that the Legislature of Quebec shall meet once in every year. If writs are issued now it will be impossible to convene the Legislature before twelve months have expired since its last sitting. The law is clear enough on the point, the 86th section of the British North America Act is as follows:—

"There shall be a session of the Legislature of Ontario, and that of Quebec, once at least in every year, so that twelve months shall not intervene between the last sitting of the Legislature in each province in one session and its first sitting in the next session."

It is contended, we see, that in carrying out the law, allowance must be made for a dissolution. The 55th section of the Act gives the Lieutenant-Governor power to dissolve the Legislature whenever he sees fit. This is how it runs:—

"Every Legislative Assembly of Ontario and every Legislative Assembly of Quebec shall continue for four years from the day of the return of the writs for choosing the same (subject nevertheless to either the Legislative Assembly of Ontario or the Legislative Assembly of Quebec being sooner dissolved by the Lieutenant-Governor of the Province) and no longer."

It seems reasonable to suppose that if an exigency arose near the expiration of the twelve months from the last sitting of the Legislature which made a dissolution necessary, the Constitution would not require the convening of a Legislature which, at the expiration of the period, had really no existence. The question is also one, as it involves this other: Is it in the power of a Lieutenant-Governor to exercise the prerogative of dismissal so near the expiration of the twelve months as to make it impossible to comply with that requirement of the Constitution, which makes it obligatory on him to convene the Legislature at least once in each year? Mr. Bourne is a high authority on constitutional questions, but as this question is one of the interpretation of a statute, we must confess we would rather have the opinion on it of a constitutional lawyer of good repute than that of any layman, let him be ever so accomplished. It should be remembered there is no question as to the constitutionality of Lieutenant Governor Angers' acts. He has power to dismiss his ministers, and he has power to dissolve the Legislature, the difficulty is as to the time in which the prerogatives are exercised. Can they be exercised in such a way as to make a violation of a very important provision of the constitution inevitable? The question will be thoroughly and warmly discussed both in Parliament and in the country, and it is more than probable that the result of the election will have more to do with the decision than all the arguments of all the lawyers and all the politicians. If the people of Quebec sustain the action of the Lieutenant-Governor, it will be generally regarded as both political and constitutional; if they do not—if they return the Mercier party with a majority—his course will be denounced by men of all parties as rash, ill-advised and unconstitutional. It is said that treason is not treason when it is successful, and the same may be affirmed of the acts of rulers which put a strain on the Constitution.

Christmas is a great give-away.—Rochester Post.

THE VICTORIA.

CHRISTMAS—A LAY SERMON.

The Judgment of time through countless Reluctant moves, regardless of the tears Of sorrow for the fallen by the way. Of all who laugh or weep, or pray, However devoted though their course may be, Each stream that flows, flows onward to the sea.

And wealth and poverty, and good deeds, and sin, All will moulder in the tomb of time. As day succeeds day, and years roll on, Men come and go, their lives are gone, They laugh and weep, they fight, and work, And hate and love, and labor, and then die. It is not one, but many, who are the victors. It is not one, but many, who are the losers. Beyond the stars, beyond the vault of blue, Those whose hearts are good and true, Who love and do the right, and scorn the wrong, With charity for all, in virtue strong, Whose hearts are true, and whose lives are good, Then follow Him, whose birth-day draweth nigh. Then follow Him, the Gentle, and the Blest; Then follow Him, who said—"I Give Thee Thyself." Then follow Him, by land, and on the sea, Who said—"Take up thy cross and follow me." And endless world of suffering, or of bliss, That once, in Eastern climes, its radiance rolled Over plain and mountain with its lambent flame, And shone upon the church, hut, mansion tall, On rich and poor, on good and bad, on all Who live and adore, whither, rain, suffer loss; Who are the victors, and who are the losers, And sum up in upon the sacred time, To listen to the music of the chime, The blessed bells that toll, and pray, And think of Christ and Home on Christmas Day.

A. E. GOODMAN.

LOCAL AND PROVINCIAL.

Committed to the Earth.

The funeral of the late American Bossi took place yesterday afternoon at 2 o'clock at the house being held by Rev. P. M. Macleod. The pall bearers were Messrs Moore, Becker, Stelly, Campbell, Kelly and Moore.

The "Times" Christmas Number. The COLONIST is in receipt of a very pretty and readable Christmas number issued from the Times office. The production is a fine specimen of the art of the season, and is a creditable piece of work. It contains several artistic pictures.

The Session of 1899. An extra of the Government Gazette, issued last evening, contains the announcement that His Honor, the Lieutenant-Governor, has been pleased to call together the session of the Legislature of the Province of British Columbia, on the 28th of January.

Will Join with Washington. At the meeting of the A. O. U. W. lodge, held on Wednesday evening, it was decided that the British Columbia lodge join with their brethren of Washington in the formation of a Grand Lodge of Washington and British Columbia, whose officers will be elected early in January.

The Fate of a Dog. James Willoughby keeps a pet dog—a mastiff. He is a very good dog, and at night, in ecstatic delight, and sleeps through the day like a log. But neighbors, like dogs, oft will growl—there's no doubt, the doggie to howl—so his owner, they say, had a fine time, and the canine boy will be sent far away.

Robert Ward & Co., Limited. The B. C. Gazette publishes the memorandum of association of Robert Ward & Co., Limited, the object being to take over the business now carried on by Robert Ward & Co., a partnership, commission merchants, shipping and insurance agents, and to have, on the same, the capital stock to be \$300,000 in \$100 shares. The trustees are to be Robert Ward, William Arthur Ward and John Charles MacLure.

A Christmas Tree. Mrs. Siddall, teacher of the infant class in the Pandora Avenue Methodist church, held a Christmas tree for the children of her class, in the school-room of the church, last night. The little folks had a first-class programme, consisting of songs, recitations, etc., specially prepared for the occasion, which were fine to the very end. There was an abundance of good things, appeared, each boy and girl receiving a present, the evening being made pleasant.

A Jewish Festival. The first Chanuka (dedication festival) will be celebrated by the Sunday school children of Temple Emanuel, on Sunday, Dec. 29, at 2 o'clock p.m. A very nice programme has been arranged for the occasion. No service will be connected with the affair except of lighting the candles, which is a remembrance of the victory of the Maccabees in the Temple of old. The president, Mr. M. Moss, and vice-president, Mr. T. Isaac, will be the speakers of the occasion, and Miss Rose Philo will read a short sketch of the history of the Maccabees.

Pigeons and Chickens. Jimmy Gibbons and two companions named Morrison and Doherty were before the city police magistrate, yesterday morning, charged with stealing pigeons, and young Gibbons was convicted and sentenced to three months' imprisonment, with hard labor, in the provincial reformatory. His offence was taking pigeons from the dove cot of Mr. John Braden, 18 of whose pots are missing.

Yesterday, it was with pigeons that his honor had to deal; to-morrow it will be chickens. But Jimmy and Jimmy found their way to the cells last night, in a condition of exaggerated animosity, and they will therefore share the Christmas dinner with the other prisoners to-day.

The Royal Commission. The court-room at the Supreme Court building was crowded with petitioners and others yesterday morning when the Royal Commission on the subject of the decision than all the arguments of all the lawyers and all the politicians. If the people of Quebec sustain the action of the Lieutenant-Governor, it will be generally regarded as both political and constitutional; if they do not—if they return the Mercier party with a majority—his course will be denounced by men of all parties as rash, ill-advised and unconstitutional. It is said that treason is not treason when it is successful, and the same may be affirmed of the acts of rulers which put a strain on the Constitution.

He allowed Mr. Richards the Court was further adjourned to the Bench.

mbia Fire Insurance Co. The directors of the above-named company, yesterday afternoon, at 2 o'clock, held the annual general company on the 21st January, for the year will be brought in with.

se Evangelists. Reception and Sacramental conducted by the Rev. Mr. McLeod, at the late church on Sunday morning, a number of persons converted to the Christian faith, and the service was most successful. The event will be continued by Messrs. Langer during the week.

For Chicago. Ballantine, U. S. Consul at Chicago, has obtained a commission to act as a representative of the U. S. Government to the World's Fair at Chicago, and he is now on his way to the city. He is a very capable man, and is well known in the city.

City Fire Limits. The removal of the London Hotel, on Johnson street, from the City Fire Limits, was decided by the City Council, on Monday evening, and resulted in the motion to refer the matter to committee, who will not sanction the removal, unless they are satisfied that the building is a fire hazard.

Christmas and Wedding Bells. There were three weddings in the city yesterday—Christmas presents, as it were. The bridegrooms were Edgar E. Whitcomb, and Miss Philomena Eberts, presented themselves before Rev. C. W. Watson, at the Pandora Avenue Methodist Church, and these two were made one. James Arthur Ward and Miss Annie Lytle were made man and wife by the same divine, subsequently; William Stewart and Miss Margaret Sedbrook were joined together in wedlock by Rev. P. M. Macleod. The ceremony took place at San Juan Avenue, in the presence of a large gathering of friends, the bridesmaids being Miss Gray and the Misses Rose, and the groom was supported by Mr. T. Moffat, and the presents were select and numerous. Three weddings on Christmas Eve! The compliments of the season to the happy couples.

SPORTS AND PASTIMES.

THE RING.

New York, Dec. 24.—A match was made for the title of world champion, today, between Peter Maher, the Irish champion, and Jack Dempsey, who has long been known as the "Nonpareil," to spar four rounds on their merits in Madison Square Garden, on January 1st. Maher is a decided favorite in the judgment of the referee to get a verdict. If Dempsey is stopped he gets no part of the receipts. Dempsey, who is a very strong man, is also a challenger to any man in the world to a fight to last 145 pounds, give or take five pounds. Gus T. Hill, his banker for years, said he would furnish any stake backed by Tom Ryan, of Chicago, or any other. It is said that the Master Dempsey fight will hurt the Corbett-Mitchell fight, on February 11.

A DISPUTE OVER THE STAKES.

New York, Dec. 24.—The stake money of \$8,000 deposited with R. K. Fox for a fight between Austin Gibbons and Jack McAuliffe is to be the subject of a contest in the courts. The fight occurred last September, but was not finished on account of the referee's decision. McAuliffe is now in the hospital, and the referee has decided in his favor. Gibbons kicked against this decision. Later he joined the stake holder from paying the referee's decision, and used for his portion of it, amounting to \$1,500. Mr. Fox, to-day, secured permission from the court to deposit \$3,000 with it, pending the suit, and has McAuliffe substituted in place of Fox as defendant.

FOOTBALL.

There will be a football practice (rugby) at the Hill, this afternoon. All members of the Y. M. C. A. team are requested to turn out.

THE OAR.

The result of the Macleod-Bush race of Wednesday, as may well be imagined, does not satisfy Dan, who had a good lead of several lengths when his oar broke. He expresses himself as ready to make another match with Bush, for the same distance, and same money, at any time, or will be happy to row him a mile for \$500 a side on the Victoria harbor course.

BASEBALL.

The members of the old reliable James Bay baseball team will meet the world at large in a scratch game on the Beacon Hill diamond, this afternoon. Weather being favorable, the Christmas game should draw well.

The World Enriched. The facilities of the present day for the production of everything that will conduce to the material welfare and comfort of mankind are almost unlimited and when Syrup of Figs was first produced the world was enriched with the only perfect laxative known, as it is the only remedy which is truly pleasing and refreshing to the taste and prompt and effectual to cleanse the system gently in the Spring time or, in fact, at any time and the better it is known the more popular it becomes.

THE WRECKED SARAH.

The Deserving Sailors Get a Decree for Wages Due.

Important Decision Which will be Quoted as a Precedent.

The suit brought by Thomas Tapin, able seaman, against Capt. Greenhalgh, master of the barque Sarah, wrecked off the west coast of Vancouver Island, on 8th Nov. last, was again up in the Provincial Court, yesterday, before Messrs. R. Ward, J.P., and Wm. Dalby, J.P.

This was a test case, the result of which decides the claim for wages by ten other members of the Sarah's crew, who were the first to put off from the wreck. Mr. Langley appeared for the prosecution and Messrs. Eberts and Taylor for the defence. Collector of Customs' Milne was the only one examined, and he substantially repeated the evidence taken before him, when the cause of the wreck was being investigated.

Mr. Milne said that the enquiry had been held by him as Shipping Master. He said that the Sarah was a vessel of 200 tons, and that it was a vessel of the world. Mr. Milne said that the enquiry had been held by him as Shipping Master. He said that the Sarah was a vessel of 200 tons, and that it was a vessel of the world.

Mr. Langley mentioned that the master's certificate had been suspended. Mr. Taylor—That suspension is not worth the paper it is written upon. Mr. Taylor addressed the bench for the ten or eleven minutes, and the duty of a crew was to stand by their vessel until all hopes of saving her were abandoned. In the present instance, the duty of the crew was to stand by their vessel until all hopes of saving her were abandoned. In the present instance, the duty of the crew was to stand by their vessel until all hopes of saving her were abandoned.

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and by amending section 11 of said act, and to make the "British Columbia Railway Act" apply to said railway, and

To incorporate electric lighting companies, to construct and maintain works, and use so much of the waters of the Capilano river and Lynn river, Burrard Inlet, and of the Coquitlam river, both in New Westminster district, in the Province of British Columbia, as may be necessary for the purpose of generating electricity to be used as a motive or illuminating power, or for utilizing the said water power for such other purposes as the company may see fit.

Christmas Eve. The Way in Which Victorians Enjoyed Their "Night of All the Year."

The streets of this city were thronged up to a late hour last night, by crowds of people out on the streets, and on Christmas presents. A happy, joyous throng they were too. Very few, if any of them, bore on their faces the appearance of care or trouble, and all seemed to be in a merry mood. The principal thoroughfares were, up to a late hour, "lights for to see," and in every store window was displayed some dainty, artistic taste, that made it show places for a little knot of pleased and eager sightseers. The handsome manner in which a very large number of the stores were decked out was wonderful. Even in shops where the hoarse boots and shoes or leather trunks were displayed, the window dressers had managed to deck out their wares in a thoroughly pleasing manner. Many were the novelties, and movable figures, and electric lights, and electricity, that attracted the usual number of open-mouthed onlookers. The outside decorations, in several places, were excellent. Chinese lanterns, bunting, and greenery, hung in festoons over the street, and the hundreds of electric lights put up for the occasion shed a soft radiance from one end of the street to the other. The butcher's shops, over the decoration of which a very great deal of thought had been taken this year, looked splendid, and the quality of the meat displayed was a tribute of no mean character to the stock raising facilities of the province. The festive turkey was everywhere. At every corner, strung under eaves of verandahs and heaped up in profusion at every fifty yards on stalls on the sidewalks, the noble bird was displayed in hundreds of thousands found their way into happy homes, last night. The demand, not only for eatables of every description, but for bric-a-brac, jewelry, clothing, and fancy cards as well as enormous quantities of food, was the city expressed it by their unanimous opinion that they had never had such a successful holiday season before.

Christmas in the Churches. Peace on Earth; Good Will Towards Men, to be Proclaimed To-day.

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ONE ENJOYS

Both the method and results when Syrup of Figs is taken; it is pleasant and refreshing to the taste, and acts gently yet promptly on the Kidneys, Liver and Bowels, cleanses the system effectually, dispels colds, head-aches and fevers, and cures habitual constipation permanently.

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Some Children Growing Too Fast

become listless, fretful, without energy, thin and weak. Featly and build them up, by the use of

SCOTT'S EMULSION

OF PURE COD LIVER OIL AND HYPOPHOSPHITES OF Lime and Soda. Parable as MILK AS A PREVENTIVE ON CURS OF COUGHS OR COLDS, IN BOTH THE OLD AND YOUNG, IT IS UNEQUALLED. Genuine made by Scott & Bowne, Bellingham, Salmon Wharfer; at all Druggists, 50c, and \$1.00.

The Celebrated French Cure,

Warranted to cure APHRODITE or money refunded.

Is Sold on POSITIVE GUARANTEE to cure all forms of nervous disease, or any other ailment of the generative organs, whether arising from the AFTER effects of abuse of Stimulants, Tobacco, Opium, or through indigestion, etc., such as Loss of Brain Power, Wakefulness, Bearing down Pain in the Back, Hysteria, Nervous Prostration, Leucorrhoea, Dismissed, Weak Memory, Loss of Power, which if not cured, often leads to premature old age and insanity. Price \$1 a box, 6 boxes for \$5.00. Sent by mail on receipt of price.

A WRITTEN GUARANTEE for every \$5 order, to refund the money if a permanent cure is not effected. Thousands of letters and testimonials are on file, and a list of names of persons permanently cured by APHRODITE, is sent with each box.

THE APHRODITE MEDICINE CO. WESTERN BRANCH, PORTLAND, OR. SOLD BY COCHRAN & MUNN, DRUGGISTS, Corner Douglas and Yates streets, Tacoma, Wash. Sole Agent for Victoria.

GOLD MEDAL, PARIS, 1878.

W. BAKER & Co's

Breakfast Cocoa

from which the excess of oil has been removed, is Absolutely Pure and it is Soluble.

No Chemicals are used in its preparation. It has more than three times the strength of Cocoa mixed with Starch, Arrowroot or Sugar, and is therefore far more economical, costing less than one cent a cup. It is delicious, nourishing, strengthening, EASILY DIGESTED, and admirably adapted for invalids as well as for persons in health.

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LOCAL AND PROVINCIAL.

To Talk Things Over. The Mayor and Aldermen will be friendly chat with the people of the St. hee tribe, at the schoolhouse, relative the evacuation of the reserve by the Indians. The younger people are in favor of moving the old Indians, but they say they have lived long.

The members of the Y.M.I. intend an entertainment in Harmony hall on night of January 5th. A first-class programme