

Another of our girls, besides entertaining friends and enjoying thanksgiving dinner, had the additional pleasure of going for a sleigh ride, which a great number of us were longing for but unfortunately for us it ended in the wishing. But girls! amid all our enjoyments, let us not forget the truer, deeper meaning of Thanksgiving, "Thanks to be given." Let us remember that it is a time when we should especially feel that we ought to return thanks to our Bountiful Father for all the benefits received from Him.

Christmas-Tide.

Christmas! It is the world's one holiday. Christ! Friends and foes alike acknowledge Him, the world's one hero. Away far north within the frozen circle men clasp hands in joyful congratulation, and childrens' voices sound the glad acclaim of "Glory to God in the highest" when Christmas day comes round; and far away in southern latitudes, similar emotions are awakened and similar songs are heard with the ever-familiar refrain, "Christ is born in Bethlehem."

Christianity has wrought itself into every relationship of the best and most advanced of modern life and of modern civilization. It has touched all art and has elevated whatever it has touched. It has given painting new ideals. It has inspired the poet with his divinest song and has imparted to music a power and a pathos of which it never before was capable. It has spoken to the savage; and clothed and in his right mind, that savage now bows down in adoration and reverence before the Redeemer of the world. It pervades the highest of human literature, and purifies as it pervades. It comes alike with gladness, and with its message of peace unto the prisoner's cell and unto the sovereign's palace.

With us the Christmas festival, though a religious observance, is also and pre-eminently a social one. Christmas is a day of gifts and a time of pleasant memories. The season is one of good will, of family gatherings, of joyous music, of heart

felt prayers. What matters it whether or not the 25th. December were the actual, natal day? Most probably it was not, though from the fourth century it has been all but universally so esteemed. The mere date of Christ's birth matters not, only the fact remains that on the 25th. of December is the world's solitary birthday celebration, the world's one holiday which speaks exclusively of peace on earth, good will to men.

Among the legendary lore associated with Christmas, is the pretty but fanciful story, that, at midnight on Christmas Eve, the oxen kneel in their stalls in honor of that night, nearly two thousand years ago when the infant Christ was cradled in a manger. Probably but few, if any, believe in this legend of mute homage paid by the brutes to their Creator, any more than they believe in other miraculous traditions of Christmas eve. But millions of men, women and children, will kneel on that eve in honor of the event that the dumb oxen are supposed to communicate.

Christmas has neither geographical nor social boundaries, "Compliments of the Season" and "A Merry Christmas" are phrases carried to the ends of the earth. This holiday is rich in memories of old times among all sorts and conditions of men, old friends are remembered, old foes forgiven, old feuds forgotten. In this happy season, the rich share their worldly goods with the poor, and the afflicted are visited and comforted. It is by acts of charity we make Christmas a season of double rejoicing—a blessing to him who gives no less than to him who receives.

CHRISTMAS.

Heap on more wood, the wind is chill,
But let it whistle as it will,
We'll keep our Christmas merry still.

—Scott.

Hail to the night when we gather once more,
All the forms we love to meet;
When we've many a guest that's dear to our
And the household dog at our feet. [breast.
Who would not be in the circle glee,
When heart to heart is yearning—
When joy breathes out in the laughing shout,
While the Christmas log is burning.

—Eliza Cook.