

Where Most of Our Soldier Boys Are This New Year's Eve.

The Goal to Which They Press Forward.

The Grecian and Roman philosophers firmly believed that the "dead of midnight is the noon of thought," and one of them is beautifully described as soliciting knowledge from the midnight skies. The truth which they held was, that the seclusion and tranquillity of midnight is most friendly to deep and serious contemplations. To-night, it is safe to assume, every household in this land will be awake watching the departure of the Old Year, and waiting for the entry of the New One. The hour and the occasion will stimulate thought, and the thoughts of very many will centre on "Our Boys" in the far eastern battle line. There will be anxious questionings as to where they are, how they are, and as to what the New Year has in store for them. Yes, and we may be quite certain that wherever the boys are their thoughts will turn to home, for no routine of camp or trench has erased from the memory of the young soldiers the freshness of that home where his mother and other loved ones are waiting, with longing hearts, to hear good news from the war. Heart will speak to heart in the silence of this midnight, and over the heights of Gallipoli and under the rolling tides of the ocean there shall pass to and fro, in beautiful thoughts of love and hope, a New Year's Greeting.

We learn through the press that there has been a withdrawal of troops from Suvla Bay and Anzac, where the Australian and New Zealand boys "won undying fame" by giving their life blood for a cause which is immortal. We also learn that this withdrawal did not involve the abandonment of the whole Gallipoli Peninsula, so it is probable "Our Boys" are still in that locality. Although we have no information to guide us to the exact place of their encampment, yet we know that their faces to-night are turned towards Constantinople—the capital of a corrupt and feeble despotism. That is the goal towards which they press forward. No sound of midnight bells will reach their ears, for where they are encamped the "unspeakable Turk" has held sway for nearly five hundred years and there is no room for Christian customs where his shadow falls. If they are near some provincial Turkish town, at the close of day they may have heard the clear voice of the muezzin, from the top of some minaret, calling the faithful to evening prayer, but no chimes from the minaret of Mosque will ring in the New Year, because Islam has no sympathy with Christianity or its customs.

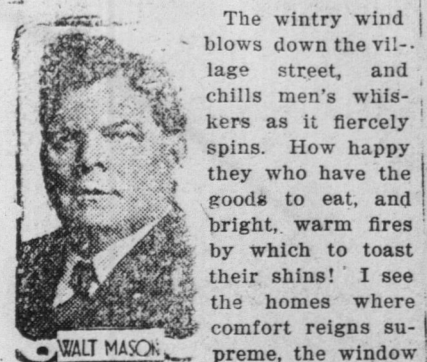
Constantinople, for the possession of which "Our Boys" are fighting, was the first Christian City, and was founded by Constantine the Great a thousand years before the Turkish banner floated on its walls. Its population is probably about five hundred thousand. Unrivaled for situation, it stands, alone of the cities of the world, in two continents, and raised aloft on seven hills which tower above the waters of the Bosphorus, it has proved almost impregnable to the assaults of enemy forces. Twenty-seven times besieged, it was only twice captured. Will this ancient city fortress now withstand the assault of Britain and her Allies? All the world is wondering. Some years ago, at Oxford, the late Dean Stanley in describing a visit to Constantinople said, it is impossible to look down from the Galata Tower on the complication of sea and land, island and mainland, and not feel that "the spot is destined to be, what it seems more and more likely to be both

historically and politically, the Gordian Knot of the World."

I believe that at last the "Gordian Knot of the World" is going to be untied, and that "Our Boys" are going to have a hand in it; that we are witnessing to-day the last convulsive effort of a worn-out and decrepit monarchy; that the Empire of the Turk will give place to the Empire of improvement; that instead of a Turkish barbarism repressing every movement towards liberty and refinement, we shall see the power of Christianity and modern civilization transforming the inhabitants of that unhappy land into a free and enlightened people. This bright prospect may be clouded by the attitude of Greece and Roumania, but such are not the indications. The prospect is fair that the Allied forces will before very long enter in triumph the Old Christian City, which for nearly five hundred years has been held and desecrated by the Turk, and the hope is not now chimerical that the whole of the renowned areas around which all the associations of antiquity are concentrated are again to be brought back to the sway of civilization and Christianity. Away back in almost forgotten centuries all the known world was plundered to adorn Constantinople, but when "Our Boys" enter it in triumph they won't see much of its ancient glory, for the barbarian did his best to efface it, and what he left behind earthquakes and the conflagrations of 1865-66-70 and 73 swept away. They will, however, see one of the wonders of the world—the great Hagia Sofia, the Church of Saint Sophia, originally founded by the Emperor Constantine fifteen hundred years ago, and rebuilt two hundred years later by Justinian. It still stands unrivaled in gorgeousness and wealth of ancient art. It was within this sacred edifice that the envoys of Vladimir the Great in the ninth century discovered the Christian religion for the Russian Empire. A Russian chronicler says, "The Russian envoys were struck by the multitude of lights and the chanting of the hymns; but what most filled them with astonishment was the appearance of the deacons and sub-deacons issuing from the sanctuary, with torches in their hands and white linen wings on their shoulders, at whose presence the people fell on their knees and cried 'Kyrie Eleison, Holy! Holy! Holy!' This description gives us an idea of the elaborate ritual and religious awe that once pervaded this ancient sanctuary. In the year 1453 it was transformed by the Turks into a Mosque. There is another ancient church in the city which will probably receive more attention from "Our Boys"—the Church of Saint Irene, as it is commonly called. It was dedicated to the Divine Peace—"Agia Eirene." The Turks converted it into the Armoury of the Turkish Empire. Its sacred aisles became storerooms for implements of warfare, its altar the resting place of bristling bayonets and flashing broad swords. The Temple of Divine Peace! Sad and singular coincidence, but entirely typical of the Turk. Let us hope that before another New Year morn breaks upon the world, this temple, with the aid of "Our Boys", shall have been thoroughly cleansed of its pollution, and that through its ancient aisles there shall once more echo the strains of sacred music—a Te Deum from grateful hearts for the redemption of humanity from the curse of militarism, and the establishment of a lasting peace throughout the world.

R. BOND.
The Grange, Whitbourne,
December 31st, 1915.

WINTRY WINDS.



The wintry wind blows down the village street, and chills men's whiskers as it fiercely spins. How happy they who have the goods to eat, and bright, warm fires by which to toast their shins! I see the homes where comfort reigns supreme, the window glow, the chimneys cough up smoke; indoors the kids with merry laughter scream, when Dad turns loose a prehistoric joke. The men who work in summer, spring and fall, may view the winter with unworried brows, rest in their chairs, their feet against the wall, and hear the singing of their cheerful fraus. There's store of onions by the cellar stair, there's bacon hanging by the kitchen door; the kids have shoes and other things to wear, there's lots of kindling on the woodshed floor. And as I look, some delegates go past, the hungry men, who always are on deck; they hunt a hole in which to dodge the blast, all

down and out, each one a sorry wreck. They would not work when summer smiled and glowed, and there was work for every willing hand; they loafed and lounged along the open road, they played and dreamed throughout a busy land.

ESSENCE OF GINGER WINE.

Having had considerable correspondence with parties in the Old Country, I have at last succeeded in obtaining the genuine and original recipe for the "Essence of Ginger Wine," which I now offer at 15 cents per bottle. This recipe has been safely guarded for a great many years. It was originally prepared by an old Equire in Lancashire, A.D. 1575. It is made from the purest ingredients, and is strictly non-alcoholic. It makes an ideal Christmas drink for the young and the old. The contents of one fifteen-cent bottle, mixed with three quarts of hot water, in which there has been previously dissolved one and a quarter pounds of sugar, makes the Ginger Wine ready for use. I have much pleasure in introducing this old (but still new) preparation.

PETER O'MARA, The Druggist,
46-48 Water St. West,
dec30,15

No advance in price, Stafford's Essence of Ginger Wine only 10c a bottle.—dec14,15

War News.

T. J. Edens

Messages Received Previous to 9 A.M.

ASQUITH WILL MAKE RECRUITING REPORT NEXT WEEK.

NEW YORK, Dec. 30. The London correspondent of the New York Herald this morning cabled the following: Asquith will make a complete statement of the result of the Derby recruiting campaign in the Commons next Wednesday, and I am informed he will follow this with the presentation of a bill, which will compel enlistment of those among a half million single men who are physically fit, and who have refused to respond under the group system, to the call of their King and Country. Severe penalties will be imposed upon all single men who do not respond to this final call.

HARCOURT RESIGNS; WILL BECOME VICEROY OF INDIA.

LONDON, Dec. 30. Lewis Harcourt, who holds a place in the Cabinet, as First Commissioner of Works, has resigned to become Viceroy of India. It is understood Harcourt is one of the Cabinet Ministers who opposed compulsory enlistment of Britons.

TWO AUSTRIAN TORPEDO BOATS SUNK.

PARIS, Dec. 30. Two Austrian torpedo-boat destroyers have been sunk as a result of an encounter with sea forces off a point outside of Cattaron in the Adriatic. The purpose of the Austrian ships was to bombard Durazzo. An allied squadron went to meet them with the result above set forth. In addition, the remainder of the Austrian squadron was pursued by a warship of the Allies, and compelled to flee towards the Austrian base.

THE DAILY EXPRESS ON THE CABINET.

LONDON, Dec. 30. The Daily Express asserts that there is a group of at least three Unionists in the Cabinet, led by Earl Selborne, President of the Board of Agriculture, who are likely to resign because Asquith's plan for a modified form of conscription does not go far enough. Those men contend that it is wrong to force all single men to serve in the army when there is a large proportion of married men who could be spared more easily and that altogether the Premier's plan is a useless compromise. The Express therefore anticipates a fair crop of resignations among the supporters of voluntary enlistment and determined conscriptionists, but says that these resignations will not be serious enough to imperil the existence of the Government. The paper also expresses the opinion that Earl Derby, Director of recruiting, will find a place in this reconstructed Ministry. According to the Daily Sketch the Government has a Bill under consideration embodying the following methods of securing recruits: When it is decided to call to the colors any attested group under Earl Derby's plan, a day will be fixed for men in that particular group to present themselves at a military depot. Until that day any unattested bachelor of the age stipulated for that group may volunteer for the army and by so volunteering will escape the stigma of compulsion, but all falling to volunteer on the stipulated day will be fetched.

INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 30. The entire personnel of the international commission which will represent Britain and the United States in any dispute which arises under the so-called Investigation Peace Treaty, negotiated by former Secretary Bryan and now being handled by Secretary Gray, announced formally, George Gray, will be the national member for the States, and Dominico Da-Gama, Ambassador for Brazil, will be the non-national member for the United States. Britain has chosen Viscount Bryce as her national member and Max Koreski of the Imperial Russian Council, as her non-national member. Fridtjof Nansen, the celebrated explorer and former premier of Norway, will be the Empire. The Treaty provides that if any of the British possessions are involved in the controversy they shall be represented and Sir Charles Fitzpatrick has been chosen from Canada, Sir George Reid from Australia, and W. P. Schreiner from the South African Union.

NEUTRAL SHIPPING.

LONDON, Dec. 30. A black list of neutral shipping has been issued by the government for the guidance of British shippers, who are advised not to charter ships appearing on it. The list now shows the names of 102 steamers. The gross tonnage of these vessels is 50,000 which means a carrying capacity of 200,000 tons which is unavailable to British shippers and neutral charterers in any way dependent on British shipping. The neutral nations represented in the list now brought up to date with the number of ships of each nation, are as follows: United States, 11; Norway, 38; Sweden, 37; Denmark, 8; Spain, 1; Holland, 4; Brazil, 3.

AUSTRIA AND HUNGARY.

LONDON, Dec. 30. The Budapest correspondent of the Post in a letter published to-day states that the old enmity between Austria and Hungary has burst out into fresh flame and that even the pretence of unity which has existed since the time when the Austrians offended the Hungarians by removing the Hungarian flag from the fortresses at Belgrade. The seriousness of the present quarrels, the correspondent says is increased in the Parliamentary activities of the

California Tinned Fruits!

150 cases just in by S. S. Stephens.
PEACHES, 2 1/2 lb. tins.
PEARS, 2 1/2 lb. tins.
APRICOTS, 2 1/2 lb. tins.
STRAWBERRIES, 2 1/2 lb. tins.
Tinned Fruits are very cheap this year.

25 cases Campbell's Soups, 12c. tin.
20 cases Fresh Eggs.
100 bris. Apples—Kings, Wagners, Ben Davis.

100 bags CRUSHED CORN.
300 bags BRAN.
100 bags WHOLE CORN.

ALMERIA GRAPES.
WINE SAPP APPLES.
PEARS.
GRAPE FRUIT.
CALIFORNIA ORANGES.
FLORIDA ORANGES.
VALENCIA ORANGES.
20 bris. Holywood CABBAGE.
FRESH OYSTERS.
FINNAN HADDIES.
KIPPERED HERRING.

500 bdis No. 1 Hay.

Small consignment
GEESE & CHICKEN
by rail to-day.

T. J. EDENS.

WORK OF ITALIANS.

GENEVA, Dec. 30. It is reported here on good authority that Italian troops have occupied the Albanian sea port of Durazzo. This report is corroborated by the fact that the German Consul at Durazzo and members of his staff with fifty other Germans passed through Bellinzona, Switzerland, yesterday on their way to Berlin. Durazzo and Avlona are the principal Albanian ports. Avlona was occupied by the Italians several months before Italy entered the war. Durazzo is a peninsula in the Adriatic Sea, 40 miles south of the Montenegrin border. There have been previous reports of Italian activity there, principally in connection with landing supplies for the Serbian army.

AUSTRIANS ON THE RUN.

GENEVA, Dec. 30. After heavy fighting for three days between Austrian and Montenegrin troops, the Austrians are in retreat on one part of the front the War Office announced to-day.

RETREAT FROM MACEDONIA.

LONDON, Dec. 30. The Germans and Austrians have begun a general withdrawal on their entire front in Macedonia, according to a despatch to the Exchange Telegraph from Rome, quoting the message from Salonika to this effect. The reported withdrawal is attributed to the Russian advance in Bessarabia, the message states.

THE KAISER.

LONDON, Dec. 30. A despatch from Amsterdam says reports received here from Berlin are to the effect that Emperor William is suffering from a non-malignant boil. He is remaining indoors owing to unsettled weather, but is not confined to bed.

for a fine complexion

you must do something more than use cosmetics. You must keep the blood pure, the liver and kidneys active, and the bowels regular. You must also correct the digestive ills that cause muddy skin and dull eyes.

Beecham's Pills

offer you the needed help. They are mild in action, but quickly strengthen the stomach, gently stimulate the liver and regulate the bowels. They put the body in good condition so the organs work as nature intended. Backed by sixty years of usefulness, Beecham's Pills

are worth a guinea a box

Small size 1/6, 1/2 size 1/3, 1 lb. size 2/6.

1916.

A Very Happy NEW YEAR to all.

ON the Eve of the New Year We take this opportunity to offer our Patrons our sincerest WISHES of Happiness and Prosperity.

The Retail Stores, Ltd.

OUR NEW YEAR GIFTS

GENTLEMEN'S DRESSING CASES.

A more useful article you could not find, saves worry and would make a good start for the New Year to give hubby one of these real useful articles.

PICTURES.

Nothing ornaments a home more than a nice selection of pictures. We have them for every room. We frame to order any required. We have the latest King and Queen Picture. Be patriotic, secure one at once.

BUFFETS.

What home is complete without a Buffet with its linen drawers, silverware drawers—so absolutely necessary.

HALL STANDS.

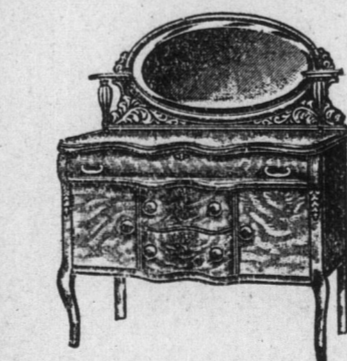
We have a very nice selection of Hall Stands which we now offer at special prices. Better secure one before they are all gone.

CHAIRS.

In Chairs we have a large variety to select from in Quartered Oak, Mahogany, Surface Oak, &c.

PARLOUR SUITES.

We have just opened some very nice Parlour Suites. Now is your time to get that promised Suite for your best room. We have them in assorted patterns.



SPECIAL.—On all purchases made at our store the next 3 days we will give absolutely free the following lines: Pictures, Chairs, Tea, Dinner and Toilet Sets, Cheese Dishes and other lines too many to mention, according to the amount of the purchase. Learn our plan and profit thereby.

The C. L. MARCH Co., Ltd.,

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