



PREPARING FOR WINTER (See next page.)

A CHRISTMAS SONG.

BY JOHN O. WHITTIER.

SOUND over all waters, reach out from all lands,
 The chorus of voices, the claspings of hands;
 Sing hymns that were sung by the stars of the morn,
 Sing songs of the angels when Jesus was born.
 With glad jubilations
 Bring hope to the nations!

The dark night is ending and dawn has begun;
 Rise, hope of the ages, arise like the sun,
 All speech flow to music, all hearts beat as one.

Sing the bridal of nations, with chorals of love,
 Sing out the war vulture and sing in the dove,
 Till the hearts of the people keep time in accord,
 And the voice of the world is the voice of the Lord!

Clasp hands of the nations
 In strong gratulations;
 The dark night is ending, and the dawn has begun;
 Rise, hope of the ages, arise like the sun,
 All speech flow to music, all hearts beat as one.

Blow, bugles of battle, the marches of peace,
 East, west, north and south, let the long quarrel cease;
 Sing the song of great joy that the angels began,
 Sing of glory to God and good-will to man.

Hark! joining in chorus
 The heavens bend o'er us.
 The dark night is ending, and day is begun;
 Rise, hope of the ages, arise like the sun,
 All speech flow to music, all hearts beat as one.

THE number of Christians has increased century by century until now they far outnumber the adherents of any other faith. The ordinary statistics by which Buddhists are made to outnumber Christians are totally misleading. The difference

between Quakerism and the Church of Rome is trifling as compared to the difference between sects who are all classed together as Buddhists, but who have almost nothing in common except the name and a few merely outward and material resemblances. To call the Mohammedans Christians would be much more reasonable than to consider as adherents of one religion all who call themselves Buddhists. And this is not all, for in China, which contains most of the adherents of Buddhism, this is only one belief among many, and the same man is often Buddhist, Taouist, Confucianist and ancestor worshipper, all in one. Taking Christians and Mohammedans together, it is probable that there are from five to six hundred millions of people who believe in one God, Creator and Governor of the world, who has revealed Himself in Jesus Christ, while it is extremely improbable that even a third as many are so agreed on any other creed.—*Church Review*.

TIME can never be heavy on hands that are filled for God. The worldly young man may complain that the wheels of time scarce seem to move. But to the young man, a child of God, seeking to serve Christ, time seems all too short. To all such there is no wearying for the time to go past. Therefore he buys up opportunities, seeing the days are evil. Time, to him, is a part of his lease below, and upon how these hours are spent, eternal issues depend.