

# THE Christmas Canadian Courier

DECEMBER 11th, 1909

**T**HE Christmas number of the Canadian Courier for 1909 will be an interesting human document. The man or woman, tradesman or customer, outposter or stayer-at-home, townsman or dweller in the rural parts, who fails to find this issue the best compend of interesting features he has ever seen in a Canadian publication, whether daily, weekly or monthly, must be so near the North Pole that even the Canadian Courier is unable to reach him.

This number will contain at least thirty-six pages. From front cover design to the "ad." on the back cover page, this issue of December 11th will reflect in picture, story and verse and in special illustration features the life of Canada at the Christmas season. From coast to coast; the man in the city and the outposter on the prairie; the miner and the lumberman; the man away from home and the citizen by his fireside—this will be the Christmas festival story of Canada.

Christmas both past and present will be the theme. The Christmas of our grandfathers in Canada will be illustrated by a superb full-page line drawing from the masterful Canadian pen of Mr. David Thomson, now resident in London, England; also a sketch in words to accompany same—"A Christmas Party in 1850." The Christmas of our fathers will be represented by a special sketch written expressly for the Canadian Courier by one who has been through the experiences depicted in "The Old Farm Lane in Christmas Week"—illustrated by a splendid wash drawing by Mr. T. G. Greene, a Canadian artist recently a member of the Carlton Studio in London, England. For the Christmas of to-day we have secured a full-page series of line drawings by the leading pen-and-ink artist of America, Mr. C. W. Jefferys. There will be two pages devoted to Christmas carols and church and city scenes; Christmas stories by Canadian writers, both well illustrated by Canadian artists. We have also secured exclusive right to a story concerning the son of Charles Dickens who during the Rebellion served in the North-West Mounted Police and whose dramatic experiences at Fort Pitt will occupy two splendidly illustrated pages. Last but not least, the cover by Miss Estelle Kerr will appeal to the Yuletide imagination of every child and parent in the land.

No periodical in Canada has ever succeeded in setting forth so popular and interesting a picture of a Canadian Christmas as is now in preparation by the Canadian Courier.

"You see," said the girl earnestly, "I'm being punished every hour of my life. And sometimes, like to-day, when I think the suffering is over it comes again when I least expect it. I loved a man very much, and once, I believe, he loved me, but at that time I didn't care for him, and then afterwards he married. Perhaps I'm not making it clear to you?"

"Yes, I understand," said Natalie quietly. "You found you loved him when it was too late."

"Yes; but that is where the sin of it comes in. I tried to bring him back to me again—after he was married."

She stopped and looked appealingly at Natalie, but the little dressmaker sat listening in cold silence, her hands folded in her lap.

"Was it so very wrong? You see, I thought he loved me; he had loved me first."

"I couldn't say," said Natalie, a great, half-forgotten pain crushing her heart. "It depended on whether he cared for his wife, I suppose."

"I'm coming to that," she went on hastily. "It seems that he did care for her, very much. He'd been wild, and I think a little unkind, and she'd forgiven him time and again. One night I sent for him; it seemed that my heart would break. He came, and we talked for hours. Then we quarrelled, because of her—his wife. He told me how dearly he loved her, and that he was going to turn over a new leaf, and that I must never write to him again or try to see him."

"I grew angry, I think; I almost forget how it did happen, but suddenly, while he was passionately reproaching me, he turned white and fell forward upon his knees and groaned. When I went to him to try to help him up, blood was coming from his mouth, and I heard him mutter:

"This is the end.... God, what an end!" And presently, again, "This will kill Natalie!.... Get a cab—quick!"

The little dressmaker half rose from her seat, her face blanching with emotion.

"Go on," she said.

"I am. I was half-fainting with fright, and hardly remember what else happened, except that I helped him to the corner and into a cab, and told the cabman to get help and take him home. Afterwards, I learned that he was dead when they carried him in. He must have died in the cab."

"Then I went away to try to forget the horror of it, and when I came back I wanted to find the wife and tell her, but she had disappeared. I felt that she ought to know; I wanted to tell her that her husband had been faithful. His last words and thoughts were of her. That has been hanging over me and reproaching me. It was the least I could do for him—to clear his memory. It must have been a terrible thing for her—not knowing."

The little dressmaker rose from her chair and drew her baby close to her; there were tears in her eyes as she faced her visitor—the sweet relief of tears.

"It was terrible for her," she said; "more terrible, even, than you imagined. You see, she found your note—the note you wrote asking him to come to you."

"Why," exclaimed the girl, "how did you know? Did it come out in the papers?" She rose excitedly. "What do you mean?"

"Oh, I forgot," said the little dressmaker simply. "You don't understand. I am Natalie."

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The story that pleases best is not always the story that ends happily, although American readers seem to prefer that kind of ending; in spite of the fact that tears are good business on the stage—good for the box-office receipts.

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Persons tendering are notified that tenders will not be considered unless made on the printed forms supplied, and signed with their actual signatures, with their occupations and places of residence. In the case of firms the actual signature, the nature of the occupation and place of residence of each member of the firm must be given.

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