

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

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Hymns from the Book of Common Praise, compiled by Dr. Albert Ham, F.R.C.O., Organist and Director of the Choir of St. James' Cathedral, Toronto.

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT.

(December 20th.)

Holy Communion: 238, 240, 249, 252.

Processional: 70, 382, 385, 386.

General: 63, 420, 481, 580.

Offertory: 305, 384, 597, 652.

Children: 693, 701, 712, 716.

CHRISTMAS DAY.

(December 25th.)

Holy Communion: 77, 256, 259, 262.

Processional: 72, 73, 397.

Offertory: 76, 78, 81, 514.

Children: 80, 668, 712.

General: 74, 75, 79, 599.

The Outlook

The Heavenly Guest

May Christ be in thy heart this Christmastide,
And may He there an honour'd guest abide,
And may'st thou entertain Him all the year;
So shall its changes bring to thee no fear,
For where the Holy Child hath entered in,
There is no room for sadness or for sin.

These lines, of which the author is unknown, express a beautiful prayer, and we gladly pass them on, adding our own best wishes that Christmas may be to all our readers a season of true blessedness. In the light of the awful conflict now being waged, it is almost impossible to think of a "happy" Christmas for very many, whether at the Front or else either sorrowing or anxious at home. But, nevertheless,

it is possible to have quiet, peaceful blessedness in fellowship with our Saviour. This is a time when we are particularly reminded of what God has done for us in giving His own Son to be our Saviour and Friend; and no one can think of all that is involved in that wondrous Gift without realizing the height and the depth of Divine love. Our hearts go out in sympathy to and prayer for all our brave soldiers and sailors, both at the Front and in training in England and Canada, and we specially think with prayerfulness of the bereaved and anxious as they look back over the past four months and recall what was and what might have been. We are sure that the Lord of Christmas will be very near all such, and will enfold them in all the tenderness of His love and the might of His grace.

Personal Confessions of Faith

It is not every one who takes the opportunity of his will to set forth a part at least of his personal confession of belief. And even when it is found, critical eyes are not wanting to examine with care the statements made. But when a man is known to have lived the true life and to have borne witness to it during that time, the words of his will are valuable, for "he, being dead, yet speaketh." We had an instance of this the other day in the will of the Hon. S. H. Blake, and it was a great satisfaction to those who knew him, to observe the interest with which his confession of trust in his Heavenly Father was received. Since then, a prominent layman in the United States has given utterance to his creed, and his words are particularly worthy of notice:

"I firmly believe in the Christian religion and in the Christian Church as the divinely appointed agency through which the greatest and most lasting good can be done for the betterment and uplift of humanity. I mean by Church the Church of Jesus Christ in the broadest sense, for though I am a Presbyterian, and prefer for myself that denomination, I regard it as only one branch of the Church. I have done much of my most delightful and successful Christian work in interdenominational movements."

The influence of a document like this cannot help being great, in view of the publicity given to it, for it will set many people thinking upon the subjects which are stated with such evident sincerity and true dignity. It is fine that a man should, both by his life and his death bear witness to the good fight and the kept faith.

The Peace Centenary and the War

Should the Hundred Years of Peace celebration between Canada and the United States be abandoned because of the war? This question has evoked a considerable amount of discussion both in Canada and the United States. In a circular just issued by the Canadian Peace Centenary Association the answer is given. The Association took the wise course of consulting the Executives of the British and American organizations and of requesting the opinion of a large number of leading men

throughout Canada. Sir Robert Borden and Sir Wilfrid Laurier were very emphatic as to the celebration not being interfered with by the War; on the contrary, the terrible conflict is thought to bring into clearer relief the magnificent results of the century of peace between the American and the Canadian peoples. To the same effect is the opinion of the Chairman of the American Committee, who holds that there is now a double reason for celebrating peace. It is gratifying to know that efforts are being made to observe the celebration by church services on February 14 next, and by work in Public Schools in the form of prizes for essays. The relations between Canada and the United States have been particularly friendly for several years past, and the attitude of a large majority of Americans towards Great Britain in the present war is such that a celebration of peace between our neighbours and ourselves will elicit warm enthusiasm on both sides of the boundary. We would fain hope that the celebration will have its own definite influence in bringing about peace in Europe.

Drink and the War

Amid the spirit of sacrifice that has come upon the Nation and Empire as the result of the War, it is disquieting to realize that our deadliest foe is left practically undisturbed. The courage and skill that turned back the Germans have not dared to grapple with the problems of Strong Drink. Russia has taken it by the throat, and France has prohibited the sale of Absinthe, but we have hitherto been content with brave words and good advice. And yet, Strong Drink, our gravest national peril in peace, increases its dangers a thousand-fold in War. Even papers issued by the drink trade admit this, and the British Government acknowledges it, and in a weak way grants exceptional powers and makes suggestions. But talk is no use; swift, resolute action is essential. There are two directions in which the drink peril has been accentuated by the War. There is much drinking among recruits, and a great increase of drunken women. It would be a great satisfaction if Lord Kitchener would stop the sale of drink in every canteen, for we owe it to the men in the camps and on the field to protect manhood and home life from this diabolical foe. This is a tremendous challenge to the Christian Churches and a splendid opportunity for a vigorous temperance campaign. In a new weekly paper published in the United States, there is a striking cartoon, depicting a drunkard who gives a testimonial to a certain beer: "Before using your beer I was troubled with my conscience. After using it for ten years, I have no conscience." The War challenges our drinking habits, and God calls us to repentance and sacrifice. Now is the time for the Church to do its utmost to provide sanctuary for the young soldiers, and show that the Church can be both a defence and a home.

Santa Claus Association

A plan to furnish a Christmas gift to every needy child in Toronto has been formed by a group of volunteer workers called the "Santa Claus Association." By various methods of publicity, beginning early in December, the