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SPECIAL TO OUR READERS.

As the design of THE CANADIAN GROCER is to benefit mutually all interested in the business, we would request all parties ordering goods or making purchases of any description from houses advertising with us to mention in their letter that such advertisement was noticed in THE CANADIAN GROCER.

CHRISTMAS-TIDE.



OF CHRISTMAS themes there have been and will ever be, in this and other Christian lands, more pages written and more discourses spoken than on any other the world has ever known. To the most of those who observe the day, it has, first, its religious aspect. Amid lights and flowers, the pæans of rich voices and the swelling tones of organ and orchestra, the feast of the Nativity receives its devotional observances. Again,

it is its mission to bring smiles and sunshine, to strew flowers along life's rugged pathway, and to mingle some of the sweet things of life with the distasteful and unpleasant, so much of which is found in the daily experience of many, if not the most, of us. For this day at least, the din and tumult have ceased; an air of holy calm enwraps the earth as with a mantle, and rudeness, violence, and discord are transformed to gentleness, kindness and harmony. "Peace

on earth; good will to man." How these words thrill and ennoble the human heart, and when hand clasps hand and eye returns the kindly glance of eye, as the hearty greeting springs from the lips, we recognize the brotherhood of man and our hearts are filled with more kindly thoughts one to another. Though cares may press and troubles thron all the grim three hundred and sixty-four days that precede it, when once the chimes of Christmas Day ring out upon the air, the furrowed brows relax, the anxious eyes light up, and every one of us, however conditioned, and wherever placed, feels the glad thrill of the world's happiness touch both life and heart, as we too join in greetings to the happy day. Men who never give the origin of the world's great festival a thought, feel their best natures stirred to be in the good times they see and feel around them, and to do their share towards brightening and cheering the little corner of the earth for whose happiness they are responsible. Even scoffers and such as have no distinct idea of religious belief cease from logical reasoning and historical refutation, and become as little children in Christmas entertainment. A great longing to make others happy fills every heart; now, if ever, the purse strings are loosened; the giver is blessed in giving, the receiver happy in receiving; and the fair garland of Christmas gifts and Christmas greetings that links heart to heart vies in fragrance and beauty with the more perishable blossoms that deck the Christmas home. We all have our share of joys and sorrows, losses and disappointments but on this holy Christmas Day we are always inspired to hope for the brightest and best and not to shrivel and shrink when trouble crosses our path. Welcome then to the Christmas-tide, that season of merrymaking, with its happy home gatherings, its tokens of remembrance and love, of paternal thoughtfulness and filial regard!

Eighteen hundred and ninety-one years ago the star came and stood over the place where the young Child lay, and ushered in the era of universal brotherhood among men. To-day is the anniversary of the event which gave a divine inauguration to that era—it is Christmas Day—and men's minds are recalled to the social sentiment which is the very essence of Christianity, that of love to one another. The day does not plant in us, but it lays bare, feelings that we were unconscious of on all the other days of the year, and makes us think better of ourselves and of our kind, by revealing to us the ties that bind us to one another. Thus are we enabled to feel that Christ's mission on earth, to establish good-will among men, has not been a fruitless one. The love of kindred, the sense of broad human fellowship, the feelings of philanthropy, are heightened and hallowed by the usages and observances that cling around Christmas day. The circle that gathers about the family fireside may here and there be marked by a gap that some loved one will fill no more, or a vacant chair may tell of one whom distance separates from his home. But the Christmas gathering will refresh the hearts of all with tenderer memory for the absent ones, and knit together those who are there in bonds of renewed strength. The day is invested with associations that no other holiday ever had; it cheers, strengthens and holds together the family and the community. May it be a bright day in the lives of all our readers, who have our wishes for a very Merry Christmas