

Some Christmas Reflections.

Rev. G. W. Ridout, D.D.

IN one of our colleges a professor and some students were kneeling in special prayer in the Chapel. The professor in his prayer for help in a time of great stress prayed about the government that His shoulders were big enough and broad enough to bear all the care, all the responsibility, all the difficulties; and that we should transfer our burden to His Almighty shoulders. The thought broke in upon one of the students like a new revelation. He said he had never seen it in that light before. Well, dear readers, turn to Isaiah 9: 6, and there you have it. Oh what a relief it would be to many a weary, tired, restless soul if they would turn the government of their lives over entirely to Jesus. Pass along a street one day you noticed a sign over a place of business which read, "This business will open (on such a date) under new management." So it would be a good thing for souls who have no victory if henceforth they would turn the control of things entirely over to the Wonderful Counsellor and let the government be upon His shoulders.

On a pinnacle of the Cordillera of the Andes, fourteen thousand feet above the sea, surrounded by other peaks of perpetual snow, stands a monument of Christ. The statue cost about a hundred thousand dollars, and was paid for by subscriptions from the people, the working classes contributing liberally. Chile and Argentina have lifted it as a tangible witness of international brotherhood. On the granite pedestal of this colossal monument is this inscription: "Sooner shall these mountains crumble to dust than Argentines and Chileans break the peace which at the feet of Christ the Redeemer they have sworn to maintain." On the opposite side of the base, the angel song of Bethlehem: "On earth peace, goodwill toward men."

It is truly a frightful condition of affairs which the Angels of Christmas have to witness this Christmas-tide in Europe. Oh what sorrow! Oh what woe! Oh the cries and heartaches and walls and sobs heard all over Europe. And why? Because Emperors and Kings and Rulers have forgotten the Prince of Peace, the Saviour! What a wonderful example those South American Republics show to warring Europe. It will be wonderful if the nations which are neighbors to one another in Europe after the war is over will erect upon their borders a statue of the Christ and thereby dedicate themselves to peace and the pursuit of happiness in a godly way. As we think of the warring nations which the Christmas of 1916 dawned upon, how different was the first Christmas morning which Milton sang of in the lines:

"No war, or battle sound,
Was heard the world around;
The hills spear and shield were high
upreared;
The hooked chariot stood,
Unstained with hostile blood;
The trumpet spake not to the armed
throng;
And Kings sat still with awful eye
As if they surely knew their sov-
ereign Lord was by."

But peaceful was the night
Wherein the Prince of Light
His reign of peace upon the earth be-
gan;
The winds, with wonder whist,
Smoothly the waters kissed,
Whispering new joys to the mild
Ocean,
Who now hath quite forgot to rave,
While birds of calm sit brood-
ing on the charmed wave."

On a lofty ceiling in one of the palaces of Rome is Guido's masterpiece, "The Adoration." But looking up from the pavement of the Casino, to study his marvelous fresco, makes the head swim, and the eyes misty, and the neck tired, and the brain confused, so a broad mirror is placed near the floor which reflects the picture, and the traveller may sit and study it without weariness. Christ is the revelation of God to us. We have "the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ." He is the mirrored Deity. "The brightness of the Father's glory and the express image of his person." In the Incarnation we see God manifested in the flesh. The coming of Jesus to the world brought God closer to us. It made Heaven dearer to us and the glorious fact of Recon- ciliation and Redemption is written all over the doctrine of the Incarnation. Men looked for a king who should conquer the world. A leader of legions with banners unfurled. With lances and swords, like the tem- pest to slay. All foemen who dared to dispute his full sway. And the Conqueror came. A carpenter's son. By whose gentle word the simplest were won;

table, whose first letter looks and whose last letter both sounds and looks like a hissing serpent, and looks like a great door shut—sin.

1. Error.—A mere missing the mark; a having no part in; an evil deed or thing, conscious or no (Rom. 7:23). Wherein a man is as though he had never had or taken his opportunity for an education, or had married the wrong woman, or been born in or moved to the wrong climate; and so misses it, wandering astray on the chill, Syrian pastures of an interminable moral twilight.

2. Lapse.—A falling alongside; a deviation from truth and goodness; a coming short of a more or less known standard (Matt. 6: 14, 15). In which a man sees the way, has found and in himself confessed the pattern, but stumbles, slips, falls down, pleads weakness, and is at once an offender and an anxiety to his neighbors, his wife, his God and himself.

3. Transgression.—A stepping over, a wilful disregarding; the conscious breach of a definite and promulgated rule of right (Rom. 5:4). When the offender has effectually and insolently exercised his inalienable but pagan privilege of known wrong.

4. Depravity.—Iniquity; a state of being full of evil designs and of evil labors, and therefore morally broken down; wretchedness (1 Cor. 5:8). Liable, whose first letter looks and which brings a man to where, out of a crooked and corrupt nature, his habit and whole liability are to evil first and continually, and all but the dearest and best have given him up.

5. Malice.—Pure evil in the will; a mind to thwart and to injure; a wickedness that is no longer ashamed, but exults in its own black devices; malignity (Acts 21:22). The end of the slope; the last level on the terraces toward perdition; the bog-brink of the moral perversity, in whose abused brain the light has sunk to darkness, and all good has been transmuted to evil.

These, O men, are the danger ranges back of Bethlehem and across Europe and the world; the wide, dim, starless slopes whereon our brothers' feet wander and stumble, and range and fight and sink into the white carved paths of the Prince of Peace.

Out of this did the star shine. And into this it must needs shine on. Taylor University, Upland, Indiana, U.S.A.

WAR TIMES--100 YEARS AGO.

H. F. Shortis.

IN these tremendous war-times it will be very interesting for all of us to glance back at the actual facts of one hundred years ago. Let us remember that Trafalgar was fought in 1805 and Waterloo in 1815, and it gives us some idea of what England was doing in that time.

If we were to hear of a mighty battle at this time, wherein Beatty sank or captured practically the whole of the German fleet, we would be able to appreciate, in a small degree, what a wonderful fight Trafalgar really was.

To-day we find Great Britain prepared to meet any two or more of the rival fleets of the world, but, one hundred years ago, she could not claim a larger fleet than any one enemy, and in many battles she was outnum-

bered, but she had the men, and with the genius of Nelson to command she was supreme.

What a shout there would go up from all quarters of the world if we could only get a square stand-up fight like Trafalgar! It is enough to make an Irishman's soul groan with agony to see the miserable German piratical submarines carrying on warfare on peaceful fishing boats, and sinking passenger steamers with women and children. What better can we expect from Germany when we find their Press boasting of such performances and the Kaiser presenting his Cross for valor to such degenerate hounds?

THE PRESENT MANAGER.

The present Managing Partner, Walter Baine Grievé, has been at the head of affairs for over forty years, and any person who does not know him as I do, I am very certain would not believe that he was much over fifty years of age. He is in the prime of life, and when you see him in the midst of his conferees, you do not need to wonder long as to who is keeping them all laughing. He has a joke and a good word with every person, but watch that smile vanish, as if by magic, as he comes right down to business. He puts the principal facts to the front at once in a manner that there is no mistaking. I have seen some people opposing his views at a public meeting, and inside of five minutes that same man looked just as if he had his neck twisted. It was only a couple of innocent questions that Mr. Grievé had put to him, but they had knocked stars into his brain, and had put the audience in roars of laughter.

I hope the readers of the Evening Telegram do not imagine for one moment that it is at business or in a social way that we find him at his best. He has the happy knack of getting at the heart or kernel of whatever is to the front. If it is politics that is absorbing the country you will find him with a sheet of telegrams before him directing the movements, very often the whole campaign. He has done it before, and perhaps he will do it again in the future.

In this troublesome war-time, when fighting is the one topic of conversation, the greatest need of the Empire is to raise men for our armies. To whom must we look for advice to get the best men of our country to take the place of those who have just made the supreme sacrifice? Who is it that His Excellency Sir Walter E. Davidson, our patriotic Governor, as well as the Recruiting Committee, have selected as their Secretary to guide their affairs but Walter Baine Grievé? He puts life and vigour into all that he undertakes. There can be no pessimistic harangues while he is around. He knows there is hard work to be done and he knows how to do it. Look at his only son, Robert Grievé, one of the very first men to volunteer as a private in our Newfoundland Regiment.

He went through that terrible Gallipoli campaign and was twice wounded. He is now recuperating and getting ready for the final charge that will take our Regiment right into Berlin. If we only had a few more men of their stamp in the country, we would not hear any word of slackers or any difficulty in raising recruits. As an instance of their liberality and fair play towards their employees, there are families in St. John's to-day whose ancestors and themselves have been employed in the firm of Baine Johnston & Co. for four generations, and I know several laborers, stevedores, etc., who have worked there continuously for fifty years and over.

LEAVES FROM THE PAST.

Here are some of the extracts from Baine Johnston & Co.'s Letter Books. I shall first give some military extracts from the Greenock firm to their (Continued on 6th page.)



Animals in Christmas Customs

The Christmas customs in Norway and Sweden are the most interesting of any country. It is a time of great rejoicing. To show that there are amicable feelings between every one in the household the shoes are placed in a row at night in the hall when retiring on Christmas Eve, and, like the German custom, candles are left burning in the village windows all night to light the way for "Kristine," who brings the gifts. The Christmas tree is largely decorated with candles and pretty cakes arranged in bright colored baskets—all usually homemade. The richer households send good things to the poor, and everywhere among both rich and poor are the animals and birds remembered. The boys and girls save up their pennies during the year for this purpose. Sheaves of grain are fastened to the window ledges in town, and in the country the sheaves are fastened to long poles and renewed every day for a week, and many are the birds that spy this feast. On the barn floors of the peasants bowls of hot porridge are set for poor "Robin Goodfellow" to comfort him because he has no "soul." The cows and the horses

At Christmas Time.

Oh bells, to-day let warfare cease,
Ring out this birthday of the King,
And tell us of that glorious morn,
When Christ was in a manger born,
And wise men came from lands afar,
Led by the glory of the star
That heralded His birth, to pay
Most tribute to that first Christmas day,
While angels sang, o'er Bethlehem's hill,
"Be Peace on earth, to men Good Will."
Ring happy bells, o'er plain and hill—
Ring loud, ring clear, ring sweet, and
all
The souls of those who pause to hear,
With reverent thought and Christmas cheer,
Swing wide the hearts' closed door,
and say
"Come in!—all men are kin to-day!
Come in—come in! Clasp hands, and
break
The bread of friendship for the sake
Of Him who came to earth to find
His brothers in all humankind."
Ring, happy bells, the earth around,
And girdle it with gladdest song,
And, while we sing His birthday in,
Let Christ—and Christ is love—begin
His reign of peace, and men shall say,
"This is indeed a Christmas day!"
Your hand, my brother! Lo afar
Behold the radiant Bethlehem star—
And hark!—the angels singing still,
"Peace on earth, to men Good Will!"
—EBEN E. REXFORD.

A GREAT OLD FIRM.

I had had the great pleasure recently of going through facts and figures from the original Letter Books of our great and enterprising firm of Messrs. Baine Johnston & Co., of Greenock and St. John's, and your readers will be well repaid by following up my remarks. This firm has been carrying on business in Newfoundland since the year 1760, and I must first say a few words about them. It is easy to talk about one hundred and fifty years, but it means five generations of men skilled in the most precarious business that it is possible to imagine! A banker will tell you

BISHOP'S

Xmas Menu.

- Hors D'Oeuvres.
- Fresh Oysters.
- Peeled Shrimps.
- Anchovies.
- Olives.
- Soups.
- Real Turtle.
- Cream of Celery.
- Cream of Tomato.
- Cream of Green Pea.
- Fish.
- Fresh Salmon.
- Lox.
- White Bait.
- Clams.
- Entrees.
- Chicken a la King.
- Sweetbreads in Tomato Sauce.
- Scotch Haggis.
- Wild Boars' Head.
- Curried Fowl.
- Relevés.
- Turkeys.
- Geese.
- Ducks.
- Chickens.
- Game.
- Partridge.
- Pheasants.

- String Beans.
- Brussels Sprouts.
- Vegetable Marrows.
- Cauliflower.
- Tomatoes.
- Cucumbers.
- Asparagus.
- Sauerkraut.
- Artichokes.
- Leeks.
- Celery.
- Egg Plants.
- Garlic.
- Okra.
- Fresh Horseradish.
- Table Onions.
- Savory.
- Pate de Foies Gras.
- Spaghetti a L'Italienne.
- SWEETS.
- Plum Pudding.
- Fruit Salads.
- FRUIT.
- Alligator Pears.
- Pineapples.
- Tangerines.
- Pomegranates.
- Pears.
- Red and Green Apples.
- Grape Fruit.
- Oranges.
- Bananas.
- Cranberries.
- Apples.
- Chestnuts.

- Cheddar, Gorgonzola and Cream Cheeses.
- Liver Sausages.
- Veal & Ham Sausage.
- English Brawn Sausage.
- Frankfort Sausage.
- Cambridge Sausage.
- Chicken Breasts.
- International Bacon.

- Salted Almonds.
- Crystallized Violets.
- Aspic Jelly.
- Almond Paste.
- Poultry Seasoning.
- Cantrell & Cochrane Ginger Ale.
- Bon Bons.
- Xmas Stockings.
- English Cakes, Iced & Plain.
- Bath Oliver Biscuits.
- Ice Cream Cups.
- Our Celebrated Reina Victoria Cigars.
- Abdulla Cigarettes.
- Turkish.
- Egyptian and Virginian.
- Holly.
- Mistletoe.

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WAR TIMES

(Continued from 4th page)

branch in St. John's that will be interesting.

1806—March 18th. The Portuguese intelligence came here a few days ago of a glorious victory obtained by Sir John Duckworth on the 17th of March in the West Indies. A French squadron of five sail was captured in which he succeeded in capturing and destroying the whole of them.

May 6th. Prices of fish in Portugal have of late been by no means low. It was reported a few days ago that an army was about to march into that country—which for the present has been contradicted. The invasion of Portugal will be of interest and wishes to interfere with the neutrality of that country.

War between this country and Prussia has taken place, and seems as yet no prospect of a truce to the troubles which have so long agitated Europe. The only news to inform you is the capture of "Marengo" of 84 guns, Admirals, with the "Belle Poule" frigate, their return from India, by Sir B. Warren's squadron on the 26th of March, a little to the southward of Madeira.

June 26th. The arrival of a messenger from Paris is to-day met with interest and wishes to interfere with the neutrality of that country.

1807—Feb. 3rd. The French had hitherto carried on the war against success against Prussia. Russia, but it has for some time been reported that Bonaparte had been defeated with great loss at Warsaw. Buenos Ayres was taken by the Spaniards on the 12th August. At the date of the last despatch, Oct. 31st, Sir Ham Popham with British were in possession of the peninsula near the mouth of the River Plata.