## London, Saturday, Dec. 23.

### Christmas Thoughts.

Memories of childhood are tugging nore or less importunately at most en's heart-strings these days. Down the echoing corridors of time, sound, faint or clear, the merry prattle and the joyous laughter of red-lipped, round-cheeked, eager-eyed childwood. not been as cordial since the British For Christmas, the one great family festival of the year, is the children's day, and the man who would share its privileges and joys must "become as a little child." There fies the true "Fountain of Youth." Let a man drink of it once every year, and though the frost of many winters have silvered his hair, and the mists of many sorrows have dimmed his eyes, he and old age shall be strangers. The hearty, joyous observance of Christmas Day as a family festival which, fortunately, is still the rule in most parts of Canada, is one of the most wholesome factors in our national life. It strengthens the family bond and idealizes the homeand the home is the corner-stone of the nation. Hence the deep-rooted patriotism and the soundness of public opinion on all questions of morality, that are marked characteristics of the Canadian people. From a utilitarian standpoint, therefore, and apart from the homage inspired by the sublime central figure of the festival, and from the fact that every sweet custom connected with its observance breathes into the hearts of men the living spirit of the "Sermon on the Mount," it is an Ill thing for a people to outgrow Christmas.

### The Death of Moody.

The death of Dwight L. Moody will be felt as a personal bereavement by multitudes on both sides of the Atlantic, who date their spiritual awakening from their first contact with that remarkable man. Moody was probably the greatest evangelical force of his time. He drew vaster crowds genius. than any of his contemporaries, and his perennial freshness and unflagging power have been amazing. The miltions who felt the spell of his presence may be at a loss to account for it. There was nothing impressive in his appearance—a short, squat man, ungainly in his movements-nor had he any great book learning or any rhetorical garnish. He spoke in sharp, jerky sentences, in the plainest language, but his discourses had a wealth of homely illustration, drawn from practical, everyday life, which went straight to the understanding. He knew the world and he knew human nature, wherein he had the advantage of greater scholars and more brilliant minds. Unlike many evangelists, he never practiced on the emotions and sentiments of his hearers, but appealed rather to reason and conscience. His simple earnestness, his positiveness, his clear-cut exposition of the great | the men who think only in wards and central truths of Christianity and his streets. faculty in getting at the heart of scripture—all these were elements of his mastery, but they were fused and dominated by the marvelous personality of the man-and who can deone personality?

## British and Boer Compared.

The Boston Herald cannot see that anything has happened to show that the Boer is in any way the superior of his British opponent. The Herald points out that for weeks past the 1,500 British soldiers at Mafeking have held out against more than twice their number of Boers; for practically the same time the 1,500 British soldiers at Kimberley have held that place egainst three or four times their number of the enemy; for an almost simflar time Gen. White, at Ladysmith, with 8,000 or 9,000 British soldiers, has held at bay a Boer army of somewhere from 25,000 to 30,000 men, although the latter have been supplied with far better artillery than that which the British general has had at his command. Gen. Methuen, in his advance on Kimberley, took three different positions held by a Boer force substantially of the same strength as his wn. It cost him severely to do this, but he did it, and the Boers were forced to retire. There has not been an instance in the war in which a force of Boers making an advance has taken a position, intrenched or otherwise, held by an equal number of British

### The Lion and the Jackals: The following letter to the New York Tournal, which that paper is candid enough to publish, explains itself:

"Among the jackais balting the wounded British iion I am sorry to find the Journal. I am an American of revolutionary ancestry. My ancest-ors on both sides were soldiers in the comp of Washington, and I served three years in our civil war on the Union side. I was bred in the tradition of hetred to England, and was anti-British until the war with Spain revealed the splendid kinship that stretched a menacing arm toward the nations of Europe hostile to our flag, and bade them stand back or suffer the shock of England's might. That act made me, and make, I believe, every American of native stock, one ich with England. It destroyed the lifelong prejudice I had cherished."

Nutley, N. J., Dec. 18 Without doubt, this letter echoes the centiment of the bulk of the real American people. There is still a tailtwisting remnant in the United States. but it is to be found chiefly among the foreign element in whom, not unhaturally, the idea of Anglo-Saxon unity kindles no enthusiasm. Some anti-British clamor is also occasionally heard from political sorcheads, who think to score a point against the Mc- man of him by developing the initiative Kinley administration by representing in him, enchies him to undertake en-

the mass of the native Americans of the better class are now kindly disposed toward the mother country, and, fortunately, the native Americans still rule the republic. Public opinion is fairly reflected in the press and it is gratifying to find most of the responsible journals friendly to the British cause. Among these in New York are the Tribune, Times and Post, which appeal to the highest intelligence of the community. Even the Journal. which has an immense vogue among the lower orders, supported the British attitude before the war, but has suffered their reverses.

The British nobility are doing nobly.

Mark your ballot against the ward

It is now quite easy to understand why the Jameson raiders didn't reach Johannesburg.

This is a merry Christmas for The Advertiser. Its circulation is vaster than has been.

Remember that the alderman who works only for his own ward is not working for the general interests Admiral Von Diedrichs, of Manila

fame, has been promoted, but he will hardly look for American congratula-Wooden sidewalks and wooden pave-

ments are being banished from the city. Now, let the electors get after the wooden aldermen.

Apparently the British war department has called a halt on operations in South Africa until "Bobs" arrives. It is safe to predict that "Bobs" will never call a halt until he reaches

The Duke of Mar in volunteering for the war is showing the spirit of his ancestor, John Churchill. There is plenty of the Churchill spirit in the land, but Britain would give a great deal for some of the Churchill

The city engineer does well to recommend tearing up the old cedar block pavements on several streets. Most of them are decayed, filthy and unfit for traffic. Not a foot more of cedar block pavement should be laid in the city.

Canadian emotions have been quickened by Lord Roberts' growing tribute to the patriotism and valor of the Dominion. The Canadian boys at the front would do their best under any commander, but there will be a new inspiration in serving under the eye of "Bobs."

W. T. Stead says that some men think in shires, some in provinces, such uniform disaster. some in kingdoms and some in empires. Similarly in municipal affairs, some men think in streets, some in wards and some in cities. Don't elect

Mrs. Leland Stanford, the California benefactress. has deeded all of her vast property to the Stanford university-the real estate having recently been transferred, following the personal estate, which was given some time ago, to the amount of about \$15,000,000. All that is now left to her is a \$25,000 life annuity, which the university trustees are under contract to pay.

If the greatest army ever under the command of a British general has been fought to a standstill by undisciplined farmers after eleven weeks of warfare, what would result if British armies should attempt to fight Russia in a land twice as far from England as South Africa is?—Spring-field, Mass., Republican.

Simply this: If an undisciplined horde like the Boers, acting on the defensive, can hold at bay an equal if not superior body of the finest troops in the world, why shouldn't a British force find it possible to stay the advance of the Russians, who, man for man, cannot be said to compare with the British soldiers?

The Ottawa Citizen professes to be amused by The Advertiser's remark that the American project of damming Niagara River to raise the level of Lake Erie was a matter of concern to Canada, as it would affect Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River. We do not profess any great skill in hydraulies, but a little common sense enables one to see that while the level of Lake Erie was being raised, the flow into Lake Ontario would necessarily be diminished, and navigation below Niagara might be temporarily paralyzed by low water in the harbors and canals. Perhaps the Citizen would welcome that as a means of drawing attention to the Georgian Bay Canal route, a scheme which Ottawa has been trying to float. but so far without success.

## What Others Say.

Canadian Justice

[Detroit Free Press.] Statistics tend to show that they hang a murderer over in Canada from a month to six years earlier than they oan get a jury on this side.

> Spades Are Trumps [Ottawa Journal.]

By the rate at which they seem to dig trenches the Boers must be nearly as well equipped with spades as with

Good Thing for the Boys.

[Toronto News.] Manual training gives a boy confi dence in his own powers. It makes a

Realizing the Truth

[New York Times.] No calamity that could befall England would leave us unscathed. The war that would come of any attempt to set bounds to her ambition in South Africa would be fraught with untold loss and dangery for us.

> Chose a Higher Honor [Hamfiton Herald.]

If Goldwin Smith had clung to Oxford, says the London Chronicle, he might now be one of the most prom-inent English men of letters. But if he had clung to Oxford he would never have been one of the most prominent Canadian men of letters.

### Our Funny Assessment System.

[Mitchell Advocate.] When addressing the grand jury at the county court now in session at Strattford, Judge Barron said, speaking of the present assessment system, ing of the present assessment system, "that the law which penalized a man because he painted his fence or made improvements was a blot on the statutes." His honor is right, and no one knows it better than the people of Mitchell. When a man tries to beautify his premises and the assessor comes along and taxes him for the comes along and taxes him for the outlay, it makes him wish that the improvements had been left undone. We are glad to see the matter has been brought to the attention of the public, and hope it may result in influencing the Government to amend the wrong.

#### Where Britons Can Take Pride. [Detroit News.]

In all the discouraging story of continued British reverses in South Africa, there have been two features upon which Britons at home or abroad could honestly and becomingly pride themselves. The first is the uniform courage and steadiness of the troops, even when sent into impossible positions by over-confident and ill-informed generals. In this, the best traditions of the British army and of the English-speaking races have been gallantly preserved, and there is no praise too high for the rank and file of the forces thus far engaged.

The second point of pride is to be found in the frankness and candor with which the British generals, after their reverses, have reported them to their reverses, have reported them to the government. There has been no equivocation, no attempt to shift the blame, no effort to conceal the hu-miliating facts. Gatacre, it is true, charged his guides with misleading him, but he alone was responsible for the selection of the guides, which was quite as important a part of his duty as the disposal of his forces, and the first line of his dispatch was an ex-

pression of regret for his failure. White, Methuen and Buller have all cast their reports in similar molds, the former expressly assuming entire responsibility for the failure of his plans and any misjudgment of the situation. It is an exhibition of simple manliness which commands admiration, even from those who have no sympathy with the British cause, and who rejoice in the catastrophes which give occasion for such communications. It will prove a great help in diagnosing and correcting the basic

# Light and Shade.

mistakes which lie at the bottom of

She-And did her father follow you when you eloped?

He—Yes. He's living with us yet.

Betty—Is he apt?
Letty—I don't just know about that.
But I do know he's apt to, if the lights are a bit low.—Judy.

"We keep three servant girls," said Mr. Newly-wed. "One coming, one going and one here."—Life.

O'Mulligan-Phwat kind av a job have yer now, O'Hara? O'Hara—Sure it's an aisy job I heve now, Dinny. I stand on the corner wid wan sign hung on the front av me and wan sign hung on the back av me, and, begorra, betwane the two I git

"Are you looking for a job?" asked the foreman of the street gang, "or are you jist hangin' around here cause you got nothin' else to do?" "Neither one," answered the gentle-man with the straw hat and incoherent clothes. I am around to watch them fellers work, 'cause the doctor told me I needed exercise."—Chicago

# ON BABY'S FACE

Mother Ashamed to Take Him Out. Everything Failed to Cure. CUTIOURA Cured in 3 Days.

I have had my baby sick with his face full of ringworm, and tried everything and falled. I was ashamed to take him out, for every one would look at him. I was told to get CUTICURA. I got is on Wednesday, and by Saturday his face was as il dried up. Now I can take him everywhere. I cannot say enough about Curreura. If people only knew about how his face looked a week ago, and see itto-day, they would never be without it. The people in the house can tell you how his face was, and how it is to-day.

MRS. J. POTTER,

Oct. 8, 1898. 894 So. First St., Brooklyn, N. T.

# Eczema on Head. Got into ithe Eyes.

Doctor & Institutes Could Not Cure. Cured in 2 Months by CUTICURA.

I have been troubled over two years with eczems on the top of my head. It first started to teh, something fierce. My doctor said it was eczems, and treated me for six months, with fallure, so I tried more doctors, but they did the same, I tried a New York institute, which treated me for six months, but could not reach any further than the rest. I had it worse than from the start, as it commenced to get in my eyes, and nearly cot than the rest. I had it worse than from the start, as it commenced to get in my eyes, and nearly got me crazy with itching. I noticed your advertisement in the N. Y. World, and thought I would try Curicura remedies. In two months time I did not know that I had any trouble at all, and I feel like a new man now. ALFRED MEISEL, Oct. 12, 1898. 625 W. 48th St., N. Y. City.

Phone 1046 THE RUNIANS, GRAY, CARRIE CO. Phone 1048

# Stock-Taking Discount Sale

On Tuesday morning we will start a special clearing up of odd lines in connection with our Stock-Taking Discount Sale, which is good until the tenth of January.

All odd lines and broken lots will be offered at special prices previous to Stock-Taking. This, in addition to our special discounts should make brisk selling for the next two weeks. We'll make every department interesting.

# Christmas Eve.

Special Clearing Lines for Tonight at Very Special Prices.

10 Fancy Wood Work Boxes, 25c each, to-		3 Large Kid Dolls, \$2 75 each, tonight\$2 25
night	15c	25 Opal Puff Boxes, 25c each, tonight 15c
8 Wood Work Boxes, 50c each, tonight		6 Austrian Vases, \$2 75 each, tonight\$1 75
3 Dressed Dolls, 75c each, tonight		3 Austrian Vases, \$2 75 each, tonight\$1 75
10 Large Kid Body Dolls, \$1 each, tonight		re Cobinet Size Photo Frames are each to
75 Japan Pin Trays, each 10c, tonight.	5c	
20 Japan Pin Trays, each 19c, tonight	10c	100 Wool Tams, 40c to 60c each, tonight 25c
15 Opal China Trays, each 25c, tonight	15c	3 Red-Striped Velvet Blouses, tonight each\$2 00
20 Opal China Hairpin Boxes, 25c each, to-	15c	75 pairs Broadway and Capital Kid Gloves, Perrin's make, \$1 a pair, all sizes, tans, greens
	91919191	, hannanianananananananananananananananana

Wishing All Our Customers. . .

# A MERRY CHRISTMAS

And a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

209, 210, 2102, 212 DUNDAS STREET, LONDON.

# WHERE TOMMY **LEARNS FIGHTING**

A Peep at Aldershot and Its Camp, Which Is Said To Be the Finest in the Whole World.

We are hearing plenty about Tommy Atkins abroad just now. Perhaps at this moment it will relieve the reader to hear something about Tommy at home on the plains of Aldershot. Aldershot is probably the finest place in Britain or on the continent for a great camp. The soil is naturally porous, and so sandy that water cannot stay on any part of it for a moment after the rain ceases. It was originally one of the few pine forests, and still considerable growth of these trees re-main, enough to permeate the air with

health-giving odor. When the British war office secured the camp site, it constructed an extensive sewerage system, so that the sanitary conditions are nearly perfect Each company has a substantial brick home. At one end is the kitchen, where enough is cooked to give every private a good-sized chunk of roast other meat, at least two vegetables, a half-pound of bread, and a pint of tea daily, to say nothing of his portion of bitter or stout, hard-tack, as well as marmalade. He has a good solid ration every day, and is in shape usually to eat every ounce of it. Each man has a locker for his accourrements and clothes, and a bunk with springs to himself in the rest of the quarters. The bunks are placed in rows, and after the call for inspection in the

morning can be found as neatly made up as if the work were performed by an expert chambermaid. As Aldershot is used principally for move-ments in the spring, summer and au-tumn, the company houses are not provided with heat. The buildings, like village in itself. About five of these butts for rifle practice, also for villages comprise a division, in front of lery work.—Pearsons' Weekly. which is an officers' building, a sub-stantial two-story affair, with suites of rooms for the general commanding and the different colonels and their staffs.

Each captain has a room to himself, while the lieutenants bunk two in a room. The officers can pass the time pleasantly, as the ample grounds provided contain several tennis courts, within are at least one billiard room, a well-stocked refrigerator, and a club room for lounging, smoking and card-playing. The Queen allows her of-ficers plenty of latitude, and they sel-

This year Aldershot has been the camp ground of from 20,000 to 25,000 men at various times. Such a number gave an opportunity for splendid maneuvers, such as marches over the distant hills, covering 50 to 75 miles in area, also sham battles, cavalry dashes area, also sham battles, cavalry dashes and field movements, with infantry, cavalry and artillery. In fact, the commander, probably realizing what was in prospect, has put the various forces through about everything in the art of war, except actual fighting, and Tommy has had but little time to saunter over to the town itself, with cane under one arm, and his latest girl on the other

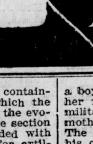
When you sew with Corticelli Sewing Silk you can depend upon your stitching.

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Every shade. 50 yard spools 5 cents, 100 yard spools 10 cents.

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point, with a slight eminence contain ing a clump of trees from which the commander and staff can view the evothe beds, are also arranged in rows, consequently each regiment is a little village in itself. About five of these butts for rifle practice, also for artil-

# Strange Career

The career of the so-called Count Sandor Vay, of Hungary, reads like a romance. In August, 1892, he mar-ried a teacher at Klogenfurt. The newly-married couple lived for a time with the girl's father, an inspector of forests, in that village. But the fa-ther-in-law found himself continually fleeced by the alleged count; the references he gave were all bogus, and the inspector, convinced his son-in-law was a swindler, put detectives on his

track.
Then a series of extraordinary revelations were made. The count was no count, but a countess, the daughter of the late Count Ladislas Vay, a general and imperial chamberlain. Her name was Sarolta Vay. She was born in 1856. Her mother, married for nine years without other issue, knew that Count Ladisias had waited long and anxiously for an heir, and she feared to tell him that his first born was only the other.

The principal drill grounds are three in number. The smallest will allow 2,000 men to be handled by regiments or battalions without difficulty, while the Queen's parade will accommodate a division, with room to spare. It is a perfect field from a military stand-

boy's education. When she was her father decided to send her to military school. To prevent this her mother was forced to confess the truth. mother was forced to contess the truth. The count, after a storm, swallowed his chagrin, put the girl into dresses and sent her to a female school. Sarolta refused to be transformed. She stole into trousers whenever she got a chance. She stole away from school, and begged her father to let her enter the henced husser resiment. the honored hussar regiment.

When he refused she swore to astonish the country as soon as she reached her majority. And she kept her word. The day she was 21 she resumed male attire, and swung into the vortex of dissipation in Vienna, Pesth and Prague. She associated with young men who were not in the secret and in all manly amusements. She smoked, drank, gambled, fought duels, got into debt, and to extricate herself embez-zled, stole and forged on a grand scale, She likewies contracted no less than nine mock marriages. All of her "wives" have seemed to catch the contagion of her own hallucination. Six of them live in Vienna as divorced Countesses Vay.

## "A Heart as Sturdy as an Oak."

But what about the blood which the heart must pump at the rate of 70 times a minute? If the heart is to be sturdy and the nerves strong this blood must be rich and pure. Hood's Sarsaparitia makes sturdy hearts because it makes good blood. It gives to men and women strength, confidence, courage and endurance.

HOOD'S PILLS are non-irritating.