

The Chronicle

Insurance & Finance.

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Proprietor.

ESTABLISHED JANUARY, 1881
PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY

JOHN T. P. KNIGHT,
Editor.

VOL. XVIII. No. 51. MONTREAL, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 23, 1898.

SINGLE COPY - - - .10
ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION - \$2.00

A Merry Christmas to You.

A Christmas Appeal. The annual festival of the Christian church, observed in memory of the birth of Christ, is close upon us, and the cheery salutation "A Merry Christmas to you all," is being passed around the world. Cheerfulness and a festival spirit fills the air and enlivens the dying year. It is, or ought to be, a season of gladness, producing thankfulness, and serving the ends of charity. Every man will try, at least for this day of merry-making and family re-union, to maintain an easy and cheerful frame of mind, and to let his heart open to every good motive. The laughter of children, the merry sound of music, and the pealing of bells, will soon usher in the dawn of another Christmas day. It is a happy world after all.

That the needy and the suffering will not be forgotten during the festive season goes without saying, in the city of Montreal. It was Charles Dickens who recommended the missionary to clothe and feed the ragged and hungry before telling them of Him whose thoughts were so much with the poor, and who had compassion for all human sorrow. Let us then assist those who labour among the poor to soothe the suffering, and to alleviate the evils of poverty, and thereby add to the genuine enjoyment derived from knowledge that we have assisted some one to a merrier Christmas by our timely charity.

The New Governor-General. The social functions, merry-makings and ceremonies of the closing week have been marked by the arrival and formal introduction to the metropolis of the new Governor-General, the Earl of Minto. At the reception tendered to Lord Aberdeen's successor by Lord Strathcona, Montreal society was enabled to greet their Excellencies, and become acquainted with their appearance; at the Charity ball, the subscribers thereto were per-

mitted to judge of the new Earl's gracefulness in the dance; and, at the formal and most important reception of the Governor-General by the Mayor and Aldermen of Montreal, the city's representatives were afforded an opportunity of estimating his oratorical ability.

That he pleased one and all who came in contact with him is not disputed. That he is democratic to a degree seems certain. That he will use his privilege of British freedom in any form he likes best is apparent. That he will be popular with sportsmen all over the Dominion he has been appointed to govern is beyond question. That his *regime* may be made memorable by an era of prosperity, happiness, and contentment all over the Dominion, will be the wish of every good subject of our beloved Queen.

A Good Word for Canadian Securities. The increasing difficulty of securing desirable investment for the ever-increasing wealth of Great Britain is leading many individuals who, only a few years ago, regarded with suspicion everything Colonial, to look to Canada, Natal, Tasmania, Queensland and elsewhere for investments. In this connection, we find the following good words for Canadian Government securities in a recent number of a London journal:—

"Although in some circles it is the fashion to deal sneeringly with the financial position of our Colonial possessions, it is doubtful whether, with Consols yielding only a shade over 2 per cent., allowance being made for the automatic reduction of interest to 2 1-2 per cent. but little more than four years hence, some of their loans are not worth judicious attention. A selection of really first-class securities of this character can now be made to produce from 3 to 3 1-2 per cent. Canadian 4 per cents., for instance, at 100 return 3 1-4 per cent., allowance being made for redemption in twelve months' time, and, with the industrial progress now being shown by the Dominion, are decidedly promising."