

Editorial Department.

A MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL OUR READERS.

OLD Father Christmas is once again about to make his annual visit. The Frost King, his herald of approach, has already announced his advent with his usual austere dignity. Anticipations of happy family reunions and of social festivities are everywhere making hearts glad and spirits joyous, and are even communicating their inspiration to the actors in the monotonous routine of college life. His approach is welcomed by all. In the memory of the old it revives many pleasant associations of happy meetings and fireside gatherings of past years. To the poor it is a certain harbinger of at least a brief season of plenty and happiness. The cheerful faces of the children might make "a rosy aureola round the whole earth that day," and the joyousness of their voices in the merriment of their sports makes music sweet to higher ears than ours. The day is duly honoured and revered by those of all religious persuasions. The Episcopalian and Roman Catholic churches have enrolled it on their calendar of sacred days. Even Unitarian churches, where the divinity of Christ is denied, are often on Christmas dressed in His honour. Its connection with the Roman saturnalia, the cutting of the mistletoe, and the burning of the yule log, with all their attendant superstitions, led our forefathers to discontinue the observance of the day, and to take no more notice of it than to denounce everything associated with it. Their tradition, however, has come down to us in a much less extreme form. We now recognize the day by special services in many of our churches, and as a time of honour in all our families celebrated with gifts and good cheer. All are glad thus to observe the day—the Christian as the birthday of his Saviour, and others as honouring one whose precepts are at the foundation of all the happiness of their homes.

But the tendency is to allow the day to degenerate into a mere holiday and to allow the merry-making to wholly usurp our attention. Surely the Christian who sees in this day a remembrance of God's greatest love for mankind will aim to make it a blessing. It