

# The Chronicle

Insurance & Finance.

R. WILSON-SMITH,  
Proprietor.

ESTABLISHED JANUARY, 1881

PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY

Vol. XXII. No. 51. MONTREAL, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19, 1902.

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

## THE CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL.

When admiring the splendid proportions, the luxuriant leafage, the rich fruit of a tree, how rarely do thoughts dwell upon the roots from which are derived the life-force which has developed such a magnificent growth of trunk and branches and leaf and fruit. So it is when we are dwelling with pride upon our national institutions, or those which are the strength, the adornment, the honour of our city. We admire the glory of the superstructure, but overlook the foundations.

It has been for generations the joy of Christendom to hold high festival in honour of Christmas. The tree of Christianity has grown until its branches overspread the earth, its leaves are for the healing of the nations, its fruits for the solace, the enjoyment, the strengthening of all people who on earth do dwell. The Church is a Temple more glorious than Solomon's; it has numberless altars where men of all climes and all conditions, and all idiosyncracies and temperaments may bring offerings to Him who made Christmas Day divine in sacredness, tender in associations, an ever-flowing well-spring of happiness.

Look away for a moment or two from the tree to the root, from the superstructure to the foundations. From what inspiration have all the blessings of modern civilization been derived, what spring feeds the ever-flowing streams of beneficence, whence has come the light, the comfort, the joy, the peace, the pleasures of family life as now experienced; where did free institutions get their motive power, by what influence has commerce been transformed into a

system of mutuality of exchanges; how has the sense of human brotherhood been so diffused as to destroy human slavery; how, in a phrase, has the world been made brighter, happier, more enjoyable, more worthy of the being "made in the image of God?" The answer to all these deep, far-reaching questions is found in the word CHRISTMAS! for to the event that Day of Days celebrates mankind owes civilization and freedom, and all the blessings and the delights and the social joys and elevation which ennoble a Christian nation. The day was ushered in by a song of peace and good-will, and ever since the theme of Christmas has inspired music in the heart and in the home.

From the memory of a child there has flowed out for nineteen centuries to children a stream of joy. He who on that day came in humiliation to re-glorify humanity comes to brighten every heart and every home where His birthday is honoured. The exultation of children is the nearest of all earthly emotions to the happiness of Heaven. As Schiller says, "The world loves to darken what is bright and to drag each lofty thought in the dust," but He who came at Christmas to overcome the world loves to brighten what is dark and to add elevation to every lofty thought by associating it with His name and His cause.

Were we gifted with omniscience we should see hundreds of millions of homes preparing for the Christmas festival, millions of beneficent deeds being contemplated, and throughout all Christendom a beating of hearts awaiting the outburst of Christmas salutations that will belt the earth like a zone of benediction and of joy!

---

A Happy Christmas and many returns of the Festival's blessings  
and joys to you and yours!