

that would be a mass of selfishness without it. It is incalculable what Christmas and the spirit of Christmas has done and is doing for the world. The sun that rises on that day in our northern latitude may not melt the ice in the streams or the frost on the window-panes, but there is no sun like it for thawing the human heart throughout Christendom. There is no day like it for assuaging enmities, and reviving tender memories, and drawing together the estranged, and narrowing the gulf between classes. During this day the world is a brotherhood. In the wondrous Birth of a Child all the world renews for some hours its childish faith and simplicity. The spirit of this event prevails far beyond the circles where it is regarded as a reality.

Why overlay it with artificiality? Why make it an expense hard to be borne? Why put into the preparation for it an amount of labor and worry that ends in weariness and exhaustion? Costly gifts are the least necessary part of it, worry is foreign to its spirit, and both together may make it in time a burden. The perpetuity of the best institution depends upon moderation. Children are the hope of the world. We should not undervalue them because they are plenty. Home rule is just now the most popular doctrine in the world. But it may be just as well for the next generation if the children are not now all home rulers. Give the parents a chance; they will be all the better for it. Let us ease up a little on the worry and cost of Christmas, and keep the best holiday of the ages, in the old spirit of unostentatious charity and the exercise of mirth and good-will that refreshes and does not weary.—*Charles Dudley Warner, in Harper's Magazine.*

### What is the C. L. S. C.?

I. IT IS A COLLEGE FOR THE HOME. Education is welcome everywhere. Knowledge is a treasure to be prized very highly. Studious habits should be cultivated by all, and for these reasons we invite everyone to examine into the work carefully. Refinements must emanate from the home; and hence the more intelligent its members are, the more certain will be the fact of its producing the results sought.

II. IT IS A COLLEGE FOR ANY WHOSE EARLY TRAINING WAS LIMITED, AND WHO DESIRE, EVEN LATE IN LIFE, TO SUPPLY THIS DEFICIENCY. Circumstances often prevent people from attending school during so-called school age, but this does not necessitate a shutting out of all information on topics that concern the student in school. There are opportunities later in life which if improved, will make up, to some extent at least, this early loss.

III. IT IS A SCHEME BY WHICH MOMENTS OF LEISURE, THAT MIGHT OTHERWISE BE WASTED, ARE TURNED TO GOOD ACCOUNT. How many of our evenings are spent in social frivolities, when there is so much to be learned? How often do we find indifference in communities regarding literary work, that should be removed, and a

thirst for knowledge put in its place? This can be done, if a few will make the start, and then induce others to join in with them.

IV. THE C. L. S. C. IS A VERY POTENT MEANS TO REMOVE AN UNNATURAL DESIRE FOR LIGHT AND UNPROFITABLE READING. It leads to an appreciation of something substantial; it brings the readers and students in contact with the best minds of the age, and gives them an outlook over the field of literature, art, philosophy, science, and religion, that will enable them to do their part in the work of intelligently building up mankind and making this world wiser and better.

V. THE C. L. S. C. REACHES INTO EVERY WALK OF LIFE AND HAS SOMETHING HELPFUL FOR ALL. The rich will find in its course of study that which will interest them and help them to engage in lines of work that will produce good results; the poor and humble are lifted up by the inspiration that comes from the reading—they are shown that the beautiful and good things of this world are for them as well as for others; it turns the drudgery of everyday life into pleasure because it is mixed in with enjoyment of a higher character. The learned, as well as the unlearned, will obtain new light, which will enable them to see and understand more clearly the meaning of God's plans, written upon nature and found in Divine Revelation.

VI. THE C. L. S. C. BELIEVES IN AN EDUCATION OF MIND AND HEART. The training of one without the other is dangerous. The mind developed without the heart runs into skepticism, and the heart educated without the mind produces bigotry and religious intolerance; both, well balanced, form a grand whole, a character that may be relied upon for noble work in things pertaining to present and future life. Since the organization of this society in 1878, its membership has reached over one hundred thousand, and the members are to be found in almost every city, village, and country neighbourhood in North America, and some individual students and circles are to be found in every section of the globe. In England, Scotland, Russia, and Japan especially has the work taken root, and is spreading amazingly everywhere.

### Still Echoing On.

O THAT strange, ecstatic, jubilant burst of music out of the Christmas heavens when the golden host in vast ascending tiers sang above the Bethlehem hills! Looking reverently up, they cried, "Glory to God in the highest!" Looking compassionately down, they wished peace to earth and good-will to men. So seraphic and yet so short! Dying all away in a brief minute, and nothing but empty voiceless skies above and frightened shepherds below, still we seem to hear that music echoing on. That benediction of peace still leaves its hush in our hearts. Peace on earth, good will to men! It is the Golden Rule set to music. It