

the directing, strengthening, ennobling, purifying presence of Christ may be a living and a bright reality in our midst.



**Best of all**      MAY we add that our  
**Good Wishes.**    readers is that they  
                         may enjoy the same  
greatest of Divine gifts, that  
throughout the New Year their faith  
in Christ as their intimate Friend, as  
their all-wise Counsellor and their  
unfailing source of strength, may be  
daily renewed and confirmed, that  
they may grow in His likeness, that  
they may be guided into His truth,  
that they may indeed have fellow-  
ship with the Father and with His  
Son, Jesus Christ. We could wish  
them nothing better, and may the  
bond of union, the tie that binds  
us all, be the Master whom we  
serve in common, the banner un-  
der which we fight, the altar at  
which we worship.



**Onward and**      ALL present indica-  
**Upward.**        tions point to a year  
                         of prosperity through-  
                         out the Dominion, in  
which we may hope for the readers  
of UPS AND DOWNS the enjoyment of  
a full share. The demand for labour  
is everywhere active, the rate of  
wages is advancing, trade seems  
generally brisk and business condi-  
tions satisfactory. We are  
amongst those who believe that this  
state of affairs is likely to con-  
tinue, and that the next few years  
will witness a great advance in the  
development of Canada's vast  
natural resources, a steady growth  
in her population, a wide expansion  
of her commerce. Striking as has  
been the progress of the country  
during the past few years, we  
expect the early years of the new  
century to witness a still greater  
improvement in the condition of the  
people, and we look forward to see  
the fortunes of our boys and girls  
growing with the fortunes of the  
country.

**The New  
School and  
the Old.**

THE improvement of  
the past is nowhere  
more perceptible than  
among the farming  
population to which most of our  
readers belong, and consists not  
alone in material prosperity, but in a  
general advance of civilizing con-  
ditions. The rising generation of  
Canadian farmers are a widely dif-  
ferent species from the old "moss-  
backs," as they were irreverently  
but, we used to think, very appro-  
priately called. In going about  
among the farmers, one certainly  
comes across occasionally one of the  
old sort, but more generally we  
meet an intelligent, well-informed,  
well-educated, progressive class of  
men. The standard of comfort and  
decency is far higher than before,  
and the roughness, the drudgery,  
the niggardliness that were asso-  
ciated with farm life in Canada is to  
a large extent disappearing, and in  
their place we find to-day among  
farmers and their families a degree  
of refinement, culture and intelli-  
gence that would have seemed im-  
possible to the previous generation,  
while among our boys and girls,  
who have received their training  
and adopted their ideas from the  
farmers with whom they have lived,  
we can find many as companionable,  
as sensible, as well-equipped in mind  
and manners as the young people  
of any class in any country.



**Thrift and  
Thriftless-  
ness.**

A PROPOS of the gener-  
ally prosperous condi-  
tion of the country, we  
would offer a word of  
counsel to our boys that they have  
often heard from us before, but  
which, we fear, has too often been  
seed sown by the wayside, and that  
is that they shall make hay while  
the sun shines—in other words, save  
their wages. We cannot, as a  
class, accuse our lads of being  
thriftless—our savings bank de-  
posits would at once disprove  
such an accusation—but we know  
too well that there are scores  
who will read these lines, who are