

THE CHILDREN'S DAY

There are few who will deny that teachers are the living testimony to the appreciation of children as the most valuable asset to civilization. This was not always so. A few centuries ago children were regarded as the personal property of their parents, to be looked after or neglected as the case may be. Only a favored few were considered worth educating. The war and the consequent drain upon the manhood of the nation can hardly be looked upon as the reason for this change of opinion.

The correction of this erroneous thought or principle took place with the coming of the Christ Child. A new era was ushered in, a new idea born: "Of such is the Kingdom of Heaven."

Christmas is the children's day. It is a time for those who have little ones in their charge to renew their faith in the future, as represented by the joyous throng of children. This forth-coming Yuletide will be an opportunity for teachers and parents to resolve anew, that so far as it lies within their power, happiness and good-will shall not disappear from this war-scarred earth. "Come, let us live for the children," should be their pledged motto. "The hands and hearts of the younger generation are the gardens in which the hopes and ideals of their instructors may take root and grow to fruitage, but they require the warm sunshine of joy, that joy which radiates from the great sun of Love.

The schoolrooms should be permeated with joy and merriment. Instead of being, as in some cases, dull and uninteresting, the places in which children spend half their wakeful hours should be bright, attractive, and the jolliest rooms anywhere. Good cheer keeps the heart buoyed up with hope, and gives strength for the work ahead. That is the atmosphere in which everything good thrives best.

This month the birthday of the Great Teacher will be celebrated by the peoples of the earth, and the teachers who have lived out the above creed in their school rooms are the sisters and brothers of Him who said, "For as oft as ye did it unto one of the least of these, My little ones, ye did it unto Me."

They know that they must leave their troubles behind when they go into the presence of their pupils, and that friendly smiles and words of cheer are among the best things they could give. As another has said, they know that when they become cross, irritable, faultfinding, discouraged and discouraging, they cease to be fit companions of the young. Whatever the prevailing conditions, the genuine teacher remains true to the Christmas spirit throughout the year: "Glory to God in the highest, Peace on earth, Goodwill toward men!"

THE EDITOR TO HIS READERS.

In response to the requests received from a large number of our subscribers we have arranged to include several pages, beginning with this issue, devoted to the interests of the Rural and Primary grade teachers. They will not be in the form of "fillers," but will be published in a way that cannot fail to be of the greatest assistance. In this connection we shall be pleased to receive notes of methods, etc., which teachers in these grades may have tested for themselves, such, if suitable, to be published for the benefit of their fellow workers.

At the present time when the thoughts are turned to Christmas and its consequent gift-giving, we would like to make a suggestion. No present would be more acceptable to your teacher friends than a year's subscription to the EDUCATIONAL REVIEW. Send their names and addresses, together with a postal note for \$1.00 each, to us, and we will not only mail the REVIEW for the forthcoming year, but, if desired, forward

greeting cards as from you. As only a limited number of this Christmas issue is being printed, it is important that we hear from you as early as possible regarding the matter.

It is to be regretted that our readers will be denied the pleasure of reading Professor Perry's most instructive article on "Nature Study of Animals," which we had planned for this issue, owing to the fact that the manuscript and illustrations arrived just before we went to press, other subjects having to be given in the space which we had reserved.

We trust, in fact we feel confident, that you will enjoy this issue of the REVIEW. In spite of the tremendous increase in expenses we have done our utmost to make the issue complete in every detail. We would especially draw your attention to the large number of announcements made by our advertising friends. By following the various suggestions given, and dealing with those whose advertisements are found in the pages of the REVIEW, and by mentioning the fact that you had seen the announcements in this magazine, you will not only be materially assisting us, but guaranting absolute satisfaction to yourselves.

The compliments of the season are heartily extended to our readers.

The Starry Christmas Skies

"There is sorrow, there is sadness
In the world this wintry eve;
There is fear and sin and weakness,
There are lonely hearts that grieve,
But above the heavy-laden,
Gladdening their weary eyes,
Spread the splendid shining reaches
Of the starry Christmas skies."