

A Xmas Thought for Journal Readers.

ON the occasion of its last appearance in the present year, the JOURNAL desires extend to its readers and well-wishers the compliments of the Christmas season.

Two thousand years ago, in a far eastern country that has served as the cradle for great events in the world's history and is now the home of strange tradition, was born a man to whose memory and example the occupants of castle and cottage pay the deep tribute of reverence, love and worship. To us across the centuries comes the inspiration of a life that has shaped man's conception of the character that he should bear. It is the beginning of this wonderful life that we commemorate in the approaching season: and it is from the fact of commemoration that the Christmas season gathers its content and significance. At Christmas time we are stimulated to joy and renewed zest in life. We try to rid ourselves of the selfishness and meanness that creep into us in careless moments. For jealousy and covetousness we substitute good cheer and friendly contentment. The Christmas spirit steals upon us to clean life of the blight to which it may be subject. Under the influence of a sublime example we create new standards of conduct and character.

At Queen's we constitute a community of a thousand persons. It is the duty of each one of us to recognize that membership in this community implies a great opportunity, and carries with it certain tasks and responsibilities. We come to college primarily for the purpose of developing character. To this great aim all our activities should be subservient. If we play football or take part in any branch of athletic sports our purposes in doing so should be to lay the foundation of good health, which is the basis of success in life, and strengthen ourselves in habits of fairness, honesty and courage under the most trying circumstances. If we attend social functions, our reason for doing so should be a desire to gain all that we can from contact with fellow-students, acquaintance with new opinions and methods, relief from the narrowness of self-seclusion, refreshment that comes from the amenities of social intercourse. If we go beyond the class-room to special lectures or addresses, the motive prompting us to such action should be a desire for a broader outlook, a widening of interests that will make life fuller and better by a revelation of its possibilities. Thus as students we should be careful of perspective and proportions. Does any feature in our life bulk too large? Do we overemphasize our athletics, our social life or our work? In addition to the momentary satisfaction we derive from participation in college activities, do we make it serve the great end of the development of character? Does it improve our equipment for undertaking tasks that will fall to us as men and as citizens of a country whose history is bound not to be unimportant when the story of civilization is told. This is the great question for Queen's students of the present.

G. A. P.