

# The Canada School Journal.

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### The Canada School Journal and Weekly Review.

An Educational Journal devoted to the advancement of Literature, Science, and the teaching profession in Canada.

#### —o—TERMS—o—

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### Holiday Topics.

We respectfully ask our subscribers to look at the address label on their JOURNAL, and if it shows that their subscriptions terminate at the end of the year, we request them to renew them at once.

The CANADA SCHOOL JOURNAL has had a prosperous year as a weekly publication and the proprietors are making every effort to have it still more so in the ensuing year. Our desire is that the JOURNAL shall be the Teachers'—especially the Public School Teachers'—aid and friend, in school and at home, and we invite the co-operation of every live teacher who is willing to further the cause of education.

To the readers of the CANADA SCHOOL JOURNAL, one and all, we wish a Happy Christmas! To the young, and the light-hearted of every age, may it be indeed a merry one! There is

a time to be merry, a time when innocent gaiety and jollity do good like a medicine. Let then those who can; those upon whom no cankering care, no oppressive grief, has yet laid hand; those for whom the past and passing years have brought pleasure and prosperity, make the day resonant with sounds of gladness. Let the

“Goddess fair and free,  
In Heaven yeled Euphrosyne,  
And by men heart-easing Mirth,”

be invoked to preside at the Yule festivities, and let her bring with her, if she may,

“Jest and youthful Jollity,  
Quips and Cranks, and wanton Wiles,  
Nods, and Becks, and wreathed Smiles,  
Such as hang on Hebe's cheek,  
And love to live in dimple sleek;  
Sport, that wrinkled Care derides,  
And Laughter holding both his sides.”

And what of the many others to whom such advice and wish would seem but heartless mockery; those to whom the day so fraught with joyous and sacred recollections; those whose eyes, even as they gather around the festive board, turn instinctively to note the vacant place that was filled by some loved one a year ago; or those whose hearts may have been wrung with sorrow more poignant than even death can bring? To such mirth may indeed be forbidden, and voices of gaiety sound like hollow mockeries of the stern realities of life. By such all the more should the glad anniversary be hailed as a harbinger of joys to come. At the feet of such may it lay down its precious burden of consolation, of peace, and of hope. To all, whether in the exuberance of mirth-loving gladness, or in the quiet joy of chastened trustfulness, may the day return as in very deed the symbol and pledge of the golden age of the future, when

“Truth and Justice then,  
Will down return to men,  
Orbed like a rainbow; and, like glories wearing,  
Mercy will sit between,  
Throned in celestial sheen,  
With radiant feet the tissued clouds down steering.  
And heaven, as at some festival,  
Will open wide the gate of her high palace hall.”

To one and all may the coming day prove a happy Christmas!

To our view it does not in the least matter that no one can now suppose that the day celebrated throughout Christendom, is the true anniversary of the birth of our Saviour. The real date of the nativity cannot now be ascertained, with any degree of certainty, but it seems almost certain that it could not have been the 25th of December, which is the height of the rainy season in Judaea, a time at which it would be in the last degree likely that shepherds would be watching their flocks by night on the plains. As a matter of fact there seems to have been no uniformity in regard to the day set apart for the celebration in the earliest times to which the observance