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Toronto, Christmas, 1896.

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IDEAL PARISH, PRAYERS FOR DEAD,  
A SAINT.

There is a sentence of St. Paul's which precisely describes an ideal parish, especially at Christmas time. 'He that giveth, let him do it with simplicity; he that ruleth, with diligence; he that sheweth mercy, with cheerfulness.' Rom. xii., 8. He that ruleth is the Rector, the Parish Priest, the President of the ecclesiastical body. He is to exercise his office with diligence, with zeal, with a complete devotion to the task committed to him. Unlike Wesley, who said 'the world is my parish' this man says 'the parish is my world.' He, or she, that showeth mercy, is the Sister, the District Visitor, the Club Secretary, the Nurse, the good fellow, who like St. Philip, lets the boys chop wood on his back, so only that they don't offend GOD. Mercy in the New Testament, means active care and work for any who are in trouble. Those who shew mercy do it in the ideal parish, with cheerfulness, with hilarity, they go about their errands of kindness with smiling faces. Lastly, he that giveth—the Subscriber, the Squire, the Friend at a distance, the person of narrow means who yet cares for those who are poorest—he that giveth, does it with simplicity, he thinks nothing of his gift after it is given. If it can be large, he makes it so; if it must be small, he sends it all the same. The poor unconsciously echo the sense of Scripture when they say, 'our minister thinks of us always, and tries to do us good; and the ladies they work like slaves for us, and yet look so pleased, that it does one good to see them; and as for their friends, they think nothing of a five-pound note.' It will not be impossible to find in town or