

**The Weekly Ontario**  
Morton & Herity, Publishers

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24, 1914.

**CHRISTMAS, 1914.**

The thought that will most readily occur to every mind at this particular Christmastide is that something has gone sadly awry with the central principle of the Christian faith—"Peace on earth and goodwill to men." When "peace" is mentioned there instantly arises the image of embattled Europe with the foremost Christian nations engaged in a disastrous and devastating war. Our first impulse is to rush to the conclusion that Peace is a dream as incapable of being realised as immortal perfection.

The lapse of the great German nation to Apache barbarism lends point to the observation of the superficial mind that the world has not advanced, that blood-lust rules, that the man who believes in peace and preaches peace is a deluded fanatic, capable of doing much harm because he may prevent his people being in a proper state of preparedness if they are influenced by his teaching. This is the day when the Krupps, the Bernhards, the Nietschs, and the Treitschkes of Germany and of Canada can strut their little hour upon the stage and promulgate their false philosophy that might is right, that war is a blessing, and that war is the proper and natural occupation of mankind.

There is no use of crying "peace" when there is no peace. This war must be fought to the end, bitter though that end may be. The British nation is not engaged in any Napoleonic scheme of conquest or aggression. If that were true there would be small enthusiasm in any part of the Empire to sustain the British cause.

We are fighting for a principle, and we are fighting that we may have peace. And, depend upon it, a more secure peace will follow this awful tragedy than would have been possible except by the slower processes of education and growth of moral sentiment.

The dream of the pacifist of universal and enduring peace may not be realized for some time to come, but after this cataclysm of war we believe that the admonition of the lowly Nazarene will be more of a reality in the counsels of statesmen and of nations than it has ever been before.

And though we are at war and though our stalwart young manhood is being drafted away to fight battles thousands of miles from home, we have this to say that we are proud of the cause and feel that no sacrifice can be too great to bring home to the ruffian and the murderer the truth that in the affairs of this world, honor must count, that it is the duty of the strong to support the weak, that aggressive warfare must be ended forever.

We have at this Christmastide peculiar cause for gratitude in the measure of prosperity that is still ours. We have endured the first shock of war, and now to the casual observer the tides of business flow as though the forces of Mars were not rending the nations of Europe.

In Belleville, in the Bay of Quinte district, the unbidden troubles and anxieties that came earlier in the year have not proved so formidable as we had feared, and now we look forward hopefully, confidently to the dawn of a brighter day, when the Prince of Peace shall indeed come to reign.

**PUBLISHING THE ASSESSMENT.**

The Ontario can see no adequate reason for not allowing the voters to express an opinion at the coming municipal elections as to whether they would be willing to spend two hundred dollars for printing in book form, for general distribution, a complete list of assessed values of all real property in the city.

Publication of the assessment does not mean an expression of lack of confidence in the assessor or his work, any more than the published financial statement is a suggestion that the city treasurer needs watching. It would merely be placing before the public in a convenient form information that is the public's business, and which information can now only be acquired after a cumbersome search at the city building.

The Ontario believes that in Mr. Kerr we have an assessor of excellent judgment who has been doing his best to give everybody a square and impartial deal. He has not come anywhere near to pleasing everybody, but that does not mean that he has not done his work well. The assessment is the basis of taxation and the payment of taxes has never been a popular proceeding. The man who is at the head of the department must always expect to take a considerable part of his salary in hostile criticism, fault-finding and abuse.

The publishing of the assessment would not perhaps diminish the criticism but it would place his work beyond the pale of suspicion. The court of revision would be likely to have more complaints to look into for a year or two, but we believe that in the end the effect would be salutary. Charges of favoritism or faulty judgment that are now too frequently and too lightly made would then be disposed of in the clear air of judicial opinion.

We have a wholesome respect for the public, and we have no fear of trusting the people. We do not think that the public or the city or the assessor would be any the worse off if every taxpayer had in his possession a complete report of the assessment.

Mayor Wills expresses the opinion that the public would take little or no interest in the report if it were published, basing his argument on the fact that the ratepayers scarcely ever call for or peruse the printed financial statement that is issued each year. With the mayor's opinion we do not agree. On the contrary we believe such a report would be read with avidity by almost every property holder in the city. In any event it would do no harm to permit the people to say by their ballots whether they would like the work done or not.

**MADE OUTSIDE OF BELLEVILLE**

While we are talking about "Made-in-Canada," it might also be well to have a few words to say about "Made-in-Belleville." There is nothing to be said against loyalty to the large community, but there is another loyalty quite as essential in being true to your friends and neighbors in your own city. All of which leads up to the remark that our attention has been called to some envelopes now being used here and bearing this imprint—

CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF BELLEVILLE. ELECTRICAL INSPECTOR'S DEPARTMENT.

Is it necessary to remind the electrical inspector that Belleville changed its status from a town to a city more than thirty-five years ago, and that within this city are to be found three printing shops, any one of which will be pleased to do him a satisfactory job in the way of printing envelopes at a very modest price? We are informed that no one of the offices here was asked for quotations on this printing. The work was done outside, and the printer who executed the job very naturally supposed that any municipal corporation that did that sort of thing could not have attained to the stature of a city.

**"ALBERTUS."**

The Christmas number of "Albertus," the quarterly magazine issued by the students and staff of Albert College, has just been printed at The Ontario job rooms and is now being circulated among the subscribers. The magazine is a fine tribute to all concerned in its production, and is fit to rank with those issued by educational institutions much larger than Albert. The cover design is very attractively arranged in green and gold on red stock with holly border. Miss Ella Gardiner B.A., the gifted lady principal, has the place of honor at the beginning of the book with "Greetings." Dr. E. N. Baker, the principal, follows with a thoughtful and optimistic article, "Peace on Earth." Then comes a prize story by Miss G. E. Metzler, "The Spirit of Christmas." There is a brief article by Rev. A. R. Sanderson, giving impressions of Valcartier Camp. The editorial department is brightly written and contains a number of timely articles of exceptional interest.

The editorial staff is composed of:—Chas. C. Phillips, Editor-in-chief. Chester Williams, Associate Editor. Miss Minnie Parks, Literary. Miss Sadie Edwards, Personals. Miss Gertrude Metzler, Exchange. Geo. R. Davidson, Religious. Stanley Batstone, Athletics. Geo. E. Kelly and Luther M. Loney, Locals. Prog. N. J. Ireland, Chairman of Board. Erwin Stillwell, and Charles R. Gower, Business Managers. Miss May Copeland, Secretary.

We will quote one paragraph from Dr. Baker's admirable article.—

"Men, wicked men, have plunged the world into an awful war, but we believe that God is on His throne and that He will yet make the wrath of men to praise Him. Out of chaos He will bring order, out of divisions He will bring harmony, and out of carnage He will bring peace. Even now, methinks, we can see the first faint gleam of the better day, in the banishment of vodka from Russia, absinthe from France, and we trust, alcoholic liquors throughout the British Empire; in a unified Poland, and a freed Jewish people."

Editor Phillips is to be complimented on the fine success of his initial experience as a journalist, and we feel it is no disparagement of the work of preceding years to say that the present number of "Albertus" surpasses all its predecessors.

**AMERICAN INDIGNATION.**

The indignation of the American newspaper press over the dastardly raid of the German navy upon the undefended coast towns of England is almost as outspoken as that of the British papers. The New York Times, for instance, says that whatever design the German naval authorities had, it will merely serve to strengthen "the whole world's conviction of the greater peril that would be likely to result from the ultimate triumph of the Kaiser's forces. The bombardment of unfortified towns, also, and the utterly useless massacre of non-combatants have not only shocked the people of other nations, but have aroused a world-wide feeling of angry resentment which cannot fail to be prejudicial to Germany."

If the attack was devised as a feint to derange the plans of the British Navy and permit the easy passage to the Atlantic of some of Germany's larger cruisers and battleships for the purpose of harassing British shipping, it was utterly futile, for the Admiralty failed to be misled by a sortie and there is not the slightest indication that the British battleships moved from their stations or that an opening was made in the North Sea. The German raid was a miserable failure.

The New York Tribune strongly denounces the German attack as a crime. "Civilized opinion everywhere," it says, "will share the indignation of the British public at the bombardment of undefended English coast towns by German cruisers. As is usual in such wanton attacks, made without any discernible military purpose, civilians are the only sufferers. There may be military palliation for the bombardment of Hartlepool, which was defended by a fort. At that point British soldiers were killed along the coast. But at Scarborough and Whitby there was no defence made, and the only victims of the German gun-fire were non-combatants, including women and children."

"Germany," the Tribune adds, "may on technicalities escape some measure of responsibility for conducting warfare in this barbarous fashion, but such ruthlessness will come home to roost. In wantonly killing non-combatants, women and children among them, in undefended British coast towns, Germany cannot escape responsibility for having taken the first step toward restoring barbarities which the world had fondly hoped to see eliminated from the practice of war."

**THE SUPERMAN.**

Some time ago we pointed out how little there was in German achievements in art, literature and science, to substantiate the claim of their spokesman to the "superiority" of their nation. A recent writer in the Westminster Gazette dealing with the same question very properly declares that the British people for years have been submissive to a superstition of German superiority. The writer is a chemist and speaking with authority shows that in his own department of work most of the great discoveries were made by scientists who were not Germans. For instance he points out that Priestley, the discoverer of oxygen, was an Englishman; Lavoisier, the father of modern chemistry was a Frenchman; Dalton, the deviser of the atomic theory, was an Englishman; Davy, who first isolated potassium, was an Englishman; Berzelius, who made analysis an exact science, was a Swede, and so was Scheele; Faraday, who first liquefied a gas, was an Englishman (the trifling fact that the whole of our present methods of producing electricity are due to him as a physicist can be set aside); Dumas, one of the most eclectic chemists who ever lived, was a Frenchman; Stas, whose determinations of atomic weights form now the basis of our knowledge, was a Belgian, born in Louvain; Le Blanc the inventor of the alkali process which bears his name, was a Frenchman; Solvay, who devised the rival process, was a Belgian; Perkin, the discoverer of aniline dyes, was an Englishman; the discoverers of the Periodic Law were Newlands, an Englishman, and Mendeleef, a Russian.

"I cannot come much later in my list," the writer adds, "without mentioning those living. It is enough to say that while all English chemists acknowledge with gratitude the splendid work which German chemists have done, they do not regard their science as a Teutonic possession, and they think that the headay of Liebig, Bunsen, Meyer, and Kekule is past, and that the present generation of German chemists are diligent pedants rather than fruitful originators."

Disguise our bondage as we will,  
'Tis woman, woman rules us still.

First, then, a woman will or won't, depend on't;  
If she will do't, she will; and there's an end on't.

It will be Robinson and Panter up to five o'clock p.m. on January 4th. Then it will be Robinson or Panter.

We trust that the ladies will not forget that an election card in The Ontario produces

results. This g. f. j. is read by all intelligent voters.

In the words of the late lamented William Nye, "There ain't no telling what woman is going to do until she has done it, and then it ain't no use."

Just when we thought we had the military situation well in hand those cantankerous women had to go and mobilize for an assault on the School Board.

Mr. Winston Churchill's description of the German sailors who shelled the undefended coast towns, as "baby-killers," will sting the haughty Prussians.

Lord Rosebery was prophetic when he said that Europe was "rattling back to barbarism." Witness the "Kultur" of the German baby-killers.

Let the member for West Hastings dare to state in the presence of any member of the Board of Education that he favors extending the franchise to married women.

Perhaps the reason those five ladies wish to break in over the sacred threshold of the Board of Education is because they really believe that the poet, Otway, meant it when he wrote "O woman; lovely woman! we had been but brutes without you."

'Tis the immortal William that hands out this soothing dope for the B.O.E.—

'Tis beauty that doth oft make woman proud;  
'Tis virtue that doth make them most admired;  
'Tis government that makes them seem divine.

Surely this is a cold and ungrateful world. Here we have in Belleville a school board that has been working day and night for two years to complete three of the most modern seats of learning in Ontario, and no sooner have they finished their arduous duties than five fussy women come along to oust five members of the board from their positions. Could Bernhardt, Treitschke, or Pankhurst conceive of anything more wantonly or heartlessly cruel?

The imposing of the embargo on Canadian cattle entering the United States some weeks ago, owing to the Foot-and Mouth disease, and the immediate drop in prices here was another proof of the value to all live-stock producers of free entry to the American market. In the short-sighted frenzy induced by well greased and flutulent flag-flappers, Canada was "saved" from an earlier entry to her most profitable market. In this connection The Grain Grower's Guide in a recent issue says,—

A great many of the farmers who were indignant at the establishment of the quarantine should remember that in September 1911, they voted against reciprocity and thus prevented the removal of tariff walls which are a perpetual quarantine against the exchange of many farm products and necessities between Canada and the United States.

**OUR TWO OPINIONS.**

Us two wuz boys when we fell out—  
Nigh to the age of my youngest now;  
Don't rec'lect what 'twuz about,  
Some small deef'rence, I'll allow.  
Lived next neighbors twenty years,  
A-hatin' each other, me 'nd Jim,  
He havin' his opinyin uv me,  
'Nd I havin' my opinyin uv him.

Grew up together 'nd wouldn't speak,  
Court'd sisters 'nd married 'em, too;  
'Tended same meetin' house onct a week,  
A hatin' each other through 'nd through!  
But when Abe Linkern asked the West  
F'r soldiers, we answered—me 'nd Jim,  
He havin' his opinyin uv me,  
'Nd I havin' my opinyin uv him.

But down in Tennessee one night  
There wuz a sound uv firin' far away,  
'Nd the sergeant allowed ther'd be a fight  
With the Johnnie Rebs some time next day;  
'Nd as I wuz thinkin' uv Lizzie 'nd home,  
Jim stood afore me, long and slim—  
He havin' his opinyin uv me,  
'Nd I havin' my opinyin uv him.

Seemed like we knew ther wuz goin' to be  
Serious trouble f'r me and him;  
Us two shuck hands, did Jim 'nd me,  
But never a word from me or Jim!  
He went his way 'nd I went mine,  
'Nd into the battle's roar went we,  
I havin' my opinyin uv Jim,  
'Nd he havin' his opinyin uv me.

Jim never came back from the war again,  
But I hain't forgot that last, last night,  
When, waitin' f'r orders, us two men  
Made up, 'nd shook hands afore the fight.  
'Nd after it all, it's soothin' to know  
That here be I, 'nd yonder's Jim—  
He havin' his opinyin uv me,  
'Nd I havin' my opinyin uv him.

—Eugene Field.

**Other Editors' Opinions**

**INEFFICIENT EDUCATION.**

The interest of children and schools is, in our opinion, equal to any other known interest in our Canadian life. This is why we devote so much space to schools and the welfare of the children. Those who have read our "talks on this page know that we have not lauded the educational system of Ontario as many politicians, editors, and other writers and speakers have done. We have visited schools in Canada, the United States and England and have read many reports of school inspectors, government commissioners and other books on schools, school management and systems of education, and from personal observation and the information we have gleaned from these sources, we are thoroughly convinced of the fact that the Ontario school system is failing most regretably in giving the children of this country an education that will make them the most efficient men and women. Without discussing further the system that has driven nearly all the male public school teachers out of the profession and placed an army of young girls in charge of the schools—no one blames the girls for qualifying for those positions, and many of them are zealous, energetic, faithful workers—we say the best interests of all concerned in the schools are not as well promoted, as they would be were the public schools manned by highly trained male teachers. Dr. F. W. Merchant, M.A., Toronto, Director of Industrial and Technical Education and Inspector of Normal Schools in Ontario, is reported as stating in a public address referring to children leaving school with a very incomplete education, that "from statistics gathered, 40 per cent. of public school pupils do not pass through the Third Book, and 63 per cent. do not pass the entrance examination before leaving school for good." He cited an instance of queuing employees in a factory and not one of 75 girls had reached the Fourth Book. It is the same case with boys. What stronger plea for better schools is needed than these statements from one of the highest educational authorities in this Province? —Bowmanville Statesman.

**A BRIGHTER SIDE OF THE WAR.**

In our common detestation of war there is some danger that all who are engaged in the dreadful work of slaughter may be grouped in a common condemnation—that we may forget there is something more to be seen than its horrors, and that, prone as one is to bring out the worst qualities of those participating in it, yet it develops and makes manifest in some of them the highest possibilities of heroic service to country and humanity.

An illustration of this "other side" was to be found in the lines from a letter written by an English officer, Capt. Norman Leslie, of the Rifle Brigade. It was in effect, a plea that the weary and anxious watchers of the bulletins at home should show the forgetfulness of self exhibited by so many of the fighters in the field:—"Units, individuals, cannot count. Remember we are writing a new page of history. Future generations cannot be allowed to read the decline of the British and attribute it to us. We live our little lives and die. To some are given chances of proving themselves men and to others no chance comes. Whatever our individual faults, virtues, or qualities may be it matters not; but when we are up against big things, let us forget individuals and let us act as one Great British unit, united and fearless." Whatever one may think of England as compared with the nations ranged against her and her allies, these are fine, brave words. No mere man-killer wrote them, but a soldier willing to die for a nation and a cause and to count death a small thing. It were easy to say that his is an easier task, a lighter burden, than they have at home, but the statement, even though true, which is probably not, leaves unchanged the completeness of his sacrifice, the nobility of his mental attitude. —New York Times.

**THE IRON DUKE.**

Germany's warships will indeed feel the weight of Britain's naval might should they come in contact with a few shots from the Iron Duke—the Navy's "baby." This super-dreadnought, which entered upon her maiden commission in March last, is the most powerful battleship in the world. Her main armament is ten 13.5 inch weapons, which hurl a shell of some 1400 pounds, a distance of six miles, and it is possible for the whole of her guns to be concentrated upon the target and strike a blow which the stoutest ship could not withstand.

It will be a costly thing for the taxpayer when the Iron Duke goes into action, for her guns use 2000 lbs. of powder and shot at the rate of \$50,000 a minute.

Her torpedoes are of the newest "heater" kind—that is, they run by hot air. They are 21-inch in diameter, whereas the old type of torpedo is 18-inch. These 21-inch weapons have a speed of over forty knots an hour, are very effective, and possess a long effective range.

The Iron Duke, it might be mentioned, is the first battleship to be equipped with specially-designed guns for aircraft. These guns are capable of sending a projectile made especially for this purpose, to a height of over 10,000 feet, at the rate of twelve to fifteen a minute, while it also has a battery of 6-inch quick-firers for beating off torpedo craft, which throw a 100-pound projectile and make such accurate shooting that a score of 100 per cent. hits is frequently made with them. —Tit-Bits.