

man so thoroughly earnest in their efforts to properly celebrate that anniversary. Both assume a holiday cheerfulness and bend their energies to doing full justice to the occasion.

More especially is this so with man after a year of prosperity such as 1891 has been. When everyone has the comforting assurance that there is plenty of food and to spare in the larder and they need "take no thought for the morrow" they feel justified on the approach of Christmas in throwing aside business cares and indulging in seasonable pleasures.

The young people spend their time in sleigh-riding, skating, tobogganing, snow shoeing and dancing, the weather generally being favorable to the full enjoyment of those amusements. The children likewise have their pleasures, a great many of their evenings being spent in practicing for the Christmas concert and festival of their Sunday School. The old people sit by the fires in their comfortable homes reading, or chatting of their own young days spent in the old home perhaps away in the backwoods of an eastern province.

Christmas itself is usually very quiet, the morn'g especially. A great many go to church and engage in services which commemorate the event that gave this day its peculiar significance to Christians. After that comes the dinner with its turkey and plum pu'ling, and then the fun commences. All who are young enough to enjoy such exercises, go skating or tobogganing or don their snowshoes and away for a run over the prairie; those who cannot hold convival gatherings in their homes and engage in in-door amusements.

Thus the day is spent and the season ended which has always been representative of the happiest event in the history of the world. It is observed with a Christian reverence for the day itself combined with a healthy and innocent indulgence in pleasures which help to relieve the tedium of winter in the north land.

Editorial Notes.

"Our Highways to the Sea" is the title of a twenty-five page pamphlet just issued by James Fisher, M.P.P. of Manitoba, containing his views on the importance of the Hudson's Bay Railway as an ocean outlet for Western Canada, and on the enlargement of the canal system between the Great Lakes and the Atlantic. The plans proposed for the accomplishment of

these objects are ably discussed and the advantages and objections to them brought out. Mr. Fisher is evidently strongly in favor of both being pushed to completion as soon as possible.

ONE of the most promising of the Canadian magazines is *Canada*. This really excellent publication comes from Benton, New Brunswick, and is a credit to the "bluenose" province. With the 1892 January number it begins its second year, which, judging from that number, will be a year of good things for its readers. It has been enlarged to 24 quarto pages and cover. The reading matter treats on history, biography, literature, science and art, and has a Canadian flavor which will be especially pleasing to readers in this country where so much of what we read comes from "across the line."

Mr. A. J. McMILLAN, the Manitoba Government representative at Liverpool, England, is doing good work throughout the old country in the interests of this province. We received during December a lengthy report of a lecture which he delivered in the town hall at Tamworth, on the evening of November 9th, before a large audience, the text of which afterwards appeared in the Tamworth *Mercury*. Judging from his utterances on that occasion we should say that Mr. McMillan is determined to avoid the slightest appearance of exaggeration in his statements about Manitoba. He indulges in no theorising but confines himself to placing actual facts before the people whom he addresses.

If there is one thing more than another for which the province of British Columbia deserves credit it is her newspapers. No better papers are published in the whole Dominion than those which are issued from the three coast cities, Victoria, Vancouver and New Westminster. They come to hand every week cleanly and well printed and with the reading matter nicely arranged. The editorials are always written in good style and generally bear evidence of deep study. They have one very grievous fault though in common with nearly all our Canadian newspapers, that of wasting too much energy and space in abusing each other. A moment's thought would convince any of them that it is not only wrong but hurtful to waste their talent in such a way.

Only a Printer.

"He is only a printer." Such was the sneering remark of a leader in a circle of aristocracy—the codfish quality. Who was the Earl of Stanhope? He was only a printer. What was Prince Edward William and Prince Napoleon? Proud to call themselves printers. The present Czar of Russia, the crown Prince of Prussia and the Duke of Battenburg are printers, and the Emperor of China works in the private printing office almost every day. William Caxton, the father of English literature, was a practical printer. What were G.P. Norris, N.P. Willis, James Gale, Charles Richardson, James Parker, Horace Greely, Charles Dickens, James Buchanan, Simon Cameron, Schuyler Colfax? Printers all, and practical ones. Mark Twain, Amos J. Cummings, Bret Harte, William Dean Howells, Joel Chandler Harris and Opie P. Reed are plain practical printers, as were Artemus Ward, Petroleum V. Nasby, and Sut Lovingwood. Senator Plumb, of Kansas, and James G. Hogg, governor of Texas, are both printers, and the leader of science and philosophy in this day made it his boast that he was a "jour" printer. In fact thousands of the most brilliant minds in this country are to be found toiling in the publishing houses of large cities and towns. It is not every one that can be a printer—brains are absolutely necessary.—*Century*.

Literary.

We have been favored with a copy of the initial number of *The Manitoban*, Winnipeg's new monthly magazine. It promises its readers a monthly review of current events, articles from the pens of our foremost writers and such miscellaneous matter as its editor may deem worthy of publication. Judging from the first number, it will be an interesting addition to the periodicals of the country. Its well printed, clean looking pages and general appearance, speak for skill and good taste of the publishers. The price has been placed at one dollar a year for regular subscriptions or ten cents for single numbers. It can be obtained through any book store or direct from the office at Winnipeg.

A new Manitoba monthly has made its appearance under the name of "*The Methodist Gleamer*." It is published "in the interests of Manitoba and Northwest Methodism," to quote its title page, and comes from the town of Killarney. The Rev. G. H. Long, of Bois-Sevain, and Rev. Henry Lewis, of Killarney, are its joint editors. The annual subscription has been placed at 50 cents, and judging from the get up of the first number, it will be well worth the money.

Alberta.

A new postoffice has been established at Lacombe station on the C. & E. railway.

The Bank of Montreal intend to open a branch at Edmonton early next spring.

The *Edmonton Bulletin* says Indian hunters report muskrats very numerous also prairie chickens and partridges. Rabbits are on the increase and also lynx which seem to be travelling westward. Bears were unusually numerous this winter.