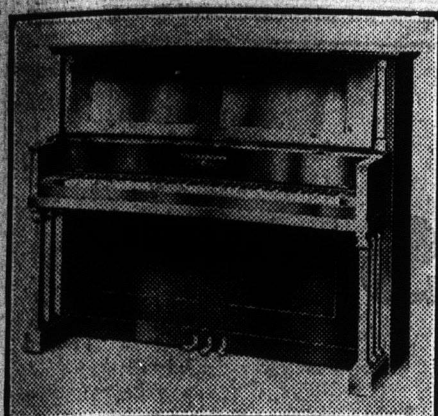




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A Christmas Prayer

By Principal Crammy, B.A., Wesley College, Winnipeg

GOD and Father of Our Lord Jesus Christ, we thank Thee for the Christmas time and its message. Once angels sang Thy song of Peace and shepherds abiding in the fields heard and wondered. Yet they sang that man might learn the song. Nearly two thousand times with the revolving years have Thy people turned in memory toward the song or the angels and the light that in it and with it shone from heaven. Nor have they turned in vain. We have heard much and learned much, and Christmas and its message means more than it once did. For this we bless Thy name. Yet our Father we are still as those who watch wearily in the night and look for the morning. And we come again to Thee, for in Thee is no darkness, but only light.

Help us to find our peace in Christ. Help us to see that only as we are one with God is there peace for us, which is abiding. It may be that led thus by Thy spirit, we may discover that we have more of the peace of God because more of the nature of God, in the midst of this confusion that seems at times to drown the angels' song, than in the quiet and inactivity that we sometimes call peace, and sometimes pray for, but which is surely, in its reality, only death.

We bless Thee for the spirit of Jesus, which we have seen manifested throughout our land during the year—the spirit of service, the spirit of sacrifice. We bless Thee for the tens of thousands of our young men who, though war was repugnant to them, and strife repugnant to them, have listened to the call of duty, to withstand with their lives that which seemed monstrous, that which with one fell stroke would threaten with disaster the gifts which Thou hast given us through a thousand years of experience and struggle. Be with our young men, O God, and make them valiant. While they rejoice at being soldiers of the King, may they rejoice yet more at being soldiers of the Cross.

Be with those who at home require no less the valiant heart. In hours of anxiety may Thy presence bid them be of good cheer. In hours of sorrow may Thy presence banish darkness. May all the pathway of duty be made glorious by being made the place of communion with the Son of Man.

Make this time of strife an instrument of peace. May the spirit of sacrifice shown by our soldiers and their mothers and their wives and their sisters make still more hateful the skulking cowardice of the spirit of self-seeking, until men holding the foul deformities of manhood in abhorrence may seek their real manhood in Christ.

Thus, O God of Love, through the confusion that seems to mar the peace of to-day, bring about a higher peace, that will vindicate the hope that shines like a light out of heaven upon men's hearts at the Christmas time. Hear our prayer, O God, which we seek to offer in the spirit of Jesus. Amen.



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