

As Christmas Day is the festival of thanksgiving for the Incarnation, Thanksgiving Day, though lacking the ecclesiastical authority of the Nativity, is the festival of thanksgiving for those gifts which are witnesses of the one great Gift. Thanksgiving Day as we have it in Canada we owe to the United States. The Puritans of New England first observed it in 1633, the first day of October in that year seeing its promulgation by the Court of Massachusetts. The hardships and difficulties of the new colonies when surmounted made thanksgiving a very natural sentiment. The successful harvesting of precarious crops, the safe arrival of eagerly looked-for vessels, immunity from the ever-imminent peril of attacks by Indians, all tended to make the giving of thanks much more than a bare formality.

In times of comparative prosperity and of assured security, the virtue of thanksgiving is much more difficult of attainment. There is a standing temptation to regard our well-being as arising mainly from ourselves. The sense of

"a divinity that shapes our ends" tends to become fainter, and with a fading idea of the Personality of Providence, thanksgiving becomes a form of empty words.

The praise of the lips by itself will never bring us to the "desired haven;" thanks must be expressed in the life, in beneficent deed, in kindly, sympathetic word and thought, if we would be possessed of the virtue and habit of thanksgiving. The appeal of the Executive Committee on behalf of the Home Mis-

sion Fund gives us one way of making our thankfulness real and practical. In many places this year's opportunity is gone, as far as the actual Thanksgiving Service is concerned, but to those who have it yet before them we submit the claims of men and women and children on far off ranches and lonely farmsteadings. As we remember them in the words of thanksgiving for "us and all men," let us help to make them partakers with us in the privileges of the Higher life, the joyous freedom of the Gospel of the Kingdom of God.

The Mounted Rifles.

Major General Hutton addressed an interested audience in Calgary on Saturday afternoon, 7th ult., in reference to his proposed scheme of mounted riflemen. The General was careful to draw distinction between mounted infantry and mounted rifles. As he explained, it is impossible to have the former and you have infantry, for with a mounted infantryman the horse is simply a means of locomotion. The mounted rifleman on the other hand must be essentially a horseman; with him the horse is not merely a means of locomotion but an adjunct of himself with which he must be prepared to gallop, jump, travel, or charge as occasion requires. General Hutton proceeded to give an account of the practically certain effects of his scheme. In the first place, the great industry of the country, horse-breeding, would be encouraged. It has been found by experience in Australia and elsewhere, that the bringing together