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Toronto, December 20, 1894.

Christmas Greetings.

THE season for greetings has once again come, and the PRESBYTERIAN REVIEW joins the chorus in wishing its readers a merry Christmas. It is the season of greetings and of gifts. Friend hails friend with good wishes and friendships are sealed with tangible tokens. From the prevailing custom there is much genuine pleasure derived, springing from the principle that it is blessed to give. Who gives to a worthy cause that does not experience the satisfaction of having done a good deed? So it is that Christmas with its presents softens the feelings, kindles the sympathies, and sheds good cheer and kindness abroad. The poor and needy are remembered by many in their Christmas lists. There are the charitable and benevolent institutions, the sufferers in the churches, and the destitute among the great unwashed. No man or woman ought to be considered too depraved to be touched by seasonable kindness. The record of the slums shows that the missions of mercy are fruitful of results at this season of the year. A Christmas dinner, a few things to enable the mother to gather the family around the board, will produce happiness, and will probably win an entrance for the higher concerns of the soul. Christmas gifts should be shared in not only by the friends of one's own circle, but, to some extent, by those who would otherwise have none.

To the church, Christmas Day marks an unspeakably solemn and important event. The birth of Christ is the great event in the history of the world, and while opinions will differ as to the manner of observing the day, it will be conceded as not too much to expect from Christians that their thankfulness to God for the great gift of His Son, should be given expression to publicly in the house of worship. But whether in church or in the home, it would be a most fitting duty that a solemn consecration of life to God should be made. He gave His Son for us, let us give our lives to Him. Then would be felt the full meaning of Christmas-tide, of its softening influence, of its vows and resolutions for Christ would be born not only for us but in us the hope

of glory. And the gifts, the kind words the greetings, would be sanctified, would be a source of blessing to ourselves and mayhap to others.

Gustavus Adolphus.

The fame of this hero king will endure as long as the history of protestantism will be read. Few characters in history are as unique as his, the charm of his personality, the success of his arms, the wisdom of his reign, present to the mind elements of attractive interest, and his great services to the cause of liberty and of truth, usually identical, merit the admiration of the ages. It is three hundred years since he was born the date being December 9th 1594. The ter-centenary of his birth has been celebrated in Germany, Denmark, and in Norway and Sweden. These countries are specially interested as the scenes of his triumphs, but all the world share in its obligation to the successful champion of a cause which is wide world in its beneficent scope. His victorious campaign in Germany was a marvel of generalship and success. He faced the veteran and famous generals of the age, Tilley and Wallenstein, men of experience and ability and he defeated them and broke their armies in a series of engagements. Well educated and trained, he was a pious prince and an accomplished one. He was a fervent Lutheran, and his army was disciplined on a characteristic plan. His soldiers were God-fearing hymn singing earnest men, terrible in the onset, merciful and well-behaved off the field. He fell at Lutzen where the Germans erected a monument to commemorate his death and the victory of his arms, but a more fitting monument is the Gustavus Adolphus Society formed in 1832, the object of which is to promote Evangelical religion in countries where Roman Catholic is the prevailing form of religion. "It has built 2,000 churches 800 schools, and sustains 4,000 missions."

Aged Ministers' Fund.

What thoughts are suggested by the very name. Aged heralds of the cross, men whose step was once elastic whose voice was once firm—whose faithful warning made our conscience speak—but they are old now feeble in voice as in step—almost forgotten for another generation arisen who know them not. Shall we neglect them? We all need cheer in these times of depression, who more than our old veterans to whom the grasshopper is becoming a burden—will it cheer them to know that the church is giving less than usual. Have you counted what deficit means to them? to know what it is to contemplate a threatened shortage in the fund? There are this year seventy six aged men who are more or less dependent on this fund. The average annuity is slightly over \$200 little enough sum but reduce it and you pinch men already within the grip of care—you add to the burden the weary anxiety of making ends meet when they cannot reach—then let not the church pursue a false economy here. There are some whose money is deposited for safety only to whom a rich return would come if they tested the promise He that giveth to the poor lendeth to the Lord—Try it—you ask how much is required? about 10,360 from the congregational collections—\$17,350 altogether. A few congregations in the cities give away above the average in this as they do to other funds, but most are far beneath the minimum. Make an effort