



Put out the light, ye winsome cherub,  
Thy mission thou hast done full well;  
Another year we know has gone,  
Our hearts, alas! that fact can tell.

The cares and troubles we have borne,  
The cherished hopes we've seen dispel,  
The lov'd ones we are left to mourn,  
All these, tho' past, in memory dwell.

Point to the clock, ye smiling cherub,  
All hail with joy the news ye bring,  
Another year we know has come,  
Its praises loud all tongues shall sing.

May peace and plenty rule our land,  
And make our homes with mirth to ring;  
May manly hearts aye ready stand,  
To shield her from the viper's sting.



#### THANKS.

SINCE the issue of our December number we have received many kind words of encouragement for which we are duly grateful. Our subscription list is also rapidly increasing, which is another cause for thankfulness. The extraordinary liberal offers we have made in our Premium List have evidently been fully appreciated, and we urge upon our friends the necessity of canvassing energetically so as to get their presents as early as possible. To those who have not yet seen a copy of the Premium List we shall be glad to send one on receiving name and address. We would ask all to read carefully the conditions on page 2, as although we endeavored to make them as plain as possible, some of our patrons have apparently not taken the trouble to make themselves fully acquainted with them. If there is anything that requires explanation drop us a post card and we will reply promptly. The name MASSEY'S ILLUSTRATED has led some people to think that this is simply a reproduction of the advertising sheet previously issued under that

title. We want to disabuse people's minds of that idea. The new MASSEY'S ILLUSTRATED, as stated in our salutatory last month, is a regular monthly illustrated journal devoted to the interests of the farming community. As soon as we are in a position to do so, we will enlarge it to 24

pages, thereby affording increased space for reading matter and illustrations. In due course we will treat of matters closely identified with agriculture which have not hitherto been touched upon by any other agricultural journal in the Dominion; articles will also be contributed on useful and practical subjects by well-known writers. Bear in mind that our sole aim is to make MASSEY'S ILLUSTRATED the best farmer's and farmer's family paper published in Canada. To advertisers we would say that you will find this paper the best advertising medium in existence. While the Massey Manufacturing Co. will occupy a certain space for advertising their machinery, they will be debited with the amount at the same rates as charged against other advertisers. We may say, once for all, that the new MASSEY'S ILLUSTRATED is not, and was never intended to be, an advertising sheet, but an illustrated journal of exceptional merit and one destined to take a high position in the realm of journalism. Again with thanks to our kind patrons and friends, we wish you all A Happy New Year.

MR. ALLAN, President of the Ontario Fruit Growers Association, has recently been making an extended inquiry into the capabilities of Manitoba and the North-West Territories and British Columbia for fruit-growing purposes, and he has expressed the fullest confidence that, protected by belts of other trees, the hardier varieties of plums, apples, and pears can be grown successfully there.

THE Supreme Court at Ottawa has rendered a decision unanimously in favor of the Province of Manitoba in the railroad crossing case and Hon. Oliver Mowat has scored another legal victory. This, coupled with the victory obtained by the hon. gentleman in the disputed territory case, should place him high up on the pinnacle of legal fame. The decision no doubt helped materially in making Manitobans spend a merry Christmas.

"I'm gettin' a big boy now." So says Toronto, and not without good and sufficient cause. Some members of the city council, being dissatisfied with the returns of the assessors of the city's population, got the council to appropriate a sum to cover the cost of a special census. The census was taken on Dec. 12th, 313 enumerators being employed, and their returns showed a population of 166,809. When the last official census was taken in 1881, the population of the city was 86,415. Who will say that the growth of the Queen City of the West is not phenomenal?

WHAT funny things we hear when we least expect it. Dr. W. F. Richardson writes in the *American Magazine* denouncing in scathing language the practice of eating oatmeal at breakfast. He says:—"It has caused more dyspepsia than any single habit that I recall. It places a layer of sticky, pasty, carbonaceous food against a membrane that is already torpid enough and needs sharp stimulus of fruit or douche of water to start gastric secretions,

instead of a clogging mass like the meal, that all day long works ill until it is gotten rid of." Well, this is a revelation with a vengeance. What will the sons of Scotia and their descendants say to this, terrible indictment against their beloved "parritch"? Will they tamely submit to it? We trow not. What has made the Scotch such a hardy race? The answer is not far to seek—porridge. And to think that it is now charged with causing dyspepsia; the accusation is as unjust as it is ungenerous.

SOME of the agricultural papers in the United States allege that there are a number of new associations in Canada which register and give certificates for cross-bred draft horses in order to dispose of them at big prices to people in the United States. Mr. Henry Wade, who is secretary of the Clydesdale and Canadian Draft Horse Associations, denies the truth of this allegation. The Clydesdale Association at one time published an appendix containing cross-bred draft horses, but as it was found not to work satisfactorily it was dropped, and a separate association was formed under the name of the Canadian Draft Horse Association. Before being registered, any animal must be proved to the satisfaction of the Association to have four crosses of imported horses of either Shire or Clydesdale. The standard is as high as the pure Clydesdale or Shire, and they are just as good for draft horses as the pure stock. So far as these associations are concerned, there never has been any intention to ship horses to the United States otherwise than on their merits.

It is broadly hinted that the Ontario Legislature, which is summoned to meet on January 24th, will refuse to appropriate the annual grant for the Provincial Exhibition. Without desiring in any way to tread upon anybody's corns, we may say that every year it has become more and more apparent that this Exhibition has outlived its usefulness. The gate receipts, no matter in what place it has been held, have been absurdly small, thereby showing that comparatively little interest is taken in it by the public. Toronto Exhibition, which is *par excellence*, the exhibition of the Dominion, has undoubtedly killed the Provincial. Besides, there are so many annual fall fairs throughout the Province, that there is really no call for the Provincial. It would be well for the Agriculture and Arts Association to bow gracefully to the inevitable and let the Provincial go. A strong effort will be made to get the grant divided amongst fairs offering over \$2,000 in prizes, and we see no reason why the Government should not encourage local fairs by doing this. Some people kick against outside attractions being introduced at fairs, but we fail to appreciate the objection. It seems to us right and proper that amusement should be blended with instruction.

WHEN the Council of the Agriculture and Arts Association of Ontario inaugurated a scheme of annual examinations in subjects having a direct bearing upon practical agriculture they did something worthy of all commendation. Science has an important relationship with agricultural practice in all its details, and only by science and practice working together can good results be expected. Scientific knowledge is not to be picked up in a moment; it must be pursued step by step and the reward at the end is sure. It is utterly useless for a man to think of succeeding in farming with theoretical knowledge alone; he must also have practice. A man possessed of both is bound to succeed if success is at all possible. Hence we say that the step taken by the Agriculture and Arts Association is to be highly commended, as the object is to promote the development of a taste for reading and the acquisition of valuable information on subjects which essentially affect the agricultural industry. The fifth annual examination will be held at the same time, at the same places, and subject to the same rules, regulations, and supervision as the High School intermediate examinations, due notice of which will be given. Intending candidates should send in their names to the secretary of the Association at Toronto, before May 1st, next.