



Christmas Messages from Prominent Men to Western Home Monthly Readers

HIS HONOR SIR JAMES AIKINS
LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR OF MANITOBA

NATURALLY our thoughts turn at this Christmas time to the foundation of our Faith as a Christian nation and to the Child Born, the Son Given, the Wonderful, the Counsellor, the Almighty God, the Prince of Peace, of Whom it was said, "and the government shall be upon His Shoulders," which suggests that the government of the world and of its peoples rests upon the strength of the Being of Infinite Kindness, Intelligence and Power Whom we know as God. A splendid conception! The ancient mythology of an Atlas, one of the Titans, holding up the heavens on his arms, is a mean, insignificant fancy compared with it. Reason may not grasp the full meaning of the conception of a god ruling in human affairs, but there is a soul instructor, or habit of mind which our clergymen call Faith, a higher faculty than Reason, and which, when Reason would weary with puzzling, causes its possessor to rest content and trust to the Government upon the Shoulder.

Someone may question: "Is not that conception contradicted by this awful war? Will it not shake Christian Faith?" Doubtless it would shake the so-called faith of the supine, the neutral, the colorless, the neither cold nor hot, who do nothing, seemingly care nothing, concerning this war, and the great principles at issue in it, so long as their skins are not abraded, who fold their arms in smug complacency and with devotion's visage would "sit and sing themselves away to everlasting bliss," who, seemingly, have never heard of the curse on Miros, and who, while our noble men are giving up their lives for righteousness' sake, remark, with a considered sigh, "Is it not awful? Doesn't it shake one's faith in Christianity?" It certainly does not shake the faith in God of those whose convincing faith has moved to action, or of those who fight and die or suffer, nor of those who work devotedly at home to help as best they may. All these know that righteousness and judgment are the habitations of His Throne, that, while He is abundant in goodness, He will "by no means clear the guilty." They know that if His Sword flaming in defence of Good Will on Earth were sheathed, and those who serve Him would not fight for it, evil would quickly over-run our world. So, with convictions that the Empire is defending everlasting Truth and Justice, our brave sons supported by all true-hearted Canadians go forth to war. While the spirit of Unrighteousness is incarnate in any nation, the spirit of the Right in other nations must fight it to the death or die itself.

True, the war causes great suffering. The death or wounding of any of our soldiers gives pain to all good citizens, but that suffering is not to be compared to the disasters of defeat; indeed, it should stimulate us to greater exertion to win.

If an illustration of such a great principle by lesser things can be permitted, this one occurs. The harmful bacteria of disease invade the body of health. Immediately there is relentless war, for the phagocytes, the benevolent cells, swarm from the blood vessels and elsewhere to the point where those vicious microbes have taken possession and fight to surround, to paralyze and devour their natural enemies, the invader. In that war there is suffering, but that very pain has benefits. It sends out the "S.O.S." call for assistance, the sufferer calls in the doctor, applies remedies, the friendly phagocytes are supported otherwise they might be beaten in the battle and death ensue.

What, then, is the conclusion? We are all satisfied that Canada and the British Empire is defending what is true and just against a strong and crafty foe, Hun and Austrian and Turk. It, therefore, is our bounden duty to God and to our country:

(1) To do our utmost to win a full and final victory that Good Will to Men and Peace on Earth may be established;

(2) Impelled by gratitude to comfort and help at Christmas time and always the widows and the fatherless and those brave boys who risk their lives in battle, who die for us or suffer wounds, or still fight on;

(3) To maintain an abiding Faith in the Son Born, the Wonderful, the Counsellor, the Almighty and Eternal Father, the Prince of Peace; a Faith that will brace us for better effort and lead to the keeping of those beneficial rules of human conduct, His Commandments, which will make Canadians a Chosen People and this new land a well-protected Land of Promise.

THE HON. W. M. MARTIN
PREMIER OF SASKATCHEWAN

ERVENT greeting from friend to friend characterizes the Christmas season, and I am glad of this opportunity to have THE WESTERN HOME MONTHLY convey my best wishes to its readers, and particularly to its Saskatchewan readers.

Christmas usually suggests peace and good will, but at this Christmas war is raging and millions of men are fighting other millions to the death. And yet in the forward march of civilization the old struggle between right and wrong, light and darkness, tyranny and freedom, has raged ever and anon, and the conflict cannot cease until injustice is completely overthrown.

There are many vacant places at our firesides this Christmas—many never to be filled. Belief in the justice of our cause and its ultimate triumph was the magnet which drew our heroes out to fight, and die if need be, for humanity.

But not all the wrongs are in Europe. Economic wrongs have been perpetrated even in our own beloved Canada. And while our first and most pressing duty is so abundantly to win this war that it will never be repeated, we cannot blind ourselves to the fact that agriculture must be freed from its present tariff bondage and the artificial restrictions to wider markets for its principal product, before there can be "peace" and "good will" on our boundless fertile prairies.

THE RIGHT HON. SIR EDWARD CARSON
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I AM glad to avail myself of the opportunity offered to me by the Editor of THE WESTERN HOME MONTHLY to send a message of Christmas greetings to our fellow kinsmen in distant Western Canada. I would like them to know how fully we at home in the Old Country appreciate the magnificent efforts that have been made by Canadians in every part of the Empire to rally to the call of the Flag in this terrible war. Nothing has been more encouraging in the great struggle in which we are engaged than the splendid response of British subjects from every part of His Majesty's Dominions. I feel that one of the great results of this war will be to knit our Empire closer together in the bonds of a common sacrifice and a universal duty bravely performed; and that we and our fellow citizens from the Over-Seas Dominions, when the war is over, having fought and lived together, will go our several ways in the fuller appreciation of what the Empire means to each and all of us, and with a deeper sympathy into the aims and interests of each particular part. We mean to go on to the end, no matter how great the sacrifice, and I would say to those in Western Canada who are mourning the loss of their dear ones who have fallen that I hope it will be some consolation to them to know that their sons and their brothers have laid down their lives gloriously, and that it will be our common duty to see that their sacrifice is not made in vain.

