

## Editorial.

### The Canadian Independent.

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#### THE HOLIDAY SEASON.

This number of the CANADIAN INDEPENDENT will probably reach most of our readers in the midst of the holiday season. We trust their Christmas and New Year will be to every one of them as "merry," and as "happy" as any of them can wish, and that, if the Lord will, they may be spared to see many returns of the season. May their table be laden with good cheer, and the fire on their hearth glow more brightly than ever, as old and young gather around to talk over the past, or forecast—as far as we can do it—the future. And above all, may He from whom comes every good, and the advent of whose "unspeakable gift," Jesus Christ, is commemorated by us at the Christmas season, not be forgotten or dishonoured in our festivities.

Growing, perhaps, out of the great event commemorated, and still associated with it, is the custom of making the present a season for "giving and receiving," as well as of visiting and merry-making. Our gifts have been prompted in the first instance by God's great Gift to us, our songs and gladness by the songs of the angels on the plains of Bethlehem. We could wish that the

original intent of the custom, as we take it to have been, were as prevalent as the custom has become. To give because God has given, and to be glad because Heaven rejoices, would do us all good. But to devote such a season to gluttony and drunkenness, as too many do, or to change the "Gloria in Excelsis" to the Quadrille, and trip it through the Advent season, into the New Year, is to our minds anything but a suitable improvement of the occasion. Think of celebrating the birth of the blessed Redeemer by a dance, and spending the closing hours of the dying year in "revellings, and drunkenness, and such like"! Surely every Christian should say of such things, "Oh my soul, come not thou into their secret, unto their assembly, mine honour, be not thou united."

Is there not "a more excellent way"? Can we not show our gladness and gratitude in a way that shall injure neither body nor soul, morals nor manners? The religion of Jesus forbids us no innocent gratification; but, on the contrary, intensifies as well as purifies all our social enjoyment. Let us, therefore, "eat the fat, and drink the sweet, and send portions unto them for whom nothing is prepared." (Neh. viii. 10.) The present season is one of great straitness, and is likely, before long, to become one of positive suffering to many around