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CHRISTMAS THOUGHTS AND WISHES.

Next week we shall enter upon the festival of Christmas, the happiest and most precious time of the year.

All over the globe there will arise glad tidings of praise. Let us then, dear readers, lay aside, for a few hours at least, the burden of our work and forget our troubles and worries. Let us be reunited once again in that happy state of companionship and mutual goodwill. Let us turn away from our daily toil and routine, with its restless struggle of life, to welcome the peace of Christmas.

Although the world is still in a turmoil, and cares and sorrows lie heavily on many shoulders, the spirit of Christmas is the same to-day as yesterday and will be for ever. May this blessed time of goodwill towards mankind remain a daily companion of unflinching help, and an inspirer of all that is good and kind.

Generations come and go, ideas and customs may change, but the spirit of Christmas will remain for ever vital force. Its message will never grow old, nor can it be exhausted.

No matter how fast and feverish the pace of life, Christmas will give us a decided reminder of all that is real in the world and worth living for. It will remind us, more than ever, that we are all God's

children, united in one big family here on earth, for but a little time, requiring the warmth of human kindness and friendship. Let the Christmas spirit, which is the spirit of active usefulness, perseverance, cheerful discharge of our duty, kindness and forbearance come nearer and closer to our hearts.

Happy Christmas that can win us back to the delusions of our childhood days, that can transport our thoughts, hundreds of miles away, back to our dear ones, back to the land of our birth.

God grant that the coming year will be for all of us a year of striving to lessen the hardship under which a tired world is labouring; may it once again bring peace amongst all nations. May the silver lining, for which we so often gaze heavenwards, appear and shed its light over the darkness in which we have stumbled during the recent years.

Far away in the cities, villages and hamlets of our homeland, the bells will ring in the glorious Christmas day; their sounds will spread the glad message of goodwill amongst the children of the universe, they will pierce the Alps and ride the ocean waves and will bring to every one of us the greetings of that dear land of ours. Let us then, dear readers, spread this inspired message, coupled with our sincerest wishes for the country which has accorded us a generous hospitality, and which is to many of us a second home.

The Editor.

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