

**CHRISTMAS THOUGHTS.**

Christmas is essentially a day of human good will.—George William Curtis.

May the spirit of the sweet Christmas Child possess me, may the Star of Bethlehem shine above my dwelling place.—Thomas a Kempis.

The season of regenerated feeling—the season for kindling, not merely the fire of hospitality in the hall, but the genial flames of charity in the heart.—Washington Irving.

We make a great deal of peace with heaven; Christ made much of peace on earth.—Henry Drummond.

It is good to be children sometimes, and never better than at Christmas, when its mighty Founder was a child Himself.—Charles Dickens

I have always thought of Christmas time as a good time—A kind, forgiving, charitable, pleasant time.—Charles Dickens.

Lift up your eyes to the great meaning of the day, and dare to think of your humanity as something so divinely precious that it is worthy of being made an offering to God. Count it as a privilege to make that offering as complete as possible, keeping nothing back; and then go out to the pleasures and duties of your life, having been truly born anew into His divinity, as He was born into our humanity on Christmas day.—Phillips Brooks.

**Christmas.**

The earth has grown old with its burden of care,  
But at Christmas it always is young.  
The heart of the jewel burns lustrous and fair,  
And its soul full of music breaks forth on the air.  
When the song of the angels is sung,  
It is coming, Old Earth, it is coming to-night,  
On the snowflakes which cover the south,  
The feet of the Christ-Child fall gentle and white.  
And the voice of the Christ-Child tells out with delight,  
That mankind are the children of God.  
On the sad and the lonely, the wretched and poor,  
That voice of the Christ-Child shall fall,  
And to every blind wanderer opens the door,  
Of a hope that he dared not to dream of before,  
With a sunshine of welcome for all.  
The feet of the humblest may walk in the field,  
Where the feet of the holiest have trod,  
This, this is the marvel to mortals revealed,  
When the silver trumpets of Christmas have pealed,  
That mankind are the children of God.  
—Phillips Brooks.

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The empress of Japan is a noble and inspiring character, says the Chicago News. Her name is Haruko, and she is the daughter of a noble of the highest rank. She is two years older than the mikado. Her marriage took place in 1868. A further indication of the sacredness in which the imperial personages are held is shown by the incident which occurred when it was determined that the court ladies should adopt European dress. At this time great difficulty was experienced in getting clothes to fit her roy-

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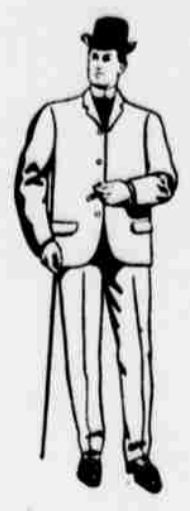
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