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The Liberal

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To our friends and customers we extend our best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

BEST WISHES
FOR A VERY
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AND A VERY
GOOD NEW YEAR
FROM
STAN TROYER
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SPONSORED BY VELLORE JUNIOR FARMERS
ON CHRISTMAS NIGHT, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 25
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The Marvel of Christmas

By Rev. C. G. Higginson
Richmond Hill United Church

By Rev. C. G. Higginson
ways. He surprises the world by the manner and the form of His arriving.

They all were looking for a king
To slay their foes and lift them high;
Thou cam'st, a little baby thing

That made a woman cry.
That night the world followed its own designs, not knowing that a new age was dawning. In Bethlehem God was making a new arrival in human life. God's great design was unveiled through a Babe born where only the poorest begin life. He came, the lowly One, that He might raise us to the heights. He made Himself poor that we might be rich. He became a child, that all the sons of men might become children of God.

In the Christ Child God Himself has entered our world and our lives. This is the unfading wonder, this the undimmed splendour, that God Himself should plan such surprises for our world!

Stars rise and set, that star shines on:

Songs fail, but still that music beats
Through all the ages come and gone,
In lane and field and city streets.

And we who catch the Christmas gleam,
Watching with children on the hill,

We know, we know it is no dream —

He stands among us still!

Christmas Message

By Rev. E. E. Kent
Thornhill Unite. Church

The happiest season of all the year, Christmas, is with us once again. Homes are filled with excitement as decorations are put up and children happily anticipate the day when Christmas has arrived. The stores are filled with harassed shoppers, and the mail bags are filled with renewals of friendship. Unfortunately Christmas has become too commercialized and Christ has been taken out of Christmas. The true meaning of Christ-

mas is found in what happened among the Judean hills nearly 2,000 years ago, when all the hopes and all the fears of all the years were born in Bethlehem that night. "For unto you is born... a Saviour, which is Christ, the King". A writer in Maclean's in 1945 had this to say about our modern way of keeping Christmas, we have taken Christmas, the first Christian festival, and made it into something little better than a pagan feast. We have taken the poverty and humility of the manger and made them into satumalia of goods and display of riches. In the decline of Christmas from its true meaning may be seen the decline in our civilization to its present state, when it lies so truncated and shattered that we turn our eyes away and try to forget in our own feasting. When Christmas is separated from its source it loses its persistent vitality. It is a religious festival primarily.

This Child of Bethlehem grew to manhood and the challenge of his life and work is ever before us. He is "Immanuel, God with us". To life he gave a new depth and meaning. He was the friend of man — the poor, the lowly and the outcast. His way of life is the path of brotherliness and sacrifice. The very root of our troubles is our failure to practice what he taught. The Angelic message of peace on earth shall become a reality as men of goodwill devoutly follow the Prince of Peace.

The Church bells ring once more, calling men and women to worship. This Christmas Sunday let us wend our way to our own Church and sing once again the joyous carols and hear the message of love and peace. May we find for ourselves the spring of Christmas vitality and worship Him. A very happy Christmas to all.

Christmas Message

By Rev. Frederick McGinn,
P. P.
St. Mary's Catholic Church

The Holy Season of Advent, the four weeks immediately preceding Feast of the Nativity of Christ, are meant to recall the thousands of years

that elapsed between the Fall lives because of the wrong of our First Parents and the coming of the Redeemer. The Church wishes that we prepare ourselves for the worthy observance of Our Lord's Birthday. If in the Old Dispensation, this element of preparation was a necessary portion of the Divine plan, then for us who are much more favoured, it is likewise indispensable. Consequently, then, let us be very sure that we are doing something to prepare our minds and hearts for a truly Christian festival.

As an aid to your method of preparation you might keep before your minds the great truth that the Incarnation is the central fact of human history, that God the Son, the Second Divine Person of the Blessed Trinity, should become a man in order to redeem and save us; that He should take on or assume our human nature in order to attract us to Himself — this constitutes the greatest revelation of God to man, the act unique and supreme in the world's history, the event upon which your personal and eternal destiny hinges. In the words of St. Paul, "Let this mind be in you," as you prepare for Christmas.

Christmas time can be very exacting. The hustle and worry of the world may tend to distract and confuse. But if, in your daily prayers, you ask for more light to see and understand the true and spiritual significance of the Feast, then it is unlikely that you will become submerged in the purely material preparations so prevalent at this time. And, on Christmas morning, when you bring to the crib of your Infant King a mind that understands and appreciates, a heart that loves, and a will to keep His Law, then you can expect a measure of peace and joy beyond your expectations. It is my earnest and sincere wish that you receive these blessings, and that they may remain with you to gladden and brighten the days of the New Year that lies ahead.

Christmas Message

By Rev. S. W. Hirtle
Richmond Hill Presbyterian

The Babe of Bethlehem will inspire our love, for Christmas is His Festival, and we shall honour Him before and above all others. The appeal of the Babe is universal even though there is much that is grossly materialistic and thoroughly pagan in our present day celebration of the birth of the Prince of Peace; but at least childhood receives attention; and we speak of the Holy Child, we sing His praises, and we worship Him.

But we must not forget that Christmas brings us more than an infant. After all the baby Jesus occupies a small place in the Scriptures of the New Testament. It is the man, Christ Jesus who fills its pages. Yes, we bid you come, we welcome you to Bethlehem, but we must also urge you to go to Nazareth, to Capernaum, to Calvary. Christmas speaks of God's gift of the Child, but we must go farther for the angel's message proclaims "Unto you is born a Saviour." The message of Christmas, therefore, is much deeper than the stories of a Babe, of Shepherds and of Wise Men. Not until we come to and accept Calvary can we really know the full meaning of Christmas.

Bring Back Christ To Christmas

By Rev. Wm. F. Wrixon,
Rector of
St. Mary's Anglican Church,
Richmond Hill

I welcome, and am grateful for, the opportunity to send out through this valuable paper, a Christmas message to all who read its pages.

So many voices are calling us to be glad and grateful at this Holy Season that surely we cannot resist even if we would. We should be glad and grateful as we think of it as the season that brought God's love to the world. If we could only see and feel what a tremendous difference that revelation has made to everything, and how it has changed the whole complexion of our human life and filled it with a glory and a possibility undreamed of before, would not our Christmas song this year have a wonderful new joy and gladness in it? We have been missing quite too much of that note in our

Christmas is the willing love in our hearts for that Baby of Bethlehem, and for all other helpless or unfortunate creatures. Christmas is the time for us to become again small boys and girls, knowing as we did then that God loves us, that life is good, and that people are kind. Knowing that we can be full of kindness, friendliness, generosity, sympathy and love, and that we are only truly happy when these characteristics dominate our lives — as in fact they do at Christmas time. Christmas is the time to kneel humbly and with full hearts before the Newborn King. Christmas is Christ.

May your Christmas be full of this holy joy.

Christmas Message

By Rev. S.A.R. Wood
Trinity Anglican, Thornhill

I wonder how many readers of the Liberal will remember a bit of childish verse, the very first, I believe, which I ever learned. It went like this, Hang up the baby's stocking, Be sure you don't forget. The dear little dimpled darling

Has never seen Christmas yet. Everyone who reads this will have seen many Christmases, and there is a sad thought in mind that for many it is becoming a little boring. The same old ruse. The same old turkey. The same old giving and receiving of gifts. The same old Christmas Carols, dinned into our ears for two solid weeks. The thrill and mystery of Santa Claus — and beautifully wrapped presents palls a little as we get older. There is not as much fun in eating a huge Christmas dinner which we know will leave us stodgy for the next couple of days even if it doesn't make us definitely ill.

Do you perhaps wonder why men and women have been doing these silly things for two thousand years? Yes and longer than that, for the Persians were doing the same things a thousand years before Christ. If Christmas is the spending of more money than we can afford on gifts which we wish we did not have to give, and the spoiling of our families and ourselves with all sorts of things we don't need, and too much to eat and drink, and the singing of a few catchy tunes because most people like them and they remind us of happy days gone by then we are mad to go on.

But Christmas is NOT these things at all. Christmas is the lovely thought of Jesus God coming to live with us, and looking to us, helpless as he is, for shelter and care.

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L.O.B.A. No. 894 Elects '52 Executive

At the annual meeting of Empire L.O.B.A. No. 894 held recently, the following officers were elected and installed for the ensuing year.

Worthy Mistress, Sister Jean Waters; deputy mistress, Sister Annie Craig; junior deputy mistress, Sister Dorothy Bovaird; chaplain, Sister Mary Joyce; secretary, Sister Gertrude Lever; financial secretary, Sister Betty White; treasurer, Sister Mable Fenwick; guardian, Sister E. Zuefelt; Director of Ceremonies, Sister J. Pirrie; Senior Lecturer, Sister L. Leece; Jr. Lecturer, Sister Lila Howard; pianist, Sister Myra Evans; Inner Guard, Sister Bella Shields; Outer Guard, Bro. John Leece.

The election and installation was conducted by Past Mistress E. Zuefelt, assisted by P.M. Sister Heaton W.M. Sister Curtis and Sister Webster of Lady North York Lodge, Willowdale.

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The Holiday Season affords us the opportunity to express our appreciation to our many friends for their good will and thoughtfulness during the past year.

And with this appreciation goes our wish for a memorable Christmas—one that will be abundant with good cheer and good health followed by a New Year of contentment and good fortune.

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Christmas Greetings

AT THIS JOYOUS SEASON of the year, when everyday cares are overshadowed by good fellowship and kind thoughts, we extend to our many friends our sincerest holiday greetings. A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR!

THE MANAGEMENT AND STAFF
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