



That Christmas be a day of dreams come true is what we wish our many Friends.

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STOCKS BONDS GRAIN  
TIMMINS OFFICE

G. F. Black, manager

Phone 100



From this community we have had friendship and patronage, for which we express our thanks, and wish to one and all  
A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR.

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Corner Third Avenue and Cedar Street North, Timmins



## Christmas Gift Suggestion

What could be better than to instal a telephone in your home for Christmas? The rent may be paid monthly at approximately seven cents per day

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## The Reason and the Need for Christmas

A Christmas Message to the Hearts of Men by Dr. Dyson Hague, of Toronto.

(By Dr. Dyson Hague)  
It was Christmas morning, Dickens said. The church bells were ringing their lustiest peals. Golden sunlight; heavenly sky; merry bells. O glorious, glorious! "What is to-day?" said Scrooge. "What is to-day, my fine fellow?" "To-day," replied the boy, "why, Christmas Day!" And you all remember the marvelous change that came over the mean monster of selfishness, Scrooge, as told in "The Christmas Carol," that masterpiece of the genius of Dickens. If you have not read it, do read it, and if you have read it, read it again. And if you can read about Bob Cratchit and Tiny Tim, as he said he hoped the people saw him in the church because he was a cripple and it might be pleasant to them to remember upon Christmas Day who made lame beggars walk and blind men see, without a tear very near the eye, you must have something of the spirit of that clutching, covetous old sinner, Scrooge, hard and sharp as flint. What is it that floods this old cold world with sympathy and charity and love gifts, that mellows a myriad hearts with the spirit of forgiveness and unselfishness, and releases the singing of blithesome songs and carols, the laughter and the children's shouts? Why, it's Christmas! And our Christmas joy is heaven-born. It started from the flashing Angel in the environing glory of the Lord (Luke 2: 9-11). It sounded in the sky, that Christmas Evangel of joy, great joy, for all; that joy that sweeps across the rifts of space and time and melts hard hearts and lights the love light in a million lives.

Why, it's Christ! Christ the Virgin-born; Christ the Incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary, Christ who for us men and our salvation came down from heaven, Christ the Babe in the manger whose name was to be called Wonderful, the Mighty God, the Prince of Peace, and by the sweetest and grandest of all names, the Name that is above every name, the name of Jesus. Oh, if we could only think that every present we make at Christmastide and every gift we give to a friend or loved one, to the poor and the lonely, is just as if we gave a gift to Christ! Oh, if the myriads to-day who think of the cold and hungry and stretch out their hands to help the poor and bring light into sad eyes and warmth into cold bodies would do it for the higher love, the love of God shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Spirit given to us! I love that story told some years ago of the little Stratford girl who wrote: "Dear Santa Claus: I want you if you can to let me have a doll I have not got one that's all I need because my sister needs more than I do she is sending a letter to you to an if you havnt enuf dolls you let her have hers first. Dora." Surely that was a love that is the heart of Christmas. I heard only the other day a story about a little boy in Toronto who said to his mother: "Mother, what is Christmas?" His mother looked at him and said: "It is Jesus' birthday; the day when Christ was born." And the little fellow looked up and said: "Mother, what will we give Him for a birthday present?" Oh, what a different Christmas and a different world it would make if we could look at Christmas from that angle—the angle of a little wondering child. What will we give Him? We, too, can open the treasure boxes of our hearts and offer Him gifts of frankincense, sweet with sympathy, costly with sacrifice, and the gold of outpoured love. But, above all, yes, above all, we can offer Him the best of all gifts, our hearts, and in the words of our beautiful Church of England prayer say: Here we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, ourselves, our souls and bodies, to be a reasonable, holy and living sacrifice unto Thee. And, as with gladness men of old offered gifts most rare at that cradle rude and bare, so may we with holy joy, pure and free from sin's alloy, all our costliest treasures bring, Christ to Thee, our Heavenly King."

### Old Name for Christmas, "The Feast of Lights"

The oldest name for Christmas is "The Feast of Lights"—a reference to the glory in the heavens when angels sang their song announcing Christ's birth to the shepherds. It is of interest to note that the Chinese, in their astronomical records, entered an account of a new and travelling star, which appeared a few months after Christ was born. Thus the Biblical story of the Wise Men being guided by a star has outside corroboration.

### Irish Hospitality at the Christmas Season

There is a tradition in Ireland, which is observed by all, that one must invite some guest, who might otherwise be lonely on the Christmas day, and there are few families who will not have a guest to share the joy of the feast and take part in the pleasures of the home. Originally, the idea rose from the story of Mary travelling to Bethlehem, and the refusals she met on the road when she asked for shelter. No stranger will be refused a night's abode in any cabin in Ireland, fearing that, in disguise, they might send away the Stranger from another world. And so it is that each family looks around its circle to find some old friend, and someone who might otherwise miss the joy of the season and pass a lonely Christmas Day.

## Many Lands Called Upon for the Christmas Pudding

When you buy your Christmas supplies of currants, raisins, figs, brazils or dates, do you ever give a thought to what they are, how they got their names, or where they come from? Dates, from Arabia and Persia, grow on the date-palm. The name is derived from the Greek word "dactylos," meaning a finger. Dates, before being pressed, look exactly like human fingers, and the resemblance still remains in those you buy. "Brazils" are from Brazil. They are the produce of a tree called the "juvia." They grow in a hard shell about the size and shape of a child's head, and each shell contains about fifty nuts. Currants are a variety of small grapes, dried. The name is our corruption of "Corinth"—where they grow most abundantly.

### For One Brief Starry Night

For one brief starry night let us forget  
The clamour of the world, our loss,  
our fear,  
And let us light the candles in our souls  
This one night of the year.  
Let us be shrived of self, and let us pray  
Only white prayers—white selfless  
prayers to-night,  
Lifting clean hands up to one glorious  
star  
That is burning with holy light.  
Unfailing it has shone through all the  
years,  
While we, God knows, have wandered  
strangely far;  
Now for this one brief night let us  
forget  
All but His steadfast Star.  
All but the supreme high sacrifice  
Of God, sending One to lift  
The burdens from our hearts, and let  
us reach  
Glad hands to take his gift.  
—Grace Noll Crowell.

## Origin of Christmas Customs — Manners

James I Popularized Turkey as a Christmas Food. Queen Charlotte Introduced the Christmas Tree.

One of the many writers who make a specialty of securing facts and figures about Christmas, but who prefer to remain unknown, has gathered a great mass of material in regard to the origin of various Christmas customs. Some of the facts are surprising, showing that many things supposed to be new are in reality very old, and others thought old are comparatively modern. Here are some of the Christmas facts gathered by the collector:—  
James I was not a very popular king, and is chiefly remembered for his hatred of tobacco. It was he who made turkey a popular Christmas dish.  
In those days the boar's head was the Christmas joint, but James hated pork as savagely as he did tobacco, so his cooks substituted turkey and the bird never fell out of favour.  
Talking of turkey, it was the Jesuits who first imported the bird from America. They reared turkeys on a large farm near Bourges, in France, and from there they spread all over Europe.  
What a pity it is we don't know who invented the mince pie. All we do know is that they were originally made in the shape of the manger in which the Christ-Child was laid and that they were known as "coffin" pasties.  
But perhaps the mince pie grew like the plum pudding which, in its early state, was nothing but a sort of porridge with plums in it. Our ancestors ate it for breakfast.  
A king popularized the turkey and a queen introduced the Christmas tree. It was Charlotte, consort of George III, who brought the first one to London.  
Oddly enough, the fashion did not take on, and it was not until about 1840 that the Christmas tree was again seen. It was then re-introduced by the Prince Consort who, by the way, became engaged to Queen Victoria on the morning of Christmas Day, 1838.  
No one knows who wrote the first Christmas carol, but we do know that the first book of carols was published by Wynkynde Worde, who was a pupil of the famous Caxton.  
Many will tell you that we owe the merriment of Christmas to Charles Dickens. No one in their senses is going to deny the work that Dickens did in this way; but we ought not to forget the other writers who made popular Christmas parties and revels.  
It was Addison who invented Sir Roger de Coverley, or who adapted him from Squire Newdegate or Arbury. And that worthy knight knew all about Christmas festivities.  
"Christmas," he said, "is the most dead, uncomfortable time of the year, when the poor people would suffer very much from their poverty and cold if they had not good cheer, warm fires, and Christmas gambols to support them. I love to rejoice their poor hearts and to see the whole village merry in my great hall.  
"I allow a double quantity of malt to my small beer and set it a-running for 12 days to everyone that calls for it. I have always a piece of cold beef and a mince pye upon the table."  
Nor must we forget Sir Walter Scott, whose centenary was recently celebrated. Read "Marmion," and you will see that his motto was: "We'll keep our Christmas merry still."  
Many well-known writers of the past have helped to make Christmas the jolly festival that it is to-day.



MAY GOOD HEALTH AND HAPPINESS and all the blessings of Holiday Cheer bestow themselves upon our friends and patrons this Christmas Season and in the Coming Year.

**HILL-CLARK-FRANCIS LIMITED**

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MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR.

and we are at your service for Better Comfort and Good Cheer Now and in the Coming Year.

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## Compliments of the Season

All of the firm and staff down from the president to the newest employee join voices in wishing to one and all

**A Merry Christmas and A Glad New Year**

with thanks for the patronage of the past year and promise of the same good service and interest in the days to come.

**THE ROBERT SIMPSON COMPANY LIMITED**

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THOS. GLAISTER, Local Sales Manager

43 Third Avenue, Timmins