The Boy Who Battled for Santa.

His nose was bleedin' an' a sight Kept the tears from o'erflowing quite, been defeated. As it was, Elmer ad-

He had conquered, conquered with a con

In the list, 'twas "trial by combat,"

hill" with his father, Patrick James, institution in our town. He could, so and growling under their feet and the old Mr. Leahy said: "Whistle loike a usually around Christmas time, "The poor little fellow." On other occasions barbarian."

them. As for clothes he was a re- an' 'tis only a bit he needs." plica of Patrick James, for didn't Mother Norah make most of the father's clothes and then remake them for Timmy? As for the toys of childhood, his were the odds and ends that the boys of Centre street had tired of or broken or those which his ingenuity had "toggled up." But don't gather the idea that Timmy was a pathetic figure. He was far from that and his glorious ability to be sufficient unto himself insulated him from sympathy.

glance out of the window and lost in- blooms.

From this time on Timmy and his doings on that Christmas day are fragments as the three who followed In the original two small green- And when little Marjorie's bedtime

on Christmas day, too."

Elmer wriggled and swallowed hard a couple of times before replying: "Oh, we just got talkin' 'bout Santa Claus an' then we fit an' I was gettin' th' best of it an' Timmy he squirmed fact that Medicine Hat is situated on The soul's desire to aid and blessup an' tumped me 'ith a sled."

Now this is what happened:

of Old Tippett"-this was the boys' with gas which permits the product Is that the way with you? name for a thoroughly detested citi- of the company to compete with the zen, who viewed his chestnut trees as product of other nurseries at very When the turkey's on the table, private property-"even if they was distant points.

fooleran Rosie cow, that's all tom- supplies florists throughout the

follow prescriver could bring himself to British Columbia. "little people" when he finally did States sities.

scramble to his feet it is likely that And blinking, rapid, studied blinking Santa Claus' champion would have spirit of victory deep was mitted he had been mistaken both about the old saint and Darby O'Gill's

That evening old Mr. Leahy dropped in on Timmy's folks with a "few This bit champion of Santa Ciaus had bits av things for the childer." To him he was never counted as a regular Shed his blood for a staint they said grown-up, for the heart of a boy still Timmy, who lived "down under th' story of the fight and its cause, the Timmy's mother: "Norah, let the bye stantly increasing brood of brothers go wid me part way home." Together and sixters, was at eight almost an they started, with the snow squeaking

"Timmy, 'tis a har-r-d task ye've wather runnin' over whoite stones," set an auld man. But we can't have The ladies of the Presbyterian Aid ye fightin' all over the village wid Society said, sometimes, and this was every loose-tongued lad that don't see that fer thim that don't belave in Christmastide there's no Santa Claus, disheveled, tousled and tearful from but fer thim that do belave there is Timmy's hands, they said, "The little wan an' always will be wan. But he and sick loike; he lives in the hearts Timmy took things largely as he av thim that'll take him fer a tinint. found them and if apples, for instance, Ramember that, lad, he lives in the were not easy to find he hunted for hearts av them that'll give him room, BY EBEN PRATT.

Christmas Flowers from Western Canada.

Roses from the Canadian prairie at Of sympathy Timmy would have Christmas time! Chrysanthemums, And all the little birds would sing none, and overt acts of hostility were poinsettas and carnations leaving in Paeans of joyful praise, met with the spirit that flamed in the their thousands to beautify and cheer The very trees would clap their hands, bosom of Brian Boru. On one occasion points on the continent which consider the superintendent of the Methodist themselves, climatically, far more Sunday School had ejected Timmy blessed by nature! What an anomaly! O Love Divine, the world's heart fill And then that happy Carol from a Christmas entertainment when In the festive season when all the For but this one brief space, it was found that he was the heart world seeks floral decorations to em- And so benign the influence and circumstance of a giggle storm bellish and gladden homes, churches Man never could retrace which swept a class near where he and schools, a Western Canadian city and schools, a Western Canadian city plays no small part in providing these. The beaten paths of strife and hate plays no small part in providing these. But led by Love's bright star, and this Christmas, as on previous next appearance in the public eye Christmases, the little prairie city of Pursue the pleasant paths of peace was as one of "The Little People." Medicine Hat, in Southern Alberta, Through all the world afar. He had tramped a fairy circle in the has sent a profusion of blossoms all a mistletoe bough in his hand, was capering about in it singing an eldrich cities of the United States will be the Grandpa looked at his fine new chair, To still a sight song about "Darby O'Gill an' his coo brighter on this holiday for the color- On the 26th of December, Resie." One of the boys happened to ful touch added by these delicate Saying, "Santa Claus is so good to me,

It was all make-believe and tinsel and emanate is known as the Rosery. talk as whow, he decided. So he slid Fourteen years ago it was instituted (And he settled himself in it nicely) And in my heart keep singing, out of the pew, crawled down the aisle with a nucleus of two greenhouses and "I hope he won't mind if I cling to and slipped out of the door to join to-day is the largest producer of Timmy. Two other boys followed and flowers in the Canadian West. Chrys- For it fits my back precisely!" soon the crowd grew until the superin-tendent realized his entertainment had stocks, roses, ferns, cyclamen, flourish Father came home that very night, encountered competition which seri- there, and throughout the winter He had plowed his way through the ously threatened its success. He stop- months the houses of glass are glories ped Sasie Brown "right in the middle of varied tints and perfumes. Lettuce, And the Christmas twinkle had left To cheer the weary toiler, of her song" (to quote Mrs. Brown) eucumbers and tomatoes are also and went out to deal with Timmy. His grown in large quantities, but it is in And his step was tired and slow. ised the three who followed Timmy has come to be so widely known, and That hung on the Christmas tree last that their "fathers will hear about created such a demand for its lovely night,

> EXPANDS RAPIDLY FROM MODEST BEGINNING.

let drop, and what Timmy himself houses, a beginning was made in the told. Patched together, the parents prairie city with hothouse vegetables, decided there had been a fight. There flowers being added year by year as The long dark lashes adroop on her was evidence on Elmer Smith's head the business grew and the possibilities and Timmy's face that this conjecture in this line were realized. The richness and excellence of the floral product Neglected Angelique's waxen nose, "But what did you fight about?" brought about an ever increasing denow there are thirty-two of these buildings, averaging 250 feet in length and covering about four and a half acres. A great advantage in the development of the nursery has been the a natural gas field, the gas for heating being supplied at cheap rates. Six Elmer had declared there was no large boilers of eighty horse-power Her Christmas shopping early Santa Claus and backed his assertion each keep the plant at the right de- She says she's bound to do; gree of temperature throughout the But early the day before, no doubt,

covered up in red canton flannel The status which the business of An' my plate is filled with fixin's the Rosery has reached has not been Elmer swaggered a little, jostling accomplished without years of infinite I fergit I'm over eighty, the littler boys, and then unbosomed pains and sometimes serious losses. As a pioneer industry, extensive ex- An' it seems to me that livin', "An' there hain't no Santa Claus perimentation was entailed in order neither. He's jest a story made up to discover the best lines for Western like Little Red Ridin' Hood an' all the Canadian growth, and the possibility them tomfol stories for babies, of establishing such an industry on a this was an afterthought- firm basis must have been at times that of Timmy's bout Darby in doubt. Now, however, the nursery

Prairie Provinces and many points in When he decide, formulas in fighting. Through Winnipeg, Eastern Canhe dispensed with che to fight ada receives its floral provisions from der, lines drawn for a the shoulder, lines drawn for a appoint to filled for the United States. The double Christmas trade this year called for de just fought. On this out ten thousand chrysanthemums, four casion Elmer outweighed him about thousand poinsettas, and eight thoutwenty pounds. He was forced to ad-sand camations. Approximately sixty mit to himself that he had a job on per cem of these will be sent to Winhis hands. He was down most of the nipeg for distribution in Eastern Cantime with Elmer on top and had it ada, a portion of the remainder crossnot been for a sled, which seemed ing the international line to aid in the wafted to his hand by the friendly Christmas celebrations of United



ALWAYS ON TIME.

Christmas, 1923. If for this blessed Day of days

A little Christmas Carol Mankind would put away All thoughts of strife and hate and A melody to weave; greed, To fill the air, And peace and love held sway,-To breathe a prayer,

If this sweet miracle could be, The troubled world would know The blissful joy that harmony And love alone bestow;

-Louella C. Poole,

Old Friends Are Best.

He never fails to remember; terest in the Christmas entertainment. The Eden from which these flowers But-my old armchair is the one for O little song of Christmas,

own son and two other boys he drag- the production of an abundance of Warming for him his slippers lay, To carol so, ged back into the church and prom- rich decorative blooms that the Rosery The lovely embroidered-in-gold ones I may set other lives aglow.

But-he slipped his feet in the old

On the parlor rug they found ber,

And her Christmas toys around her;

The fire had melted completely, questioned Mrs. Smith. "And right mand which was met by the addition But-her old rag doll, all tattered On her breast was resting sweetly

It's not the rare and costly gift That gives complete content. The things that cheer and most uplift, Are sometimes never sent; It's this that gives us happiness.

"Think I don't know them lean legs winter, and it is the economic fuelling Is about the way it will turn out

And the mince pie's on the way, An' about my rheumatiz,

Is the best thing that they is. -Arthur Bigelow Paine.

little town of Bethlehem,

The silent stars go bp;

The everlasting Light;

Det in thy dark street shineth

Are met in thee tomight.

The hopes and fears of all the years

How still we see thee lie!

Above thy deep and breamless sleep

A Carol.

Stole out on Christmas Eve, And wandered down the highway, And scatter gladness everywhere.

It mounted to the belfry, And joined the bells in play, To sound again glad tidings As on that Christmas Day The Angels told The story old

To shepherds on the hillside cold.

Dropped to the street once more, And sailed into a cottage, With all its Yuletide lore; And it eased a pain

And the winds caught up the echo, And filled the air with song, As the merry little Carol

As it hurried by, Or thrill a glad heart to ecstacy.

Come, dwell with me, I pray! As on this happy day, That I may hear,

Through all the year, A song of gladness and of cheer.

And travel down life's highway, A melody to weave; And comfort hearts that grieve;

And, as I go. -Nell Ruth Roffe.

contains the essence of centuries of keenly contested. expectancy and belief. Does the While in the City of Toronto, the nightingale sing until morning? Do boys' time will be fully occupied in the With pig, goose, and capon, the best the cattle kasel at midnight? If the work of the Parliament or in enterchildren believe they do, they must. tainment. The boys will be banqueted And as for that saint who fares by the Rotary Club and also by the abroad under no stars but those of Ontario Boys' Work Board, + which Christmas Eve, this will be a blank they will be welcomed to the city by planet when no ear listens for the the Mayor. Other interesting events

thought that the world has changed. T. Ferguson will be present at the There are children in Windsor and opening of the Parliament and will treal who do not know about the war the province.

which keeps alive the faith, let no sions of Parliament for observation so-called head of any house dare to and a closer study of the Canadian dodge an inquiry to-day or flee before Standard Efficiency Program in its the whirlwind of excited youth.

New Zealand has taken the income tax off farmers, and cut down the entertainment tax by 50 per cent. little town of Bethlehem,

How still we see thee lie!

19 holy Child of Bethlehem !

Descend to us, we pray;

Be born in us to-day.

Cast out our sin, and enter in,

We hear the Christmas angels

The great glad tidings tell;

Oh, come to us, abide with us,

Our Lord Emmanuel!

The Birth of a Babe

As I write this Christmas Editorial, Christmas? Everything. Govern-Yuletide is still a few days distant ments may change, but it makes i Another year has practically gone. change to Christmas. It is the Festi-My mind leaps to change, instability, val of the Things that Matter. At and mutability. Then, by swift re- Christmas we get down to rock botaction, it flies to their opposites, un- tom. And what does it consist of? changeableness, stability, certainty. Human love and kindness, charity, We are apt to say of most human family life, home and kindred, little affairs, in the words of the old hymn: children, joy and good fellowship, and

men and nations are in a state of flux. unalterable, silent forces of life; it is had tried everything within There seems to be nothing solid no. There seems to be nothing solid, no- the salt which preserves Society, sav- bounds of human reason to restore thing shiding nothing dependable thing abiding, nothing dependable. ing it from pollution and decay.

TRUTHS WHICH ENDURE.

An Ancient Carol.

time Christmas celebrations.

which brings us good cheer.

ale and strong beer;

well doth the weather and

And everyone now is a king in con-

But as for curmudgeons, who will not

It is of interest to learn that the

And when it comes it brings good

Christmas play of the fifteenth cen-

"Bounce buckram, velvets dear,

Christmas comes but once a year,

And when it comes it brings good

The chief charm of Christmas is its

simplicity. It is a festival that ap-

tury. Here are the lines:

cheer."

that may be,

stomachs agree.

all about,

no doubt.

the year!

be free.

stantly moving on and on, presenting idea. When we get down to that, I seemed, in part, at least, to fail. We startling situations, exciting crises. startling situations, exciting crises, say, we are at rock bottom; something are beginning to reach the conclusion nine-day wonders! The jazz-band is nine-day wonders! The jazz-band is stable on which to build the foundathat a more rearrangement of externplaying meanwhile, with a bang of tions of our policies and politics, our al conditions or the environing cirdrums, the clash of cymbals—and any drums, the clash of cymbals—and any-diplomacies and our treaties—in fact, cumstances of life are not sufficient. thing else that is empty enough to our whole social and economic life. It was Mrs. Browning who declared our whole social and economic life. That is why Christmas is so valu- that you cannot improve humanity by able. it brings us right up against moving it to a "cleaner stye." make a big din.

But the silent frost splits the preci-strong! pices and the hardest rock is a filbert for its fingers. The thunderous break-

ence and strength. man. Not conquerors and demagogues, truths which endure. And it is these from the Master when he declared: "I not "wars, and rumors of wars" have things for which Christmas stands, believe in an ultimate decency of built up the mighty fabric of human however we may camouflage it with things, and if I awoke in hell I should society. Of course not. The little junketings and joviality. things have always in the end bossed I am far from deprecating these Ere it wandered into the night again. the big things. Nobody noticed the things. I love Christmas for its fun silent falling of the acorn; but behold and frolic, for its "fireside enjoythe oak! It grew silently.

Danced through the Christmas people, their religion, their education, "The tumult and the shouting dies, their quiet, unobtrusive influence, The captains and the kings depart, which changes society from age to Still stands Thy ancient sacrifice, age, and makes good better, and bet- The humble and the contrite heart." ter best. These have been the primal and, when all is said, if there is not forces making for stability.

WHAT CHRISTMAS MEANS. And what has this to do with there is no stability.

A Unique Development.

The Provincial Boys' Work Parliament which will assemble in the Legislative Assembly Chambers, Parliament Buildings, Toronto, on December 27th, 28th and 29th, is a unique development in the work with boys. At be held in Alberta and Manitoba. Can- light on the material side of the old- Christ disclosed. ada is the only country in the world where boys meet in such organizations for the government and promotion of

one on which children, who are no seventy-five boys elected to the Partoriously interested in everything- liament and it is expected that probincluding things they shouldn't be ably ninety will be actually in atteninquisitive about—are all concerned dance. The elections were conducted "lawrel." following the usual Parliamentary "Now, thrice-welcome Christmas,

No night is so mystic as this. It practice and in many points were rustle of his pack in the chimney. | will be pulled off of particular inter-Let no father fool himself with the est to these Tuxis boys. Premier H.

Warsaw, in Melbourne and in Mon- extend a formal welcome on behalf of but who know about Christmas Eve Great interest is being manifested and what happens in its still and holy at many points in the province and a We deck up our houses as fresh as number of boy leaders are planning on So, in the name of that childhood coming to Toronto to attend the Ses-

provision for the fourfold development of Canadian citizenship.

Don't let Christmas on your farm I

be the only day, that seems like it.

"MEN OF GOOD WILL"

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, to men of good

There is no message which world needs so utterly to hear and heed as that which speaks of peace and a better understanding in a world see." Looked at from a certain angle, Christmas stands for these things. distracted and troubled about many and especially now it would soom as though we and especially now, it would seem, It is an annual reminder of the big, things. It would seem as though we men and nations are in a state of the The panorama of "events" is con-tantly moving on and on, presenting

Have you ever noticed that the unyielding realities, the things that One of the basic weaknesses of our lighty forces of Nature are all silent mighty forces of Nature are all silent don't shift, and slip and give way. present situation is to be found in a and slow? Nature solders have and and slow? Nature seldom howls and It exhibits in their true light the shib- lost or impaired confidence. This hustles. Even when she does she is exhibits in their true light the shib- lost or impaired confidence. hustles. Even when she does she boleths, the subterfuges, the catch- malady seems to be universal, and it means least. The avalanche kicks up words, the expedients upon which we discloses itself in every sphere of our a "dust" as it hurls itself down the set such fictitious and disastrous being. It is a mental rather than a casionally it destroys something, but At Christmas we commemorate about our present situation. All the usually it does nothing. The glacier. usually it does nothing. The glacier, what countless millions of men and conferences and treaties we may effect on the contrary, although its motion on the contrary, although its motion women regard as the greatest event will prove ultimately to be of little is so resistless, so implacable, is imis so resistless, so implacable, is imin history. And what was it? The worth unless we can restore again a perceptible, carves mountains as a in history. And what was it? The worth unless we can restore again a perceptible, carves mountains as a perceptible, carves mountains as a birth of a Babe. Think of it! What reasonable confidence, based upon a sculptor's chisel carves the block of a trivial incident! Moreover, the Babe better understanding and a more genmarble. only lived to the age of thirty-three, erous appraisal of human nature. We Thunder is only a "big noise." It is and then died the death of a male- have been dissociating our practical sound and fury, signifying nothing." "sound and fury, signifying nothing." factor! How silent He was! Yet how Christian ideals from our practical But the silent frost splits the precito mix religion with business, regarding the two things as distinct and sep-He disintegrated the mightiest emarate. We are just beginning to learn against sand and pebbles, but the pires, shattered immemorial usages, (and the lesson has been a costly one) gentle rain has delved the Grand customs, and systems, and remodelled that the fundamental teachings of Canyon and created the mighty Ama- whole continents of thought and experience. Yes, Christmas reminds as upon human affairs. Jesus was estars keep their appointed places from should be so reminded. Perhaps the stars keep their appointed places from should be so reminded. Perhaps the were no such things as "no-hope" age to age, placid, anchanging. And terrible experience of the war has cases in the world. The only thing how silently the seasons come and go. made us trivial. We need to get back He ever treated with scorn and sternnow silently the seasons come and go. made us trivial. We need to get that the condemnation was hypocrisy, a super-miracle of spring is a miracle of sil- bridge which is to carry the world ficial and unreal profession of religion. But the silent forces are not all in it seemed fated to plunge, upon the hopeful and expectant. Robert Louis Nature. They are in the spirit of great verities which never change, the Stevenson caught his vision of life

THE MESSAGE OF CHRIST.

If this recurring Christmas season ments," its "intimate delights." But, is to be something more than a pagan-And it is the "continuance in well- at rock bottom, its meaning is tre- ized annual festival, disclosing its indoing" of simple, normal, unnoticed mendous, for, as Kipling says, when: terests and excesses largely in exthe message that ushered in the bind of Christ. This message, on the one hand, expressed man's attitude Godward and, on the other hand, his attitude man-ward. Good-will is the thing we sorely need in this old world a seriousness under our joy there is of ours; but good-will can only come no solidity, and i. there is no solidity to those who look hopefully and expectantly for the best in human nature. To go about the world after the manner of Diogenes, seeking for home est men with the dim light of a lantern, does not appeal to us. Let us be clear about it. This old world is not tobagganing down to perdition. It The following interesting carol is has survived many crises but its surpreserved in Poor Robin's Almanac vivals have been marked by such anthe same time Boys' Parliaments will for 1695. It is of interest as throwing attitude of mind as that which Jesus

Our cynics and critics make no con-"Minced" pies are referred to, it tribution to the healing of the world" will be noticed-a term never heard open sores. Our statesmen and Christmas Eve.

Out of the hundred and six constipudding there is "plum porridge"—a
tional politics, distrustful of the aims
to attractive which one would nowadays. And instead of our plum- mats who play the game of internsthe nights in the year it is the only advice has been received to date of think! The carol reveals, too, that the must signally fail. The contending material for Christmas decorations clements in our great industrial workwas fuller in the old days, including room that manifest a suspicion of the holly, ivy, bay, rosemary, and motives and purposes of each other produce little else than an armed truce. If one has the clearness of vision to see it and the mental breadth Minced pies and plum porriage, good to comprehend it, there are to be found the indisputable evidences of our forward movement and advance over periods that have gone before The levels of business morality are higher to-day than they were a gen-Observe how the chimney do smoak eration ago. There are more good men than bad engaged in the great The cooks are providing for dinner. game of politics. There is more virtue than vice in society; and a reaffirmation and belief in these saving elements will do more to bring us back O may they keep Lent all the rest of to normal and sane conditions than all our criticisms and suspicions. With holly and ivy, so green and so

NEED OF THE AGE.

This age is calling for men who believe in God and who believe in their With bays and rosemary, and lawrel fellows. The demand is for those wh have good-will in their hearts and who practice it in their everyday conduct in the world through which they

If this spirit of Christmas Day can wish they may die on the three- be made regnant throughout the year that lies ahead, we shall enter upon . stage of human fellowship and upon well-known and oft-used couplet, an era of happiness and presperity "Christmas comes but once a year, such as the world has never known cheer," originally appeared in a mock

The Soft Tread peals to every one because every one Teacher (talking on snow)-"Now, can understand it. A genuine fellow, after the storm and all the ground in ship pervades our common life-a white, why is it, though people are fellowship whose source is our com- passing in the street, we scarcely hear mon share in the gift of the world's the sound of a foot?"

greatest Life which was given to the Willie Wise-"I know-"cos they all whole world .- Arthur Reed Kimball wear rubber shoes."

ONTARIO ARCHIVES TORONTO



been changed one day I