

# The Commoner.

WILLIAM J. BRYAN, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR

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## CHRISTMAS

While the Christmas bells are ringing out  
 the message of good will,  
 And the echoes fling the tidings over ev'ry  
 vale and hill;  
 While the Christmas star is shining with  
 a radiance the same  
 As it had that wondrous morning when  
 the blessed Christ Child came;  
 When we raise our voices, singing songs  
 of earnest, loving praise  
 For the joys that lie about us, making  
 bright our earthly ways—  
 Let us give a thought to others who in  
 joy have little part  
 Till we've learned the blessed lesson—  
 keeping Christmas in the heart.

Hark! Above the Christmas carols hear  
 the children's plaintive cry;  
 Hear the broken sobs of widows doomed  
 by pestilence to die  
 In the tenements so fetid; victims of in-  
 human greed;  
 Slaughtered to the god of Mammon—they  
 for justice vainly plead.  
 See the pallid little faces, hear them vainly  
 beg for crumbs;  
 See the noisome hives of humans where  
 no Christmas ever comes.  
 You who have enough of blessings ne'er  
 can have a rightful part  
 In the real joys of Christmas till you've  
 Christmas in the heart.

While the Christmas bells are ringing out  
 their messages so clear,  
 Go ye out among your fellows, spread the  
 gospel of good cheer.  
 From some heart bowed down in sorrow  
 lift the bitter load of woe;  
 In some home with gloom o'ershadowed  
 spread the cheerful Christmas glow;  
 To some child, some weeping widow, work-  
 ing out a wretched lot  
 Take a share of Christmas blessing—show  
 them God has not forgot.  
 Just divide your Christmas blessings, give  
 unfortunates a part,  
 And you'll double joys of Christmas—  
 keeping Christmas in the heart.  
 —W. M. M.

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 "PRINCE OF PEACE"  
 MERRY CHRISTMAS!



TO EVERYONE, EVERYWHERE--AND FOREVER!

## THE DAY WE CELEBRATE

Christmas is love's festival. Set apart for the commemoration of God's gift of His Son it has grown into a great holiday which is observed throughout Christendom by rich and poor alike. Even those who refuse to take upon themselves the vows of any church are constrained to join in the beautiful custom which makes both parents and children look forward to this day with pleasant anticipations. For weeks before December 25 busy hands are at work, tiny savings banks are gathering in their sacred store and eager expectancy is written upon the faces of the young. To the boys and girls Santa Claus is a sort of composite donor who monopolizes the distribution of presents and who, reading the minds of his little friends, rewards the good (and all are good just before

Christmas) with the very toys that they themselves have selected, while the older ones learn by experience that it is more blessed to give than to receive. Back of Christmas and the Christmas present is love, and the broad, brotherly love taught and exemplified by the Nazarene is not content with the remembrances which are exchanged as tokens of affection between members of the family and between intimate friends; it is compelling a widening of the circle to include the poor and the needy though not of kith or kin.  
 What an instructor love is! How it develops the one of whom it takes possession! When once it is awakened it dissolves all opposition. Dr. Parkhurst, the New York clergyman, in illustrating the difference between force and