

The Australian Record

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SYDNEY, NEW SOUTH WALES, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23RD, 1893.

[THREEPENCE.]

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WRITE EARLY To the MANAGER, 264 Pitt street, Sydney. Nov. 9, 1893.

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The Australian Record.

SYDNEY, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 28, 1893.

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NOTES AND COMMENTS.

Personalia. The Rev. D. H. DILLON, after conducting successful missions at Kempsey and Port Macquarie, returned to Sydney on Saturday per *Rosedale*.—The Rev. J. VAUGHAN returned to his parish on Saturday, after a few days of needed rest.—The Rev. CHARLES KINGSLEY COLE, the new curate of All Saints', Petersham, arrived on Saturday.—The Synod at Perth has appointed the Right Rev. JAMES MOORHOUSE, D.D., (Bishop of Manchester), the Right Rev. BROOKE FOSS WESTCOTT, D.D. (Bishop of Durham), and the Right Rev. GEORGE RIDDING, D.D. (Bishop of Southwell) to be a Board of Nominators to select a successor to the late Bishop, the Right Rev. HENRY HUTTON PARRY, D.D.—The Rev. J. A. WHITE has been appointed to the cure of the Parochial District of Pyramid Hill, and the Rev. A. EDWARDS to the cure of the Parochial District of Rochester, both in the Diocese of Melbourne.—The BISHOP OF BATHURST proceeds to England, having taken his passage in the Orient steamer "Oruba." He is suffering from an affection of the throat, and his doctor has ordered him six or nine months' rest.—The Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge proposes to grant £1,000 towards the Clergy Endowment Fund in Brisbane, and also £1,000 towards the completion of St. Peter's Cathedral at Adelaide. BISHOP KENNION has collected £15,000 towards the latter fund.

CHRISTMAS, 1893.

For Thou wert born of woman. Thou didst come, O Holiest, to this world of sin and gloom. Not in Thy dread omnipotent array; And not by thunders strew'd Was Thy tempestuous road. Nor indignation burnt before Thee on Thy way; But Thee, a soft and naked child. Thy mother undefiled. In the rude manger laid to rest. Before off her virgin breast.

The heavens were not commoved to prepare A gorgeous canopy of golden air; Nor stoop'd their lamps th' enthroned fires on high; A single silent star Came wandering from afar. Gliding uncheck'd and calm along the liquid sky: The Eastern sages leading on. As at a kingly throne, To lay their gold and odours sweet Before Thy infant feet.

A Thought for Christmas Eve On Christmas Eve let us all go to Bethlehem, Christmas Eve, and see this thing which has come to pass, which the Lord hath brought to pass. As we stand by the manger, we will behold a great mystery, the mystery of all other mysteries, the Word made flesh, come down from heaven to tabernacle among men. We are there confronted with the fact about which there is no more room to dispute than there is in regard to the wonders of nature, the starry heavens, the heaving ocean, or the everlasting mountains. It is also a stupendous fact, one that silences all speculation, and leaves room only for mute adoration and praise. After gazing on the infant Redeemer, we will, on leaving the transcendent scene, feel rather like uniting in the angelic song; "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."

The Song of the Angels. At the Nativity of JESUS CHRIST, the history of the world took a new departure, and from it there has gone forth a power covering the whole area of human nature, answering its every pain, anticipating its every prayer, and giving to it exceeding abundantly above what it can either ask or think. And the old, old story, which tells of the loving, gentle Child lying in His lowly manger bed at Bethlehem, while angels hymned His praise and proclaimed the glorious tidings is still listened to with delight and eagerness by both young and old. The anthem of the angels floats down the nineteen centuries which time has arch'd from then till now, and we hear it as of old, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, and good will toward men."

What it Includes. In one of DARWIN'S early letters, written when he was hardly more than a boy, he concludes a playful picture of hypothetical enjoyment

in the eagerly desired company of his friend with the words:—"There should be peace on earth, good will to men"—which, by the way, I always think the most perfect description of happiness that words can give." This description of happiness, to our minds, is not complete. Completed happiness is when the life is made to harmonise, and we can ascribe "Glory to God in the highest," as well as say peace on earth good will toward men. True happiness consists in being able, through the Son of Man, to lift our thoughts to a higher world, and, living in the light of the Son of God, glory to God in the highest, is added to good will to men on earth.

True Service for Christ. We learn at Christmastide, as we think of the Christ, "Holy Child Jesus," that truth, simplicity, and purity of soul are essential to the Divine life in man. In the spiritual life there is a marvellous union of the Divine and human, and the growth of that life within us will be evidenced in the luminousness of our daily walk. This sense of life in God makes a life of labour noble and blessed, the world sees by it that JESUS CHRIST is an unspeakable gift to men, and that by His birth the glory of God was brought into the lowliest homes of earth.

The Secret of a Merry Christmas. We fear that in many a household the Happy Christmas of 1893 will not be a very "merry" one. Changes have passed over the Colony during the year, and which fills many a heart with anxiety, which in some cases, is accompanied with positive suffering. For those who are passing through the deep waters of trouble, our thoughts and prayers may go forth. Hope and gladness were born on Christmas Day. The life of CHRIST, quickening ours, can alone free us from our distresses and cares. Those who have "bread enough and to spare" should remember those who are without the necessities and comforts of life. We should pour gladness and hope into those homes and hearts which are desolate and sad. The secret of a merry Christmas is to be found in doing CHRIST'S work, in His way, and to live as He lived, in going about and doing good.

The Editor's Christmas; Of what kind shall it be? While we heartily wish our numerous readers a Happy Christmas, we have, in return, seek to increase the pleasure we have in sending them every week, the AUSTRALIAN RECORD of Church News and Church Work. This pleasure would be greatly enhanced if those who owe us money would forward the amount due, because it would save us much anxiety, and put us into a more joyful mood. If everyone would pay up, we should have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. The Post Office affords wonderful facilities in the shape of Orders, Postal Notes, and Stamps for the settlement of accounts, and if our debtors will only avail themselves of one of these agencies, they will be all the happier, and they will give us a happiness to which at present, alas, we are strangers.

Sunday School Institute. We have received copies of the New Years' letters to parents, and to Sunday-school teachers, published by the Sunday-school Institute Diocese of Sydney. The former is from the pen of the Rev. M. ARCHDALL, M.A., and the latter from the Rev. Dr. HARRIS. Both are eminently practical, contain excellent counsel and breathe the true spirit of loving devotion to the work of the Master. We earnestly recommend them to those for whom they have been specially prepared and hope they may be most useful in promoting holy happy homes, and in encouraging and helping those who are engaged in the religious instruction of the young.

Christmas Hymn All hail, THOU noblest guest, this morn,
Whose love did not the sinner scorn!
In my distress THOU cam'st to me;
What thanks shall I return to THEE?

Were earth a thousand times as fair,
Beset with gold and jewels rare,
She yet were far too poor to be
A narrow cradle, LORD for THEE.

Ah, dearest JESUS, Holy Child!
Make Thee a bed, soft, undefiled,
Within my heart, that it may be
A quiet chamber kept for THEE!

Hobart Church Congress. We are informed by the local Hon. Sec., Mr. John Kent, The Strand, that holders of Congress Tickets who are proceeding to Hobart, may obtain first Class Railway Tickets at single fares, and a reduction of 10 per cent. off the usual steamship fares. The Congress Committee are offering hospitality to selected readers and speakers, and will, if requested, assist as far as possible, all other holders of Tickets in finding suitable apartments. Congress Tickets, price five shillings each may be obtained from Mr. Kent.

The Number of the Beast. Someone has made the wonderful discovery that if in Mr. GLADSTONE'S name Greek letters be used instead of English, and then these taken at their numerical value in Greek, and added together, the sum is that mysterious "number of the beast" in Rev. xiii. 18, namely, 666. The reckoning runs thus: G—3, L—30, A—1, D—4, S—200, T—300, O—70, N—50, E—8: total—666. Our Liberal friends need not be alarmed. Beaconsfield can be made to yield the same result. So can Queen Victoria. So can very many names with a little ingenuity.

A Felt Want The following deliverance of "A Rambler" in the *National Baptist* is worthy of copying. It is evidently the work of one who knows the difficulties of an Editor. "There is among us (as it were in our midst) a long-felt want. What is wanted is a newspaper. But have we not already newspapers? Yes, but this is a newspaper of a peculiar kind. What is wanted is a religious newspaper that will express everybody's views, that will contain nothing from which anyone will ever dissent, which will publish all the sermons desired by the hearers and authors, which will plead everybody's cause, which will have all the articles printed in italics (except such as are printed in capitals), which will publish every article within two days after it is received, and which will put everybody's article in the first page and will occupy the rest of the paper directing attention to it. Now, when such a paper as this is found among us, the Rambler does not hesitate to say that he will be willing to take one copy, at club rates, for ten years, payable at the expiration of the subscription, subject to renewal on the same terms with a free copy thrown in."

The Tell-el-Amarna Tablets. Science contains an interesting account of the Tell-el-Amarna tablets, from the pen of the Rev. THOMAS HARRISON, of Staplehurst, Kent. These tablets, 320 in number, were discovered by a fellow woman in 1887, among the ruins of the palace of Amenophis IV., known as Khu-en-Aten, between Misisieh and Assiout, about 180 miles south of Cairo. They have been found to contain a political correspondence of the very greatest interest dating from some 3370 years back. Many are from Palestine, written by Princes of the Amorites, Phoenicians, Philistines, &c., the burden of almost all being, "Send, I pray thee, chariots and men to keep the city of the King my Lord." Among the enemies against whom help is thus invoked, are the *Ashiri*, easily recognised as the Hebrews. The date fixes that of the Bible (1 Kings vi. 1) as accurate. Many names occur which are familiar in Scripture, as, for example, Japhia, one of the kings killed by Joshua (Josh. x. 3); Adonizedek, King of Jerusalem (ditto); and Jabin, King of Hazor (Josh. xi.) Very pathetic are the letters of Ribadda, the brave and warlike King of Gebel whose entreaties for aid are observed to grow gradually less obsequious and more business-like as his enemies prevailed against him, robbing him eventually of his wife and children, whom he was powerless to protect. But the greatness of Egypt was waning under the nineteenth dynasty; enemies were pressing her at home, and the chariots and the horsemen went not forth.



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The Diocesan Educational and Book Society—Hon. Secs. and Treas.: Rev. J. D. Langley, George Wall, Esq.

The Board of Missions—Hon. Treas.: T. S. Scholefield, "Harrow Villa," Kogarah; Hon. Sec.: Rev. A. Yarnold; Organising Sec.: Rev. F. T. Whittington.

The Sydney Diocesan Corresponding Committee of the Board of Missions—Hon. Treas.: H. B. Cotton, Esq., Hunter's Hill; Hon. Sec.: Rev. W. A. Charlton.

The Centennial Fund—Hon. Treas.: T. A. Dibbs, Esq.; Acting Treasurer: Hon. S. A. Stephen, M.L.C.; Organising Sec.: Rev. J. Dixon, the Chapter House, Bathurst-street.

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