The Chatham Record

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24, 1896.

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Merry Christmas!

"Tomorrow is Christmas"! Such is the joyous exclamation today of many a happy child, who is eagerly and impatiently awaiting the happiest day of all the year. And tonight with pleasure inexpressible, throughout all Christendom, the happy children will hang up their stockings and reluctantly go to bed determined to sleep with one eye open so as watch old Santa Claus as he distributes his gifts. And then early in the morning with what frantic joy and eagerness will they bounce out of their beds and seize the contents of their well filled stockings! Who would not wish to be a child again on Christmas morn? And all heart is so hard as not to be moved by such displays of child [illegible]

But it is not to the children alone that Christmas brings its joys and pleasures, for men and women are but grown up children, and to them also is Christmas the most joyous season of the year. That man must be hardened indeed—less than human—whose better nature is not moved and whose heart is not softened by the happy and hallowed influences of the day on which is commemorated the nativity of our blessed Saviour. Yes, at this joyous Christmas-tide all the world grows more akin—heart goes out to heart—gifts are exchanged, kindly feelings are promoted, prejudices and animosities are for the while forgotten and buried (and oh! would that they could ever remain buried and buried) and all Christendom seems to obey the message proclaimed by the Angelic hosts on the night of old, "Peace on earth and good will towards men"!

What a pity that the kindly feelings aroused at Christmas do not continue all the year! What a better world this would be, and how much happier we would all be!

To each and all its readers the RECORD comes with its Christmas greetings and wishes for them, one and all, a very Merry Christmas.

Just a year ago, when the American people were about to enjoy the pleasures of the joyous Christmas-tide, they were disquieted with rumors of war between the United States and Great Britain about the Venezuela boundary question. And now again at this Christmas—when all Christendom celebrates the nativity of the Prince of Peace—come the disquieting rumors of war threatened between the United States and Spain about the independence of Cuba. We sincerely trust, and we believe, that these rumors will be as unfounded as were those last Christmas, and that the threatened war with Spain will be averted as honorably to this country as was the threatened war with England.

If a war with Spain is averted it will be due chiefly to the wise and conservative stand taken by our much abused President, who is displaying in this vexed Cuban question the same wise statesmanship with which he so successfully and honorably settled the Venezuelan question. The Senate, however, seems ready to proclaim war at once for of course an acknowledgment of the independence of the so-called "Republic of Cuba" would be resented by Spain as a declaration of war. We are pleased to note that the House is more conservative than the Senate and is not so rabid for war with all its terrible consequences. The people of the United States have had enough of war and its far reaching effects, and they are not anxious to engage in another war. And if there should be a war it is probable that the men, who now harangue so violently for war, would do the least fighting, just as was the case in 1861!

During the heat and excitement of the late political campaign many neighbors and friends became somewhat estranged. To such we would respectfully suggest that now is a good time to cool off and become reconciled, at a time when "good-will towards all men" should prevail and man's noblest qualities influence his actions.

It would seem that Congress and the American people generally are thinking more about the troubles of Cuba and more anxious to relieve the Cubans, than to afford relief to our own country and people.

The Progressive Farmer says that Senator Pritchard "has pursued a course recently that does not entitle his denials to much consideration among people who cannot be humbugged".

It would seem that the main work of the Legislature, at its approaching session, is to give certain offices to certain men, and not give relief to the people. About the only work for the Legislature to do, besides discussed in the papers and generally talked about, is the election of a United States senator, [illegible] of a public [illegible] the offices [illegible] error. Public [illegible] the interest [illegible] the old [illegible] shall get the [illegible] any [illegible] what [illegible] the people [illegible] legislation [illegible] needed to promote [illegible] prosperity.

Yes, the financial questions of the day seem to be [illegible] [illegible] money [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]