



Christmas

"Everywhere, everywhere Christmas to-night!  
 Christmas in lands of the fir tree and pine,  
 Christmas in lands of the palm tree and vine,  
 Christmas where snow peaks stand solemn and white,  
 Christmas where corn fields lie sunny and bright,  
 Everywhere, everywhere Christmas to-night!"

In this lovely and picturesque poem of Phillips Brooks, we can really understand how universal the celebration of Christmas is. In America, one of the few countries now at peace, Christmas should mean more than in any other part of the world.

In France there is the very old custom of celebrating Christmas Eve with a holiday supper followed by the burning of the Yule log. Then at midnight the bells begin to ring out over the countryside, and the people all go to the churches carrying lighted candles. When the church service is over, they return home for a gay Christmas feast. And, of course, the children put out their shoes to be filled with candy and toys.

In Holland the occasion is celebrated by a procession through the streets, singing Christmas songs, and headed by one chosen man who is called the Star-bearer.

In Poland a very unusual custom is observed; the people observe a strict fast until the first star appears. Then they begin their feasting and merrymaking.

Let us hope that in this coming Christmas season, while we are all happy in our homes and with our friends that we shall not forget our friends whose countries and homes are ravaged by war and all of its horror. Then across the oceans and from nation to nation we may sincerely say "Merry Christmas! Peace on earth. Good will toward men."

#### THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS

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Then ancient hymns, and caroling, for everyone's delight.  
 We speak not a word as the end draws near,  
 But we wish we had more time to spend here  
 In the midst of such beauty, delight and peace.  
 Oh, why did contentment like this ever cease?  
 Curtains! Then in silence and thought we arise,  
 A few even brush a few tears from their eyes—  
 For weeks we've been waiting for Christmas vacation.  
 Now we walk down the steps in slow hesitation.  
 For, tho' we are welcoming new joys and treasure,  
 We hate to depart from these few days of pleasure.  
 We hear voices exclaim, as we turn out the light  
 "Merry Christmas to all, and to all a good night."

#### MONTREAL OBSERVES CHRISTMAS

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be at 7:45, in being planned by the high school and college Y. P. C. councils.

At the Christmas party there will be a large box in which you may place your gift if you wish to donate it for the Christmas of some needy children.