

Comment by the Editor

THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS

December is the darkest season of the year (where most people inhabit the earth). The sun, late rising and remote, casts frigid shadows toward the north, and hastens to depart like some unwilling guest. Night, emboldened by its prevalence, creeps in from boundless space to shroud the life that light creates. The wind howls mournfully as if in dismal commemoration of the death of hope. Ice grips the world, and the verdant promise of perpetual growth fades into pallid doubt of endless vitality in the frosty atmosphere of adverse circumstances. The elements conspire to simulate the ebb of human aspirations.

Three days after the climax of darkness, when the sap of life is lowest, the festival of birth is celebrated. Everywhere in Christendom people demonstrate their abiding faith in eternal beginnings. Though the phenomena of nature seem to indicate the triumph of ultimate destruction, the indomitable will to survive proclaims there is no ending. It is an occasion in honor of children and of the purity, confidence, affection, generosity, and happiness that are characteristic of youth.

Virtue reigns in the hearts of men at Christmas-tide. Then, if ever, the selfish purposes of conduct are deplored, good resolutions are adopted, and an inclination to establish peace prevails.

Christmas is a joyous time. In contrast to the season, bright-colored lights shine through the gloom as if in cordial invitation to be gay. The evergreen, defiant of the frost, is indicative of summers yet to be. Yule logs symbolize the warmth, security, and hospitality of home which is the seat of happiness. The ringing bells, the friendly greetings, the timely gifts, the merry songs, all signify the meaning of the day. Faith and hope and love shall rule the world.

The spirit of Christmas is best expressed in selfless devotion to the welfare of others. "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren".

J. E. B.