

THE TIME OF GOOD FELLOWSHIP

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It is quite common to hear people say, “Christmas has become just a racket. It is too commercialized.” There is much truth in the statement and in general the true purpose of Christmas seems to have, been lost. Yet, though I am glad Christmas comes only once a year, I am glad it comes once a year.

Something happens during that season. It may start with making up our Christmas list, even though the entire process is to us a tiresome chore, and we usually over-give and overdo. The thought process may go something like this: “Now, what shall I get for Susan? What does she need? She badly needs a new coat which I cannot afford to buy her. I know too she is mostly miserable in that cold place—if, I could just think of some way . . .” What happens? We find ourselves gradually thinking more of others and less of ourselves. We resolve to give more attention to our friends and help where we can. We become more nearly one with our fellow men. It is natural that our thinking should lead to those in dire distress, and a wave of compassion overtakes us. People are friendlier at this season and our hearts are filled with kindness and love. Battles have been known to halt on Christmas Day with one side playing, host, to the enemy. This is not recommended where' one wants a deadly war, for it just ruins the hate spirit.

Compassion is perhaps much or, most of the real Christmas Spirit, and during the season it seems to pervade, the Christian world, for we feel it almost everywhere. It is a time of unselfishness. We say Christmas is in the air, and actually there exists a Spirit body which envelops us all, made by our own thoughts and feelings. If only that Spirit could abide throughout the year, harmony and better understanding would prevail to make this a better world for all. Yes, I am happy that Christmas comes once a year.