

leaping in the sunlight, and to hear the merry voices of the children, as they roll among the hay? Surely their innocent laughter is as sweet in His ears as the grandest anthem that ever rolled up from the "dim religious light" of some solemn cathedral?\_

\_And if I have written anything to add to those stores of innocent and healthy amusement that are laid up in books for the children I love so well, it is surely something I may hope to look back upon without shame and sorrow (as how much of life must then be recalled!) when\_ my \_turn comes to walk through the valley of shadows.\_

\_This Easter sun will rise on you, dear child, feeling your "life in every limb," and eager to rush out into the fresh morning air\_--\_and many an Easter-day will come and go, before it finds you feeble and gray-headed, creeping wearily out to bask once more in the sunlight--but it is good, even now, to think sometimes of that great morning when the "Sun of Righteousness shall arise with healing in his wings."\_

\_Surely your gladness need not be the less for the thought that you will one day see a brighter dawn than this--when lovelier sights will meet your eyes than any waving trees or rippling waters--when angel-hands shall undraw your curtains, and sweeter tones than ever loving Mother breathed shall wake you to a new and glorious day--and when all the sadness, and the sin, that darkened life on this little earth, shall be forgotten like the dreams of a night that is past!\_

\_Your affectionate friend\_,

\_LEWIS CARROLL\_.

EASTER, 1876.

\* \* \* \* \*

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS.

[FROM A FAIRY TO A CHILD.]

Lady dear, if Fairies may  
For a moment lay aside  
Cunning tricks and elfish play,  
'Tis at happy Christmas-tide.

We have heard the children say--  
Gentle children, whom we love--  
Long ago, on Christmas Day,

Came a message from above.

Still, as Christmas-tide comes round,  
They remember it again--  
Echo still the joyful sound  
"Peace on earth, good-will to men!"

Yet the hearts must childlike be  
Where such heavenly guests abide:  
Unto children, in their glee,  
All the year is Christmas-tide!

Thus, forgetting tricks and play  
For a moment, Lady dear,  
We would wish you, if we may,  
Merry Christmas, glad New Year!

LEWIS CARROLL.

\_Christmas, 1867.\_

\* \* \* \* \*

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