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EDITORIAL.

THE KING'S INSPIRING MESSAGE TO THE EMPIRE ON CHRISTMAS DAY.

His Majesty the King broadcast the following inspiring message to the Empire and the world on Christmas Day :

" In days of peace, the Feast of Christmas is a time when we all gather together in our homes, young and old, to enjoy the happy festivity and good will which the Christmas message brings.

" It is, above all, the children's day, and I am sure that we shall all do our best to make it a happy one for them, wherever they may be.

" War brings, among other sorrows, the sadness of separation. There are many in the Forces away from their homes to-day, because they must stand ready and alert to resist the invader, should he dare to come, or because they are guarding the dark seas, or pursuing the beaten foe in the Libyan desert.

CHILDREN FROM ENGLISH HOMES WELCOMED IN THE DOMINIONS.

" Many family circles are broken. Children from English homes are to-day in Canada, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa, for not only has the manhood of the whole British Commonwealth rallied once more to the aid of the Mother Country in her hour of need, but the peoples of the Empire have eagerly thrown open the doors of their homes to our children so that they may be spared from the strain and danger of modern war.

" And in the United States, also, where we find so many generous, loyal friends and organisations to give us unstinted help. Warm-hearted people are keeping and caring for many of our children till the war is over.

" But how many more children are there here who have been moved from their homes to safer quarters.

" To all of them, at home and abroad, who are separated from their fathers and mothers, to their kind friends and hosts, and to all who love them, and to parents who will be lonely without them, to all in our dear island, I wish every happiness that Christmas can bring.

" May the New Year carry us towards victory and to happier Christmas Days, when everyone will be at home together in the years to come.

" To the older people here and throughout the world I would say, in the last war the flower of our youth was destroyed and the rest of the people saw but little of the battle. This time we are all in the front line and the danger together, and I know that the older among us are proud that it should be so.

GOOD COMRADES.

" Remember this. If war brings its separation, it brings new unity also, the unity which comes from common perils and common sufferings willingly shared. To be good comrades and good neighbours in trouble is one of the finest opportunities of the civilian population, and by facing hardship and discomfort cheerfully and resolutely, not only do they do their own duty, but they play their part in helping the fighting services to win the war.

" Time and again during these last few months I have seen for myself the battered towns and cities of England, and I have seen the British people facing the ordeal. I can say to them all that they may be justly proud of their race and nation.

" On every side I have seen a new and splendid spirit of good fellowship springing up in adversity, a real desire to share burdens and resources alike.

" Out of all this suffering there is growing a harmony which we carry forward into the days to come when we have endured to the end and ours is victory.

OUR FEET ARE PLANTED ON THE PATH OF VICTORY.

" And now I wish you all a happy Christmas and a happier New Year. We may look forward to it with sober confidence.

" We have surmounted a grave crisis. We do not underrate the dangers and difficulties which confront us still, but we take courage and comfort from the successes which our fighting men and their Allies have won at heavy odds by land and air and sea.

" The future will be hard, but our feet are planted on the path of victory, and, with the help of God, we shall make our way to justice and peace."

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