

THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS

"God gave all men all earth to love,
But (since our hearts are small)
Ordained for each one spot should prove
Beloved over all."

To that one spot - Home - turn hearts and minds at Christmas-tide.

To London (the wartime home of Norway's Government) that country sends a noble tree. The bright lights in its green branches infuse a spark of gaiety into the grateful passers-by. Millions of country-born folk see in its graceful outline a reminder of the little towns and villages beyond the cities.

Under the spell of this season of goodwill, the grey stone buildings loose their grip on countless exiles. The Homeward exodus begins!

Millions of bags are packed! Each one contains some tribute to the Joyful Festival of home. Bright faces turn towards an outward journey.

Stations are crowded - and yet the atmosphere is that of warm good humour - it's Xmas-time.

When home is reached (and parents and children reunited) the Joy of Xmas is complete. For the Spirit of Xmas is the overflow of family affection which reaches out to warm the stranger; which encompasses Mankind in the Spirit of Goodwill.

From the smallest parish church to the greatest of the world's Cathedrals, the age-old carols link the Christian family.

At the year's end, the star of Holy Night carries the simple message "Peace on Earth ... Goodwill toward Men."