

MARY McLEOD Bethune

There Must Be No Hate In Our Hearts At Christmas Time 1950

IN SPITE of war, declared or undeclared, there must be no hate in our hearts at Christmas. The greater the confusion and suspicion abroad in the world, the greater the challenge to men of all races and creeds and colors to extend their love to those who receive it only—not quite understanding—it will be a blessing.

There will not be too much cheer in our hearts as we think of our boys suffering in the cold and horror of Korea, but there can be goodwill. There can be understanding. There can be a willingness to sacrifice that will truly reflect the spirit and the power of Him who came into the world at Bethlehem to make the supreme sacrifice for humanity.

If joy and gladness, this year, are the special possession of the little ones who do not yet comprehend the calamity that has over taken the world, those of us who are older can still be thankful for the chance to live and grow in understanding. We can thank God that we have been spared to work for an honest peace in a world of shared freedoms which have become more precious because we can no longer take them for granted. We can be grateful for this opportunity to prove that democracy and religion can work among men and among nations.

My heart goes out, as the hearts of all of us must go out, to the men fighting overseas, enduring hardness far from their homes that the multitude need not suffer. May the Spirit of the Christ abide with those who fight on, and those who, falling in battle, have been victorious over death. May it abide with those guards and watch-

men on the walls of service in all areas of life throughout the world—and let none scorn nor scoff.

May that life-giving spirit bless and protect the Head of our great government, and all who have a part in that government. May it follow our lawmakers, lighting their deliberations with the light of divine law. May my own nation and the nations of the world seek wisdom and the spirit of human understanding, that they may be moved to build and keep a peaceful world; that they may work together for the success of our United Nations, knowing that is was born of the yearning of humankind for peace and security in our time, knowing that the hopes of the world for freedom for all men are bound up in it—that through it, in the words of Thomas Paine, "We have it in our power to begin the world all over again."

"What can we creatures of the dust,
Stand upon, swear by, and trust
What my unshakable ground?
"This: that though evil be strong,
Goodness prevaileth ere long,
However betrayed or beset;
That he his own spirit doth smother
Who willeth the hurt of another,
And this: that God liveth yet." *

May all men of goodwill find peace in their hearts this Christmas, and set their feet, once more, upon the path that leads to world brotherhood.

*Leslie Pinckney Hill
Lines on Certainty