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PLAN WONDER DRIVEWAY

Most Beautiful Boulevard in World to be Built Along Niagara River NIAGRA FALLS, Ont., Dec. 21.—What promises to be the most beautiful driveway in the world is the 16-mile-long boulevard which the Ontario Government and private enterprises, are constructing along the Niagara River. It is an undertaking of international importance, since the millions who come to see Niagara Falls will reap the benefits of it.

Beginning near the Horseshoe Falls in Queen Victoria Park, the boulevard will follow the Niagara upstream along its whirlpools and cascades and rapids on the Canadian side to a point opposite Buffalo. Already the driveway has been completed for a distance of three miles, from Niagara Falls to Chippewa.

The new boulevard has a roadway 150 feet wide and broad walks for pedestrians. For the entire sixteen miles green lawns slope down to the river. Fountains, grottoes, and rivulets, tributaries of the Niagara, will be edged with rare trees and hardy perennials from India, Japan and other parts of the world. The project is to line the Niagara River with a driveway park that will surpass anything of the sort ever attempted.

The building of the Niagara boulevard is pointed out as a triumph of what may be accomplished by wise cooperation between a Government and private enterprise. Yearly the power companies contribute \$100,000 which is used for enhancing the scenic beauty of the surroundings at the Falls. Out of this fund the boulevard is being constructed under the supervision of the Park Commissioners to make the Falls and Niagara River more than ever the show place of the New World.

BAND DANCE, MONDAY, December 25—Eagles' Hall, Be there.

GRAND BALL in ECKHOFF HALL, North Bend, SATURDAY night, December 23, by TOELLE'S SIX-PIECE ORCHESTRA.

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CHRISTMAS AMONG THE ARABS.
Written at Kiriwan, Africa, by Aloysius Coll.

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THE dunes of the desert are gold and tan
And the color of moon and star
On the edge of enchanting Kiriwan,
Where the sun is never far.



The white mosques float o'er the gleaming town
Like gulls on a silver lake
Where the last red glow of the sun goes down
And the morning is first to break.
But, oh, for a hill of holly green,
With berries that peep and show
Like the eyes of a white robed Arab queen

From veils of spotless snow!
MUEZZINS sound from a hundred towers
The evening call to prayer,
And the white folk drop like silver showers
To matting and rug and stair.
Life, sound and color have died away,
And out of the mystic calm
The moon floats up like the soul of day
On the wings of a faroff palm.

But, oh, for the chime of the Christmas bells
That swing in the snowy spire
And the tide of the children's joy that swells
In the glow of the chimney fire!

THE watchman's lamp that flashes out
Is a star with a broken wing
That night has caught and hemmed about
Like the gem in a mourning ring.
The Moslem's lore of love and fear,
Bagdad and Ispahan,
And his birth and his rise and fall are here
In the heart of Kiriwan.



But, oh, for an hour in the candlelight
With my love by the Christmas tree,
To woo and win from her lips tonight
Her Christmas gift for me!

WITH DICKENS AT THE CHRISTMAS HEARTH
By RICHARD BURTON.

The fact that the centenary of Charles Dickens is to be observed Feb. 7 makes this poem particularly appropriate for reading this Christmas.

BEFORE the Christmas hearth I muse alone,
And visions of the past, for grave and gay,
Rise from the ruddy coals; outside the moan
Of homeless winds is chidden by the lay
Sweet sung by children who keep holiday,
Making the season's mood their very own.
And slowly, while I gaze and dream and grow
Less lonesome, do the sights and sounds of earth
Fade, and my fancy wanders to and fro
With a great master of lament and mirth,
Who waved his wand to gild the long ago.
A wondrous company! Mienawber smiles
In spite of poverty, and Little Nell,
Too frail a flower, travels her weary miles,
Then falls on sleep, and David tries to tell
The trials of the young; now Pickwick's spell
Makes laughter easy; on a pinnacle
Of sacrifice sits Carton midst war's wiles.
Now the air sweetens, for those brothers twain,
The blithesome Cherrybles, have preached
Their creed
Of kindness; honest Tapley hails again



CHARLES DICKENS, "A GREAT MASTER OF LAMENT AND MIRTH, WHO WAVED HIS WAND TO GILD THE LONG AGO."

A world too pleasant; while their horses speed
The Wellers make the walkin' ring indeed.
Lo, Deadlock House looms darkly through the rain.
And, look, the tiny dressmaker limps by,
And she, eternal type of faithfulness,
Dorrit, whom prisons do not daunt; her eye
Is for her father; next, in seaman's dress
Quaint Captain Cuttle lifts his hook to bless
His darlings; Barksis at low tide must die.
Drolls, villains, gentlefolk of all degrees
Make populous the air, a hundred strong.
Last comes, as fits the season, Scrooge, his knees
Atemble, till he harks the Christmas song
Of love and knows that spite and greed
Are wrong
And how that charity is more than these.
Master of human hearts! No Christmas-tide
Whose chants are not the sweeter and whose cheer
Is not more blest since Dickens lived and died!
The savor of his teachings makes each year
Richer in homely virtues, doth endear
Man unto man; hence shall he long abide.

CHRISTMAS TOWN.

IT lieth sweet as a little street
That sweeps to a good green valley.
It lieth clean, with no squalor seen,
No dark, and loathsome alley.
It lieth there in the golden air,
A town of song and gleaming,
With childhood's chatter and bugles' clatter
And the make believe of dream-land.
It lieth still on a little hill,
By a brook and a strip of wild-wood.
Oh, let's go down to Christmas Town
Just as we did in childhood!
Its streets are bright with merry light,
And all day armies wander
All to and fro, with golden glow,
From childhood's way back yonder.
Each laughing face wears smiles of grace
And trust and all undoubting,
And o'er the throng the voice of song
Swells into silvery shouting.
It lieth calm as lakes of balm
Far off from hate and wrangle,
Oh, let's go down to Christmas Town
With all its glow and sparkle!
Its hills are toys for girls and boys,
Its vales are candy icing,
Its lanes and lake are gingercake
And bonbons most enticing,
While always there a fragrant air
Of orange bloom is blowing,
And on the trees green memories
Of childhood days are growing.
It lieth far, but love's sweet star
Eternal watch is keeping
To guide us down to Christmas Town
Through little paths of sleeping.
Ah, it may seem a foolish dream
That I should see it lying
So still and sweet, its every street
With some fond vision vying,
But yet I know that long ago
They built it there who love us,
And many a day we've spent in play
With its blue sky above us!
It lieth near for those, my dear,
Whose eyes have fairy essence
To help them see, though aged they be.
The gleam of childhood's presence,
—Rentstown Bard in Baltimore Sun.

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