

Christmas, in Trouble.

"I wish you a happy Christmas,"
Not you who are happy by right,
With cup that is full to overflowing,
And stores of earth's sweetness and light;
Whose wish is fulfilled before utterance,
Whom fortune makes pet of her own,
And to whom, in your innermost being,
Unsatisfied hopes are unknown.

"I wish you a merry Christmas,"
Not you who are merry by rule,
Who know the world's music and dancing,
But never have learned in its school
What discipline means, or the pleasure
Of giving which gets not again,
Or the joy which transforms into brightness
Your strangers.—Unselfishness, Pain!

You I wish happy and merry,
Dear friend, who are weakly and ill,
Whom God calls as de in your chamber,
And sorrow makes silent and still;
Yes, you whom the Bethlehem Infant
With tiniest hands comes to bless;
Are you happy, as shadows grow deeper,
And pain is more wearisome? Yes!

You I wish happy and merry,
Whom poverty crushes and blights,
And care, like a canker, distresses,
And doubt for the future affrights;
Does He in the manger forget you,
Your sorrows, your sadness, your care?
Are you happy? Yes, see how He loves you,
And for Him you can suffer and bear.

—W. C. D.

Every Man's Day.

Again the holy time is here! For weeks now everyone has been looking forward to the time. It has been witnessed to in a thousand ways. The streets and shop-windows are heralds of the time. In one way or another it touches us all. It has come to have business relations which few can afford to overlook. It has social relations which fewer yet, let us hope, can wholly resist. Somewhere it touches us, everyone, and so it is every man's day. There are none so rich but it can add to what life has for them. Let us hope there are none so poor but it will lighten their load and brighten their lot. It is hardly possible from any point of view to over estimate the importance of the time. It is the nearest approach the world has yet made to a universal holiday. Go where you will, the round world over, and everywhere the feast is kept, amid northern snows and tropic wilds; on the mountains and on the plains; on the islands of the northern ocean and the southern seas; everywhere this redeemed earth is girded with the anthem of the angels, "Peace on earth, good will toward men." It is, however, only the truly Christian soul that knows the deep, real meaning of the time. It is the Church's great annual commemoration of the fact of the Incarnation—that basal fact of Christianity, without which, indeed, Christianity would be nothing more than the shadow of a shade. The children of the kingdom alone know the meaning of the time. Still, after its fashion, the world joins with the Church in keeping with the feast of the Nativity.—Rev. A. W. Snyder.

Church Terms Explained.

Vicar.—Literally one who acts for another in parish matters; one who acts for the Rector and receives the small tithes, the Rector receiving the great tithes. At the time of the plunder of Henry VIII., the great tithes were presented to laymen who had claims on the court favor, and consequently sometimes is heard the term lay rectors, or lay impropriators.

Vigil.—A fast day which precedes certain festivals. All festivals, including Sundays, have Eves; but only some have Vigils.

"Vigils were prefixed to Holydays which commemorate suffering in any way, as the Martyrdom of an Apostle; and are not observed either in seasons of rejoicing, as Christmas and Eastertide, or in the case of festivals which do not suggest

suffering, as Michaelmas Day." (*Church Times*.) The Vigils of Christmas and Easter themselves are, however, kept, as they do not fall within a festal season.

They were called Vigils, or watchings, because of a late night-service which formed part of their observance, derived from the custom of the primitive Christians, who used to spend the whole night previous to any great festival in watching, fasting and prayer.

Visitation of the Sick.—The object of the Office for the Visitation of the Sick is to prevent the departure of any baptized person out of the world without the Church's blessing. Should the sick person be already in a state of grace, and in the habitual use of the privileges which the Church provides, he will be of course at once entitled to it. If not, the business of the Priest is, after the manner given below, to effect his reconciliation. The Office should be followed immediately by the Blessed Sacrament.

For the Communion of the Sick, the Priest should take with him the elements required, and proper vessels, linen, etc., and should be properly vested when celebrating.

Christmas Voices.

Christmas, merry Christmas!

'Tis not so very long
Since other voices blended
With the carol and the song:
Could we but hear them singing
As they are singing now;

Could we but see the radiance
Of the crown on each fair brow,
There would be no sigh to smother,
No hidden tear to flow,
As we listen in the twilight
To the bells across the snow.

—In parts of Norway and Sweden it is the custom to raise high poles, on which are bound sheaves of grain, above the roofs of the sheds and outhouses, so that the birds may rejoice with man at the coming of Christ. The practice is a beautiful one. Even the poor manage to give a few ears to the birds. They have not learnt this custom in England, and, of course, it could only be followed in rural and agricultural neighbourhoods; but for all that we need not forget our birds. We should recollect that, in hard winters, it is the hunger that kills, even more than the cold. The birds that stay with us could bear the cold tolerably well, if only they were well fed. In this they are like human beings. Give them little food, and they succumb to the frost at once. A curious instinct brings them to our doors when they can find no food elsewhere. Few of us are so poor that we could not manage to spare them something, though it be only a few crumbs. Especially if the earth is bound with hard frost or with snow should we remember the birds. If they must die by thousands in lonely districts, where there are few dwellings of men, let them not be starved outside of our own windows. Let us remember the sheaves of Norway, surrounded by flocks of feasting birds. While we recollect the starving poor, let us also give a thought to the starving birds.

"He prayeth best who loveth best
All things both great and small."

Be Always Diligent.

Whilst the stream keeps running it keeps clear; but if it once comes to a standing water then it breeds toads and frogs and all manner of filth. The keys that men keep in their pockets and use every day wax brighter and brighter, but if they be laid aside and hang by the walls they soon grow rusty. Thus it is that action is the very life of the soul. Whilst we keep going and running in the way of God's commandments we keep clear and free from the world's pollutions; but if we once flag in our diligence and stand still, oh, what a puddle of sin will the heart be! How rusty and useless will the graces grow! How unserviceable for God's worship, how unfit for man's, by reason of the many spiritual diseases

that will invade the soul! Just like scholars that are for the most part given to a sedentary life, whose bodies are more exposed to ill humour than any others; whereas they whose livelihoods lie in a handicraft trade are always in motion and stirring, so that the motion expels the ill humours that they cannot seize upon the body: so in the soul, the less that any man acts in the matter of its concernment the more spiritual diseases and infirmities will grow in it; whereas the more active and industrious men are, the less power will ill distempers have upon them,—SPENCER.

—When the invincible legions of Imperial Rome went forth conquering and to conquer, they reared in every land imperishable monuments of their surpassing greatness. So, too, when the Christian Church, God's own Kingdom, sent forth champions of the Cross to subdue the world to Christ, tokens of victory were left behind, and Christmas is one of these.

Hints to Housekeepers.

CHRISTMAS PLUM PUDDING.—Take one pound of best suet chopped fine, one pound of sugar, one pound each of muscatel and sultana raisins, one pound of dried currants, two ounces each of candied orange and lemon peel, the grated rind of one fresh lemon, two ounces each of bitter and Jordan almonds cut in pieces, two grated nutmegs, a teaspoonful each of ginger and mace, a teaspoonful of salt, a pound of stale breadcrumbs and three-quarters of a pound of flour; mix well in a large bowl. Beat nine eggs, and add to the pudding. Wet a pudding-bag in boiling water, dredge it with flour, turn the pudding in, tie securely, and put into a kettle of water to boil for six or seven hours; when done, lift out of the kettle, let drain, and turn out on a large dish; serve with plum-pudding sauce.

A CHRISTMAS FRUIT CAKE.—A delicious Christmas cake may be made by creaming together one pound of sugar and three-quarters of a pound of butter; add nine well-beaten eggs and two tablespoonfuls of molasses in which a teaspoonful of soda has been dissolved; a wine-glass of milk, one pound of flour, one pound each of currants and raisins, two ounces of citron, one grated nutmeg, and one teaspoonful each of cloves and cinnamon. This quantity will make two large loaves.

BAVARIAN CREAM.—Bavarian cream is one of the most delicate of desserts and it can be varied indefinitely. Soak half a box of powdered gelatine in half a cupful of cold water. Bring one pint of milk to boiling point in a double boiler with half a cup of sugar and half a saltspoonful of salt, and add the beaten yolks of four eggs, which must not be allowed to boil, but stirred till smooth and thick. Add the soaked gelatine; as it dissolves strain all into a pan set in ice water. As soon as cool add one teaspoonful of vanilla and a tablespoonful of sherry or half a cup of orange juice. While cooling whip one pint of good cream with two tablespoonfuls of powdered sugar till smooth and thick, and as the custard begins to harden stir this in, and when nearly stiff enough to drop, put in moulds which have been wet in cold water and set in the ice box. This is the plain cream. For chocolate, melt two sticks of sweetened chocolate and stir into the custard before the whipped cream is added.

REMEDY FOR WHOOPING COUGH.—The following remedy for whooping cough was brought from Germany, and its effect in this country has been so good that those who have used it think it marvellous. Take four large heads of garlic and boil them in a pint of water, letting the water boil down considerably. Add two tablespoonfuls of lard to the water, boil again, strain, and while hot add one teaspoonful of turpentine. It should be kept in a cold place, and used to apply under the arms, inside the hands, under the knees, at the elbow joints, upon the bottom of the feet and around the neck. Heat it and rub it in well before the fire.

A fire extinguisher which may easily be made and kept stored in bottles ready for use consists of three pounds of salt and one and one-half pounds of sal ammoniac, dissolved in a gallon of water.