

For the children these days should be made happy by gifts and by a pleasant party, or by a pleasure-ride to some place which they specially desire to visit. Older people should take these days for thought, rest, and recreation. It is fitting that these points of time should be observed, and that, as the years pass by, and age gradually but surely increases, the individual should recognize the fact that life is passing, and the time which he is to spend upon the earth is rapidly diminishing. They need not be sad days, but they should be remembered and suitably observed.

Parents should teach their children to remember these days. The custom which some writers advocated long ago, of planting a tree to commemorate the birth of each child, is to be strongly commended. As soon after a child is born as the proper season for transplanting arrives let a fine tree, oak, elm, maple, evergreen, or one of similar nature, be planted in one of the yards near the house. This tree should be the special care of the child in whose honor it was put out, and as they grow in size and age the child will take a deep interest in the tree, and will soon come to regard it with feelings of affection.

MARRIAGE ANNIVERSARIES should also be observed by the married members of the family. They may well be celebrated by social unions of the family circles to which the married pair originally belonged. When this is impracticable, a visit to some near relatives, a tea-party, or a pleasure-trip, will furnish the means for the appropriate observance of the day.

THE RELIGIOUS AND NATIONAL FESTIVALS which have received the sanction of the CHURCH and STATE should also be observed. The patriot should teach his children the reasons why the FOURTH OF JULY is kept as a holiday by the citizens of the country, and should lead them to observe it aright. The use of powder is not the only way, and is very far from being the best way, in which to have a "celebration." The story of the REVOLUTION should be familiar to every child, and a true patriotism should be made one of the prominent points of a good character.

THANKSGIVING DAY should be observed by every family in the land. When possible the parents and children should all "go up to the house of the LORD" to express in a public manner their recognition of the numberless blessings which they have received. The GIVER of all good ought to be offered the tribute of grateful hearts.

CHRISTMAS should be kept as a religious and a joyful festival. Gifts should be presented to the children, and they should be told the wonderful story of the coming of CHRIST into the world. The fact should also be clearly presented that all our civilization and liberty come to us as the direct result of the life and work of CHRIST on earth, while all our hopes for the future must depend upon HIM as the only REDEEMER of the world.

NEW YEAR'S DAY is fast becoming a festival, and if properly observed may be made instrumental of good. During the week preceding this day the poor should be remembered, and many kindly, but unobtrusive, acts of charity performed.

There are other festivals, like EASTER, which are worthy of general remembrance, and each family will have special days which should be kept by its members as anniversaries. Let these red-letter days not be overlooked or disregarded. Properly kept they will confer great blessings upon all who come under their influence and share their joys.