

were proud of their daughters. The girls proceeded to ask their guests. The night was cold and frosty and as they walked along the sidewalk creaked under their feet. They soon delivered both messages, which were accepted with much interest. Turned homeward they discussed the presents they should give their guests. Mildred appeared to be in her glory, but Olive still seemed to think that she would rather have her chums spend the day with them.

By the time they arrived home they had decided to give little crippled Chris a magic lantern which he could run himself. His mother really needed a dress, but the girls thought they could hardly afford to get her such an expensive present. Finally they decided not to give each other presents, but to use the money for Mrs. Thompson's dress. The two little Clark girls were each to have a doll-carriage and doll. Mrs. Wilson thought these presents were very well chosen, indeed.

Christmas morning a large sleigh drove up in front of the Wilson home, and it was not long before the family was all in it. They drove to the home of their guests to get them. Within half an hour the whole party was seated comfortably in the sleigh. They were about two hours driving to their grandpa's, but all enjoyed the drive very much. When they drove up to the house they were greeted with shouts of "Merry Christmas to you all." They went into the house and after a hearty handshake with aunts, uncles and cousins, they took off their wraps. When they walked into the parlor they saw before them a large Christmas tree, beautifully decorated and almost loaded with presents. By the time Mildred and Olive had their gifts placed on the tree dinner was ready. What appetites they had! Everyone ate so heartily!

After dinner grandpa took the presents off the tree and handed them to little Chris to call out the names. How tickled and surprised he was when he came to three or four parcels which were for himself. Everybody received one or more presents. When Mrs. Thompson got her dress the tears ran down her cheeks for joy, and the little Clark girls fairly screamed with delight when they received their dolls and the carriages. The afternoon passed away very quickly. They played games, grandpa told them stories, and they had all sorts of candy to eat. Supper was served about five o'clock and they started for home.

The drive home was delightful. It was a beautiful, clear moonlight night and not too cold. They took their guests home with them to stay over night. When they arrived all said they had had a splendid time, and as they were quite tired they soon retired for the night.

When Mildred and Olive had gone to their own bedroom they began to discuss their day's enjoyment.

"Oh, didn't we have a grand time," said Mildred. "Really I have never enjoyed a Christmas so much before."

"Yes," replied Olive, "I had a delightful time. It seemed so good to see little Chris, his mother and the two little Clark girls having such a lovely day."

"It is so nice to be in a party if they have made some poor persons happy and given them a good time," said Mildred.

I am sure you will all think with me that Mildred and Olive spent their Christmas very profitably. They could have stayed home and had their party if they had wished, but this, of course, would have been selfish. However, they were not only thinking of themselves. How much nicer it was for them to give these poor people an enjoyable time than to have left them alone in their own little home. How much nicer it would be for us to remember the poor on Christmas Day than to spend it only on ourselves.

## How We Spent Christmas

HELEN WEST, DELAWARE, ONT.

"Hurrah," shouted one of the boys as he came into the house the day before Christmas.

"We are going to have a fine time to-morrow. Cousin Bert has sent me a card saying that he and Uncle Will and Aunt Jane are coming here to-morrow to help us eat our goose."

No time was lost in putting up a Christmas tree and getting everything ready for the morrow. Mother always keeps some gifts on hand in a big trunk in the attic, so she trudged merrily up two flights of stairs and unloaded the trunk. She brings to light plenty of gifts to go around, besides what Santa Claus will bring.

Will, who had been going to college, was home, and Mabel and Isabel, teachers in the city, were there also. They each brought a share of presents for the others and hid them in the shed over night. At half-past eight o'clock sharp the cousins and aunts come into the house with hands full of boxes and bundles of all shapes and sizes which they throw on the table, whose contents give rise to much curiosity.

All become so sleepy that at half-past nine each one is ushered off to bed and is soon sound asleep. Nothing is stirring, not even a mouse, and the breaking silence of the night is a rattle of papers, but Will does stay awake long enough to realize that Santa is willingly filling the empty stockings and loading the Christmas tree.

In the morning Will is awakened by Cousin Bert leaping out of bed and looking at the sight before him, for really here was just what he was wishing for, a "Victrola." Where did it come from? It was the present from Will. The two arise and dress as fast as they can, and race downstairs with the instrument, to be at the door at the bottom of the

and gravel. In the centre is a vase of carnations doing their best to look and smell sweet. On one side of it is a bowl of cranberry sauce, a bowl of beans, and peas, and lots of other good things. They finished off with candies and nuts.

The afternoon was a happy one. They all went out and enjoyed themselves skating, skiing and snow-balling. At five o'clock the supper was ready and they sit down to a table beautifully decorated with holly and flowers. After supper they have a taffy pull. Each person is pulling, after which they all eat and enjoy it. The cousins are going to stay till New Year's and they all gather around the fireplace to tell stories and ask riddles. At last Isabel, the flower of the family, starts to play and sing, while the others gather around her and join in the chorus. Thus they pass two hours, after which they are tired enough to go to their beds. Will lies awake, and before us goes to sleep his last thought is that he was sure Christmas was to make people happy, and he was glad to think that he knew how to spend Christmas. With this thought he turned over and slept till morning.

## How Christmas Day Should be Spent

MARJORIE CURRY, MARKDALE, ONT.

Christmas Day is generally spent as a feast day, but I think it should be spent by going to church in the morning, if you are near by, in giving presents and money to the poor, and in making other people happy, because "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

A few years ago there were two little girls named Mary and Laura. Mary's parents were very wealthy, and she always had everything she wanted.

One Christmas Day she had an invitation to a Christmas party. The day



THE HAY HARVEST.

Amateur Photograph. From negative sent by Rev. F. H. Langford, Regina.

landing by Uncle and Aunt, who were already up and about.

After breakfast they give around the boxes and open them with eagerness. There was not one that didn't get his or her share. Even mother, who never expected anything, was laden down with presents. Next come preparations for dinner. Mabel and Isabel help their mother, while the rest go and play games or anything to amuse themselves. At last the meal is all on the table and a merry group sit down to a dinner which is enjoyed by all.

At the head sits father smiling over a big goose, and mother at the other end is looking over a huge bowl of potatoes

was stormy and her parents would not let her go, so she pouted and acted very rudely all day. She would not try to amuse her little sisters, and when asked to take a basket of good things to poor lame Ann, she replied, "Send Joe, I am reading my new book." Consequently Mary went to bed very miserable, because Christmas had been no day at all.

Now Laura's family were not nearly so wealthy, yet everything was love and sunshine. Laura had been invited away, too, but her father being ill, she could not go, as her mother needed her to mind the baby. She willingly stayed at home, helped to prepare the Christmas dinner and waited on her father.