

Children's Department.

The Story.

"Mother, I am tired of play.
I have romped about all day.
Read me something, mother, do—
Something new and nice and true!"

So the mother read a story
Woven of love and grief and glory,
Which by poet lips was sung
When the world and men were young.

"It is nice—but is it true?"
"Yes, my darling." "Is it new?"
"No! as old as this green earth,
And most things of any worth.

"For all lovely tales are old,
Ancient histories bound in gold;
And the tales young love calls new
Are but ancient history too!"

Brighten their Christmas.

I was one day last year in a great store.
The place was crowded, for the time
was just before the holidays; and the
store was a capital place to choose Christ-
mas presents. Near me stood a very
pretty, neatly dressed colored girl look-
ing at some stockings. She selected a
pair, and seeing me looking at the same
thing, she asked me some questions
about the pair in her hand, saying that
she wanted them for a present for an
old lady.

"Your mother?" I asked.

"No!" she replied. "She is only a
neighbor. She is rather a disagreeable
old lady, and I don't think anyone else
will remember her, so I thought I
would. She won't thank me!" she
added smiling, "but she will like the
stockings, all the same."

"You are certainly very kind," said
I. "I hope you will have a lovely
Christmas yourself." And I have no
doubt that she did.

I dare say some of you, my young
friends, are already making your Christ-
mas calculations. The boys are earning
or saving money, and the girls are look-
ing over wools and silks, and studying
their pattern books; and all are con-
sidering what they can make or buy for
friends and relations. All this is just as
it should be. Such presents give a great
deal of pleasure, even when they are
very cheap and simple. It is not the
expense of a present which makes it
acceptable, but the love that prompts it.
"It isn't the cost of it," said an old

woman in a charitable institution to a
neighbor who had rather spitefully dis-
paraged her Christmas gift. "It isn't
the cost that pleases me; it is the being
remembered when she the giver had
so many to think of."

Boys and girls, while you are pre-
paring for father and mother, brothers
and sisters and the rest, cannot you
contrive a little token for some lonely
body who is likely to be forgotten?

A pair of wristlets for some old man
or woman—a pretty card or an orange,
if no more, will help to brighten their
Christmas day, and recall its meaning to
their minds. How many boy and girl
readers of this paper will try the ex-
periment this coming Christmas sea-
son?—*Parish Visitor.*

—The wise tongue maketh know-
ledge pleasant. A healing tongue is a
tree of life. A soft answer turneth
away wrath, but grievous words stir
up anger.—*Bible.*

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