

Hosts of Christmas Eve

EXPERIENCES I HAVE ACTUALLY SEEN.

(BY ELLIOT O'DONNELL.)

My first Christmas I was in London after coming back from the Far East. I spent alone in digs, and I know not how to be content with other strolling about the streets in the evening or remaining in the dingy quarters.

On the morning and afternoon of December 24th reading, and after I felt that I wanted some excitement I walked to Richmond.

It was dark when I thought about returning, but as I was making up my mind to leave a strong desire to see the river in all its dreariness suddenly came to me.

I yielded to the desire, and made for the river.

On the Christmas festivities, I was on the terrace adjoining the river. The terrace was deserted. However, I was gazing at the water when I became aware of a man standing close to me, also gazing at it.

I hadn't heard him approach I looked somewhat curiously at him. He noticed my astonishment that I was wearing a very peculiar costume—one of those long overcoats with a cape that used to be worn in the days of our great grandfathers; he also wore top boots and a high overcoat.

Someone going to a fancy dress party, I said to myself. And as I was wondering what brought him to such a spot he began to move away.

Then a very curious thing happened. I was looking after him—he vanished.

The night was dark, it is true, but so dark that he could be lost sight of within half a dozen paces. Nor could he have slipped behind any obstacle—a tree, for instance—because he was nowhere near.

I did not go to Richmond again for some time, but when I did, I reflected on my former experience. I inquired of different residents if they had ever seen any stores of hauntings in connection with the Thames there.

I was eventually recommended to call on a Mr. D., who lived by the riverside.

I told him about the adventure, whereupon he said: "I know that figure. I saw it there myself on Christmas Eve ten years ago and it vanished in the manner you described. Possibly it is the earth-spirit of someone who was buried in the river one Christmas many years ago, and it returns just about the anniversary of its death."

The riverside between here and Richmond is haunted periodically, however, by other ghosts apart from the one you saw."

Another ghostly experience I had on Christmas Eve was in a titled lady's house in Kensington.

I was one of a large party dining there, and I noticed that there were three men-servants in the room, one of whom appeared to restrict his attentions to a certain relative of the hostess.

This particular manservant was a peculiar-looking individual that I couldn't take my eyes off him. He was tall—well over six feet; thin; with very white, haggard cheeks, and hair of a most unusual orange colour.

But the most striking feature about him was his eyes. Big and of a very light blue, they were absolutely glassy, as if they were made of glass, and they appeared to lack expression, and to be wholly lifeless.

As I was there was this man moving about among the plates and dishes, never getting in anyone's way, and always devoting himself to the one person. But I noticed that she never looked anything from him—did not appear to notice him in any way.

The whole thing appeared to me to be so odd that I could not help remarking on it to my hostess when we were talking together afterwards in the drawing-room.

"I don't know his name," I said. "But he is the very tall man with the noticeable orange-coloured hair."

At the mention of orange-coloured hair she turned deathly pale, and for a few moments looked so unwell that I thought she was going to faint. She suddenly recovered herself, however, and said:

"Please don't tell anyone here what you saw. This house is haunted periodically by a figure such as you describe. It is supposed to be the ghost of a butler who is said to have committed suicide in a room on the ground floor one Christmas Eve many years ago. Did—did he appear to be waiting for anyone in particular?"

"Yes," I answered, "on Miss H. 'Good heavens!' my hostess exclaimed, in tones of the greatest agitation. 'Not Bertha! Oh, but I wouldn't have anything happen to her for worlds!'"

But something did happen to her, for within a week I heard from my hostess that Miss H.—had just died from the effects of a chill.

# Take these Gift Ideas

## As Your CHRISTMAS SHOPPING GUIDE



### Gifts for Her

**Dressing Gowns**  
A splendid assortment in colors and prices that gives ample scope for individual choosing, fashioned from elderdown and flannel.  
Prices each: \$8.50, \$9.75, \$9.95, \$10.00, \$11.00, \$12.50, \$14.50, \$15.40, \$17.00, \$19.00, \$19.50 and \$22.50.

**Charming Blouses**  
Newest modes in Silk, Tricolette, Shantung, Crepe-de-Chene, etc., assuring selection that will please your sense of fashion and economy.  
Prices each: \$1.75, \$2.00, \$3.00, \$4.25, \$6.50, \$7.50, \$8.25, \$9.50, \$10.00, \$11.50, \$14.50 & \$15.00.

**Wool Sweaters**  
A very attractive assortment gives the donor the opportunity to show their good taste and individuality. Jumpers, Jackets and Sweater Coats in all the newest plain shades, and color combinations.  
Prices each: \$2.75, \$3.00, \$3.50, \$4.25, \$5.50, \$6.25, \$7.50, \$8.25, \$10.00, \$11.00, \$11.90, \$16.00, \$17.50 & \$19.00.

**Kid and Suede Gloves**  
A big assortment, lined throughout, some with wool, the higher priced with fur; all sizes. Ideal for gift giving.  
Prices per pair: \$2.25, \$2.50, \$3.00, \$4.00, \$5.00, \$5.25, \$5.50, \$6.00, \$6.50 & \$7.25.

**Wool Gauntlets**  
Warm and comfortable for the cold winter ahead; all sizes, in assorted colors.  
Prices per pair: 85c, 95c, \$1.00, \$1.10, \$1.25 & \$1.75.

**Felt Slippers**  
A big variety makes choosing easy, asst'd. shades, some fur trimmed, others ribbon trimmed, still others in fancy wool plaid; all sizes.  
Prices per pair: \$1.00, \$1.15, \$1.25, \$1.50, \$1.60, \$2.00 & \$2.20.

**Silk Knitted Scarves**  
A silk scarf makes a very acceptable Christmas gift. In our assortment you will find every wanted plain shade and color combination, fringed ends.  
Prices each: 80c, \$1.00, \$1.20, \$1.75, \$2.00, \$2.20, \$2.65, \$3.00, \$3.50, \$4.25, \$5.00, \$5.60 & \$6.25.

**Black and Colored Hand Bags**  
Most of these are of genuine leather and fitted with mirror, coin purse and memo book. The universal gift.  
Prices each: \$1.20, \$1.50, \$6.75, \$12.50, \$9.50, \$10.50, \$12.00, \$15.75, \$15.00, \$17.00 & \$21.50.

**Handkerchiefs**  
Beautifully boxed for gift giving: 3 and 6 handkerchiefs to box.  
Prices per box: 30c, 40c, 50c, 55c, \$1.10, \$1.25, \$1.45, \$1.60, \$1.75, \$1.95, \$2.00, \$2.20, \$2.65, \$3.20 & \$3.80.

**Crepe-de-Chene Scarves**  
Oriental designs and colorings, hemstitched border.  
Prices each: \$1.20, \$1.65, \$2.20, \$3.30, \$4.50, \$5.50, \$6.75 & \$7.25.

**Wool Scarves**  
Scotch Wool Scarves in handsome plaid and stripe designs, newest in scarves.  
Prices each: 80c, \$1.00, \$1.20, \$2.00 & \$3.50.

**Collar and Cuff Sets**  
Crepe de Chene, Georgette, Batiste and Muslin, trimmed with lace, embroidery, colored edge, etc.  
Prices per set: 55c, 60c, 80c, 85c, \$1.00, \$1.10, \$1.20, \$1.50, \$2.00 & \$2.25.

**Serving Trays**  
Straw frame, glass bottom, lined with chintz, assorted shapes.  
Price each: \$5.00.

**Work Baskets**  
Straw Work Baskets on legs, nicely lined, makes an ideal gift.  
Prices each: \$4.50, \$9.00, \$10.50 & \$21.00.

**Work Baskets**  
Straw Work Baskets, silk lined, fitted.  
Prices each: \$3.50, \$5.25, \$5.75, \$6.25, \$5.75 & \$9.50.

**Fire Screens**  
Wood Frames, cloth centres, assorted designs.  
Price each: \$2.50.

**Framed Pictures**  
A big assortment to choose from.  
Special each: \$1.25.

Until the last possible moment before Christmas we will be at your service. Everything possible will be done to make your final Christmas purchases as satisfactory as if you made them two weeks ago, so that when the great Christmas Shopping Event is concluded you and we may look back on all we have done with complete satisfaction.

In this advertisement you will find hundreds of gift hints that will help you in your 11th hour selections.



### Novelty Gifts

**FANCY COLORED PINCUSHIONS**  
Prices each: 55c, 60c, 70c, 75c, 85c, 95c, \$1.10, \$1.25, \$1.40, \$2.20 & \$3.00.

**COLORED SACHETS**—Shades of Pale Blue, Pink and Lavender.  
Prices each: 30c, 35c, 55c & 95c.

**SILK POWDER BOXES**—Oriental designs and colorings.  
Prices each: \$2.25, \$2.55, \$3.20 & \$4.45.

**FANCY CHINA POWDER BOXES**—Assorted figure designs.  
Prices each: \$1.10, \$1.25, \$1.35 & \$1.50.

**METAL POWDER VANITY CASES**—In neat designs.  
Prices each: 90c & \$1.25.

**KEWPIE DOLLS**—Celluloid.  
Prices each: 20c, 55c, 60c & 75c.

**FANCY CHINA HEADS**—For pin-cushions.  
Prices each: 12c & 40c.

**PIN TRAY WITH BLACK CAT**  
Price each: 55c.

**BRASS TEA CADDY**  
Price each: \$1.00.

**FANCY CHINA BOUQUET HOLDERS**  
Price each: \$1.45.

**DESK CALENDERS**—Assorted designs.  
Prices each: 55c & 75c.

### Practical Gifts for the Home

**Wool Blankets**  
Guaranteed all wool, a blanket we can heartily recommend. Give a pair as your Christmas gift and keep your memory green for years.  
Size 40 x 48. Price per pair: \$4.95  
Size 54 x 70. Price per pair: \$8.15  
Size 60 x 75. Price per pair: \$8.30  
Size 66 x 88. Price per pair: \$11.25  
Size 70 x 88. Price per pair: \$12.90  
Size 62 x 85. Price per pair: \$12.75  
Size 75 x 90. Price per pair: \$16.25  
Size 84 x 90. Price per pair: \$17.75

**Union Wool Blankets**  
A good looking and warm giving blanket that will delight you and the recipient.  
Size 50 x 70. Price per pair: \$5.45  
Size 54 x 70. Price per pair: \$5.80  
Size 60 x 75. Price per pair: \$8.15  
Size 66 x 88. Price per pair: \$9.50  
Size 70 x 88. Price per pair: \$10.90

**Tea Cosies**  
An assortment of pretty Chintz and Satin covered Tea Cosies, suitable for gift giving.  
Prices each: \$1.10, \$1.60 & \$1.90.

**Circular Cushions**  
A gift any home lover would appreciate, covered with pretty art materials.  
Prices each: \$2.20, \$2.45, \$3.60 & \$4.00.

**Sofa Pillows**  
Very popular for gifts, covered with art saten and satin.  
Price each: \$4.25.

**FANCY KEWPIE BOOK MARKS**  
Price each: 70c.

**METAL JEWEL CASES**—Assorted designs.  
Price each: \$1.00.

**TAPE MEASURES**—In fancy novelty cases.  
Prices each: 55c & 75c.



### Gifts for Baby

The Baby gift problem need not worry you if you visit our Baby Goods Section, where innumerable articles of beauty and comfort are displayed to make your choosing easy.

**Infants' Silk Bibs**  
Dainty Silk Bibs for Baby, neatly self-embroidered in assorted designs, finished with pretty edging of lace or frilling.  
Prices from: 45c. to 75c. each.

**Infants' Polkas**  
Silk knit and wool knit, white trimmed with pink and blue ribbon and silk embroidery; some with high necks, buttons down sides, finished with belt. Dainty and serviceable for Baby.  
Prices: \$1.65, \$1.90, \$2.20, \$2.40, \$2.60, \$2.90 & \$3.00.

**Infants' Voile Dresses**  
White Voile Dresses, daintily embroidered, finished with Valenciennes Lace around neck and sleeves; others with narrow heading, finished with picot edging; to fit up to 2 years.  
Prices, each: \$1.25, \$1.45, \$1.65, \$1.95, \$2.20, \$2.55, \$3.75 & \$4.25.

**Infants' Overalls**  
White Wool Overalls with feet, wool cord to tie at waist.  
Prices per pair: 95c, \$1.10, \$1.25, \$1.50, \$1.80 & \$2.00.

**Kleinert's Rubber Baby Pants**  
Elastic at waist and knee.  
"Jiffy"—Price per pair: 80c.  
"Feiry"—ventilated—Price per pair: 90c.  
White Rubber Pants—Price per pair: 40c.



### Gifts for Him

Well chosen gifts for men are those that bring comfort, convenience and usefulness. That's the secret of pleasing men at Christmas time—give them something from our men's store, where every item has been selected with the one aim of pleasure and satisfying men customers.

**Men's Ties**  
Wide flowing ends, in all the designs and colorings worn by well dressed men. A gift he will surely appreciate.  
Prices, each: 40c, 75c, \$1.00, \$1.10, \$1.50 & \$1.90.

**Silk Scarves**  
In an assortment of plain shades and fancy stripe effects.  
Prices, each: \$1.75, \$2.00, \$3.25, \$3.50, \$4.25 & \$5.60.

**Wool Scarves**  
Warm woolen Scarves in all the wanted shades.  
Prices, each: 85c, \$1.65, \$1.90, \$2.25 & \$3.25.

**Men's Socks**  
Shown in fine and heavy ribbed and plain, featuring the newest plain shades, fancy stripes and checks.  
Prices per pair: 65c, 70c, 80c, \$1.00, \$1.25, \$1.35 & \$1.50.

**Silk Handkerchiefs**  
Plain and initialed, hemstitched border.  
Prices, each: \$1.25, \$1.35, \$1.75 & \$2.00.

**Excelsa Handkerchiefs**  
Plain White and White with assorted colored borders.  
Prices, each: 25c, 27c & 30c.

**Dressing Gowns**  
Made from heavy Molleton, assorted stripes and checks, nicely trimmed, fitted with pockets and girdles. A very appropriate gift.  
Prices, each: \$9.50, \$11.75, \$12.50 & \$16.00.

**Kid Gloves**  
Men's Tan Cape Kid Gloves, wool lined throughout, dome fastened; all sizes.  
Prices per pair: \$3.90, \$4.50 & \$5.75.

**Suede Gloves**  
Wool lined throughout, colors of Grey and Brown; all sizes.  
Prices per pair: \$3.25, \$4.50, \$4.55, \$5.25, \$5.50 & \$6.75.

**Men's Wool Vests**  
Colors of Grey, Fawn and Brown, pretty stripes and checks, assorted sizes. A gift that would delight any man.  
Prices, each: \$5.45, \$5.65 & \$5.55.

**Velour Hats**  
English All Fur Velour Hats, color of Fawn, Beaver, Grey, etc., in the newest shapes for Fall and Winter.  
Prices, each: \$6.50, \$9.50, \$10.50 & \$12.75.

**Felt Hats**  
A big selection of Men's Felts, shades of Fawn, Beaver, Grey, Black, etc., newest shapes; all sizes.  
Prices, each: \$3.75, \$4.20, \$4.50, \$5.20 & \$6.00.

**Men's Caps**  
Winter Caps, with close fitting inside ear band, assorted Tweed mixtures, all sizes, warm and comfortable.  
Prices, each: \$1.45, \$1.60, \$2.50 & \$3.25.

**English Shirts**  
Made from extra strong Percal, double cuffs and starched collar band, white grounds with assorted colored stripes, in fast colors; sizes 14 to 17.  
Prices, each: \$1.50, \$2.25, \$2.75 & \$3.55.

**Tunic Shirts**  
Cool style, white grounds with assorted colored stripes, double cuffs, stretched collar band, made from high grade Percal.  
Prices, each: \$1.90, \$2.20, \$2.50 & \$3.25.

**THE ROYAL STORES LTD.**  
The Great Christmas Gift Store

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