

them, and all the things in it, would put and say, "I wish I had the moon."

The "more blessed" kind of happiness comes nearer filling up the measure than any other I know. But to fully convince yourself, you have only to make the experiment. I would not wait until Christmas, either. Kind, generous deeds are always in season. "The poor you have always with you."

"GOOD TIDINGS OF GREAT JOY."

AN angel voice on Judah's plain
Announced to men a Saviour's birth;
Each Christmas sends the sweet refrain
Re-echoing wider o'er the earth.

Whence come the joys of Christmas-tide?
A Child from heaven has given us them.
Above all thoughts let this abide,
The Christ is born in Bethlehem.

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TORONTO, DECEMBER 15, 1883.

CHRISTMAS TREES.

MERRY Christmas! Why do we keep it with so much joy and gladness? Is there a little child anywhere who does not know that it is the day when our dear Lord was born? "Christ the Prince of glory slept on Mary's knee." The whole beautiful story is familiar to every one of us, and the sweetest thing about Christmas is that it belongs to every one of us, to the poorest as well as the richest, for the infant Jesus came to save the whole world.

The custom of hanging gifts on Christmas trees comes to us from Germany. There, for days beforehand, great preparations are made, and when the eve of Christmas arrives, the tree is lighted with tapers, and its boughs are loaded with presents for parents, children, teachers, friends

and servants. We are glad that many of our Sunday-schools follow the pretty home idea of the Fatherland to a wider conclusion, and have Christmas-trees in the Sunday-school.—*The Child's World.*

THE WONDROUS BIRTH.

ONCE in royal David's city
Stood a lowly cattle shed,
Where a mother laid her Baby
In a manger for His bed;
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ her little child.

He came down to earth from heaven
Who is God and Lord of all,
And His shelter was a stable
And His cradle was a stall;
With the poor, and mean, and lowly,
Lived on earth our Saviour holy.

And through all His wondrous childhood,
He would honour and obey,
Love and watch the lowly maiden
In whose gentle arms He lay;
Christian children all must be
Mild, obedient, good as He.

For He is our childhood's pattern:
Day by day like us He grew:
He was little, weak, and helpless,
Tears and smiles like us He knew;
And He feeleth for our sadness,
And He shareth in our gladness.

And our eyes at last shall see Him,
Through His own redeeming love:
For that Child, so dear and gentle,
Is our Lord in heaven above;
And He leads His children on
To the place where He is gone.

Not in that poor lowly stable,
With the oxen standing by,
We shall see Him; but in heaven,
Set at God's right hand on high;
When, like stars, His children crowned
All in white shall wait around.

—Mrs. Alexander.

SANTA CLAUS

"CHRISTMAS is coming," cry the children, and they are thinking of the beautiful presents they hope to receive.

Some are wondering where Santa Claus stays during the rest of the year, and if he will bring them anything.

Have our little readers been careful to try and please their parents and teachers this year? If they have done this, they will certainly be happier at Christmas time.

Remember also that Christmas is to commemorate the birth of the blessed Jesus, and do what you can to please Him.

CHRISTMAS WITH-OUT.

O, how bleak and cold it is without! How deep lies the snow! and covers every house and shed and tree, and how cheerful the bright light shining from the cottage window looks, and the smoke curling up from the chimney, suggesting thoughts of cakes and dough nuts, and Christmas cheer. Ugh! but it is cold without. Let us lift the latch and enter in.



A GOOD CHRISTMAS PRESENT.

AMONG the novelties in the way of Christmas gifts for the coming season, intended for father, mother, brother, or sister, is a suitable holiday envelope, containing a pledge or Christmas promise something like this:

By the help of God, and with my best and truest love. To—: I hereby promise never to use tobacco or ardent spirit: as long as I live.

To this is signed the name of the donor.

Boys, all the money you could earn in a year would not purchase a present which would give your parents or your sisters so much pleasure as would such a Christmas pledge signed by you. If the pledges are not for sale in your town manufacture one. Purchase a pretty Christmas card and write on the back of it a pledge similar to the one given here, substituting for the words, "before I am twenty-one years of age," the better promise, "so long as I live."

ROOM FOR JESUS.

A CHILLY night, and stars are white and cold as marble. In house and inn there is no room for a Baby born at Bethlehem; only a chance to lie in a stable-manger. Would you have taken the child-Messiah in? It is not too late. When you give up some selfish love you make room in your heart for Jesus. When you say, "I will serve Him better, and, helping sell less, help others more," then you make room for Him. He would rather come to your heart than go to a palace.

No obstacle can close the kingdom of heaven against him who desires to enter it.