

the past and begin life again? I will be a better wife to you than I have been."

She sat down, the child still in her arms, and motioned him to a chair. Then she told him the story of the night and her plans for the future.

"Is it too late, Mark?" she asked piteously. "Have I forfeited your love?"

Hot tears fell upon her hands as he bent to kiss them. "This is a time of great joy," he whispered. "Frances I thought you had ceased to love me. I will turn my back on the past and together we will care for this child. Christ has indeed come to our home this Christmas morning."

Like flakes of snow that fall unperceived upon the earth, the seemingly unimportant events of life succeed one another. As the snow gathers together, so are our habits formed. No single flake that is added to the pile produces a sensible change, no single action creates, however it may exhibit, a man's character.

CHRISTMAS GIFTS.

"What shall I give to thee, O Lord?
The kings that came of old
Laid softly on Thy yoradle rude
Their myrrh and gems of gold.

"Thy martyrs gave their hearts' warm blood,
Their ashes strewed Thy way;
They spurned their lives as dreams and dust
To speed Thy coming day.

"Thou knowest of sweet and precious things
My store is scant and small;
Yet were Thou here in want and woe,
Lord, I would give thee all."

There came a voice from the heavenly heights
"Unclose thine eyes and see;
Gifts to the least of those I love,
Thou givest unto Me."



Madonna and Child (known as "The Madonna of the Grand Duke").

Raphael.

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