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Children's Department.

Birthday of Jesus.

We are sure, dear children, that you take much interest in birthdays. You never forget your own birthdays, do you? And we believe you are equally quick to remember the birthdays of others. What pleasure you find, do you not, in preparing a birthday gift for father or mother or any other dear one of the home circle? But now we would ask you in what way you are preparing for the birthday of Jesus, for it is to that we are now looking forward. You know when it comes. You remember that—

> "Jesus Christ our Saviour Was born on Christmas Day."

And you do not need to be told how near we are getting to Christmas. Ah, no! you have been counting on it for weeks. "Christmas is coming!" has been your glad thought through the shortening days. What do you think of most as you look onward to the happy time? The joyous family gathering, the plum-puding and mince-pies, the gifts which kind Santa Claus will drop into your stocking, or the Christmas tree with its glittering lights and the pretty things that your mother will hang thereon to please you? We are glad that you have such pleasures in prospect, but we would ask you at the same time to remember that Christmas Day is the birthday of Jesus, and to prepare some gift for Him, for with all our hearts we wish you to have a happy Christmas, and we know that your Christmas cannot be truly happy unless there be in it the thought of

But whatever gifts you bring to Him, there is one which you must not withhold, one which He especially asks of you, for without it the others are of little worth. The Lord Jesus wants

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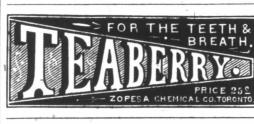


Mrs. Amanda Paisley

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not your's, but you. He asks you to give Him your heart.

Oh, surely, if you think of all He gave up for you, when He left His home in heaven and became a little child on earth, and how at last He gave His life for you, you will not withhold from Him the gift of your love! Will you not, rather, as you remember how in Bethlehem's inn there was found no room for Him, no restingplace save the rude manger, cry with eager love—

"Oh, come to my heart, Lord Jesus! There is room in my heart for Thee.'

He will be sure to come if you thus invite Him, and, when He enters there, He will bring such peace and joy as you have never known before.

The Other Side of Christmas.

Everything is not merry everywhere at Christmas. How delightful it is to think of the pure white snow, with Jack Frost cutting his capers and painting his funny pictures on our widows, and the dear little Robin-Reding from a disordered stomach breast hopping around with his bright eye watching for crumbs, and then the Dr. W. W. Gardner, Sp. Ingfield, Mass., Christmas dinner, with its plum pudding, and the games and the presents and the mistletoe and the sweet little carols telling how our kind Saviour became a child so many years ago! But what of the tiny little folk out in the streets at Christmas, who have no kind friends to make them presents, no Christmas dinner, and no warm clothes to keep out Jack Frost, who is one of the cruellest fellows you can imagine when little folks cannot fight him. There are hundreds and thousands of wee boys and girls out at this moment, cold and hungry, and homeless. Should we not then spare them a bit of our Christmas Iove?

Lost in the Snow

The morning had been fine and bright, though cold. There was enough to eat, and the sheep with their young lambs enjoyed the sunshine, wandering rather farther away than usual to find better and sweeter grass. But about the middle of the morning a change came on-heavy dark clouds gathered, and the wind blew keenly, then the snow fell. Hour after hour it came down thick and fast, and the poor sheep wandered still farther away in their endeavour to gain some shelter.

Oh, how miserable they were! One little lamb laid down on the cold, wet snow, quite worn out, while the others stood near in despair. But help was coming. The shepherd had missed some of his flock, and was out on the hills looking after them. By-and-bye the sheep were startled by a sharp bark, and they all turned round to see Rover, the sheep dog, doing his best to tell his master that the stray sheep were all together at the bottom of the hill.

The shepherd came and lifted the little lamb in his arms, and carried it to the fold, while the sheep followed, carefully looked after by Rover, and soon all were safe in the fold once more.

Will they ever be so silly as to wander again? I do not know. But do you think you are ever like the sheep?

The Hand Bell-Ringers.

Did I ever tell you about it? It was one cold snowy evening just before Christmas. We were all sitting cosily round the fire, anxiously waiting for my brother Charlie, who had been away some months on his first voyage. He hoped to arrive one day soon, and we were full of expectation, while yet somewhat troubled at the stormy weather. At each sound of carriage wheels we sprang up and ran out, but were soon glad to gather round the fire again, for it was a bitterly cold

By-and-bye we heard sweet sounds, out on the frosty air, coming gradually nearer to the house. We opened the hall-door wide, thinking perhaps it was some trick of Charlie's. The lamp light fell on the snow, and showed us three men, each with four bells—two in each hand—from which they made delicious music. We were delighted. Even father and mother came to listen, and while we were all absorbed with the music, who should burst in upon us but Charlie himself! Such a hubbub there was, everybody talking at once! But dear father, ever thoughtful of others, had the ringers into the hall, and sent for a cup of hot coffee for each, which they were very glad

By the time they had finished the coffee, we were calmer, and Charlie insisted on having the performance over again, putting his hand in his pocket, with true sailor generosity, and paying them liberally. "I little thought to

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