

sight with sofa pillows, a down puff, and many other gifts. After the tree was cleared of its burden, grandma said, "The presents are beautiful, but not half so beautiful as you children seem to me."

"No," said John, "I think Grace and mamma are prettier than the down-puff even."

"So do I," said papa, and John thought mamma never looked quite so pretty as she did then.

"Now, mamma," said Mr. Donald, "it is early in the evening yet, I wish you would take mother's Bible with the pictures in it that I used to look at when I was a boy, and read about the coming of Christ."

The children gathered around their mother while she read them of the Babe in the manger and of the angels' song of peace. And then followed such a tender, loving prayer that the children never thought of that Christmas without thinking of their father's prayer.

A little later came Lucy to take them to their rooms. All the sleeping-rooms had bedsteads with high poosts and such great, deep feather beds! How far the children sank down in them, and what lovely dreams they had down in the feathers!

The Donald family all agreed that the best Christmas they ever had was at grandma's when she walked with crutches.

John B. Gough, the famous temperance lecturer, once told the following story of his experience. While on a tour he was introduced to a village audience in this wise by the worthy chairman:—"Ladies and gentlemen, I have the honor to introduce to you the distinguished lecturer, Mr. John B. Gough, who will address us on the subject of temperance. You know that temperance is thought to be a very dry subject; but to-night, as we listen to hour friend the orator from the hockan, we hope to have the miracle of Samson repeated, and to be refreshed with water from the jaw-bone of a huss!"

EVA'S CHRISTMAS LESSON.

Eva and Edith were twins, and their mother had promised to give them a Christmas party.

For days they discussed who should be invited. "We can have only twelve," said Eva. "We can't ask all the girls in our class. Of course we wouldn't ask the Long girls. They are too poor to go to a party, anyway."

"I should like to know why they are too poor," said Edith. "I should think it would be all the nicer to go to a party if you were poor, and didn't have any pretty things at home."

"You don't understand at all," You would have thought, from Eva's tone, that she was years older than her sister. "They have no nice clothes, and they would be ashamed. And there isn't room for them at the table, anyway."

"Then let some of the rich girls stay away," said Edith. "They can go to other parties, and have parties of their own. I think there ought to be room for the poor children, especially at Christmas. Please, Eva, let me not sit down at the table, 'cause the Long girls are dreadfully little, and we can put them both into my place."

Eva kissed her sister. "You are so queer," she said. "You always talk just like a Sunday-school class. We'll have to have the Long girls, after you've said all those solemn things about it. It wouldn't seem like keeping a real Christmas if we didn't."—Junior Builders.

When one of the Master's children is fully prepared for service, he calls him home where his servants shall serve Him day and night.

HOME DECORATIONS FOR CHRISTMAS.

By M. M. W.

Beneath the cedar and the pine,
And gleaming Christmas nois,
Our happy thoughts a wreath entwined,
Our solemn notes are joy.
For in the home are charm and mirth

And here was sadness folly—
Here in the dearest spot on earth,—
Beneath the Christmas holly.

The home should be given a real holiday air. Have every room resplendent with the sweet spicy odor of Christmas greens, and bright and joyous with holly. The Christmas colors are white, red and green. White is the emblem of holiness and purity; red symbolizes God's love, and green the bountifulness of God. Evergreen can always be used with pleasing effect in home or church decorations; some varieties are better adapted to this purpose than others. Of course no decorations are complete without the holly berries, since they are especially dedicated to Christmas; the berries of the mountain-ash and bitter-sweet can also be used effectively. In making wreaths and garlands the evergreen should be cut in small sprays, and the points of the sprays should lie in one direction, upward. Several shades of evergreen can be used in one piece with good effect. Everlasting and artificial flowers are nice used with the evergreen and helps to complete the color scheme. White lilies or paper white narcissus can be used thus with pleasing results. Wreaths made out of evergreen and brightened up with flowers or holly berries are nice placed here and there about the rooms and should be connected by ropes of evergreen. These wreaths can be made by mounting the evergreen on hoops that have been covered with green cambric; or if wide wreaths are desired they can be mounted on pasteboard foundations. A pretty decoration with evergreen can be made by taking palm leaf fans, cutting off the handles, then covering with evergreen and silver or gold stars tacked in the centre. These should be placed on the wall in the form of a frieze. All sorts of devices can be made out of evergreen by using perforated zinc for a ground work. Mottoes and greetings made out of evergreen are beautiful and appropriate, even if old. Cut the foundation for the letters out of cardboard and either sew or glue the evergreen on. These letters can be mounted on a light board covered with white paper and framed in with a border of evergreen, paper, flowers or holly.

THE BLESSED DAY.

Once more the blessed day is here,

Toward which long ages tended;

In whose most wondrous mystery

All prophecies were ended;

And at whose ever glad return

All Christian hearts with ardour burn.

Once more our salutations flow

While Christmas bells are pealing;

Once more before the altar-throne

Of Christ His own are kneeling.

And there, however far apart,

They reach each other, heart to heart.

And there to each He cometh down

As once from Heaven descending,

To seek in each a dwelling-place

And bring the joy unending;

To each He comes, to you and me,

And comes again in mystery.

O, happy heart that opens wide

This Lord and King receiving,

O, happy heart that holds Him fast,

Not faithless, but believing!

O, blessed bond they only know

Who with this common joy o'erflow!

—Harriett McEwen Kimball.

DRESSING THE TURKEY.

When purchasing have the butcher remove the leg sinews, as this renders the drumsticks tender and eatable. It can be done with a fork, but it is difficult. Put two tablespoonfuls of alcohol in a saucer, light and over it singe the bird. This is better than paper, as it does not blacken the skin.

Cut off the feet below the joints. After roasting the jagged bones can be broken off, leaving the leg ends white. Cut off the head as close to the bill as possible. Slit the neck skin along the backbone as far as the shoulders. Draw it back and pull out crop and windpipe; then cut off the neck close to the body. The long flap of skin is to be folded over to the back, leaving the breast unmarred.

Make a short slit just below the end of the breastbone. Insert two or more fingers and loosen all the organs from the sides of the cavity. Firmly grasp the gizzard—the largest organ—and put steadily outward. Cut round the vent, thus removing the intestines intact. Examine the cavity, making sure that all bits of lung are removed as well as the kidneys.

If properly done all that is now needed is to wipe out the cavity with a wet cloth. Cut out the oil sac just above the tail, wipe the skin well. Put a few spoonfuls of stuffing under the breast skin and fill the body cavity, drawing the edges of the latter together with a few stitches.

A trussing needle looks like a great darting needle about twelve inches long. Have ready some fine, stout twine in yard lengths. Draw the neck flay over the back and fasten with a stitch of the threaded needle. Turn the wings so that the tips are under the fowl.

Run the threaded needle straight through the wings and body, entering and coming out above the bone of the second joint; take a parallel return stitch, bringing the twine under the same bone. Pull the twine tight and tie, leaving ends three inches long hanging.

Push the legs against the body; take a second stitch, going over the thigh bones, in return run the needle under the bone. For the third stitch pass through the ends of the legs and return through the rump.

In the Christian Intelligence's department of "Questions and Answers," conducted by the Rev. W. H. Griffith Thomas, D.D., Principal of Wyldcliffe Hall, Oxford, occurs a distinction made by him in reply to an inquirer in regard to the Sabbath day, which cannot be too much emphasized, as follows: "You say that you are under a deep conviction that the seventh day is the Sabbath. It remains for you to prove which of our present days is the seventh day from Creation, a matter that is obviously beyond proof. The Sabbath is not the name of a day of the week, whether it be the first or the seventh, but of an institution of sacred rest, whenever it is observed. God has never commanded that the Sabbath should always be observed on a particular day of the week; the one thing needful is to keep one day in seven sacred unto the Lord. The fact of the Lord's resurrection and the universal custom of the Church for centuries show the spiritual appropriateness and practical convenience of the observation of what we now call the first day of the week. I would strongly advise you to return to this custom, and unite with all your fellow Christians in the observance of the Lord's Day. Keep ever in view that the Sabbath is not any particular day but a particular institution."

Any patriot can sing coming out of battle, but it takes the Christian to sing going into it.