



THE HOME-GUARD.

The feeling of Christmas is in the air. The children are looking eagerly forward to the happy time when they shall get the dolls and toys and sweets that Santa Claus brings at that happy season.

Dolly and Tommy Tomkins in our picture are showing how they will play at soldiering with some toys they got on their birthday. They have learned from their father, who is a captain of the volunteers, how to give the military salute. The father fondly calls them his little home-guard.

Isn't it a dreadful thing that in most countries in Europe all the boys are sent into the army, and many of them are killed in battle, or die of disease, or, worse still, become corrupt in their lives through the wicked war spirit. The Bible tells us that the day shall come when the nations shall learn war no more, but shall beat their swords into ploughshares and their spears into pruning-hooks. May God hasten the day.