

Young Friends' Review

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in the interests of the Society of Friends.

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Another Christmas is near at hand, and youth is beginning to look forward with impatient delight to the festive scenes and merry-making of that holiday time. What fun the boys and girls will have—skating, riding, romping—and in the evening by the bright and cheerful fireside the old house will ring with laughter. Games and amusements will be revived with zest, the memory of which had almost faded away. Harry and Libbie have not seen Johnie and Etta for a whole year. This Xmas they will be together and have the grandest time that ever was.

Sons and daughters away at school are beginning to realize that they never before loved home half so much as now, and the two weeks longer seems an interminable time before they

fall into the loving embrace of father and mother.

Young men and women, married and unmarried, engaged in their several vocations, will gather again it may be under the shelter of the old home, on the farm or in the city. No matter where, there is that longing to meet again and feel that kindly spirit of the family circle drawing round closer, closer, even closer.

And the fathers and mothers—what of them. None are more willing to receive; their's is an ever-welcome back. And strange would it be should patience and solicitude have no reward. Once more shall objects of their love be gathered together. The glistening eye and tender voice that welcomes us home betokens a joy unspeakable. They rejoice in the joy of their joy.

But alas! it is not always so. Here and there are the vacant places of loved ones, and Xmas has an additional meaning.

How many have to mourn the misfortune of their erring ones.

What a pang to those who see the good cheer brought to others and they themselves can have no share. Let us remember that to many a poor, sorrowing soul Christmas bears no healing balm. Kind hearts do often administer to the comfort of the needy, and gratitude in return does make a joyous Christmas; but many there are in the world poorly clad, ill-fed and wickedly influenced that are sometimes forgotten. Are there any of these we should remember? Can any kind word be said; any service performed? Are there any to us known whose burden we may lighten, into whose eyes we can put one flash of joy, into whose heart we may flash one ray of divine light, and make Christmas what it commemorates, a resurrection of Christ?

Let every boy and girl learn the lesson of doing good and contribute to the necessities and comfort of some poor unfortunate one. Let parents provide a way whereby their children may perform some kind office. And let us all remember to do something for those less fortunate than ourselves.

In the hope that social mingling may be blest and that the festivities of the occasion