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OUR FOREST CHILDREN

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TO THOSE WHO WILL INTEREST THEMSELVES IN THE WORK.

Christmas at the Shingwauk.

THOSE only who have passed a Christmas at the Shingwauk Home can appreciate the meaning of the above words; and we believe a certain thrill of pleasure runs through the veins of both young and old, red and white, whenever they look back to those wonderfully happy and jolly times which a Christmas at the Shingwauk always brings. Thirteen turkeys were enjoying themselves in their pen just before Christmas came; but now there are only three left. And what wonderful tables were those tables in the Shingwauk Dining Hall at one o'clock on Christmas day! No such tables are seen anywhere else—pyramids of good things, bridges of good things,—turkey, beef, plum-pudding, cakes, pies, fruit—all on the table at one time and all interspersed with sprigs of green, till scarcely a square inch of table cloth can be seen,—and then rained down over all a perfect thunder shower of candies, lumps of white sugar, raisins, nuts and Christmas cards! Girls and boys are all together for Christmas dinner. First, we get the girls in and dump them down on seats in every part of the room (if they took their own seats they would all huddle together like sheep), and then we let the great noisy crowd of boys in, and say, "Sit where you please." And then we tell them they can have two hours for dinner! Scarcely a boy had a wink

of sleep the night before, for Santa Claus was about at various times in the evening, and just before midnight he was through all the dormitories, and, disdaining to touch the dirty-looking stockings, threw avalanches of nuts, candies, marbles, woollen cuffs, potatoes, etc., all over the boys' beds and hammocks, making the little new boys jump up in terror and skedaddle for their lives. Then, above all the rumpus upstairs, were heard from the schoolroom the mellow tones of the organ, and sweet feminine voices singing the Christmas hymn. Some said it sounded like the angels. And then the Christmas Tree! That was on New Years' eve. No one ever saw such a Christmas Tree before, with its nearly five hundred lovely presents, dozens of pretty gold and silver paper ornaments, and dozens of bright tapers; and the children all stood round and sang the carol, "Gather around the Christmas Tree," and then the Shingwauk constables kept the crowd back while the presents were distributed—and it took two hours solid work to do it. Then there were games in the Dining hall and refreshments in the class room, and then all back to the school room for weighing and measuring. Joseph Soney took the first prize for height, having grown four inches; and James Sharpe took the first prize for weight, having increased eighteen pounds. It was very sweet, after all this excitement was over, to wend our way through the narrow track in the snow to our dear little chapel, decked in its garment of Christmas green, and there at 11.30 p.m., we all met for midnight service. A few words were spoken from the text, "I will give you rest," then we knelt for silent prayer, and then welcomed the new year with the