

having them with you for very many more Christmas Days.

Some dear old great-grandmothers seem made for pretty little lace fichus and caps. Other pretty gifts are silver-topped shopping bags, bureau silver, traveling rugs, satchel and shawl straps, as well as the easy chair, with book-rest and soft silken cushions.

FOR THOSE WHO HAVE SERVED YOU FAITHFULLY.

For the servants of the family provide gifts which will not in any way suggest work. Where money can be afforded it is almost always the best way of remembering those who have served faithfully; with it may go boxes of candy and pretty boxes of stationery. For the nurse a watch, if you feel that you can afford to be so generous, or some gift which shall appeal particularly to her. For the household where many servants are kept, and where there is a sitting-room reserved for their use, a Christmas present that will please all alike will be the addition to their room of a new picture, or a chair, or a table, a new carpet, if that is possible—no matter what, so that it is new, and not something which has done duty elsewhere.

FOR THOSE OUTSIDE OF YOUR OWN FAMILY.

It has always been customary in England to remember at Christmas time all the people with whom one has come in contact during the year; and do not forget, when administering your Christmas bounties, the sick in the hospitals. Send toys, books, fruit and scrapbooks to the children's wards and flowers and fruit, jellies and delicacies to those other invalids who are not too ill to appreciate them. To any sick people whom you may know let your gifts take the form of a surprise, something that shall for the moment make them forget that they have not been able to share in the Christmas shopping. Let your present go with the cheeriest of holiday greetings and tied up with the brightest of ribbons.

FOR THOSE YOU HAVE WITH YOU ALWAYS.

In your Christmas purchasing do not be tempted to forget those who, because of their poverty, are unable to do any shopping either for themselves or for others. Let your presents to them be of a substantial character—a ton of coal, some warm clothing, some money, a box of groceries, or a basket of Christmas marketing topped with a bunch of holly. And to the little children in whose homes Christmas is little more than a name send some of the many bright, new tin toys which are so inexpensive; some candy, some fruit, bright red woolen mittens and Tam o' Shaners, and, if you can afford it, some good stout shoes and warm stockings. Accompany your Christmas presents with some cheery Christmas greetings and some Christmas greens. Be very sure that this thoughtfulness will bring its own reward, and that in the years to come the memory of the Christmas when you gave most and received least will be the happiest of all memories to you, for "there is that scattereth, and yet increaseth; and there is that withholdeth more than is meet, but it tendeth to poverty."

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The Happiest Boy.

"Guess who was the happiest child I saw to-day?" asked papa, taking his own two little boys on his knees.

"Oh, who, papa?"

"But you must guess."

"Well," said Jim, slowly, "I guess it was a wick little boy, wif lots and lots of tandy and takes."

"I guess he was a pretty big boy," said Joe, who was always wishing he was not such a small boy; "and I guess he was riding a big, high bicycle."

"No," said papa. "He wasn't big, and of course he wasn't riding a bicycle. You have lost your guesses, so I'll have to tell you. There was a flock of sheep crossing the city to-day; and they must have come a long way, so dusty and thirsty were they. The



A COSY SPOT.

Interior of Room in the Home of E. E. Perley, Wolsley, Assa.

drover took them up, bleating and lolling out their tongues, to the great pump in Hamilton Court to water them. But one poor ewe was too tired to get to the trough, and fell down on the hot, dusty stones. Then I saw my little man, ragged and dirty and tousled, spring out from the crowd of urchins who were watching the drove, fill his hat and carry it—one, two, three—oh, as many as six times! to the poor suffering animal, until the creature was able to get up and go on with the rest."

"Did the sheep say 'Thank you!' papa?" asked Jim, gravely.

"I didn't hear it," answered papa. "But the little boy's face was shining like the sun, and I'm sure he knows what a blessed thing it is to help what needs helping."—Christian Observer.

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Earthquake-Proof Buildings.

The only buildings in the world which are earthquake proof are the Japanese pagodas. There are many which are 700 or 800 years old, and as solid as when first built. The reason lies in their construction. A pagoda is practically a framework of heavy timber which starts from a wide base, and is in itself a substantial structure, but is rendered still more

stable by a peculiar device. Inside the framework and suspended from the apex is a long, heavy beam of timber, two feet thick or more. This hangs from one end of the four sides. Four more heavy timbers, and if the pagoda be very lofty, still more timbers, are added to these. The whole forms an enormous pendulum, which reaches within six inches of the ground. When the shock of an earthquake rocks the pagoda, the pendulum swings in unison and keeps the centre of gravity always at the base of the framework. Consequently the equilibrium is never disturbed.

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