

## THE UPWARD LOOK

## A Christmas Thought

"When they saw the young child, they fell down and worshipped Him, and they presented unto Him gifts."—Matt. 2:11.

Whoever has heard about it must be interested in the Christmas Tree of Light in New York. One man, who had been very lonely once at Christmas in a strange land and who, ever after, thought of other lonely people at that time, originated and carried out the idea.

So this community tree was set up in the heart of Madison Square, in the heart of Greater New York. To the sound of Christmas chimes it was lighted for the waiting throngs. At the same time, hundreds or probably a thousand other trees, were lighted in other places, for the lonely, the foreigner, the poor, the outcast.

There is always singing. In one town the singers approach the Tree of Light by different streets, on their way having passed the hospitals and other institutions. One point is everywhere observed and that is, that all contributions for expenses must be anonymous. It would be impossible to say who it benefited most, the giver or the recipient, as all can share in the Christmas spirit of joy and friendliness and goodwill.

May all our "angelic gifts be given in the Christ-spirit. Now, at this time of the greatest crisis of our world's history, may we give as the thought of Him prompts. Just as far as we can, may we see that there may be no poor, of whom we may have any knowledge, without Christmas cheer. If we have not the wherewith to give to them and to our dear ones, and friends, which would He have us leave out?

Then there are always the lonely. Is there not one, at least, that we can think of that He would be glad to have us invite on that day of days? In case the money question is a very serious one, there are always some shut-ins in their own homes, or in institutions, who would welcome, so joyfully, a glad word of greeting.

So in every thought and deed at this time may we remember that Christmas Day is celebrated as His birthday. Most of all, may we renew our dedication of ourselves to Him. As the greatest gift in our possession may we consecrate ourselves to His service.—L. H. N.

## Christmas Thoughts and Suggestions

By "K. G. E." Compton, Co. Que.

WE live in troublesome and strenuous times, and the coming Christmas brings many problems, new and old. On every side we are confronted with some worthy cause that deserves our sympathies and help, financial and otherwise. There are many and homes. We find mourning and anxiety and trouble everywhere. But we must be brave and keep up a stout heart, if not a merry one. Our nation is passing through a grave crisis and sacrifices are being made every day. We must send our men to the front, we must help to care for those who are left behind, and we must follow our men with every comfort possible. They deserve the best and let us see to it that we do not fail them. Everyone knows what they need, but the special call seems to be for socks. This is an age of "give" and we must keep it up till freedom has been won. While we hope and pray for victory, we must work too. We have a powerful enemy, and it is going to take something more than "loyal talk" to defeat the Germans.

And while millions are suffering in Europe, let us not forget that there are many homes in our own land where there will be little "Xmas cheer" this year. The empty chair, the sorrowing wife and mother, and the high cost of living, are making life very hard for many this year. When we plan our Christmas gifts, let us not forget the orphan whose father fills a nameless grave "some where in France," or the mother who is sad and lonely because her boy has given his life that we should not be able to forget the neglecting our own loved ones. If our gifts are a little less expensive, just fill up the measure with more love and it more than balances and bring a greater blessing besides.

## Gifts Easily Made.

Many pretty and useful Christmas gifts may be made or fashioned in odd minutes. There are fancy collars, dust caps, boudoir caps, guest towels, crocheted yokes for underwear, and pretty modish crocheted bags. Also bags of every size and description, such as work bags, string bags and laundry bags made from pieces of linen or pretty cretonne.

A useful gift for the young house-keeper is a nice dust-rag bag, made of linen and filled with clean pieces of old muslin. The common dust-rag bag has an opening at one side to make access easy, and many have large patch pockets on both sides to hold bits of cambric, etc. Wash rags made of Turkish towelling, with a narrow edge or finish of crochet, using a coarse needle and coarse cotton, are acceptable gifts.

A prettier work bag may be made of fancy ribbon. Material required is about 20 inches of Japanese or Dresden ribbon, eight inches wide, a five inch sweet-grass round mat for the bottom, a strip of silk or velvet to face the top, also some narrow ribbon or fancy cord for draw strings. Sew the ends of your Dresden ribbon together, face the top with strip of bias velvet about two inches wide, stitch velvet to make space for draw strings, leaving a space at top for pull. Then shir the other edge of ribbon making it the size of sweet-grass mat, and with a coarse silk thread over sew the shirred edge of ribbon to the mat, a lining might be added if you wish to make the work bag stronger.

Nice bureau scarfs can be made of cretonne in soft shades and edged with narrow lace. Crochet lace is pretty. Numerous uses can be made of large mercerized handkerchiefs. They make good dust caps. One of the simplest methods is to draw a large circle inside the hem, and inside this circle stitch a strip of muslin with two rows of stitching to insert your elastic band in. The four corners of the handkerchief are turned upon the cap and fastened with very small buttons.

Any one who can crochet the simple knot stitch can fashion pretty boudoir caps. All that is required is some idea of the size you want your cap, a few balls of perfluted crochet cotton, fine thread, a piece of nice ribbon to finish the edge and make a bow or pompadour at one side, and a piece of this silk for lining. Begin to crochet in the centre and crochet round and round till you have the required size. Make a row of open work to run ribbon through and finish with any neat crochet edge.

## Have a Good Foundation Laid

Lydia Ludolph, Waterloo Co., Ont.

THIS "money and marriage" question is a very broad subject to discuss. I think under present conditions, considering the high cost of living, a man should have at least a thousand dollars before he should expect a girl to marry him. In days of our forefathers, a man with a thousand dollars was considered



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