

Ingle Nook

May this Christmas Day bring you all peace in your homes, good-will in your neighborhoods, joy in your hearts. And all these things prosperity cannot give nor "hard times" take away.

A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE.

Dear Chatterers:—

You have had our Christmas number ere this, but it is not yet too late to have another message reach you before Christmas Day.

Some of you are thinking that this year it will be anything but a Merry Christmas. It may be the first time you have been away from home at this season, and your hearts are sore with homesickness for familiar scenes and faces. It seems impossible to think enthusiastically about a day to be spent either among strangers or alone. Perhaps, this year, unlike other years, there is pitifully little to keep Christmas with. The frost has worked havoc with the crop, or the tightness of the money market has made it impossible to sell the yield that did turn out well. That will be the case in a good many western homes this season, and only those experiencing it will know just how hard it is to bear.

But this black background has one advantage; it makes an excellent foil for all the cheerfulness and courage and mirth that a merry heart can devise. The great regret in many homes will be that the children will be deprived of gifts and pleasures which they have been accustomed to receive. But they will not suffer as much as will the mother and father who find they cannot bestow those gifts. Overcome the difficulty by giving them yourself. For that one day give them all the time and attention they want, and give it in the way they want. Other days in the year mother is too busy in the house, and father spends all day in the field and barn, and the children must find their own amusement. But on Christmas Day let it be different. Play the games the children select—let your eyes be bandaged for "blind-man's-buff," hunt the festive slipper, play a star part in a wonderful menagerie, make shadow pictures, sing songs and tell stories. If there is no money to buy candy, make some taffy at home with the family's help. Most of it may get on their hands, faces and aprons, but that will not be bad for their infant digestions, and it will bring more joy to their hearts than a box of Huyler's finest chocolates.

In short give yourself—time, energy and love. Be a child with the children, for it is their day. Did He not come a little Child, knowing a child's griefs and joys, in whose name we keep this Day of all days of the year?

I cannot feel that it is inappropriate to wish every one of you, my paper friends, a happy joyful Christmas.

DAME DURDEN.

INGLE NOOK NEWS NOTES

Ferndale is the new member who sends us the poem "Autumn Cheer." She is one of our young girl members from whom we hope to hear often.

F. G. thinks that the Quiet Hour is well worth the price of the paper. There are many other readers who agree with her.

Mrs. Thomas in ordering patterns asks if we publish a monthly fashion sheet. I am sorry we have not got so far as that yet, but some day, perhaps—

Good papers for boys and girls are the Northern Messenger, Witness office, Montreal; Youth's Companion, Boston, Mass., which is \$1.75 and fifty cents postage to Canada; St. Nicholas, which I think is published by Harper Bros., New York. The first two are weeklies and the last a monthly.

CHRISTMAS TREES.

As this is about time for Christmas trees, perhaps some of the Ingle Nook readers would like to hear about the first one I had the privilege of seeing in the Northwest. It was in the year 1882 and in what is now the city of Regina. There was then but one church and the whole population congregated there for public worship on the Sabbath. There was held the first Sunday school, and a motley assemblage it was, of children from every quarter of the globe. The first Sunday school Christmas celebration was there, and it was decided to have a Christmas tree. I suppose when this decision was arrived at, there was no thought in the minds of the committee of management, of not being able to get a veritable evergreen tree. But so it was. Then the question arose as what could be substituted. Finally the question was settled. A poplar tree, leaves of course off and a number of industrious ladies covered limbs and branches with green tissue paper, fringed so as to imitate the green boughs of a spruce tree. One lady took upon herself to collect together and (as far as time and means would admit) train the promiscuous brains for recitations and music. They behaved beautifully, for when their work was done, Santa Claus was to appear. He was ushered in with ringing bells, and was very impartial for not many, if any, in the whole town but were favored with a gift, which ranged all the way from overalls for a bachelor to a calf for a young lady.

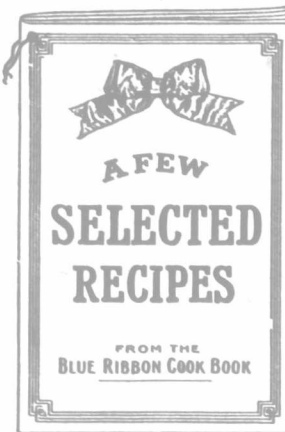
H. M. N.

WILL SOME OF THE ARTISTS ANSWER.

Dear Dame Durden:—What has become of the Literary Society? It seems to be dead or sleeping. Probably it will wake up now winter has come. I am greatly interested in drawing and oil-painting, and would like to hear from someone who has the same hobby, and who could give me some new ideas. What is good to clean brushes after oils?

ELSA BETTA.

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APPRECIATION OF THE QUIET HOUR.

Dear Dame Durden:—I, like many others, have long since been a silent reader of the Ingle Nook Chats, and even now I would rather read than write; but if every one were like that there would be no nice letters to read and no good recipes to try. I have tried ever so many of the recipes printed in these columns and they have all been splendid. The last one I tried was the recipe for meat sauce

sent by "M. M—G.", and it was lovely sure enough. It was just what I have been wanting all summer, but never took time to ask for it.

Would some one please send a recipe for Christmas cake, and be sure to state about how long it should bake?

And now, before I close, I want to tell you how Hope's letters have helped us this summer. We are living on a homestead, and there is no church or Sunday school near enough for us to go and we miss it very much. So every Sunday morning my husband reads the Quiet Hour, and there is always sure to be something that seems as though it was written just on purpose for us. One letter in particular seemed to be written just for me. I do not like living in Alberta, and I get so home-sick some times to go back to Washington. One week I had been alone a great deal and had been so home-sick that it seemed to me that I could not stay here, and on Sunday morning what should the message of the Quiet Hour be but to tell us to be patient and faithful and earnest in our prayers and we would receive our wish after a while. Well it did me so much good that I have not been so home-sick since. May God bless Hope for being so much help to others!

Hoping I have not written too long a letter, I send my best wishes to the Chatterers and Dame Durden.

G. M. L.

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE FASHIONS.

N.B.—Order by number and send 10 cents for each pattern to "Fashion Department, Farmer's Advocate, Winnipeg, Man." Allow from ten days to two weeks in which to fill order.



6001.—Ladies' Redingote, 6 sizes, 32 to 42 inches bust measure.



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