

Yuletide Babies.

(An Old English Christmas Custom.)

Yuletide babies! Yuletide babies!
Who will buy? Who will try?
Shap'd so neatly, bak'd so fealty!
Children sweets, buy and etc,
Buy and etc.

To you're playfres spread the joyful
cry!

Yuletide babies! Yuletide babies!
Tost for you—browne their hue!
'Twas no sloven watch'd the oven;
'Twas no knave, prone to save—
Prone to save—

Roll'd and cut these Christmasse cakes
for you!

Yuletide babies! Yuletide babies!
Would ye knowe what they shewe?
Mary Mother ('tis none other)
And that Love from above—
From above

Lowly laid in manger long agoe.

Yuletide babies! Yuletide babies!
As she stands, her two hands
(Joy'n'd in meeting) clasp her sweet-
ing,

Who at rest on her breast—
On her breast—

Throwes one arme from out His swad-
dling bands!

Yuletide babies! Yuletide babies!
Boy and girl, where's the churl
On this morning would be scorning
Nowel fare—but would share—
Were he childe of yeoman or or earle!
—Edith M. Thomas.

Have You Done Your Share?

When the Christmas pies are all baked and the turkey awaits in the pantry the offices of the hot oven on the morrow, when the tree is trimmed and the little stockings hung in a row and the children tucked into bed, sit down in the quiet and darkness, and take stock of yourself, or, rather, of your deeds, which are but the reflection of your character. You have done well by your own, you say, every little heart under your roof will be made happy on Christmas morning, the old folks will receive the things which are so comforting to age and will renew once again their youth in the joy of the children, the guest within thy gates and the servant in thy house will share in the bounty of your Christmas generosity. Even the woman who will come in to-morrow to help with the dinner, because you are kind and do not ask too much of the cook, will go away with a full basket and a lighter heart, for you have made it possible for her to make happy her

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little ones. You had a generous share in the Christmas offering to foreign missions and you spent hours and hours at the church, decorating for the children's festival. But if this is all you have done, you have not done enough. One poet has written that the purest form of unselfishness lies in the heart of the father and the mother. A cynic has said that the average mother is the most selfish being on earth, for her heart is drained of charity, mercy and pity in doing for her own. The cynic is wrong, since no statement is true unless it is wholly true; but there is a lesson in his words. If you have not gone out of your way to find the needy, if you have not sacrificed yourself, and, if need be, your own, bring a little Christmas sunshine into some darkened home, no

How to Help the 'Messenger.'

Do you know how you can help the publishers to make the 'Messenger' better and better, that you and all its many readers may find it more and more enjoyable? Just get more people to take it. If every 'Messenger' reader got JUST ONE NEW SUBSCRIBER within the next three months, think what an army of new readers that would make! Do not sit still and merely wish you could get a lot of new subscribers to join your favorite paper, but go to work and get one anyway. You like the 'Messenger.' Say so; tell your friends about it, and interest them in it. We will gladly send you sample copies to show them.

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matter how you have worn yourself in doing the things that came to your hand, you have not done enough.—'Home Herald.'

To the Christmas Cake.

From far and spicy islands,
From gentlest southern meads,
The ships of commerce swift and brave
Have waited on thy needs;
And haught that I was wishing
From twice ten thousand miles
Has waited for its coming,
Nor stopped for siren smiles.

The fragrant balm of Araby
Breathes forth within thy realm;
To bring thy dusty sweetness here,
Bold sailors grasped the helm
The pride of snow-white dairies
Its richest gold makes thine;
For thee, the grape and citron,
The product of the vine.

Behold the rites of measure!
The weal of cup, of spoon;
The ancient roll of beaten bowl,
Eve's hand had sounded soon;
Thus I, the race's daughter,
Obey the mothers' word,
To keep the time of agelong rhyme,
And stir as they have stirred.

Now see, thy plastic substance
Waits one more gift, the fire;
I kneel as prone as priest of old
To test thy last desire,
Oh, may there be, I swift decree,
Such slow and tender heat
As in my grandsire's oven brick
Once made thee dark and sweet!

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