

for children, because they bear the most resemblance to Him who was born on that day.

Every year, however, marks the passing of some of our Xmas customs—customs hallowed by time and not existing without a purpose. Many tend only to perpetuate the beautiful stories and ideals which gave birth to them. It is singular to note that the majority of the religious ceremonies have survived, while the others have sunk into oblivion.

In the United States and Canada, Christmas Day is considered as *the holiday* of the year. The day in reality lasts from midnight of Christmas even until such time as one retires the following night. Outside the home, everything is extraordinarily quiet in marked contrast to other holidays, but within the houses feasting and merrymaking is in evidence all day long. The joy which is everyone's on this day when the world was freed from the yoke of slavery, is enhanced by the presence of relatives and friends whom we see at no other time of the year.

It has been said that our Christmas festivals are being made too sordid by the number of useless and extravagant gifts exchanged, but in view of the increase of the last few years of gifts of a utilitarian nature, such an accusation is nonsense. This practice simply proves that although the method of showing good-will toward our fellow-creatures has changed, the spirit is still strong and my closing wish is that it may continue to thrive and become greater year by year.

A. GILLIGAN, '14.

