

## Advent.

Once as a Child He came in helpless guise,  
And the world worshipped at His manger bed;  
Once as a Prophet and Teacher sped  
His errand through the gardens of the wise;  
Once on the Cross He closed His dying eyes,  
A Victim for the living and the dead.  
Battle and question keen, and portent dread  
Have followed His Ascension to the skies.  
But He shall come again in robe of light,  
And now the Church her silver trumpet sounds,  
And trims her lamp of faith, and patient waits  
To see His foes, the faithless, turned in flight;  
To hear Him call from earth's remotest bounds,  
His own to enter through the pearly gates.

## The Advertising

of Hood's Sarsaparilla is always within the bounds of reason because it is true; it always appeals to the sober, common sense of thinking people because it is true; and it is always fully substantiated by endorsements which, in the financial world, would be accepted without a moment's hesitation.

Hood's PILLS cure liver ills, constipation, biliousness, jaundice, sick headache, indigestion.

## A Dream.

How many people have yearned for another Christmas number of the *Montreal Star*, one of those things of rarest beauty that turned the heads of old and young in other years? And it will be glad tidings in thousands upon thousands of homes that there is to be this year the grandest of all Christmas *Stars*, forty-four pages on satin paper, with five superb art supplements of bewitching beauty.

## Christian Year.

The circle of gospel events brought before us in the order of the Church year gives one by one those essential truths, in their proper bearing, that have come down from Apostolic days, as the heritage of God's people. In this we have set forth those simple facts on which great doctrines hinge, and holy principles on whose observance all depends. Thus the fast flowing months bring each its precious reminder in special lessons, sweet collects, or fitting devotions, of some great blessings given and of some special lines of duty that grateful hearts rejoice to be employed in, while their application to the trials and troubles of life helps us to bear up when disappointment meets us, and when the load of daily care weighs heavily on us. Surely, as the year grows older, the various sides of the Prayer Book teaching from the manger to the brightly shining cloud—yes, to the vision of enthroned glory, will help to open the heart and inspire the soul with the devout enthusiasm of a truly spiritual life; and when the eye has gazed upon this source of hope and joy, it can better see ahead the reign of truth and love so very far removed from present jarring strife, and from the tangled webs of more than human weaving.

Hood's Sarsaparilla has cured many afflicted with rheumatism, and we urge all who suffer from this disease to give this medicine a trial.

## The Man You Cannot Soil.

There are some books that every young person ought to read. One of them is Bunyan's "Pilgrim's Progress," which describes the Christian's journey from the City of Destruction to the Holy City. Those who have read it will never forget an incident that occurred when the two pilgrims, Christian and Hopeful, were with the shepherds on the Delectable Mountains.

They were led out to a spur of the mountains overlooking a valley in which they saw a man walking about, dressed in pure white raiment, while around him were gathered a number of bad men who were hurling mud and dirt at him; but, strange to say, the mud would not stick to his garments; it immediately dropped off, leaving them whiter and more glistening than before. They could not soil the man's raiment.

Now, the lesson is this: If we are true and up-

right, men may jeer at us, persecute us, fling all manner of mud at us, so to speak, but they cannot hurt our characters or soil our lives; they will only cause us to be more patient, more courageous, more Christ like. Did not our Lord's virtues shine out all the brighter because He was so basely treated by the Jews and Romans? How could He have shown His patience and bravery if He had not been insulted as He was?

Every time a good, true man has been maltreated, new brightness has been added to his character, until it has shone like burnished metal. Some people are so much afraid of being injured, as if every little bit of scandal or falsehood would soil them, would smirch their fair name. A truly upright person cannot be so easily hurt even in the opinion of his fellow-men, because, if his life has been honest, they will not believe a rumor against him without convincing proof. Those who are so constantly afraid of losing their good name usually have not very much of a good name to lose. Garments that are so easily soiled must have something in them that is close kin to the dirt.

Even Plato, who was a heathen, sometimes puts us Christians to shame, for when some one came to him and said that many persons were circulating evil rumors about him, he replied, "I must live so, then, that nobody will believe them." No, the genuine person, the person who is pure gold to the core, does not need to be constantly defending himself against evil reports, for his noble life will be his best self-defence.

Even if people can injure our reputations, they cannot injure our characters, if we keep them pure. No mud thrown at the real part of a good man can leave the least stain. Young people do well to remember that "a good name is rather to be chosen than great riches;" but that it is hard to get a good name without a good character to back it. Men look upon the good name; God looks upon the character. A good name that is not built upon good character will be very likely soon to topple to the ground, for its foundation stands on shifting sand.

## Temptation.

Remember that no human strength can keep you except by instant flight from all temptation—instantly turning the thoughts in another direction. No reasoning or resolution will stand. To turn away the eyes and thoughts is the only way.

If you have not been hitherto enabled to do this, you will find that in perfect chastity, of thought and body, there is indeed a strange power, rendering every act of the soul more healthy and spiritual, and giving a strength which otherwise is altogether unattainable. Spenser has set it forth perfectly under the image of the all-conquering Britomart. When I say 'no human strength can keep you, except,' I mean not that even by flight human strength can conquer without perpetual help. But God has appointed that this help shall be given to those 'who turn their eyes from beholding vanity,' nay, it is by this help that those eyes are turned. I can only say a word on the question of a friend to which this leads. I never met with but one book in my life that was clear on the subject of works and faith, and that book is the Bible. Read it only on this subject, and I think you will come to the conclusion that, though works are not the price of salvation, they are assuredly the way to it, and the only way. I do not mean the way in the sense in which Christ is the Way, but the way in the sense of the Strait Gate. For Christ the Door is not straight, and Christ the Way is not narrow. But the short of it is, Christ says, 'When ye have done all that is commanded you, then say we are unprofitable servants.' He does not say, 'Do nothing that is commanded you, and all is right, if you say you are unprofitable.' Read the sermon on the Mount. It is work, work, work, from beginning to end. And I believe all the divisions of Christians are caused by their hatred of the simple text, 'Whoso heareth my words and doeth them.'

Plain taking up of the hard, heavy cross is the last thing with them all. Strive always to do, acknowledge continually that it is Christ which worketh in you, both to will and do, and you will soon know the doctrine whether it be of God.—*John Ruskin.*

## Hints to Housekeepers.

**MILK TOAST.**—One pint of milk, one tablespoonful of corn starch, a pinch of salt, six slices of toasted bread. Wet the corn starch with a little cold milk, bring the remainder of the milk to the boiling-point, stir in the corn starch, butter, and salt, and stir until quite smooth. Dip each slice of toast in the mixture, lay in a deep dish, cover, and keep the dish over hot water until ready to serve.

**EGG TOAST.**—One egg, one cupful of milk, a pinch of salt; four or five slices of stale bread. Break the eggs into a soup-plate or other shallow dish, beat lightly, and add the milk and salt. Have a frying-pan hot and well buttered, dip a slice of bread in the egg mixture, fry brown on one side, then put a piece of butter on top of the slice, turn, and brown the other side. Serve hot with butter.

**HAMS.**—Before boiling a ham should be soaked for four or five hours in cold water. When it goes on the fire, put into a saucepan with it a handful of parsley, a dessertspoonful of celery-salt, a small bunch of herbs, and an onion about the size of a peach. Allow twenty minutes for each quarter of a pound. After the ham is taken out, the water in which it was boiled should be strained and set aside to make a foundation for soup. For mulligatawny, for instance, it is a capital beginning.

If vaseline or butter be applied to the skin immediately after a blow of any kind there will be no discoloration.

**VANITIES.**—Beat two eggs together very light, add one teaspoonful of salt with flour enough to roll thin. Take pieces of the dough the size of a hickory nut, roll as thin as paper; fry in hot lard.

The white of an egg will remove a fish bone from the throat if beaten and taken at once.

**DELICATE CAKE.**—Two cupfuls of white sugar, whites of four eggs, one-half cup of butter. Beat these well together. Add one cupful of milk, two and one-half cupfuls of flour into which one heaping teaspoonful of baking powder has been sifted. Flavour. You may use one cupful of cornstarch in place of the flour, and add half the beaten whites of eggs last.

**FIG LAYER CAKE.**—Cream one cup of butter; add one and a half cups of sugar gradually, beating all the while. Beat the yolks of three eggs light; add to the butter and sugar, with one teaspoonful of vanilla. Add half a cup of milk and three cups of pastry flour. Beat until smooth; then add the whites of the eggs, beaten to a stiff, dry froth, and two teaspoonfuls of baking powder. Pour in jelly cake tins and bake twenty-five minutes in a moderate oven. Make for the filling a boiled icing, to which add one cup of figs chopped fine. Ice the top of the cake and ornament with English walnuts.

**AT HOME AND ABROAD.**—Physicians, travellers, pioneers, settlers, invalids, and all classes of people of every degree, testify to the medicinal and tonic virtues of Burdock Blood Bitters, the most popular and effective medicine extant. It cures all diseases of the stomach, liver, bowels and blood.

**FOR SEVERE COLDS.**—*Gentlemen,*—I had a severe cold, for which I took Dr. Wood's Norway Pine Syrup. I find it an excellent remedy, giving prompt relief and pleasant to take. J. Paynter, Huntsville, Ont.

**THE MOST EXCELLENT REMEDY.**—*Dear Sirs,*—I have suffered greatly from constipation and indigestion, but by the use of B.B.B. I am now restored to health. I cannot praise Burdock Blood Bitters too highly; it is the most excellent remedy I ever used. Miss Agnes J. Lafonn, Hagersville, Ont.

—The Toronto Conservatory has been pleased to appoint Mr. Bert Kennedy as 'Teacher of Mandolin, Guitar and Banjo.' Mr. Kennedy is an experienced musician, and last season held a high reputation as a performer among admirers of these instruments, which are gaining popularity every year.