

THE

CANADIAN GEM

AND FAMILY VISITOR.

VOL. II.

TORONTO, OCTOBER, 1849.

No. X.

CHRISTMAS PRESENTS.

Continued from page 208.

"John is very late to-night," said the poor widow Elliott as she got up and went to the door to look out in the hope of seeing her boy. Supper had been ready for at least an hour, but she didn't feel like eating anything until John came home. Little Nelly had fallen asleep by the fire and was now snugly covered up in bed. As Mrs. Elliott opened the door, the cold air pressed in upon her bearing a heavy burden of snow. She shivered like one in a sudden ague fit, and shutting the door quickly murmured—

"My poor boy, it is a dreadful night for him to be out, and so thinly clad. I wonder why he stays so late away?"

The mother hardly uttered these words when the door was thrown open, and John entered with a hasty step bearing several packages in his arms, all covered with snow.

"There's your Christmas gift, mother," said he in a delighted tone; "and there's

Nelly's!" displaying at the same time three pair of shoes, a paper of sugar, another of tea, and another of rice."

Mrs. Elliott looked bewildered.

"Where did all these things come from John?" she asked in a trembling voice, for she was overcome with surprise and pleasure at this unexpected supply of articles so much needed.

John gave an artless relation of what had passed between him and the printer for whom he worked and added—

"I knew the number you wore and I thought I would guess at Nelly's size. If they don't fit the man says he will change them; and I'll go clear back to the store to-night so that she shall have her new shoes for Christmas. Won't she be glad! I wish she were awake."

"And the tea, sugar and rice, you bought with the half-dollar he gave you," said the mother.

"Yes," replied John; "I bought the tea and sugar for you. They're your Christmas gift from me. And the rice we'll have