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The most practical, sensible, economical Gift you can make to any friend or relative at a distance this Christmas is to send them the *Old Home Town Paper* every week throughout the New Year 1924. Your thoughtfulness and kindness will be appreciated each and every week, by anyone at a distance who is a former resident of East Lambton.

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The Guide-Advocate
WATFORD
"East Lambton's Newspaper"

Christmas Collars

By MARY GRAHAM BONNER
Copyright, 1921, Western Newspaper Union.



I LOVE him, I love him, I love him," Agnes Allen said. And as she was alone in her room, and as no one could hear her, naturally there was no answer to her statement which she had repeated several times.

She was speaking of George Farwell. George was so good looking with his wonderful blue eyes, his brown hair, his fine erect figure.

Wherever she saw men she thought how insignificant they looked beside George. She was glad that she thought that way. She hoped others thought that way about the men they cared for. Then everything would be so smooth and so simple.

She wanted everyone to like her George immensely. But it would be embarrassing if everyone thought just the same about him as she did.

The wedding was to be Christmas afternoon. Then they had planned to go to their own new little home which they had just finished furnishing and fixing up. They were going to have their own little Christmas tree there—quite by themselves, and their friends had left their wedding presents and their Christmas presents there, though almost all of the former they had seen, of course.

"Are you almost ready?" It was Mrs. Allen calling up the stairs.

"Almost, mother dear," she answered.

"You'll be late," her mother called.

"Till hurry," she said.

"Do you want any help?"

But she had taken longer than she had thought. Yes, if she didn't hurry she would be late! Still she would have George all her life now. How wonderful it would be! She wondered if that was why brides were so often late because they felt they had so much time!

It was a gloriously happy thought to realize how much time she had.

She was only ten minutes late. The few friends were at the Christmas day wedding. And her bouquet was of holly and mistletoe. She had always said she would love to have such a wedding bouquet. It would be so merry and Christmasy and such a happy, gay kind of a bouquet.

George had consented of course. He agreed to everything she said, because he loved her so, and she was so fair with him, too, because she loved him so!

The ceremony was over. They drove away in a low sleigh with jingling bells to the small house. There, by themselves, they opened presents. What a glorious time they had.

And she had a little surprise for him. Just a little bit of a surprise. But she knew he would like it.

"Open that box, there, George," she said.

He opened it.

And looked at some collars, many, many collars, all much too big for him.

"When I was buying my wedding clothes in town that time, George,

I remembered that you'd spoken of a wonderful kind of collar you liked. I remembered the name too. I was a little puzzled when the man asked me your size. I told him though that as long as he had the right kind the size didn't make any difference. When he asked me if you were big or small I told him you were big of course!

"Why, George, what is the matter? Won't they fit you? Is the size so important?"

"My darling little girl," he laughed, "what does it matter what the size

is. That is—it does matter about wearing them I'm afraid, my love. But to think you thought of me even when you were getting the wedding fineries and remembered the name of the cellar.

"They're my Christmas collars," he exclaimed, "and I'll put them away in the box with the Christmas bouquet we're going to save. Such a Christmas gift from a dear little bride should never be mangled by any laundry!"

"What a silly I am," she laughed gaily.

"But such an adorable silly," George answered as he kissed her.

BELIEFS OF THE PEASANTS

Odd Christmas Superstitions Handed Down From Past Ages to the Ignorant Europeans.

THE peasantry of Europe have had certain Christmas superstitions handed down to them from past ages. Just how far these simple folk can be fooled is to be wondered.

If the light is let go out on Christmas morning, you will see spirits.

If you are born at sermon time Christmas eve, some one in the house will die within the year.

If you steal hay the night before Christmas, and give the cattle some, they will thrive and you will not be caught in any future thefts.

If you eat a raw egg, fasting on Christmas morn, you can carry heavy weights. It is unlucky to carry anything from the house on Christmas morning until something has been brought in.

It is unlucky to give a neighbor a live coal to kindle a fire with on Christmas morning.

If the fire burns brightly on Christmas morning, it betokens prosperity during the year; if it smolders, adversity.

If a dog howls the night before Christmas, it will go mad within the year.

If you steal anything at Christmas without being caught, you can steal safely for a year.

On Christmas eve thrash the garden with a flail, with only your shirt on, and the grass will grow well next year.

The wet strawbands around the orchard trees on Christmas eve and it will make them fruitful.

On Christmas eve put a stone on every tree, and they will bear the more.

Beat the trees on Christmas night, and they will bear the more.

If after a Christmas dinner you shake out the tablecloth over the bare ground under the open sky, crumb-worm will grow on the spot.

If on Christmas day or eve, you hang a washcloth out on the hedge, and then groom the horses with it, they will grow fat.

As often as the cock crows on Christmas eve, the quarter of corn will be as dear.

If you burn elder on Christmas eve, you will have revealed to you all the witches and sorcerers of the neighborhood.

Cookie Rocks.
One and one-half cupfuls of sugar, one-half cupful of butter; cream. Add three eggs well beaten, three cupfuls of flour, one teaspoonful of soda in a tablespoonful of hot water, one pound of dates cut in small pieces, three-quarters pound of shelled walnuts (one and a half pounds in shell), one teaspoonful of cinnamon, one-half teaspoonful of allspice. Break the nuts in large pieces and cut the dates about the size of raisins. Drop this stiff dough from a spoon on buttered tins in the size of walnuts. Bake in a slow oven.

MERELY POSTPONED
Frank: So you didn't manage to catch Ethel under the mistletoe?
Jack: That's all right. I'm going to take her for a sleigh-ride tonight.

The Indian's Vigil.
In a book of sketches of upper Canada, a pretty incident is cited of the writer meeting an Indian at midnight, on Christmas Eve, during a beautiful moonlight, cautiously creeping along, and beckoning him to silence. In answer to an inquiry the Indian said: "Me watch to see the deer kneel; this is Christmas night, and all the deer fall upon their knees to the Great Spirit and look up."

AVOID CHRISTMAS TREE FIRE

Utmost Care Should Be Used in Trimming, Thus Preventing Fatalities in the Homes.



PEOPLLE cannot be too careful in guarding against fire when trimming a Christmas tree, says a correspondent in *Good Housekeeping*.

There have been scores of Christmas tree fatalities in homes and in Sunday schools which a little care might have prevented. The writer once set a tree in a blaze, consuming nearly half of it, tinsel ornaments going with the green branches. A tiny candle had been wired too high, and it took only a few minutes of its brisk heat to char a branch above it and start a flame. A thick portiere was torn from its pole and thrown over the blaze. If it had not been at hand the light window curtains would have caught fire in another minute. Since that Christmas our tree has always been placed in the center of the room, and we have eschewed cotton wool, tissue-paper angels, and celluloid ornaments. First of all, we wire each candle securely in place at the furthest end of a branch which has nothing above it, either fir tree or trimming. Then as the tree is denuded we watch carefully the fast-disappearing candles. Sometimes one of them, nearly burned down, will topple over or be merely a spark of flame, but near to something inflammable and be a menace.

GOOD TURNS ON CHRISTMAS

Chance for All to Aid the Friendless in Having Happy Yuletide Season.

REAL purveyors of Christmas cheer may often find a market for their precious wares outside the pale of charity, for all homeless people are not necessarily poor, and neither are all childless homes necessarily unhappy. Housekeepers who are short on homes may combine these two lackings and make Christmas day a merry delight for the grown-ups in spite of these unfortunate conditions.

There is always something peculiarly pitiable in the idea of any one "flocking alone" which should appeal to the home-maker without a family, so that this should be the occasion for her to gather in all the bachelor maids and homeless men of her acquaintance and give them a joyful opportunity to "flock together." Even the Scrooges, if she knows any, should be rescued from their lonely hovels of gruel and persuaded to open their shut-up hearts and wear them outside for general inspection, as Dickens says, "For Christmas daws to peck at." Therefore, collect six or eight of these birds of a feather who are destitute of near-by kith and kin and make your Christmas feast a center of good cheer for all the charming solitaires you are able to draw within its radius.—*Woman's Home Companion.*

Good Year for Violets.
Sweet peas have been forced for the Christmas market only for many years past. They must be started blooming before the cold weather begins. Then they will bloom all winter. Daffodils do not get in until February, but almost all the rest of the spring flowers, hyacinths, narcissuses, bavardias, and so on, are on the Christmas counters. Easter lilies, too, though rather cold and white for Christmas, are sold. Violets, are fine this winter, deeply, darkly, beautifully blue. Some magnonette now comes in enormous sprays. There are carnations but the bright red Christmas carnation is the favorite. Holly comes from the hills of Maryland and the south. The wild holly supplies the market and there has never seemed to be any perceptible diminution of the supply. Great quantities of it are purchased by all sorts of dealers, who decorate their stores with it and send out a sprig attached to every Christmas parcel.

SAD FATE
Wooden Soldier: After faithful service in the nursery for a year, I will be cast aside for a new toy this Christmas.



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