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Ye who have scorned each other, Or injured friend or brother, In this fast-fading year; Ye who by word or deed Have made a kind heart bleed, Come, gather here! Let sinned against and sinning Forget their strife's beginning, And join in friendship now; Be links no longer broken, Be sweet forgiveness spoken, Under the helly bough.

-Charles Mackag.

### A CHRISTMAS CAROL.

Listen: the bells in the steeples
In jubilant gladness ring
To welcome the coming of Christmas
And the birthday of the King.
Who was born in the lowly manger of Bethlehem long ago,
When the song of the herald angels
Was sung to the world below.

Thou hast clad thyself in raiment
Of spotless white, O earth,
Like a bride on her marriage morning,
To colebrate Christ's birth.
O, were our lives as spotless,
Our hands unstained with sin,
And the latch of each heart were lifted
To let the Christ-Child in.

Bring of thy pino and holly,
O carth, this Christmas Day,
And wreath in their green the altar
Whereon our gifts we lay;
Gifts of most grateful homage
Laid low at the feet of the King
Who leans from His throne to listen
To the sound of our worshipping.

Bring to the dear Lord's altar
The soul's white flowers to-day.
Let the rose of thy love shed incense
Sweet as the breath of May.
Let the lily of faith eternal
Lift its cups of myrrh to Him
Whose love is the star that leads us
Through wave that are dark or disc Through ways that are dark or dim.

O, earth, send back to Heaven
The grand and the glorious strain
That startled the wondering shepherds.
On far Judeas plain.
Glory to God in the highest,—
Sing it again and again,—
On earth be peace, on earth be peace,
Good will, good will to men.
In Dec

Peace,

-EBEN E. REXYORD,

In December Ladies' Home Journal.

### CHRISTMAS PRESENTS.

Christmas is the festival of the year, and churlish indeed are they who do not find pleasure in the glow and brightness of its manifold enjoyments. It is pre-eminently the one day of the year when young and old meet together on an equal plane. The pains and achings of old age are forgotten in the joyousness of the day, and Tiny Tims are everywhere among the happiest of God's own children. Depressed in spirits, indeed, must be that person who cannot be happy on this festival day of all the world! Wherever civilization extends, there mixth and good cheer reign suprame, and if ever civilization extends, there mirth and good cheer reign supreme, and if it is winter outside it is summer inside the home and within the hearts of it is winter outside it is summer inside the home and within the hearts of all. Innocent joy and exultation triumphs over all, and hearts old with years and burdens are made again young and light by the air of sociability that pervades everything. While to all of us Christmas has its charms, its significances and its pleasures, it is essentially the feast of the children. Their young hearts long for its coming, while their little feet keep time to its mirth and music. The mysteries that Philosophy and Religion have unravelled as bearing upon the outward observance of the day have no meaning to the children. They know not of them. Enough for them to believe in the reality of the Christ-child, in the merry-eyed and white-beard patron saint that comes to them arm-laden with gifts from fairyland; enough for them to hear the jingle of the reindeer bells, to picture the shadow of Santa Claus, as they lie half awake and half dreaming, flit across their cosy Santa Claus, as they lie half awake and half dreaming, flit across their cosy Santa Claus, as they he half awake and half dreaming, hit across their cosy little room, and then lise in the morning to see the gifts that love and midnight brought them. Happy indeed is that childish faith! For the children first, and then for ourselves, let Christmas ever be remembered in our homes. Let the bells ring, the yule-log blaze and crackle on the hearth, and the helly gleam on the wall. Weary centuries have come and gone since the star looked down on the plains of Bethlehem, empires have passed away, suns have risen and set, monarchs and monarchies have lived and crumbled to dust, but the carth is still young, and love and laughter are still left us. Let us recognize all the customs appropriate to the day, and Let us recognize all the customs appropriate to the day, and still left us. with present, feast and carol impress it upon the minds of our children so that it may pass down from generation to generation to bless the children of our children, and those that come after them .-- December Ladies' Home Journal.

## SELF-DENIAL.

A flippant speaker on a recent public occasion remarked that if Christian teachers would dwell more upon the love of the great father to his children, and less upon the necessity for self-denial, they might make more converts to their creed.

It seems to us that a creed in which personal self-denial did not have a