

CHRISTMAS.

CHRISTMAS is coming, and with it the spirit of kindness and good-will that always makes the Christmas season such a joyful one. Everybody is thinking of everybody else, and forgetting all about themselves. Why cannot we do this all the year round, and so have Christmas, or, at least, the Christmas spirit, all the time?

We take for granted that most of you are busy now getting ready for Christmas Day, racking your brains to think of what you shall give to each other, and how many surprises you can make. Of all times in the year, there are none more full of delightful mysteries and secrets than Christmas time. And we believe there are none more talked about and looked forward to by the young people. Sometimes we feel afraid, yes, very much afraid, that all the excitement and preparation of the season will draw the thoughts of everybody, old and young, from the great event we celebrate on Christmas Day, the coming of Jesus into our poor, lost world. We have a good many reasons for feeling so. One is that we remember, when we were children ourselves, how disinclined we were to go to church on Christmas Day; and, when there, how full our minds were of the presents we had given and received, and how hard we found it to fix our minds on the Services. We knew and we felt, even as children, that thoughts of other things had crowded out thoughts about Jesus.

Now, let us all try this year not only to think only of our friends and parents, brothers and sisters, in our Christmas preparations, but let us also think of Jesus, our best Friend. He is coming! Let each one of us ask, "What can I do to welcome Him? How can I really please Him on Christmas morning?" Think about it, and pray about it, and see, if, when Christmas Day arrives, while you have not forgotten any one else, you have not, at the same time, put aside the very best gift of all for Him. Perhaps it may be something that you cannot speak about to your dearest earthly friend; something that only Jesus will understand; a little secret between you and Him. But it will be all the sweeter for that. No gift that you make will bring you greater joy. The moment that you give it to Him and receive His thanks will be the sweetest spot in all your Christmas. You will never forget it.—*Parish Visitor.*



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