[Dec. 26, 1889,

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Dec. [26, 1889]

simply many are content, but they can be used with other things with great effect as many do not seem to know. The stiffness of evergreens should be toned down with sprays of English ivy, laurel, and hollies. The common box, both green and varigated, is a pretty foliage, and the lines of the yel low honeysuckle are extremely artistic when combined with evergreen. The lasting properties of every foliage is of the first consideration, and beyond all question ivy and holly are best after evergreen. The cream-coloured hollies are handsomer than the red, and the strawberry evergreen, with its handsome clusters of fruit, are very showy, particularly when used with red holly. Of all laurels, the myrtle-leaved Portugal laurel is most desirable ; and of ivies every variety is needed. Periwinkles are suited for church decorations, and their slender shoots present a pleasing contrast to other greens. Stray pieces of fir twigs can be appropriated, and with ivy are beautiful.

After the green foliage, flowers come next in importance, and Japanese chrysanthemums are first choice. They are easily worked into designs and are very effective in their multiplicity of colours. Camellias are valuable, but each flower should be wired to prevent the petal from dropping. Trampet lilies, white hyancinths (Roman), and white and red primroses are the best flowers to secure for this purpose.

The evergreens should be first arranged upon the walls and about columns and gas brackets. The flowers can be placed with greater effect and economy if this is done. Evergreens should be that the day comes-and is kept, too, with all due made into wreaths, and several sizes should be prepared. In making them only small pieces of evergreen should be used. It requires more time, but the added beauty will repay the trouble. A few slender twigs of ivy should be worked in to warm good-will to man such as that of which the relieve the severe uniformity and to make trailing storied angel sang; a good-will which makes us lines of green on the wall. Long ropes of evergreen should be tied, and here again should be used only the smaller pieces. Wreaths and ropes should be made carefully, and the strings employed ought if we have one; a good-will which sharpens our to be of a dark, strong material. When the long needles, empties our larders, opens our purses, and ropes of evergreen are finished they can be used in brings cordial words and kind wishes to our lips; a variety of ways, some in straight lines, others a good-will which goes out even to those in the looped up or in circles. A fine wire is useful in white and silent cities of the dead, and lays fresh connection with the string when loops are to be wreaths of Christmas green above the snow upon arranged. Ivy wreaths made with small sprigs of their graves. holly as ornamentation should be tied on wire,

Slender sticks, painted green, should be prepared, before, it seems to us necessary to make the earth for they can be used to advantage, particularly teem with happiness. And not only do they go on where it is not desirable to drive nails into the wall. journeys to old homes, or receive with all ceremony Impromptu hooks can be made of stout wire, and of welcome those who come journeying to them, these can be adjusted to walls on small, long but they are admitted to all the tempting stir of screws. Where there are recesses to be filled, light the kitchen in the preparation of the substantial indeed—if by general consent gifts of any great designs in wood or wire should be made to fit into cheer, they are initiated, to the delight of their money value should be reserved for their own occathem, and these can do service from year to year. Columns are easy to decorate, and because they are allowed to expect sweet accumulations of the secret manufocture of gifts, into the secret manufocture of gifts, into the secret manufocture of gifts, thing outside of the limits of good taste to give any of the secret manufocture of gifts, thing outside of the limits of good taste to give any of the secret manufocture of gifts, thing outside of the limits of good taste to give any of the secret manufocture of gifts, thing outside of the limits of good taste to give any of the secret manufocture of gifts, the secret manufocture of g are easy they are made to look very clumsy. The height of a column should be carefully measured, and the rope of evergreen should be fastened at the base first and then greducted so that the numer and base first, and then graduated so that the upper end shall be much the lighter. When securely fastened, some trailing shoots of ivy, with small foliage, should be suspended around the top in a graceful, careless way, and some shoots of langel should be and to draw possible heatman the condition of the careless way, and some shoots of laurel should be and to draw parallels between the condition of the put about the base in an upright position. Gas fortunate and of the unfortunate that shall move brought happiness and to others misfortune, will brackets are easily decorated with long sprays of the little souls to compassion and to its expression be added to those which have passed before it. ivy, intermingled with small shoots of a brighter and action. Stories of the homeless children and Many will during the present month sit in retrocolor, varigated holly, for instance. Ivy resists of the desolate wanderers of great cities are told to spective thoughts over the events which have heat better than any other green, and it is used them, and they are given the turkey or the goose marked the year in their lives. for pendants above the burners. In the chancel, or the occasional mince pie to take to families about To the young the years speed not fast enough; as along the galleries, wreaths composed of green them where there are children who would other to the old they are not too short. The young

and if chrysthanthemums are used with them they are very beautiful. The pulpit requires more ivy and flowers and no of the nature of covetousness or the sense of acqui-

the way of decoration that the eye is oppressed. son of its excess.

Beauty in detail and beauty in outlines can be secured if enough interest is taken in the work to general acceptance of an unwritten law, to the givstudy it before it is undertaken. The idea of deco- ing of Christmas gifts involving only a very moderration should be to combine harmony and light. ate expenditure, then the less wealthy, and those ness, so that the eye shall rejoice in the colors to whom the giving here means the going without introduced into the otherwise plain interior familiar to congregations; thus is true decoration achieved.

CHRISTMAS GIVING.

Every time that the great festival of Christmas dawns upon the earth it brings with it certain reflections, or rather emotions, that seem to be as

much a part of its atmosphere as the frosty sky and keen snow scents which in northern latitudes belong to it, and which we most frequently associate with our thought of Christmas, in spite of the fact state-in the tropical and semi-tropical latitudes, where frosty weather is unknown.

The chief of these emotions proper to the Christ mas season is the consciousness of a great and desire everyone's happiness, and inclines us to do being we feel almost reconciled to our dearest foe,

This good-will manifests itself especially in relasince they cannot be kept in shape otherwise. tion to children, for whom at this time, if never

It is surely a pity that the pure joyousness of such a day should be marred by anything partaking

evergreens. Slender shoots of varigated ivy and sition; but as that would seem to be counter-Roman hyacinths are the most choice decorations, balanced by the delight of giving, on the general and if possible to secure a vase filled with maiden- average, it is only just to leave it out of sight. hair fern the effect will be artistic and beautiful. What is absolutely to be regretted about the man-In decorating a church the shape and size ner of celebrating the day is that the habit of givshould be first considered, and then the effects of ing to the children has become such a prodigal one designs should be tried. A great deal depends that it has increased the quality and cost of gifts to upon the arrangement of decorations, so that a low those who are not children, till the custom is likely building shall not be made to appear lower, or a to become a burden, if it has not already become high one higher. Nor should there be so much in one, and possibly to cease altogether by mere rea-

> If the very wealthy limited themselves, by the there, would be able to give and not be pinched in the purse for a period of weeks and months after. ward. It is true that Christmas-time affords opportunity and excuse to the very wealthy to make gifts that it seems to them they cannot make guite with delicacy at other times. But to those who

truly wish to do generous things, other times and seasons can be made propitious with a little care and ingenuity. For one absolutely needs the Christmas-tide in order to make acceptable the gift of those who can hardly afford to give at all; but the very wealthy, of sufficiently friendly footing to give gifts at Christmas or any other time, are so indisputably superior in the point of ability to give, that rivalry on that point is not to be thought of; the giving may really take place at any time without reference to a general custom or any especial season of the year, and acceptance becomes as graceful as bestowing, it being taken for granted that the receiver, in accepting in such cases, renders as great a favor to the giver as the giver renall in our power to achieve it, so that for the time ders to the receiver-renders it in affording the other the chance to enjoy the pleasure of bestowal and the gratification belonging to the doing of good deeds.

> When it shall be made a general custom to give only inexpensive gifts at Ohristmas-time, a great and needed reform will have been wrought, and one that will bring more comfort to many people than a wilderness of gifts can ever do. A book that costs a dollar and a quarter is as full of the spirit of the day as a check many times its worth, a diamond, a trinket, or a possession of any sort ; a photograph, a drawing, a bunch of flowers, a bit of handiwork, says all that any prodigality can say. It would be well, then, for a large number of people of only average means-the majority of givers,

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onge-street.

ers, Spirits, and esale and retail. support, and flowers should be worked into them of food. with careful effect.

THE CLOSING OF THE YEAR.

A few more days and the year which to some has

and varigated foliage should be twined about each wise go without dainties certainly, to say nothing man employs the closing of one year in preparing No other festival thus carries with it quite such of past years, and contemplates the mysteries of the Laurel shoots, fixed to sticks fastened here and a spirit of joyousness, apart from its own inherent future. In the lives of many the year has proved there to the rails, are newer and prettier than the reason for joyousness. The gaiety of the Fourth of a memorable one, while in those of others it has rope of evergreen fastened usually on the railing. July is that of a brief noise and excitement ; the been marked with no special events. The hopes The same plan may be utilized at the windows and gaiety of Thanksgiving is confined to one day only, of one have reached fruition, the aspirations of chrysthanthemums be worked into the ropes and but the gladness of Christmas begins in the sweet another have fallen short of success. And thus wreaths. Flowers should be liberally used along and hidden preparations for the gifts of others the last day of December will bring alike pleasant the gallery and on the pulpit. Wreaths should be weeks beforehand and does not end with the giving and sad memories. There is a lesson to be drawn used on the latter, made of uniform size and of the of the gifts; for the satisfaction of pleasant duty from the close of every year that may well teach us smallest foliage. White flowers in clusters, such more than well done remains long afterward, and of the opening of the new one. It is by deriving as Roman hyacinths, are handsomest, but if these the gratification from the gifts received is an affair profit from the past that we can improve the cannot be had the cream-colored holly berries will of permanence, an affair of far more permanence fature. If we have undertaken enterprises during be attractive. Fir clusters are showy in wreaths, than the season of Ohristmas holidays that follows the present year that have proved unsuccessful, we

