INTERNATIONAL LESSON NO. XIII. DECABER 27, 1908.

Review.—Read Psalm 103; 1-2.

Introduction.—The lessons this quarter mark the time between the bringing in of the ark to Jerusalam under David, and the dedication of the temple. In the history of David and his sons we see the great truth emplasized that "whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap." During the quarter God's love and mercy have been extolled and we have seen the joy; that comes through forgiveness.

Summary,—Lesson I. Topic: Bringing the ark to Jerusalem. The ark was a small chest; the lid was called the mercy seat. It was a sign of the divine presence; for seventy years it had lain in neglect. David now de-cides to bring it into Jerusalem; proper reverence is not shown; Uzzah dies for touching it; David is dis-pleased; the ark is left at the house pleased; the ark is left at the house of Obed-edom; three months later David takes the ark and brings it in-to Jerusalem: the priests and Le-vites and chief men are called together; a great procession is formed; sacrifices are frequently offered; trere is music and singing. It was the greatest day of David's life.

II. Topic. God's promises to David. David desires to build a house for David desires to build a house for the Lord. The ark was on Mt. Zion, and David was living comfortably in his own house of cedar: David spoke to Nathan the prophet about his de-sire, and Nathan at once encouraged him to proposed with the building of him to proceed with the building. God spoke to Nathan, informing that David's desire could not be granted; he had been a man of war. and there was still much to do in es tablishing the kindgom, He could prepare the material, but his son should build the house. The Lord said hat He would establish David's

III Topic. David praying for forgiveness. When David was about fifty years of age he committed two great sins. About a year afterwards the Lord sent Nathan, the prophet, to him to show him his great wicked-ness; the king's heart was tender; he saw his sin and mourned exceeding-ly. This pealm shows the depth of his repentance. He pleads for forgive-ness, and that his transgressions may be blotted out, and that he may be washed and cleansed. David has great confidence in God, and prays earnestly that the Lord would

to the forgiveness that was grant- Then again how wonderful it was ed David, after he had committed that Solemon, the son of Bath Sheba, for merev :

holy course are now being seen; David's sons were wicked; Absalom David's sons were wicked; Absalom was a wicked, proud young man; he was renowned for his beauty; he laid a plot to overthrow the government and seize the kingdom; he stole the hearts of the people by his subtlety; he then lied to his father and went to Hebron and set up a government of his own; he soon started with an army towards Jerusalem. David fled from the city and crossed over Jordan and estab-lished headquarters at Mahanalm. Topic. Putting down the re-

bellion. When David fled from Jerusalem he refused to take the ark
with him; Absalom and his army
marching from Hebron entered
Jerusalem the same day; Absalom
at first intended to follow David
Immediately and evertake his father white he was weary, but he fin-ally decided to take more time and An easily made, yet effective de-

VII. Topic: Praise and thanksgiving for God's goodness. This is one of the psalms supposed to have been written by David during the latter part of his life. It contains two figures: 1. The Shepherd and his sheep. 2. The Host and his guest. Christ is the good Shepherd; His people are the sheep; the divine S spherd gives soul rest, soul satisfaction and soul liberty. David satisfaction and soul liberty. David is abound a tly supplied so that his cup runneth over. thover.

VIII T. pic: The woes of intemperance. The wise man writes of the curse of strong drink, This lesson refers to the personal experiences of the drunkard as well as to the influence of strong drink in general. Strong drink causes poverty; it mocks people; destroys happiness; brings sorrow, contention, wounds, reduces of eyes; by it many are deceived; it rains character and destroys the prospects of eternal life. We she all scarge to generate greater from We she uid s operate ourselves from wineb bbers; should not be found among rioters or gluttons; the drunkard and the glutton shall come to poverty; the man who is "drowsy"

to regs.
The Solomon's duties outcomes to regs.

IN. The Solomon's duties outlined. After David's victory over Absel in 'e returned to Jerasalem,' he was now growing old, and a new king, must be selected: David's choice was his son Solomon; the princes of Israel were assembled and David commissioned his son to perform the great work of building a house for the Lord; David had many sons, but among them all Solomon had been chosen for the throne; David charges, Silomon to know God and charges S lomen to k ow God and serve Him perfectly.

X T we Sol mon's request and

X Tub Solumn's request and God's reply. Soon after Solomon became king a assembled the people at Gibeen; the Lord appeared to Solomon and asked in what he desired most; become replied that because he was ying and inexperienced and the kined or was great, he most of

in order that he might guide the aftains fithe nation aright. The Lord was pleased with this request, and not oly give him wisdom, but also gave him robos and himor in abundance. dedication of the temple. As soon as Solomon was made king he began to prepare for the building of the temple; the material was nearly at ready; the temple was to be a large building surrounced with several courts, and was to contain many articles of furniture. When it was finally built the ark was brought in and the house was dedicated; Solomon offered the dedicatory prayer; Golice pt dith hue and filed the temple with a cloud.

Golice pt dith hue anified the temple with a cloud.

XII Topic. Wise men seeking Jesus, When Christ was born in Bethelhem of Judea, in the days of Herod, wise men came from the east seeking him; they knew of the coming Messiah, and were directed to Bethehem by a star; they went to Herod and asked him about Christ; Herod secretly decded to kill Jesus; he asked the wise men to inform him concerning Christ in order that he booming to and worship Him, but the Lord warned these men and they returned another way, thus defeating Herod. eating Herod.

The key word in the lessons this quarter is the word "mercy," which is also the leading word in the text for to deer for to-day.

Davided needed the mercy of God

Davided needed the mercy of God during his entire life. In our first lesson we see how he rashly undertook to bring up the ark into Jerusa'em without showing proper reverence for the law. God spoke in indgment, and yet in the midst of the severe affliction which came upon them by the death of Uzzali, we see the mercy of God in checking David and the people before they further transgressed the law. But the greatness of God's mercy is seen when in the midst of his terrible sins David was told by Nathan, the prophet, that there was a chance for forgiveness. The fifty-first psalm shows how deeply he repented, while shows how deeply he repented, while the thirty-second is equally clear with regard to his forgiveness. We should be encouraged with the should be encouraged with the thought that all who come to Christ in deer humility and with faith may receive the same forgiveness as

In the history of Absalom's rebel-In the bistory of Absalom's rebellion and death we are also obliged to note the mercy of God to his people Israel. Suppose Absalom had succeeded in his plot to overthrow the government, and suppose he had been permitted to kill his father David and reign in his stead, what would have been the result? Instead of God's people being established, and instead of the temple being built, Israel would have been led into gross idolatry and into sins of the gross idolatry and into sins of the deepest dye, and possibly the nation would have become extinct; but God kept his promises to Abraham, and there could be but one issue to this terrible war. The rebellion must prays carnestly that the Lord would and there could be but one issue to still uphold him with His free Spirit. He resolves to employ his life from this time fully in God's service.

IV. Topic: God's mercy and iove.

This is one of the seven so-called penetential psalms; it has reference to the forgiveness that was granted David, after he had committed the Solement the cond Part States.

great sin. In psalm fifty-one should be exalted to the kingship see the repenting and pleading as David's successor. David's other merey; with the opening sensors were all passed by, and Soloce of this psalm we near him mor in his youth was placed on the "Elessed is his whose trans throne. There were two reasons for this: 1, Solomon had the qualifications." ay, "Blessed is no whose trans-throne, There were two reasons for gression is forgiven, whose sin is this: 1, Solomon had the qualification covered;" his speaks here also of this confidence in God. God was to be his inable sins of the time. Nathan mighty deliverer, had taught him from his infancy and Topic. Absalom's rebellion. The refruits of David's own uncourse are now being seen; dis sons were wicked; Absalom had taught him from his infancy and he was morally and intellectually dualified for his great work. The course are now being seen; dis sons were wicked; Absalom had taught him from his infancy and he was morally and intellectually dualified for his great work. The course are now being seen; down to direct the affairs of his kingancy and had taught him from his infancy and he was morally and intellectually dualified for his great work. The course are now being seen; down to direct the affairs of his kingancy and had taught him from his infancy and he was morally and intellectually dualified for his great work. The course are now being seen; down to direct the affairs of his kingancy and intellectually dualified for his great work. The course are now being seen; down to direct the affairs of his kingancy and intellectually dualified for his great work. The course are now being seen; down to direct the affairs of his kingancy and intellectually dualified for his great work. The course are now being seen; down to direct the affairs of his kingancy and intellectually dualified for his great work. The course are now being seen; down to direct the affairs of his kingancy and intellectually dualified for his great work. The course are now being seen; down to direct the affairs of his kingancy and he was morally and intellectually dualified for his great work. The course are now being seen; down to direct the affairs of his kingancy and he was morally and intellectually dualified for his great work. dom; for although Solomon made his request as an act of his volition, yet we must recognize the fact that God was moving upon his heart and

mind.
Probably the greatest work accomplished by any of the kings of Israel or Judah was the erect on of the temor Judah was the crection of the temple. It was the great mercy of God that finally manifested itself in the completion of this great work. The climax was reached when, at the time of the dedication the young king was solemnly addressing the people and offering the dedicatory prayer, God took possession of the house and filled the place with His glory. glory.

For the Christmas Tree.

raise a large army. Absalom was king in Jerusalem about three coration for the Christmas tree is months; he then went out to bat-tle with David's warriors; Absa-lom's army was defeated and he was slain. David mourned over the death of his soc. VII. Topic: Praise and thanksgiving should be cut in brown paper. Place



a direct cost saving.

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CHRISTMAS DINNER DISHES.

There is always a demand about this time for hints and recipes by the aid of which housewives may endeavor to make the Christmas dinner or supper table attractive in appearance and enticing in its seasonable dishes, both substantial and dainty. Here are a few:

young folks at a Christmas party cupper.

Cranberry Jelly.

If you want a cranberry jelly for your turkey you will find the following directions excellent. Put a quart of cranberries in a saucepan with just enough cold water to keep them

Roast Turkey.

Roast Turkey.

Stuff a turkey with sausage meat in which you have mixed the liver of the bird, which has been cooked and chopped. Cover the breast with buttered paper or a piece of bacon; either should be taken off half an hour before it is finished. It will probably take from one and a half to two hours to roast. Baste it well. Serve with good brown gravy and bread sauce. Garnish round the dish with small rolls of bacon and fried sausages cut into neat rounds about sausages cut into neat rounds about a quarter of an inch thick.

Boiled Turkey.

Boiled turkey should be fixed ex-actly like roast turkey, except that after being dressed it is bound in a white cloth and boiled continuously a white cloth and bolled constants to for from one hour and a quarter to one and a half, according as its weight varies from six pounds to ten pounds. It is usually dished with oys-ter sazce. To make oyster sauce save all the juice in opening the oysters; cut off the beards, and put them to boil in the liquor, with a bit of mace and lemon peal; put the oysters into sold water and drain them; strain the liquor; add to it the oysters just drained from the cold water; with a lump of butter rubbed in a little flour and enough milk to make the amount of sauce required. Put on the fire and let it boll a few mo-ments, stirring constantly. Serve at once. A little squeeze of lemon is an improvement. Turkey a La Milan.

The bird must be trussed as for boiling. Wrapped round with four slices of ham and bacon, sufficing to cover the breast and back, four slices of lemon and two laurel leaves. slices of lemon and two laurel leaves. It is then lightly buttered all over and sewn tightly in a white cloth. It is afterwards put in a stewpan sufficiently deep to hold it in, with one onlon, one carrot, half a head of celery (waste pieces will do), the rind of a lemon, and salt to taste, with one tumblerful of any white wine. The stewpan is then filled with sufficient warm water to cover the turkey, which is stewed very slowly, allowing twenty minutes to each pound. When it is done it is each pound. each pound. When it is done it is taken out and left in the cloth until quite cold, when the latter is carefully removed, the slices of ham and lemon taken away and the bird placed on a dish and garnished with parsley.

Christmas Puddings.

For a good recipe for the Christmas pudding, we can hardly do better than follow Mrs. Humphrey's method, as described in "Madge's Book of Cookery": Chop two pounds of suct very fine; stone carefully two pounds very fine; stone carefully two pounds of rateins, pick over the same quantity of sultanas, and wash, pick and carefully dry two pounds of currants. Prepare two pounds of bread crumbs, and weigh out two pounds of sugar. Cut up one pound of candied peel, blanch and dry one-half pound of almonds, beat well five eggs and sift one-half pound of flour. Weight two ounces of mixed spice; peel, core and one-hall pound of flour, Weigh two ounces of mixed spice; peel, core and cut small one pound of apples. Mix

all these ingredients well together, adding half a pint of old ale and a glass of good rum. Boil it in a cloth for six hours.

Sauce for the above—One table— Sauce for the above—One table-spoonful of corn flour, three ounces of butter, one tablespoonful of moist sugar, three-quarters of a pint of boiling water, one wineglassful of brandy. Work the flour and butter together with a wobden spoon, then stir in the boiling water and sugar; boil all for ten minutes, stirring oc-casionally. Then add the brandy; give the sauce a good stir, and serve it.

Another Recipe. One pound of suet, one pound of currants, one pound of raisins, one pound of sultanas, half a pound of peel, one pound of breadcrumbs, half a pound of flour, three ounces of almonds (bitter), one nutneg, two ounces of outter, six or eight eggs, quarter of a pint of milk, quarter of a pint of brandy or homemade wine. Chop the suet very finely, mixing it with the flour ac you chop it, Make the bread-crumbs. Clean and stalk the currants and sultanas, stone and chop raising chop peel and almonds after the lat ter are shelted. Put all these ingredients into a basin with the sugar, ther add the grated rind of a lemon, the nutmeg, a pinch of salt, and mix well well beat the eggs then add to the Well beat the eggs then add to the milk and brandy; now pour them into the mixture and stir well. Melt the butter, then add it. When the mixture is really mixed thoroughly it can be put into well-greased basins or molds, or into pudding cloths which have been first scalded and then floured. Don't forget to make a pleat in the cloth across the top of your bashn, so as to allow the pudding room to swell. Place in fast-boiling water, and boil them for eight hours or and boil them for eight hours or more—the longer the better. They can then be hung up until wanted, when they will only require to be boiled about two hours,

Croquant of Oranges. Take the rind and white pith from four large (weet oranges, then re-move the pips without breaking the skins. Divide into sections and put them into syrup made by boiling half a pint of lump sugar and half a pint of water together until reduced to half the quantity. Drain the fruit, have a shallow mold ready oiled, and arrange the pieces round it, then fill up with half a pint of cream (pre-viously whipped and mixed with one an ounce of dissolved gelatine). If half the cream is colored the dish

is prettier. Take one molded sponge cake, a few days old if possible, a sufficiency of sherry or raisin wine, four table spoonfuls of brandy, two ounces of sweet almonds blanched, one packet of custard powder, two ounces of white sugar, a quarter of a pint of cream and three-quarters of a pint with rose; another, of chocolate, and so on, each being different in color and liavor, such a dish will meet with the entire approbation of the Tipsy Cake.

Cranberry Jelly.

If you want a cranberry jelly for your turkey you will find the following directions excellent. Put a quart of cranberries in a saucepan with just enough cold water to keep them from sticking to the bottom. Cover the saucepan and stand it over a slow fire and let the berries simmer until all the skins have burst, and then press them through a colander. Return the juice and pulp to the saucepan, put it over the fire, and when it reaches the boiling point stir about five heaping tablespoonfuls of sugar in the fruit juice. Let it boil gently, skimming it clear as the scum rises to the top. When it begins to drop as thick as jelly from the spoon, turn it into a jelly mould and stand it in a cool place.—
N.Y. Com. Adv.
of new milk. To make the cake stand firm in the glass dish, cut the bottom level. Make a small hole in the top and pour into it and over it sufficient wine, mixed with the brandy, to soak it nicely. Let it soak for two hours, and then stick all over with the blanched almonds cut in strips. Make the custard with the sugar, and milk, in the usual manner, and pour, when a little cool, into the dich round the cake.

manner, and pour, when a little cool into the dish round the cake.

CANADA MAKES THE BEST.

A Britisher's Tribute

Sir Thomas Brassey, M. P., and his eldest son, the Hon. T. A. Brassey, are well known throughout the British Empire. The former owns a large estate in England, was Governor of Victoria, Australia, from 1895 to 1900, and was President of the British Boards of Trade Con gress, which met last summer in Montreal. He also owns large tracts of farm lands in our own Northwest. Both father and son are enthusiastic admirers of Canada, and are well able to speak authoritatively and intelligently as to Canadian products.

thoritatively and intelligently to Canadian products. The Hon, T. A. Brassey, who late-ly spent some months in Canada, has paid a just tribute to Massey-Harris Implements as per the following

Implements as per the cablegram;
"London, Nov. 28.—Hon. T. A. Brassey, speaking at Rye yesterday, said farmers need not be anxious that Mr. Chamberlain's policy would raise the cost of machinery. The host agricultural machinery in the best agricultural machinery. The world is made by the Massey-Harris Co., of Toronto, and by other com-panies in Ontario, and there would be no duty upon it."

A La Carte.

N. Y. Sun. The prodigal son had just returned.
"Hooray!" cried the father, "we
will kill the fatted calf!" "Not much!" replied the wander er, "if I can't have the turkey I'l

go back. Gracefully yielding, the old man gave the necessary orders.

Manly Strength and Womanly Beauty depend on purity of the blood, and much of that purity depends on perfect kidney filtering. If these organs are diseasand will not perform their functions, man will seek in vain for strength and woman for beauty. South American Kidney Cure drives out all impurities through the body's "filterers"—repairs weak spots,—46.

The Picture Card Craze Dr. Hembo, a German "cartophile,"

has been getting up statistics concerning illustrated postal cards. He asserts that not less than 900,000,000 were exchanged last year, of which 400,000,000 were used in Germany. 400,000,000 were used in Germany. With postage this means that Germany spends about \$50,000 a day for this luxury. France comes second in the list, but very far, behind, being credited with only 88,000,000.

YOU CANNOT CURE A COLD with oplum-inden "medicines." Allen's Lung Balsam, in which there is no oplum, cures sore throat and lungs by allaying the inflammation, and rids you of the mucus that stops up the air Dassanges.

Song of the Shenherds. By Edwin Markham.

By Edwin Markham.

Haste. O people; all are bidden—

Haste from places high or hidden;

In Mary's child the kingdom comes,
the heaven in beauty bends;

He has made all life completer;

He has made the Plain Way sweeter,
For the stall is his first shelter,
and the cattle his first friends.

As the shadow of a cedar To a traveller in gray Kedar,
Will the kingdom of his love, the
kingdom without end
Tongues and ages may disclaim him,
Yet the heaven of heavens will name

him

Lord of peoples, Light of nations
elder Brother, tender friend.

Black and White.

Magpie combinations are good. Black Chantilly over white

Black Chantilly over white is lovely.
Striped velvet makes smart piping.
Black soutache on white cloth is effective.
Broad black tabs on a black and white stripe trim green or brown, well.
Heavy white stitchings are always smart on black.

smart on black.

A touch of white in black embroidery is good.
Chenille in black over white may Chenille in black over white may look common, but chenille adorned lace or horeshair will be rich.

Black lace insets are still a rich feature of black crepe de chine robes which are worn over white or other

The Markets.

Londing Wient Markets Following are the closing quota-tions at important wheat centres to-day:

. Cash May 80 7-8

Toronto Farmers' Markets Offerings of grain were light to

Toronto Farmer's Markets
Offerings of grain were light today. There was no white or red
winter, while a load of spring sold
at 77c, and 300 bushels of goose at
72 to 73c, Rarley is unchanged, with
sales of 400 bushels at 43 to 47c.
Oats are firmer, with sales of 500
bushels at 21½ to 32c.
Hay is firmer, with sales of 500
bushels at 21½ to 32c.
Hay is firmer, with sales of 25
loads at \$9 to \$11 a tou for timothly, and at \$6 to \$8 for mixed.
Straw is easier, two loads seiling
at \$9.75 to \$10.50 a ton.
Dressed hegs are again higher,
with sales of heavy at \$6.75, and
of light at \$7.25.
Wusat, white, bushel 78 1-2c; goose,
72 to 73c; red 78 1-2c; spring, 77c;
peas, 65c; oats, 31 1-2 to 32c; barley,
48 to 47c; hay, timothy, ton, \$9 to
\$11; do. glover, \$3 to \$6; straw, ton,
\$9.75 to \$10.50; seeds—Alsike, bushel,
\$4.50 to \$5.75; red clover, \$5.2, to
\$6; timothy, 100 lbs., \$2.25 to \$3;
apples, bushel \$1 to \$2; dressed hogs,
\$6.75 to \$7.25; eggs, new laid, dozen,
40 to 45c; butter, dairy, 20 to 22c;
creamery, 22 to 25c; chilekens, lb., 9
to 11c; ducks, lb., 10 to 12c; geese,
lb., 10c; turkeys, lb., 14 to 17c; potatoes, bag, 83 to 90c; cabbage, dozen,
40 to 60c; cauliflower, dozen, \$1;
celery, dozen, 35 to 45c; beef, hindquarters, \$6 to \$8; fore-unarters, \$4to \$6; medium, carcase, \$5.50 to \$6;
choice, carcase, \$6.50 to \$7; nutton, cwt.,
\$5.50 to \$6.50; veal, cwt., \$7 to \$9.

The Cheese Markets. Woodstock, Dec. 19.—At the regu-lar weekly meeting of the Cheese Board here to-day, there were of ered 2,200 boxes white and 4,230 boxes celored cheese; 81-1 to 81-2c b d, but n

**** **** THE FINISHING

TOUCHES

******* Do you present your Christmas presents just as you get them from presents just as you get them from the shops, or do you make them doubly attractive by doing them up in some pretty fashion? The latter way is much to be preferred, and the expense is trilling. Satin bebe ribbon can be bought as low as ten cents a place, and a plece is ample for the average giver. Plain white paper is a place, and a place is ample for the average giver. Plain white paper is pretty, but costs a cent a sheet, so a much more effective and cheaper substitute will be found in ordinary, everdyay wall paper. Choose a delicate tint, with a small floral design, and set your ribbon to harmonize and get your ribbon to harmonize with or match its background. When your packages are neatly done up and fastened around with the ribbon finished with a bow the result will inhaned with a bow the result will far exceed your expectations. Try it! Very pretty wall paper can be bought for from five to fifteen cents a piece—enough for a wagonload almost. A tiny sprig of holly tucked under the ribbon bow of each parcel further enhances its effect.

Papering a Room With Leaves. Papering a Room With Leaves. "Bapering" a room with autumn leaves is a great deal easier than it seems. You begin at the top of the room and paper down, always tacking the little leaves at the top with "gimp" tacks, are isting the brancaes spread out in graceful fashion, with the stems low down. It takes a Gay and a half to paper a room with autumn leaves, but when you have finished you find yourself living in a bower. The leaves which just touch the ceiling are soread out

just touch the ceiling are spread out upon the walls, suggesting a creeper from a prosy creation into a little "den" of lovely hue.

CHE THE THE PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF THE STA THE BLIND GIRL'S CHRISTMAS DAY.

By Margaret Vandegrift.

It was the day whereon a Virgin
Mother mild
In Bethlehem bore
Unto this sinful world a little helpless child.

He shivered sore. For only on some straw spread upon the cold earth
The Blest One lay, as the angels who had hailed His Holy birth

Sped swift away. To tell the joyful news to shep-herds, who thereon Came to the place— Women and men—in eager haste to

gaze upon That wondrous face But one of them, the mother of a poor blind child,

Was last to go, that her little suffering daughter, weeping wild. Implored her so. Why wilt thou, mother dear, that

I stay here alone
Among the sheep?
Whilst thou are cherishing that holy Thy child will weep."

"Soul of my soul," the mother said,
"thy piteous tears
Melt all my heart; Melt all my heart; if thou with with patience quieting thy fears,

"To-morrow, when the pleasant twilight cometh, we Shall meet again,
And I will tell thee all that I shall hear and see-Glad thou 't be then! Willingly would I take thee, dearest.

If but so Thou 'dst see His face, Although the way is long and cold and hard to go
To that blest place."

know that to the grave alone through darkness drear My way must be, , lovely goiden face! Oh, Godlike Babe most dear I may not see!

But ere over nested to believe and to adore, otill const toach the fixte hand if nothing more, Margae I but to !"

Down at the mother's knoss she prayed and wept until The mother's heart Was cloven, and she answered, "Have. thou then thy will!

My life thou net!"

And when they to the manger came,

and the child knelt. With love and awa.

As on her thrilling heart ills little hand che felt. Her Lord the saw !

Cuz Chris'mes Time is Nonn I'm goin' to be a better bay than I hev been before, An' not cut up or say bad words to

any ma any more:
I'm going to run on crrands like a handy little man,
An' keep the woodbox full an' help in ev'ry way I can.
I hain't been licked in ckule, by jinks! fer purty nigh a week.

fer purty nigh a week,
'Cuz now f stop an' pick my words
an' think before I speak;
Pa says I've been a better boy this
month than all the year,
But then, you see, I'd orter be, 'cuz
Christmas time is near.

wash my han's an' face, an' comb my hair now ev'ry day,
An' brush my clo'es off nice an' clean
when I come in from play;
An' when pa asts the blessin' at the table, now, instead
Of makin' up a face at sis, I humbly

bow my head: ow my noad;
I always say, "Yes, ma'am," to ma,
an" "Thank you," fer, you see,
It pays to be polite an nice—especially for me;
I guess ma 'preciates it, for she calls me "Tommy, dear,"
But pa, he cays I am so good 'cuz Chris'mas time is near.

When I go downtown to the stores an' see the slews of toys That Santy Caus has sent ahead fer all the girls an' boys,

An' when I wonder what nice things
he's goin' to bring to me,
I go away an' think how good an'
thankful I should be.

It's orful hard to keep reel still while
I am 'round the house,

But grange sure I'm site to great an' I am 'round the house, But gran ma says I'm jist as good an'

quiet as a mouse;
An' then my pa he'll laugh an' say to her, "It's very clear
To me that Tommy is so good cus
Chris'mas time is near." But then, my gran'ma says that when my pa was small as me, Bout Chris'mas time he allers acted good as he could be; She said he'd run his legs clean off an' never kick a bit an' never kick a bit—
You bet he knew it paid to have a

And so he needn't la needn't laugh at me becuz I am so good. For that's the way he did, an' course it's jist the way I should;
Fer gran'ma says boys are alike an'
that I needn't fear it's list the

I'm any diff-runt than pa was when Chris'mas time was near.

BRIGHT BERRIES

There is no berry to which many poems have been written a

OF THE HOLLY

holly. Its berries bright and red cited many a winter poet t forth his verse, and its prickly g een on the upper side and g derneath have somehow bear derneath, have somehow brough the very rhyme out of the rhymester. It is a pity that holly cannot blossom all the year around.

om all the year around.
Or maybe it is better so, for now it comes when there are no ries to be had, and when only the pale little whitish mistletoe is here to do it rivalry. And there is a certain rivalry be-

tween the holly and the mistletoe. A rivalry in which both win out. The ly is the more common. It is the ry of the people, while the mistle-is the berry of the few. There is something about holly that always suggests good health, and it certainly suggests good cheer. The colors of the plant are particularly in its favor, and if an artist had sought the shades which would go best together he could hardly have

made a happier hit than with the holly plant, The selecting of the holly as the berry of Christmas was not wholly a sentimental one, for it blossoms of its own accord at Christmas rather than at other seasons. It does not have to be forced, like the Easter lily.

In Sweden holly "ripens" only the very week before Christmas, and in the cold parts of Wales, where it grows in such luxury, it is hardly ready on Christmas day. Parties of holy seekers are sent out on Christmas afternoon to bring it in so that it may be clustered around the valo it may be clustered around the yule. the may be clustered around the yule. Holy when cut and in the house will stand a great deal of heat. It merely dries up and breaks, but is does not discolor, as would many another berry, nor does it rot.

The mistletoe is the berry of Christmas for quite another reason.

Christmas for quite another reason. There is a sentimental attachment to it. It is called the kissing berry and legends surround it very pleasantly with this prettiest of all civilized customs.

Holly, on the other hand, rugged, prickly, bristly, and ever picturesque, is more as a decoration a sign, a standard-bearer of Christmas. In church history holly is quite famous, and where the mistelect is left out in the cold holly is brought in and wreathed around the sacred altars, You can use holly with proaltars.; You can use holly with propricty anywhere, and really it is seen in every possible position, from that of cake decoration to the trimming of the bowl in which the Christmus infant receives his drop of water in the statement.

in baptism' "There is no doubt," said the estimable citizen, "that intoxication injures the system."
"My dear s'r," answered Col Stillwe", o' Keniucky. "jut think o' the h ru wat h con t cu n niat

by back.