

A BOY'S CHRISTMAS THOUGHTS.

By R. R. WOOD, B.A., Headmaster Bishop Feild College.

FOR some reason there is a sort of conspiracy on the part of the grown-ups to give a fellow a good time at this particular season of the year. Ripping things to eat and as much of them as you can tackle, and no silly nonsense about the results of overdoing it! Unfortunately a fellow's appetite is not great enough for all the good things that are going! Half-way through dinner you find yourself unable to go any further without growing more and more uncomfortable. What is the sense of saving it all up for one day when you can only enjoy it to a certain point? Why not spread it out over three hundred and sixty-five days each year. Perhaps, though, if he did, one would fail to get the same fun out of it and it would make you feel as if you were about my bike. When I got it first I couldn't be happy off it. Now I find riding a bigger fun than walking, and it is a nuisance having to keep the blessed old machine clean and in working order. I wonder if one gets

sick of everything that one can have and if the only things that give a fellow pleasure are the things he hasn't got. I suppose millionaires can have anything they want, and if that's so they can't get much fun out of life. How rotten it would be not to want anything! I can hardly think a fellow could ever get to that stage, and even if he could, I don't think I'd mind risking it, just to see what it felt like.

Yet there must be something in this notion that one soon gets tired of everything that one can get. The old man doesn't seem half as keen on his grub on Christmas Day as I am. He hardly eats any more than on an ordinary day, though I must say he doesn't do so badly as a general rule. Then the presents they give you! Some of them are rotten enough, but some more of them are ripping. They seem to enjoy giving them to us! That's rather a weird idea! I wonder whether I shall ever enjoy giving things to other fellows. Of course if

it's anything you don't want yourself you don't mind giving it away; but with the money they spend on our presents they could buy things for themselves. Yes there can't be any mistake about it, they must enjoy giving us things, even if the old man does kick up a row when the bills for the things come in later on. I suppose that as a fellow grows up his way of looking at things must change. Perhaps there's something in what they say about selfishness, though I must say I prefer to get things rather than to give them, and I notice that a good many grown-up men do so themselves very well, especially the mean ones. Apparently what happens is that when you get to like anyone a lot you want to give them things. I've got a brother older than myself who is richly sweet on a girl and he's always wasting his money on getting her things. My old man, too, is none too wealthy, but he and the mater are always giving away money for various things when they really can't afford it, and doing without things they want—not to speak about what I want.

The more decent people are, the more trouble they seem to take for other people, and Christmas seems to be the time of year when even the meanest and cruelest boy wants to be decent to a fellow, though most of it lasts for only one day. What a lark it would be if they were like that all the time, and if everyone were on the look out for a chance to please everyone else. I've never tried to do much in that line, but there have been times when I have felt a bit mean because I hadn't much to give when everyone else was giving presents. One Christmas I had been saving up for some stamps I wanted as I couldn't afford to spend much; but one of the presents I got was a stamp album with the stamps I wanted in it, and a lot of others; and I might have spent all my money and saved myself from the rotten feeling of meanness! I won't get caught like that again.

I suppose people are kinder at Christmas than any other time because it is Christ's birthday, and He was that sort Himself. I have often wondered why He put up with so much when He could just have ordered things to come right without any worry to Himself. Anyhow if He did it, it must have been the best way. When I grow up I think I'll try doing things for other people and see what it's like. There must be something in it that I don't quite understand, but I'd certainly rather be a decent sort than a mean old hunk. If all grown-ups were decent sorts it would be a jolly world for everyone. Perhaps the mean ones are meant to be a sort of warning to a fellow.

17th Century Christmas.

(From the Diary of Samuel Pepys.)

December 25th, 1660—(Christmas Day).—In the morning to church where Mr. Mills made a very good sermon. Home to dinner, where my brother Tom (who this morning came to see my wife's new mantle put on, which do please me very well) to a good shoulder of mutton and a chicken. After dinner to church again, my wife and I, where we had a dull sermon of a stranger, which made me sleep.

December 25th, 1662—(Christmas Day).—Had a pleasant walk to White Hall, where I intended to have received the Communion with the family, but I came a little too late. So I walked up into the house and spent my time looking over pictures, particularly the ships in King Henry the VIIIth's voyage to Bullen; marking the great difference between those built then and now. By and by down to the Chapel again, where Bishop Morley preached upon the song of the Angels, 'Glory to God on high, on earth peace, and good will towards men.' Methought he made but a poor sermon, but long, and reprehending the common jollity of the Court for the true joy that shall and ought to be on these days, he particularized concerning their excess in plays and gaming, saying that he whose office it is to keep the gamesters in order and within bounds serves but for a second rather in a duell, meaning the groom-porter. Upon which it was worth observing how far they are come from taking the reprehensions of a Bishop seriously, that they all laugh in the chapel when he reflected on their ill actions and courses. He did much press us to joy in these public days of joy, and to hospitality; but one that stood by whispered in my ears

"The Methodist Orphanage Christmas Tree will be held at the Orphanage on Thursday, Dec. 28th at 3.30 o'clock. Contributions in money and gifts suitable for a Christmas tree will be gratefully received, and acknowledged by Miss Mary MacKay, Sutherland Place, King's Bridge Road, P.O. Box 1172. Dec. 18, 1922, 11.30, 12.30, 1.30."

"Peace And Goodwill."

If you can't forget, you can forgive.

Better be silent than speak with ill-will.

When two quarrel both are in the wrong.

If you want friends you must be friendly.

A kindly feeling is the touch that never hurts.

The biggest heart cannot hold both goodwill and pride.

Be not the first to break the peace, nor the last to mend it.

Goodwill survives absence, if the last recollections are kindly.

If you lose your temper, don't look for it, unless you mean to keep it.

Say well and do well and with one better; say well is good; but do well is better.

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Baby's Skin Troubles

Chafing, scalding, skin irritations and itching, burning, eczema are quickly and thoroughly relieved and the skin kept soft, smooth and velvety by the use of

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that the Bishop do not spend one groat to the poor himself. The sermon done, a good anthem followed with vials, and the King come down to receive the Sacrament. But I waid not, but calling my boy from my Lord's lodgings, and giving Sarah some good advice by my Lord's order to be sober, and look after the house, I walked home again with great pleasure, and there dined by my wife's bed-side with great content, having a mess of brave plum-porridge and a roasted pullet for dinner, and I send for a mince-pie abroad, my wife not being well, to make any herself yet.

December 25th, 1664—(Lord's day). To Mr. Rawlinson's church, where I heard a good sermon of one that I remember was at Paul's with me—his name Maggett; and very great store of fine women that is in this church, more than I know anywhere else about us.

December 25th, 1665—(Christmas day). To church in the morning and there saw a wedding in the church, which I have not seen many a day; and the young people so merry with each other, and strange to see these poor fools decoyed into our condition, every man and woman gazing and smiling at them. Here I saw again my beauty Lethullier. Home to look over and settle my papers, both of my accounts private and those of Tangier, which I have let go so long that it were impossible for any soul, had I died, to understand them, or even come to good end in them. I hope God will never suffer me to come to that disaster again.

December 25th, 1668—(Christmas day). I to church, where Alderman Backwell, coming in late, I beckoned to his lady to come up to us, who did, with another lady; and after sermon, I let her down through the church to her husband and coach, a noble, fine woman, and a good one, and one my wife shall be acquainted with. So home, and to dinner alone with my wife, who, poor wretch; sat undressed all day, till late at night altering and lacing of a noble petticoat; while I by her, making the boy read to me the Life of Julius Caesar, and the 'Cartes' book of Maschely, the latter of which I understand not, nor think he did well that writ it, though a most learned man. Then, after supper I made the boy play upon his lute, which I have not done before since he came to me; and so, my mind in mighty content, we to bed.

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 - Men's Black Leather Slippers—2.25, 2.50
 - Men's Black Romeo Slippers—2.25, 2.50
 - Men's Brown Romeo Slippers—2.25, 3.00
 - Men's Grey Felt (leather sole) Slippers—2.00
 - Men's Black Felt (leather sole) Slippers—2.00
 - Men's Patent Dress Pumps—5.00
 - Men's Plaid Slippers (leather sole)—1.75
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 - Men's Arctic Felt Slippers—Leather sole and heel—2.70
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