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THE JOY OF GIVING.

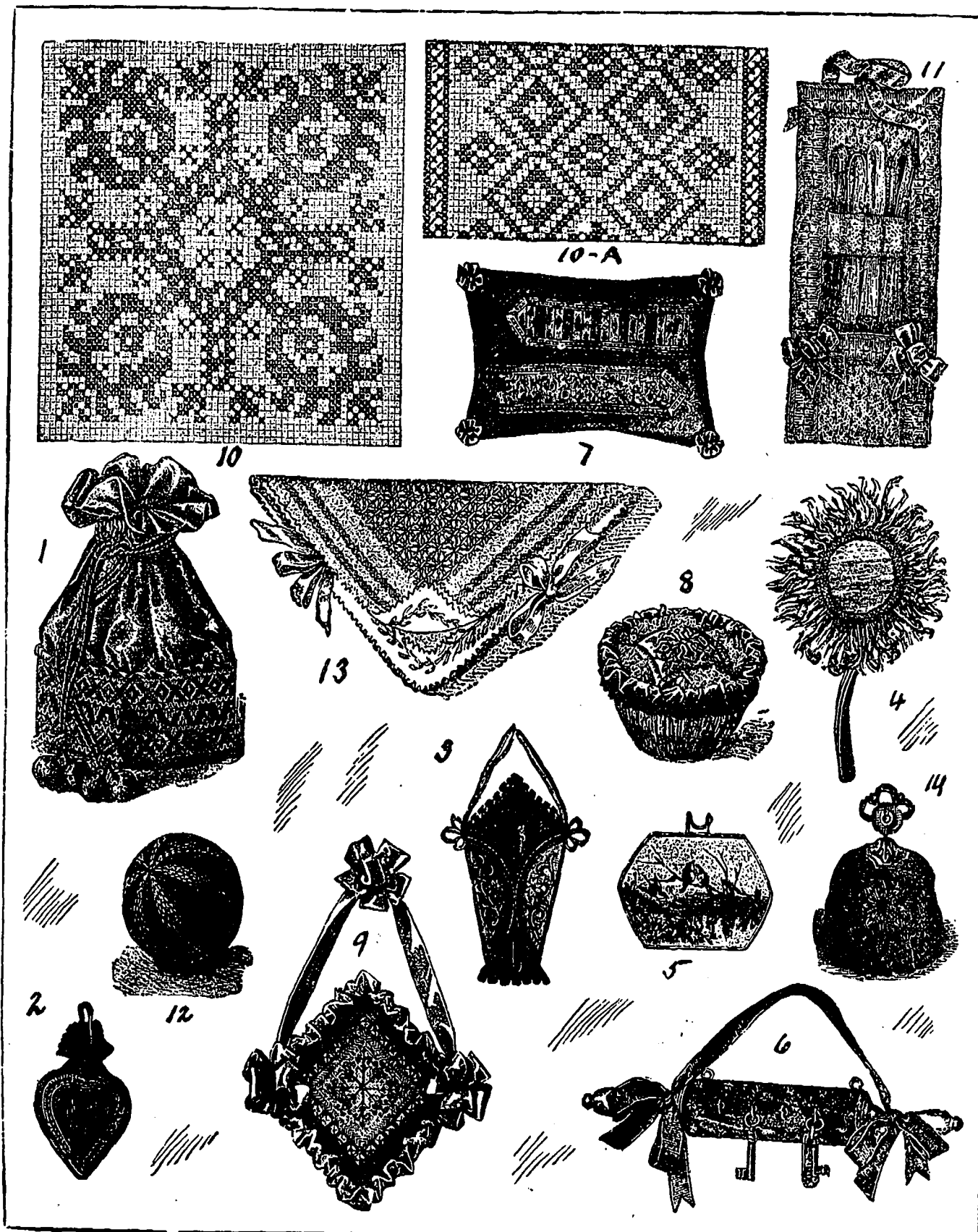
SOMEbody has wisely and truthfully said that the real pleasure of a gift is in the giving, which after all is only another way of expressing that precious declaration that has come down to us through the centuries, "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

It is not hard to answer the question, "What

shall I give?" if one possesses a purse which has that rare quality of never becoming quite empty. The shops seem crowded more and more each season with Christmas goods of every kind, and one must be hard to please if a suitable present for each and all friends cannot be found. Many of us, however, must make one dollar do the work of ten, and it is for the benefit of our gift-givers, whose love of giving is so out of proportion to their means, that we present the accompanying hints on simple, home-made Christmas offerings. Those, too, who have recently asked for cross-stitch and other patterns, will find their requests granted in this paper in a way which we trust will benefit others as well.

To a doer of fancy work, and her name is legion, one of the various pretty devices for holding the work and materials cannot fail to be acceptable. One of the prettiest work-bags we have lately seen is shown by the illustration (Fig. 1). The paste-

board box which forms the foundation, and which may be round or square, as preferred, is five inches in height. It should be first covered and lined with cambric or satine, which can be most neatly done by taking the box apart, covering each section in turn, and joining the edges by "over and over" seaming. If desired, the bottom, inside, may be perfumed by means of a layer of wadding, thickly sprinkled with sachet powder and placed between the pasteboard and lining. When this is done take a strip of canvas as wide as the depth of the box, allowing a very little for turning the edges neatly, and long enough to extend around it and join. Work on this any chosen pattern in cross-stitch, using worsted or silk as preferred; then put it in place on the box, over which it should fit tightly enough to be perfectly smooth, and catch it invisibly along the upper and lower edges. A strip of satin ten inches wide and proportioned in length to the size of your box, is turned in and shirred to form a narrow frill on one edge, by which it is joined to the box; on the other an inch and a half wide hem is turned and a run made above for a



HOME-MADE CHRISTMAS GIFTS.