

"Hark! the Christmas bells are ringing, thro' the midnight, loud and clear;
Hark! the happy voices singing, once again is Christmas near!"

THE GIFT.

A mother sat watching one Christmas night,
Rocking her babe by the candle light;
As she raised her eyes in the gathering gloom,
The Christ-child stood in her lowly room.
"What shall I give to thy child?" He said,
Sitting caressing the sleeping head.
"Nay," said the mother, "oh angel guest,
Give her whatever Thou deemest best."
"What shall I give her, oh mother mild?
Ask what thou wilt for thy little child;
Shall I kiss her brow that her eyes may shine
With a beauty that men may call divine?
Shall I kiss her lips that her words may flow
The sweetest the world may ever know?
Nay," said the mother, "That will not stay;
Some are forgotten and hair turns grey."
"What shall I give her?" He said again,
"Ask and thou shalt not ask in vain."
And the mother raised her eyes above,
"Oh, give her purity, truth and love!"
And the Christ-child turned to her soft and mild—
"Then hast chosen the best for thy little child.
Be not afraid, though life be sore,
I shall be with her forevermore."

Peace on Earth

THERE can be no Peace on earth unless there is Good-will among men. The Christmas evangel goes to the root of the world's problem. All there is of sorrow and pain and evil in human life, and all there is of confusion and loss in the world of nature, has to do with the disease of the mind and the rooted sorrow of the soul. The hates and strifes that smoulder every day life, and the wars that waste the nations, are but the fruitage of that spirit which sent Cain a fugitive upon the face of the earth. Barrenness and blight are part of that burden under which the whole creation groans and travails waiting for the deliverance which comes only when the curse of selfishness and hate is lifted from the life of man. It is for this reason the promise of Peace on earth is linked in the angel-song with Good-will among men.

Good-will among men must grow out of the good hearts where love is. It is the fruit of the spirit. The crowd cannot cultivate it, for the way of the crowd is wild and straying as the waves of the sea. Whoever makes his own heart pure and true, creating out all bad will against his neighbor and nurturing desire for another's good, makes possible the fulfillment of the Christmas promise and brings nearer fruition the Peace of the world.

Good-will among men is both the seed and the soil from which alone will spring that Good-will of the nations the fruit of which will be Peace on earth. When suspicion, and hate, and greed, and all the roots of bitterness are cast out of the hearts of men, the nations will hang the trumpet in the hall of Peace and study war no more. The old-world nations are slow to learn the new code of honor that wipes out stains, not in blood, but in service, and that feels not the lust for power, but the impellings of love. But the nations must learn it, for there can be no Peace on earth. Avarice among men breeds distrust between nations. Hence comes the occasion for battalions and battleships. But it is still true that he who sheath the sword shall perish by the sword. The nation alone shall survive whose foundation is Truth, whose defence is Love, and the fruit of whose spirit is Peace on earth.

—T. A. M.

Lots of Weather.

"I want to do some Christmas shopping to-day, dear," said a fond wife; "that is, if the weather is favourable. What's the forecast?"

At the other end of the table her husband, consulting his paper, read aloud: "Rain, hail, snow, thunder, lightning, and floods."

No Use Watching

Isn't it just the queerest thing
That Santa is so shy?
We can never, never catch him.
No matter how we try!
It isn't any use to watch
Because my Maama said,
That Santa Claus will only come
When children are in bed.

Hind the beams of jolly holly
In a girdle round the earth;
Love is wisdom, hate is folly;
Christmas brings another birth.
Deck the world from pole to pole,
And garland it and wreath it;
Mistletoe above the whole,
So kiss the world beneath it.



Glory to God in the Highest!
On Earth Peace, Goodwill to Men!

The Spirit of Christmas.

BY EZRA.

THE first thought of Christmas associates it with an open heartedness: a time to feel happy and a time to make others happy; when the very essence of what life should be is awakened in us and happiness seems to depend not on our own feelings but on the well-being of others. Why should it not last the whole year through? Why not let the heart always remain open to those who need and be eager to give its love to those who are ever ready to welcome it even as the King of Love who gave Himself and became the Great Founder of the Feast we now celebrate?

The sooner this Christmas spirit is felt all the year round the sooner will hasten the day when we shall no longer need to pray to be delivered from "envy, malice, hatred and all uncharitableness." It is a delight to know some that do carry the true spirit of Christmas with them all the time, but pity 'tis that so many people carry their own low temperature always about with them.

Charles Dickens thought a lot about Christmas and there is great delight in reading him at this time.

His "Christmas Carol," that dream phantasy in which old Scrooge, a close-fisted old sinner whose office was his world and whose bowels of compassion were ever shut, was shown the error of his ways and brought to honour Christmas in those feelings of brotherhood that were lacking in him before, is ever new.

You will remember him in his office that Christmas Eve. "Out upon Merry Christmas!" said he. "Much good may it do you! Much good it has ever done you!" And his nephew's simple, yet eloquent reply:

"There are many things from which I might have derived good, by which I have not profited, I daresay. Christmas among the rest. But I am sure I have always thought of Christmas time when it has come round—part from the veneration due to its sacred name and origin; a kind, forgiving, charitable, pleasant time; the only time I know of, in the long calendar of the year, when men and women shut up hearts freely, and to think of people below them as if they really were fellow-passengers to the grave and not another race of creatures bound on other journeys. Therefore, Uncle, I believe it has done me good, and will do me good; and I pray God bless it!"

And that very night Scrooge's regeneration began when Ghostly visitors showed him all he might be doing in making his fellows happy. He saw the shop where he was apprenticed and the jolly time his employer gave him on Christmas Eve.

"To, no, my boys," said Fezziwig, "no more work to-night. Christmas! Pre. Dick. Christmas. Give your best to the boys. And let's have lots of fun here!" And in came a hideous, with a music box and turned the fifty emeralds. In came Mrs. Fezziwig, one vest smile. In came the three Miss Fezziwigs, beaming and

Just be Good.

If you need a lot of things
Such as dear old Santa brings—
Trumpets, bats, and things with springs—
Just be good.

He won't come within a mile
Of the boy who has no smile—
And is grumbling all the while—
Just be good.

If you need some whips or drums,
Or a top that "sleeps" and hums,
Every day, till Santa comes,
Just be good.

Santa never tries to see
Any bad boy's Christmas tree.
"I've no use for him," says he,
Just be good.

He would never wish a boy
To be missing fun and joy
Just to get some little toy.
No, He's fair.

Keep a manly, smiling chap
Underneath your little cap—
Then you need not care a rap—
He'll be there!

—James Rowe, in St. Nicholas.

children; wretched objects, frightful, hideous, miserable. "They are Man's," said the spirit. "This boy is ignorant. This girl is want." Poor old Scrooge was getting it hard. He who refused to subscribe to the Poor and Destitute this very day.

Those who have not read the Christmas Carol should get it and realize the charm with which Dickens interweaves his tale with the moral, and shows in a practical and none-like way how anyone can do good; that there are many things you cannot buy with money nor is money necessary to obtain them, and in this way he does more good than all the homilies that were ever preached.

And Scrooge awoke! And best and happiest of all, Time before him was his own to make amends in! And he said, "I will honour Christmas in my heart, and try to keep it all the year," and the silly old boy hardly knew what to do with himself, he felt so light and happy. He sent a turkey to Bob Cratchit (and raised his salary also next day) as big as Tiny Tim, and when he got on the street he looked so "freely pleasant" that three or four "good-humoured" fellows said "Good morning, sir. A Merry Christmas to you!" And Scrooge said afterwards that of all the blithe sounds he had ever heard, those were the blithest in his ears.

He had no further intercourse with spirits; and it was always said of him that he knew how to keep Christmas well. If any man alive possessed that knowledge. And as Dickens says "that he truly said of all of us, and so as Tiny Tim observed, 'God Bless us Every One!'"

Plenty of Room

Little Katherine was busily engaged in eating her Christmas dinner. One of the family thinking she was eating too much, said, "Remember, Katie, there is the pudding coming." "Yes, I know," replied Katie seriously, "I'm saving my neck for that."

Edward Sheldon's Famous Play

Will be Presented Christmas Night.

"The Silent Barrier"—a splendid adaptation of Edward Sheldon's first great American dramatic success—will be staged at the Casino, Christmas Day and Night, with a most capable cast and a strong supporting company, all of whom are well and favourably known in local theatrical circles.

Christmas Night is just the festival when people like to gather at the theatre, and enjoy a bright, wholesome play, which has an interesting story and comedy of the sparkling, pleasing order. "The Silent Barrier" is put that class of show. The language is beautifully written; there are deft touches of humour, and an air of pathos pervades this tragedy of Southern ancestry until a clever wit, with a "good memory" for faces, clears up the mystery. There is love and romance in this play; thrills and laughter, and good wholesome entertainment.

The leading parts will be filled by Mr. J. J. O'Grady and Miss Murphy. Mr. J. J. O'Grady will be the bluff, honest Irish American Senator, Mr. J. J. O'Grady will be the sympathetic Simon; Mr. J. O'Grady will be the villainous Clifton Noys; while we understand that the comic roles—those of a light-hearted Yankee Secretary and his fiancée—will be filled by Mr. Leo Murphy, of Bell Island, and Miss Carroll, both of whom are well known for their good work in this connection. The entire cast is capable and popular, and we feel sure the play will be an immense success.

THE NICKEL THEATRE! MID-WEEK PROGRAMME.

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A wonderfully interesting and exciting Lubin feature in two reels. Written, produced and staged by that master-mind of the picture world: Romaine Feilding. Mr. Feilding also plays the leading role in his wonderfully versatile manner.

"The Waif of the Sea."—A pleasing story of absorbing heart-interest.
"The Heiress."—A most laughable comedy; full of ludicrous situations.
Coming—"AS YOU LIKE IT"—Shakespeare's immortal comedy. Featuring Rose Coghlan as Rosalind; Maurice Costello as Orlando. A Vitagraph.

MUSICAL—Arthur Priestman Cameron sings, "It's a funny feeling, isn't it?" Professor McCarthy at the Piano.

Extra Bumper Matinee for the children on Saturday.

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THE GIRL OF THE RANCH—
Western Life.
FROM DEATH-LIFE—
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A QUIET SMOKE—
Roaring Comedy.
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David Parks, Baritone, sings "That Parisian Ball."
Special Matinee Saturday Afternoon for Ladies and Children.

See the display of Local View Xmas Cards, Calendars and Novelties in the windows of

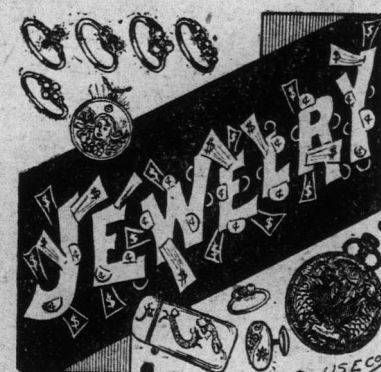
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A selection of Solid Silver Frames, China and Glass Vases with Silver tops at \$1.40 per pair; Trinket Boxes, Jewel Cases, Blotting Pads, Cigarette Cases, Miniature Rims and Frames.

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HELPFUL

HINTS

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FOR SISTER.	FOR FATHER.	FOR MOTHER.	FOR THE GIRL.
Some new bit of jewelry is sure to be welcome.	Personal jewelry, or, perhaps, some useful piece for his desk.	Something of real worth and beauty must be hers.	A watch would please her, or Necklet and Pendant.
Gold Birthstone Ring, \$4.00	Silver Match Box, \$2, \$4.50	Silver Flatware . . . \$1.25	Gem Set Ring \$4.00, \$5.00
Gold Bead Necklet, \$5.50, \$8.50	Cigar Cutter . . \$2.50, \$6.00	Toilet Set . . \$3.50, \$12.00	Sterling Silver Photo Frame . . \$1.00, \$6.00
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