

THE VICTORIA HOME JOURNAL.

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THE VICTORIA HOME JOURNAL,
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A MERRY CHRISTMAS.

THE HOME JOURNAL in for the first time wishing its readers not alone the mere compliments, but all the blessings and enjoyments of the season, deems it well to refer specially to the household element, of which He, whom the Christian world so joyfully honors, should be an important part. It is very true that He had no dwelling place except in the hearts and hands of those who were disposed to make room for the despised Nazarene, nevertheless there are few domestic pictures so full of simple beauty as that of the humble cottage in Bethany to which He occasionally retired when wearied with the harassments and buffetings to which He was subjected. The description in the narrative is of the simplest, albeit the imagination need not be severely taxed to fill in the details, and to convince one's self that He was a lover of home. The remarkable instance given of His subjection to His parents demonstrates the high respect and regard He had for parental authority, while the many instances are given of His love and solicitude for the little ones. The aged and infirm, the sick and afflicted were the constant subjects of His ministrations, and all the way through, even after He had made the portentous announcement "it is finished!" He saw to it that those who followed him wanted not food, indeed, He specially enjoined those who were nearest Him to feed both His sheep and His lambs. The readers of THE HOME JOURNAL, whatever their creeds happen to be, may well think over these aspects of the life of Him to whom at this season the entire world pays special tribute, and will find even in this prosperous city of Victoria many to whom they can extend the open hand of generosity and charity, for the objects

of both are plentiful and easy to be discovered.

Christmas is especially the time during which the young very naturally expect and are justly entitled to special consideration. It was not in His full fledged stature that the world's redeemer came to this earth; but as an infant, and as He passed through the various stages of life, from infancy to manhood, He, whom all adore, may very fitly be claimed by the juveniles as having been one of themselves. Parents worthy of the name—and there are but few who are not—will, as far as possible, practically demonstrate their affection for those who are the dearest to them, and they in return will not be slow to reciprocate by—if that be possible—in more numerous and more intense manifestations of their love, as shown in their obedience. This much accomplished, the charity which has begun at home will extend to the less fortunate and comparatively friendless members of the community loving kindness, towards whom it cannot fail to be enhanced by the reflection that Christmas is the anniversary of Him who, when he comes to His kingdom, will say to the benefactors of their fellowmen, "inasmuch as ye did it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me."

THE EDITOR.

RANDOM REFLECTIONS.

A FEW evenings ago, in the business quarter of the city—

"Between the dark and the daylight,
When the night clouds began to lower,"

a group of men, mechanics and others, about to cease from the "day's occupations" and go to their homes, were approached by a gentleman in faultless apparel and puffing a cigar with a business-like air, who demanded from each one present the sum of four bits in exchange for a concert ticket, "for sweet charity's sake," he explained. Two or three whose appearance suggested easy circumstances invested, while a like number with sharper features and sharper habiliments gave the very sufficient reason for not doing so that they had not the wherewithal. The man with the tickets waxed eloquent in denunciation of working men who had work and who wouldn't give four bits to feed hungry

children and helpless women in mid-winter.

Following up a puff of unusual volume, with a round oath or two, as a preface to the accusation, he said: "I can get more money from the prostitutes and gamblers of the city in this cause than from mechanics and Christians. Yes, sir," said he with vigor, "every time I can get \$5 from a courtesan or a blackleg easier than bits from a mechanic or a Christian. Now, I leave it to the crowd if it isn't so." To which the crowd readily assented with the exception of the impecunious toilers aforesaid. As to whether mechanics and Christians, as might be inferred from this man's classification, must needs be separate and distinct individuals we venture no opinion. We repeat his expression here as nearly in his own words as the proprieties will permit for another purpose.

What we propose to deal with is the assertion that disreputable characters are more generous to suffering humanity than those who gain a livelihood by honest toil or who make a profession of Christian conviction. We have heard the accusation before. So often has it been repeated that we have almost at times come to look at it in the spirit of the saying that "what everybody says must be true;" and the question arises, if it be true, why? We are convinced that mechanical skill or industrious habits do not of themselves tend to make a man mean with his money or indifferent to the sufferings of his fellow-creatures; and although we firmly believe that there is such a thing as a mean Christian, we do not believe it to be because of his convictions, but in spite of them, and because of his natural propensities. Yet our experience has been sufficiently extensive to lead us to admit that those who live by vice and dishonesty are quite often more recklessly generous than those who "provide things honest in the sight of all men"

And we know something of the reason why. Men are never very generous with anything they do not possess, and men of limited income who weigh justice with mercy find a necessity for practising a careful economy even in their charities. Mechanics and Chris-