

For instance, they aver that one clerk in particular waits upon them in his shirt sleeves, and as this is directly contrary to shopping ethics they call upon THE HOME JOURNAL, the great redresser of grievances and the champion of women's rights, to warn said clerk to wear all his clothing when they next visit his counter. I sincerely trust the aforesaid clerk will take cognizance of this reminder, made in a friendly manner. If THE HOME JOURNAL succeeds in bringing about a reform in the young man's habits it will feel that its mission in this world has not been a failure.

This is the season of the year when every man, woman and child with a ten-cent piece to his credit is supposed to make a present to some other man, woman or child. A good deal has been written about Christmas presents, about the lack of judgment in selecting them and about the small amount of feeling that goes with the gift, but all that has been written does as much good apparently as the blowing of the wind. Money is so scarce this year, however, that many will be undoubtedly forced to take the advice which they have so neglected in the past. Presents may be divided into three classes, as they are now given. Useful presents, extravagant presents and obligatory presents, and of these, the class first named is the only kind which should be considered. It is the spirit of the giving which makes a gift desirable, and makes a pair of knitted wristers of more value than a pint of diamonds. It is an annual expression of affection and good will, this exchange of Christmas gifts, and this should be always borne in mind. To give a present grudgingly, because you know that the recipient will probably give you something, is an insult to the spirit of the day, and should be discountenanced by all who have any sentiment left in these days, when unfortunately sentiment is not at a premium. But what you give, give with all your heart, if it be of not more value than five cents. Then there is such disproportion about Christmas gifts. Why give the hundred dollar piece of bric-a-bac to the person who doesn't need it, and whose rooms are already littered with expensive ornaments, and the fifty cent token to the poor relative who needs a hundred articles of utility? Why, ye bloated capitalists, do ye do this? And you do it, you know you do. Why give the wealthy daughter of your neighbor diamonds, and send a cheap card to your needy cousin who is a typewriter, and to whom the value of the diamond would give a whole year of peace of mind, ease and comparative comfort? Just plain selfish pride, and nothing else; and you kick at the cost of the diamond while you give it, and thereby rob the act of any semblance of sweetness. The right course is to give, first, according to your means; then make appropriate presents and see that the presents will be of some value and use to the recipients, and, last of all, give heartily, whether you expect anything in return or not. The Christmas tree is not a commercial exchange. Remember the "Peace on earth; good will to men" injunction and let good will and love be the gold which makes your gifts valuable.

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I wonder if the people who are so anxious to see the establishment of a new steamship line between Victoria and Vancouver by the C. P. R. realize what effect it would have on this city. At the present time, the C. P. N. Company pay out to employees in this city the considerable sum of \$12,000 monthly, nearly all of which

amount is spent in Victoria. In the event of a new line, the employees, instead of being located in Victoria, would reside at Vancouver, and the money now spent in this place would go to the Terminal City. It would be well for the people of Victoria to pause before encouraging the C. P. R. to drive another nail in her coffin.

PERE GRINATOR.