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SIDE TALKS.

By Ruth Cameron.

IN LINE OF PEACE PREPARE-

Have you begun buying your Christmas presents yet, or are you satisfied to regard Christmas as something that does not need to be thought of until December 1, 1922?

Two weeks before Christmas the hand of a friend of mine was advised by his doctor to go into the hospital and take a rest. His wife went to him when she told me she was going to ask her what she was going to do about her Christmas shopping. "Don't do any Christmas shopping this year," she said. "I do it through the year and plan to have, at least, by December first, a small number of months before Christmas."

As she further outlined it, it was a plan to buy for the next Christmas. But, of course, I know the answer to my wonder. Most of us aren't in a condition financially or physically to do anything but pay bills and rejoice that Christmas doesn't come but once a year.

However if one can just once make the effort, scrape up the money to do one's Christmas shopping through the year it will come easy ever after.

Personally I am so impressed that I can hardly wait until I get through this to make out a list of Christmas gifts to be on the lookout for.

does not have to tire herself (and the clerks) by shopping in the crowded season. Fourthly, that the strain on her pocket book is much less painful when spread out like this.

Try It Once.

Whenever I hear of anyone doing this (I have heard of people before who were wise virgins) I wonder why everyone doesn't begin the day after Christmas to buy for the next Christmas? But, of course, I know the answer to my wonder. Most of us aren't in a condition financially or physically to do anything but pay bills and rejoice that Christmas doesn't come but once a year.

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Eat MRS. STEWART'S Home Made Bread.—Oct. 15, 1920

The Historical "Pepys' Diary."

The Original Samuel Himself.

(P. J. KINSSELLA)
Only those who have read the famous Pepys' Diary can have any idea of the interest each of its pages has for the lover of History—and History told in a lively and attractive manner and quite removed from the heavier style of our school days. Samuel Pepys was one of the officers of the Court of Charles II, high in position for even those days, he writes with an accuracy of the movement of the House of Commons, that surely must in itself have proved his Diary to be a strictly private and personal one.

His views of the interior workings of that court go to prove in a most convincing way that Pepys was a keen observer, and distinctly cynical. He watched with pity and disgust the whole Royal Circle, and by his Diary teems with condemnation of the attitude of his time, and sounds a warning to the end that did come to vicious and corrupt Government practices. Pepys was a Philosopher and one can understand him writing such a sentence as this:—"I did to-day talk to my Lord about Castlemaine, and did carefully suggest that it were better for the Court if her influences were removed, but it was not of use; for Good Lord he is as bad as the rest—so I will to myself keep such confidences in the future." Whilst watching and lamenting the insane cupidities of those people, Pepys at the same time took care to wisely build up his own fortunes, and to make of the great ones of his time an asset to the future placing of his own finances beyond compare. He writes:—"Went over my moneys and find that I am £150-0-0, ahead of my last year keepings, which thanks be to God for—I must still do better, and by cutting out false-dolls save more, and will mention this to my wife."

SOME EXTRACTS FROM THE ORIGINAL PEPYS' DIARY.

Jan. 1st, 1659. (Lord's Day)—This morning (we living lately in the garret) I rose, put on my suit with great skirts, having not lately worn any other clothes but them, and to church. Dined at home in the garret, where my wife dressed the remains of a turkey, and in the doing of it she burned her hand.

Jan 28.—To Sir G. Downing, the first visit I have made him since he came. He is so stinging a fellow I care not to see him.

July 1st.—This morning came home my fine Camlett cloak, with gold buttons and a silk suit, which cost me much money, and I pray God to make me able to pay for it. In the afternoon to the Abbey.

July 18th.—This day the Duke of Gloucester died of the smallpox by the great negligence of the doctors. Bought a pair of short black stockings to wear over a pair of silk ones for mourning.

July 24th.—I did send for a cup of China tea of which I have never drunk before. I went to Churching Cross, to see Major-General Harrison hanged, drawn and quartered; which was done there, he looking as cheerful as any man could do in that condition. My wife seemed very pretty to-day, it being the first time I had given her leave to wear a black patch.

November 29th, 1660.—Rose early, and put six spoons and a porringer of silver in my pocket to give away to-day, and went to Mrs. Browne's where Sir W. Pen and I were godfathers, and Mrs. Jordan and Shipman godmothers to her boy. I did give the mid-wife 10s, and the nurse 5s, and the milk of the house 2s. But for as much I expected to give the name to the child, but did not (it being called John) I forbore then to give my plate. And so home.

Aug. 15th.—By appointment we all went this morning to wait upon the Duke of York, which we did in his chamber, as he was dressing himself in his riding suit. He is in mourning for his wife's grandmother, which is thought a great piece of fondness. After, to the Opera, and there saw "Romio and Juliet," the first time it was acted. I am resolved to go no more to see the first time of acting, for they were all of them out more or less.

September 28th.—Dined with Mr. Falconer, and I did find excellent discourse from him. Among other things, his rule of suspecting every man that proposes anything to him to be a knave; or at least, to have some end in his own in it. Another rule is a proverb that he hath been taught, which is that a man that cannot sit still in his chamber (the reason of which I did not understand) and he that cannot say no (that is, that is of so good a nature that he cannot deny anything, or cross another in doing

so many generations. In those busy times coffee-houses were new, and we find Pepys dropping into Will's, where he never was before, and where he saw Dryden and all the wits of the town. The original MS. of the Diary is preserved in Magdalene College, Cambridge: it is in six volumes, containing upwards of 3,000 pages, closely written in Rich's system of shorthand. Samuel Pepys was only 37 years of age when he closed his Diary, his sight failed him at this age.

His last lines of the Diary read:—"And thus ends all that I doubt I shall ever be able to do with my own eyes in the keeping of my Journal. I begin not able to do it any longer, having done now so long as to undo my eyes almost every time that I take a pencil in my hand, and therefore, whatever comes of it, I must forbear; and therefore resolved, from the time forward to have it kept by my people in long-hand, and must be contented to set down no more but what is fit for them and all the world to know."

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anything) is not fit for business. The last of which is very great fault of mine, which I must amend in. I and he to my Lord Sandwich's and then over the Parke, where I first in my life, it being a great frost did see people sliding with their skates, which is a very pretty art.

July 7th, 1665.—At this time I have two tierces of Claret, two quarter casks of Canary, and a smaller vessel of Sack; a vessel of Trent, another of Malaga, and another of white wine, all in my wine cellar together. A solemn feast-day, for the Plague growing upon us.

July 31st.—Up, and after putting several things in order to my removal to Woolwich; the plague having increased this week, beyond all expectation of almost 2000, making the general Bill 7000, odd 100; and the plague above 6000. Thus the month ends with great sadness. In the city died this week 7496 and of them 6102 of the plague. But it is feared that the true number of the dead this week is nearly 10,000. To Lambeth. But Lord! what a sad time it is! I see no boats upon the river, and grass grows all up and down White Hall court, and nobody but poor wretches in the streets.

November 22nd, 1666.—Comes Mr. Batelier who tells me the news of how the King of France hath in defiance to the King of England caused all his footmen to be put into vests, and that the noblemen of France will do the like; which if true, is the greatest indignity ever done to one prince to another and would excite a stone to be revenged. After supper and reading a little, and my wife's cutting off my hair short, which is grown too long upon my crown, and so to bed.

March 3rd, 1666.—Sir R. Ford did make me understand that the House of Commons is a beast not to be understood. He did tell me and so did Sir W. Batten, how Sir Allen Broderick and Sir James Aspley did come drunk the other day into the House, and did both speak for half an hour together, and could not be either laughed, or pulled or bid, to sit down and hold their peace, which I am grieved at with all my heart. And so I learn from this, that on such occasions there is nothing like silence, it being wisdom to keep your mouth shut, but for the most part it is to say anything.

June 27th, 1667-68.—This evening my wife did with great pleasure show me her stock of jewels, and she reckons she has about £150 worth of jewels of one kind and another; and I am glad of it, for it is fit the wretch should have something to content herself with. Put on a new summer suit of black bombazin, and being come now to an agreement with my barber to keep my perriwig in good order at 20s. a year, I am like to go very spruce, more than I used to do.

July 5th.—Come to dine with Mr. Sir W. Eatten and his lady and Mrs. Lowther. This woman is grown either through pride or want of manners a fool, hath a bracelet of diamonds and rubies about her wrist and a sixpenny necklace about her neck and not one good rag of clothes upon her back. After (dinner) to the Duke of York's play-house and saw the "Unfortunate Lovers" a mean play I think, but some parts very good. We sat under the boxes and saw the fine ladies, amongst others, my Lady Kernevy who is most devilishly painted, and so home.

It may be affirmed of Pepys that he was without exception the greatest and most useful Minister that ever filled the same situations in England; the Acts and Registers of the Admiralty proving this fact beyond contradiction. He had an extensive knowledge of Naval affairs. He thoroughly understood and practised music, and he was a judge of painting, sculpture and architecture. In 1654 he was elected President of the Royal Society and held that honorable office for two years. To Magdalene College, Cambridge, he left an invaluable collection of manuscript naval memoirs, of prints, and ancient English poetry, which has often been consulted by critics and commentators; and is, indeed, unrivalled of its kind. One of its most singular curiosities is a collection of English ballads in five large folio volumes, begun by Selven and carried down to the year 1700. He was always in great estimation among the Literati, for his unbounded read-

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[Ease, Elegance, Economy]

Inter-Club Billiard Tourney.
HON. W. R. WARREN, K.C., WILL PRESENT CUP.
At Thursday's meet of the City and Masonic Clubs, Hon. W. R. Warren, K.C., made the announcement that he would present a cup to be contested for by all the billiard clubs in the city. The conditions were not named, but the understanding is that the cup to be presented has to be played for by various teams selected by individual clubs; the selection of players being left to the various Executives of the Clubs entering. A committee from the City and Masonic Clubs, included in which will be Mr. Warren, will shortly be appointed to draw up rules for this contest, which promises to be even more exciting than the last tourney.

Strong Programme at the Nickel.
VOCALISTS TO RENDER DUET FROM "IL TRAVATORE."
To-night Miss Chase and Mr. Dale will be heard in an extraordinary duet, entitled "Le Miserere" from the celebrated opera "Il Travatore." This is a number that commanded great attention on the European and American opera stages, and local patrons will no doubt appreciate the fact that it is to be heard here at their favorite theatre The Nickel.

DANCING.—Misses Miller will resume Dancing Lessons on Tuesday, Feb. 28th, C. C. C. Hall, 8 p.m., continuing Tuesdays and Thursdays. Application may be made at 58 Mullock St. or Phone 591.—Feb. 13, 1922, a.m. w.s.

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Watch this paper on Monday for list of goods to be sold on Wednesday.
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SPOT STOCK!

DIAMOND EYE ANCHORS,
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