

little girls looked very much troubled, but mother soon explained that their friends would value the gifts not for the money they cost, but for the love they showed. And she said she would go out with them next Saturday afternoon, and help them select such things as they could buy for five dollars. Then the children looked happy again.

"But," said their mother, "I do not see the name of your best friend here."

"Oh yes," said Isabel putting her arms around her neck, "we have not forgotten you dear mother; your name is first of all, but you know Christmas presents are secrets until the time comes."

"Oh yes," said mother, "I did not think I was forgotten; but I am not your very best friend, you know."

Then the children knew she meant the dear Lord Jesus, whose birthday Christmas means.

"But Jesus is in heaven," said Isabel. How can we give him a Christmas present?"

Christine said she knew how, for the last Bible verse she learned was, "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren ye have done it unto me." "That means," said she, "that money given to the poor and the heathen is just the same as given to Jesus."

"Then I think we ought to begin our Christmas presents with Jesus," said Isabel.

"I think so, too," said both Christine and mother.

So the children went away to write their books over again, and this time they began with something for "poor heathen children."

—*King's Messengers.*

My Offering.

In the bleak midwinter,
Frosty winds made moan,
Earth stood hard as iron,
Water like a stone;
Snow had fallen—snow on snow,
In the bleak midwinter, long ago.

Our God! Heaven cannot hold Him
Or earth contain,
Heaven and earth shall flee away,
When He comes to reign.
In the bleak midwinter, a stable-place sufficed
The Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ.

Enough for Him whom cherubim,
Worship night and day,
A breast full of milk,
And a manger full of hay,
Enough for Him whom angels fall down before,
The ox and ass and camel which adore.

What shall I give Him,
Poor as I am
If I were a shepherd
I would bring a lamb,
If I were a wise man,
I would do my part
What I can, I give Him
Give my heart.

—Christina Rossetti.

The Promised King.

SUGGESTIONS.

Construct a ladder of some light wood, and cover it with gilt-paper. Place it upon the platform, with one end resting against the wall. On either side and back of the ladder, arrange evergreen trees, so that the upper end of it will be concealed by the branches. Seven rounds must be in sight! Above the trees place a large light with a reflector behind it, and a shade in front, so that the rays of light will be thrown directly upon the ladder.

Prepare seven strips of card board, 1½ in. wide, and 15½ in. long (these should be of the same length as the rounds of the ladder); cover one side with gilt paper, and have printed on them the following: "Good Tidings," (No. 1)—"Great Joy," (No. 2)—"To All People," (No. 3)—"A Saviour Born," (No. 4)—"On Earth Peace," (No. 5)—"Good-will To Men," (No. 6)—"Glory To God," (No. 7). The numbers should be placed on the back side of the cards, and each one will need two wire hooks, by which it may be attached to the round, which it is designed to conceal.

Mottoes, such as—"King of Glory," "King of kings," "Crown Him Lord of all," are appropriate; a crown and sceptre, cut from card-board, and covered with gilt paper or evergreen and flowers, placed upon the wall, above the light, will be a pretty addition to the decoration.

If preferred, this exercise can be used without the ladder, etc., any other appropriate decoration being substituted.

This exercise is arranged for 15 children, but it can be adapted to a larger or smaller number. To Nos. 4, 6, 8, 10, 11, 12, and 14, the cards, already described, should be given, and placed upon the ladder, by the Superintendent at the time appointed: No. 1—"Good tidings," upon the lowest round, No. 2 next and so on.

To music, let the children march from their seats to the platform; when they have taken their places the music should cease. Immediately, from an adjoining room, singing should be faintly heard, and continued during this exercise. The children must speak loudly in order to be heard.

1st child, (listening).

"Hark! what mean those holy voices,
Sweetly sounding through the skies,
Sure th' angelic host rejoices;
Loudest hallelujah's rise."

2nd child.

"Listen to the wondrous story,
Which they chant in hymns of joy!"