

CHRISTMAS PRESENTS.

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of the same publication with the compliments of the publishers.

JOHN DOUGALL & SON,
'Witness' Building,
Montreal.

HOUSEHOLD.

For the Children.

(Myron Weston, in 'American Agriculturist'.)

'I don't believe you could guess what I am doing,' said an old lady, with a childish laugh. 'I'm makin' Christmas gifts for the children.' 'What children?' I asked. 'My own children an' gran'children. My baby is close on to fifty now, but I allus say "the children" when I speak of them. They'll never be anything but the children to their old mother. Robert, my oldest, was 59 the 3rd of last month. I've just finished up his present for him. Here it is.' She held up three or four penwipers and a little circular flat contrivance about as big as a silver dollar.

'It is for holding pins, an' it can be slipped right into the vest pocket. A man often finds it real handy to have a pin or two about him, an' this is better than stickin' them in the lapel of his coat. Then I allus make him enough penwipers to last him a year. He is president of a big bank in the city. He comes to see me four times every year an' I go to his house once or twice an' stay a week at a time. He has been at me for years to come an' live with him, at least in the winter time, but la! I couldn't be happy in the city, nor any place away from my own home. I went to housekeepin' here in this house, an' my six children were born here. My husband died here, an' it is the only place in the world that could ever seem like home to me. I visit each o' my children at least a week each year an' they all come home to keep Thanksgivin' with me. Here is a Christmas gift I made for my boy Henry.'

She held up a pair of thick brown mittens and said, 'Henry lives on a big farm over Hebron way, about ten miles from here. He has a lot o' stock an' has a great deal o' feedin' to do in the winter time, so a pair o' mother's nice warm mittens comes in mighty handy, an' he 'preciates them. Then I have made my daughter Sarah a quilt out of scraps left over from the dresses she had when she was a little girl. I want that you should see that quilt, an' I'll go an' get it.' She was gone but a few minutes, when she returned with the quilt thrown over her arm.

'It is what is called the "Star of Bethlehem" pattern, an' I never thought of it at the time, but it has come to me since that it is such an appropriate name for a quilt that is to be given away as a Christmas gift. It is made almost entirely of pieces of her baby an' childhood dresses, an' la! how it carried me back to my childhood o' my children to git them old scraps out an' work on them! That purple an' pink block is like a double-gown that not only Sarah but three o' my other children wore when they were babies. They made better calico them days than they make now, an' we had to pay a good

deal more for it. That white scrap with the little blue flower in it is like the first short dress Sarah ever had. It was trimmed with white serpentine braid, an' she did look so sweet in it. You know we made little girls' dresses low-necked and short-sleeved then, an' I remember that I put bows o' narrow blue ribbon on the sleeves o' that dress, an' she wore it to my mother's to a Thanksgivin' dinner the first time she ever had it on. I have braided a rug for my daughter Ellen that lives over in Zoar, an' I have made my son Jared a 'housewife' because he is goin' away out west in January to look up some minin' property he has out there. It is right in the wilderness where he is goin' an' I guess that he will find the "housewife" real handy before he comes home. What? You don't know what a "housewife" is? Well, it is a needlebook all fitted up with thread and needles so a man can mend a rip or sew on a button if he wants to. Jared allus was so handy with a needle.

'I ain't fully decided on what I will make my other children for Christmas, but it will be something that I can make with my own hands, for I think that a present o' that kind counts for so much more than one that you just go out an' buy. Then the children like to have the things mother made with her own hands, for it ain't goin' to be many years that mother's hands can do anything for them. But just as long as I am able I intend to keep doin' things for my children. It is my greatest happiness in this life, next to knowin' that they are all good men an' wimmen. Not one o' them ever gave me a minnit's sorrow. That is something any mother ought to be proud of an' thankful for. It is something that makes it a great joy to me to work for the children.'

Selected Recipes.

OYSTER SANDWICHES.

One quart of oysters, steamed and chopped; eight large cream crackers, rolled and sifted, one-half cup sweet cream, salt and pepper to taste, one quarter cupful of butter. Cook in double boiler, not more than ten minutes, stirring all the while. Take from fire, add whipped whites of three eggs, and spread on thin slices of bread cut in rounds.

CHRISTMAS FRUIT CAKE.

One and a half pounds of raisins, one and one-fourth pounds of currants, three-fourths pound of citron, one pound of butter, one pound of sugar, one and a fourth pounds of flour, ten eggs, two tablespoonfuls of lemon, two teaspoonfuls of yeast powder. Flour the fruit, mix the other ingredients, adding the fruit last. Stir well, and bake slowly.

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