

OUR HOME CIRCLE.

A CHRISTMAS HYMN.

It was the calm and silent night! Seven hundred years and five-score, Had Rome been growing up to night, And now was queen of land and sea, No sound was heard of clashing weapons, Peace brooded over the bustling domain; Apollo, Pallas, Jove, and Mars, Had undisturbed their ancient reign, In the solemn midnight, Centuries ago.

THEIR CHRISTMAS GIFT.

They were very sober one cold December evening at Jerry Larkin's—Deborah, Jerry's wife, especially so. She had prepared her husband's favorite repast, hot beans and brown bread; but she ate little. Jerry's appetite as usual was good. The beans flew into his mouth behind great bites of bread, and were washed down by huge gulps of coffee. At last Jerry wiped his mouth with a red handkerchief. "What ails ye?" he asked abruptly. "Pears to me you're drowsy down at the mouth."

thinking how queer it sounded, until the man replied, with a laugh: "No, we have turkey for Christmas, and Christmas for the children, Have you a family?" "I had—once," said Jerry dearly, "but there's only my wife and me now; the rest are gone; we'll have no Christmas at our house."

"Don't fret any more, Debby dear; don't say we've no one to buy for because our children are dead! Far better they should be safe in heaven than suffering here without us, as one I've just seen. Wouldn't it have been a hard case for little Alice, if she'd lived, and I had died, and you married a brute of a man?" "O, I wouldn't have had the best man living!" sobbed Deborah.

CHRISTMAS GUESTS.

The quiet day in winter beauty closes, And sunset clouds are tinged with crimson dye. As if the blushes of our faded roses Came back to tint this sombre Christmas sky.

THE SILVER CUP.

It would attract no special attention from an ordinary observer. It is graceful in pattern, and has delicate tracery upon it, but you would say there are hundreds of others quite as beautiful.

CHRISTMAS LONG AGO.

When I was a wee maiden I lived in the town of F—, in the State of Maryland. It had been settled by Germans, chiefly, and German customs were in a great degree adopted by all classes, particularly those connected with the coming of the Christ child.

Who can tell the sweet comfort of that faithful pastor in the thought that God had made him an instrument of blessing in that household once apparently sealed against his ministry? And this was the testimony of the lady whose spoken words and unfriendly manner had often sent a sting to his heart.

gifts are so costly. On the top of that faithful pastor in the thought that God had made him an instrument of blessing in that household once apparently sealed against his ministry? And this was the testimony of the lady whose spoken words and unfriendly manner had often sent a sting to his heart.

THEY... The tea... The teacher... The young folks... The first Christmas... Old Hannah... IMPR... M. Ber... Some... equanim...