

RECOMPENSE.

From this dull world of ours
A stairway leads
To where a cloudless
nocturnal gleams
Each soul may mount
the viewless ladder, there
Discovering his land of dreams.

Imagination keeps the low-
browed door
Unlocks it at, each man's request;
He guides the traveler up
the shining stair
And plants a blossom in
each breast.

From poverty and woe
and wasting want,
From heartaches and from
numbing pains,
The doorway swings wide
open, and to view
There bursts the dazzling
sun-kissed plains.

The veriest fool who mumbles
in his hut
May leave his rags and
filth behind
And view a splendid scene
whose endless charm
Would strike his richer
neighbor blind.

A question then; if it were
best to be
A dillard—swathed in
stiffing gold,
Or some poor garret-pinioned
dreamer, whom
No sordid chains of earth
may hold.

—William Reed Dunroy.

A MERRY CHRISTMAS.

Let us not altogether overthrow the
Santa Claus myth, for an immense moral
influence dwells in it. The belief, which
is very general among children, that his
favor depends upon their good behavior,
has an unequalled soothing power over
the rebellious dispositions. If they be-
lieve that the wise saint has his own re-
cording angel, is there any harm in the
quaint superstition? We ourselves sub-
scribe to sillier ideas. Could we pene-
trate the symbolism of some childish
fancies there might often come to the
light grains of wisdom remnant from the
religions of the ancient world.

The question we are now asking, how
to make a merry Christmas? is not to be
solved in an instant. Every family must
consider it from its own standpoint.
Happiness is not, even at this season, to
be put in a great sack labelled "candy
and toys." We should study our child-
ren and find out what particular thing
they are counting upon. Especially
where Christmas is the great gift-mak-
ing epoch of the year, and the children
look to it for their annual store of games
and toys. But only half our duty to-
ward them will be done if we have not
taught them the pleasure of making
gifts to others. I say taught advisedly,
for the moral nature of a child is not
conferred upon him at birth; it exists

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then only in the germ, and it has to be
cultivated just as his faculty for intel-
lectual work has to be cultivated. But
the great difference between moral and
intellectual training is, that whereas in
the last one may attack the understand-
ing and lead on to desire, in the first all
our approaches must be made to the
heart. No restraint upon conduct is of
any account unless we succeed in getting
the child to want to be good. He will
then try to be good under all circum-
stances, when he is away from us as
well as when he is in our sight.—Har-
per's Bazar.

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