

## Our Women and Children

Conducted by Lucille Skaggs Edwards.

### XMAS PREPARATION.

Thanksgiving has past. All the worry, and bustle, and hurry for Christmas now begins. Everywhere appears the slogan: "Do your Christmas shopping early."

We are pondering in our minds "what shall I give him?" What will she like?" In the midst of all this preparation, let us stop to think of our real motive in giving. Let us prepare our hearts for this season of love and cheer. Let us remember that Christmas living is as important as Christmas giving. Dr. Frank Crane, in The Woman's World has beautifully brought out this thought in an article from which we quote in part:

"The greatest Christmas gift in the world is appreciation.

You cannot give anything that will please everybody—relatives, friends, and acquaintances—more than that.

If you do not give that, all your other gifts will amount to nothing.

There is hardly anything it will do so much good to realize as this fact. It will not only save us from heartaches, but it will operate as a saving sauce and a redeeming flavor to all our other gifts.

And the day after it will leave us with a real Christmas taste in the mouth.

So, if you want this to be the most Christmasy Christmas of your life, to be fullest of joy and cleanest of all disappointment and inward wounds, the very best and brightest season of all the year, as indeed it should be, just undertake, first of all, to forget your own self—and set about to find something in every human being with whom life brings you in contact, something that you can and do appreciate.

You pass through this life but once. God sends you this and that man or woman to touch you here and there. Are you a fool to despise them. Or are you wise, to make of every human relationship a vehicle in some measure of that love and helpfulness that transforms the world?

If into every family could come this most precious of gifts—appreciation! What widening chasms of estrangement might be closed! What sore and suffering hurts might be lightened! What inner bitterness purged! And how the gentle and genial Spirit of the Christ Child would spread through and among us all, like a widening, shining river, reflecting back the sunshine of that Eternal Love that shines ever down upon us from Him who made and loves us all!"

### THE SIN OF FRETTING.

There is one sin which is almost everywhere underestimated and quite too often much overlooked in valuation of character, and that is the sin of fretting. It is so common that unless it rises above its usual monotone we do not even notice it. Watch any ordinary coming together of people and see how long it will be before somebody frets, that is, makes more or less complaining statement of something or other which probably everyone in the room knew before, and which probably nobody can help. Why say anything about it? It is cold; it is hot; it is dry or wet; somebody has broken an appointment; or ill cooked a meal; or some stupidity has resulted in discomfort. It is simply astonishing how much annoyance may be found in the course of every day's living. The Bible says: "We are born to trouble, as the sparks fly upward." But for

sparks that fly in the blackest smoke there is a blue sky above them, and the less time they waste on the road the sooner they will reach it. Fretting is just "time wasted on the road," and more than wasted.—The Messenger.

### SOMEBODY'S BIRTHDAY.

This is somebody's birthday,  
Just as sure as fate;  
Some little boy is six years old,  
Some little girl is eight.  
Some little boy is three today,  
Some little girl thirteen;  
Some little twins are exactly two—  
Two apiece, I mean.

Someone is eating his birthday cake  
And laughing over the plums;  
Some one is counting her birthday  
dolls

On all her fingers and thumbs.  
Someone is bouncing his birthday ball,  
Or winding his birthday top;  
Some one is not too wise or tall  
For birthday butterscotch.

Think of the beautiful birthday books,  
Think of the birthday cheer;  
Think of the birthday happiness  
Every day in the year!  
Every day in the year, my dear,  
Every day we're alive,  
Some happy child is one or two  
Or three, or four, or five.  
—Advocate and Guardian.

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