# Our Women and Children

Conducted by Lucille Skaggs Edwards.

### CHRISTMAS GREETINGS.

We wish our readers a Merry Christmas!

May each heart be made glad by tokens of love and friendship; may each face be illuminated with Christmas cheer; may each hand be gladdened in extending gifts to others; may each soul be filled with the Christmas spirit, living that we may be giving.

"The celebration of Xmas is the acknowledgement that loving service is the highest and noblest expression of our lives." In studying the one Supreme Life, we find that He was constantly giving and sacrificingeven to the laying down of His life.

Every joy that is our should give fresh impetus to our giving of joy to others. The more we give of service, of sunshine, of cheer, of love, the more of these we shall have to give.

As our lives are enriched, the quality of our giving will advance for-"They only live

Richly, who can richly give." L. S. E.

### THE STARS OF DECEMBER.

in the east went before them till it came and stood over where the young child was.

"And when they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy."

The beautiful story of the Star of Bethlehem is interesting to everyone; "ever old, yet always new."

Let us not fail at this season to tell the children the story of the Star and the Babe of Bethlehem, that in their youth they may learn of the beautiful life of Him who said, "Suffer the little ones to come unto me."

While we tell of the "Star of the East" let us remember that the other stars. which shone so brightly on that winter's night in Judea, shine for us as brightly these December nights,

"There is no end to the sky, And the stars are everywhere."

At no season of the year are the stars more beautifully brilliant than in winter; and since some of the most important constellations appear now in the heavens and are quite easily traced, it would be delightful and instructive to children to point out a

few of them. The "dipper" is familiar to every one; early in the evening, shortly after 6 o'clock, the planet Jupiter may be recognized shining brilliantly in the east. Just below Jupiter is a group of stars forming a V; these are the Hyades, which form the face of Tarus, the white bull. The bright, red star on the corner of the V is Aldeberan, his eye. In the shoulder of the bull and above Jupiter is a small cluster of stars, the Pleades. (In the Greek legend, the Pleades were daughters of the giant Atlas and the Hyades were their half sister.) Later in the evening, in the southeast, appear a group of seven stars, forming an oblong with three diagonally across-this is Orion, the most splendid constellation in the heavens, and once fixed in the child's mind will never be forgotten or mistaken. The three diagonal stars form, his belt; the shoulders are marked by two bright stars. Orion has no right foot, in his left is Rigel, a magnificient white star. (Accord-

ing to the Greeks, Orion is the mighty hunter who, with uplifted club, stands facing Tarus.) Nearly pointed at by a line drawn through the three stars of Orion's belt, appearing about 10 o'clock, is Sirius, beyond all comparison the brightest star in the heavens; it marks the Great Dog, who sets up watching his master Orion, the hunter.

How wonderful is the handiwork of Him of whom Job said, "Who maketh Arcturus, Orion and the Pleades?" and we exclaim with the Psalmist, "When I consider Thy heavens,

What is man that Thou art mindful of him?" L. S. E.

God made no mistake in His Christmas gift, and gave us the greatest possible blessing when He gave us Christ.-James H. Snowden.

"Look on all His gifts around theegifts that make it joy to live Best of all, O royal kindness! He has given the power to give.

He has filled thy hands with blessings which He bids thee scatter wide;

"And lo, the star which they saw Calls thee friend, and not His servant-friend to labor at His side."

### A CHRISTMAS THOUGHT.

(By Lucy Larcom)

Oh, Christmas is coming again, you

And you long for the things it is bringing,

But the costliest gift may not gladden the day

Nor help on the merry bells ringing. Some getting is losing, you under-

stand: Some hoarding is far from saving.

What you hold in your hand may slip from your hand;

There is something better than having.

We are richer for what we give, And only by giving we live.

Your last year's presents are scattered and gone,

You have almost forgotten who gave them.

But the loving thoughts you bestow

As long as you choose to have them. Love, love is your riches, though ever so poor;

No money can buy the treasure, Yours always, from robber and rust secure,

Your own without stint or measure. It is only love that we can give: It is only by loving we live.

For who is it smiles though the Christmas morn-

The light of the wide creation? A dear little Child in a stable born Whose love is the world's salva-

He was poor on earth, but he gave us all

That can make our lives worth living,

And happy the Christmas day we call That is spent for his sake in giving. He shows us the way to live: Like him, let us love and give.

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