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RECOMPENSE

It was about a week before Christmas when Colonel Smith was wandering homeward upon the main thoroughfare of the city of his adoption. The colonel was as full of the spirit of the merry season as was the very air itself. He thought of the presents he was about to make and of those which he expected to receive as he cast his eyes about him and saw the shop windows full of the latest novelties in toys.

When he was lost in such a pleasant Christmas reverie as he hadn't had since he was a small boy, he happened to pass along in front of a great marble hotel. At the time he was passing a painter was engaged in the act of retouching some of the inside blinds at an open window. It is not likely that it will ever be known just how it happened, but the painter, while probably preoccupied with dreams of the approaching holiday, toppled the pot of paint off the window sill, from which point it whirled through the chilly ashen air and deposited about three-quarters of its contents upon the colonel.

The latter was as red with rage as he was with paint when he flew into and through the main entrance of that hotel and presented himself at the office.

"Sir!" exclaimed the colonel in a towering rage. "What kind of treatment do you call this, sir?"

"Pretty rough," replied the clerk, not knowing exactly what to say, because he was ignorant of the accident that had just happened.

"I am glad," roared the colonel, with beautiful irony, "that you are at least kind enough to assume an attitude of sympathy, but I am here, sir, to demand satisfaction for damages. As I was passing, sir, one of your painters, sir, upset a pot of red paint upon me, sir!"

Here the colonel paused for breath, and the clerk, learning the cause of his trouble, became very profuse in his apologies.

"I am sorry it happened, sir, very sorry. But you should not be so unreasonably as to blame the establishment for

what was the fault of a painter employed by it."

"You should employ only painters who understand their business, sir!" roared the colonel in a fine frenzy, "and I will teach you that paint cannot be poured upon me with impunity, sir!"

"We are willing," said the clerk, "to do what is right in the matter. We will pay for having your clothing cleaned, or we will buy you a new suit if necessary."

"You cannot get out of it on any such basis as that, sir. I am going to make an example of you, sir, and inside of 24 hours, too, sir!" And having made this threat the colonel bustled out of the building and up the street.

Upon the following day the colonel sent his legal representative to talk the matter over and see if it could not be adjusted to his satisfaction without the worry and expense of a legal contest.

It happened that the hotel's attorney was present when the colonel's legal friend arrived, and the former said:

"We are perfectly willing to do the fair thing by Colonel Smith. We admit that the colonel's clothing was ruined through the negligence of one of our employees, and we are willing to pay for it. We will give him a sufficient sum to purchase himself a new suit of clothes. How does \$30 strike you?"

"Such a proposition would not strike the colonel at all," replied the friend of the ex-warrior. "It is not the amount of money involved in this thing that is making him miserable."

"Then what is it?" asked the hotel's attorney.

"It's his feelings," replied the other lawyer; "his feelings. You know he belongs to one of the oldest and proudest of all the old Virginia families, and he is as haughty and hypersensitive as any



ON CHRISTMAS MORNING.

other bearer of his name. His feelings have been deeply wounded, and they can never be healed by the price of a suit of clothes."

"It is pretty hard to ask us to pay for his feelings," said the hotel's attorney, with a smile, "because I do not see how we can appraise them in order to reach an intelligent idea of their monetary value."

"And then," broke in the other lawyer, "he is living with a maiden aunt who is

also a very dignified and proud spirited person. And when she saw the colonel enter the house belabored with red paint and heard that he had been glibbed at by boys as he passed along the street she was completely undone and has since been confined to her bed. Her feelings have got to be paid for too. The colonel is really more distressed over his aunt's feelings than anything else connected with this unfortunate affair, and he proposes to fight it out on the basis of their feelings and wounded pride."

"See here," said the hotel's attorney, "I'll tell you what we'll do. We'll settle the thing for \$33.75, and not a cent more. If this doesn't meet your views of a fair compromise, you must seek your remedy in the law, and then you will find what your client's feelings are worth."

"Is that the best you will do?"

"It is," replied the hotel's attorney.

On Christmas morning, when the bells were ringing merrily in the frosty air, Colonel Smith appeared in a new suit of clothes to celebrate the occasion, for he had accepted the hotel's terms of \$33.75—\$30 for his ruined clothing and \$3.75 for his feelings and those of his dear old aunt.



TO CHRISTMAS GIVERS.

Suggestions as to Appropriate Holiday Presents.

The gift which harmonizes with its future surroundings and just fits in a vacant spot is the one which is most valued. The same rule applies to articles of dress. To the young brunette, whose evening gowns are generally pink or crimson, the pale blue fan, although lovely in itself, would not be as serviceable as a plainer one which she could use with her existing wardrobe. Before you embroider the dollies or centerpieces for the housewife's table consider the color of her china and try to bring your work into affinity with her possessions.

The friends in mourning and the invalid appreciate the thoughtfulness which adapts the gift to their saddened lives. The book, with its comforting message, the potted palm to brighten the darkened room, the soft knitted shawl or slippers—in fact, anything that evidences consideration for their feelings, and does not jar by incongruity, is priceless.

It is astonishing to note how much is frittered away on perishable trifles when the Christmas gift, of all others, should be something enduring. The elaborate card and ribboned booklet are practically useless, aside from the remembrance which prompts their giving. Almost every one has a collection of satin hand painted vanities, lovely to look at, but the care of which is the despair of both mistress and maid. But some say: "Other things are beyond my means. I cannot afford to give substantial presents." It is a fact that the shops, especially during the hot months, are filled with at least three articles which delight the hearts of homemakers the world over, and which many young girls love to collect against the wedding day. What are they, pray? Dainty individual coffee cups, harlequin spoons and st

plates, suitable for the serving of fruit cream or salad.

Co-operation is a boon to the average purse. If the members of the family or a set of friends accustomed to exchange gifts unite their finances, they can give one handsome article in the place of several makeshifts.

Good taste discriminates between the needs of country and town and does not send an opera glass or party bag to the farmhouse. Neither does it give the boy a book which he ought to like, but tries to select one to complete his favorite series. Children's stockings are sometimes filled from the standpoint of maturity. Utility and not suitability governs the choice of their contents. There has been many a disappointed, sorrowful heart on Christmas morning because the powers that be, forgetting their own childhood, had catered to the tastes of those of 40 instead of to those of 4.

On the principle of like attracting like, the most valuable gift too often finds its way to the one who needs it least. In some cases good judgment dictates the giving of money as the kindest thing to be done. How often some poverty straitened one has sighed over the expensive gift, "If I only had the money this gift cost!" No field affords a wider opportunity for the exercise of common sense than Christmas giving. Women, by exercising judgment, not only benefit themselves, but are a positive blessing in their example to the entire sex, and yuletide of 1893 will be a happy one indeed if common sense is more employed in Christmas gifts.—A. L. Fleming.



CHRISTMAS TOYS.

In no respect is the extravagance of modern taste and the progress of mechanical genius better exemplified than in the children's toys of the present. The skill of inventors and manufacturers has been exerted to the utmost to bring out novelties in Christmas playthings, and the result this year is more attractive than ever before. Many of these toys are of considerable practical value, and some of them sell for from \$5 to \$100. At the same time toys that far surpass the playthings of other days may be purchased for comparatively insignificant prices. The industry of toy-making began at Nuremberg in the fifteenth century. At present Paris is the headquarters for the manufacture of toys, although Germany divides the honors with the French metropolis in many respects. In this country many large factories are devoted to this industry in New York, Philadelphia and Boston.



Back to mother's pumpkin pies, Apple sauce and oyster stews. From the city come the boys. And forget all French menus.

Speeches at Christmas banquets will be stuffed with chestnuts this season, as usual.

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