



The Home Department

Conducted by
Helen Watts McKee

Christmas Eve

Mother kissed each little nursling,
With caresses, laughter-light,
"Go to sleep now, children," said she;
"Santa Claus will come tonight.
And remember now, no peeping—
Santa Claus detests a spy,
And if you would have full stockings,
He must find no wakeful eye."

Patting down each dainty pillow,
Tucking in the blankets white,
Mother, laughing, chatters softly,
Kisses them, and calls good-night.
And the children, glad, expectant,
Call goodnight adown the stair;
Mother's heart is like her children's—
Lightsome, loving, free from care.

Then they whisper for a moment,
But the white-winged angel, Sleep,
Presses down each snowy eyelid,
Steeps their souls in slumber deep.
And when silence fills the chamber,
Through the softly-opened door,
Grandma comes, soft-stepping, slowly,
Laden with a precious store.

Fills with lavish hands the stockings,
Swelled and bulging, all the row,
Toy and sugar-plum and trifle,
On the carpet overflow.
Then, when all is ready, waiting,
For the morning's merry glee,
Grandma bends above the sleepers,
Kisses each, most tenderly;

Prays for them, as pray the mothers
Who have kissed the splintered
cross;
Who have caught the glory-gleaming
Of the crown beyond the cross.
Then she opens a close-shut drawer,
Takes from it a package white,
Softly draws away the wrappings,
Lays her treasures in the light.

Just a baby's silken stocking;
Just a tiny, wrinkled shoe;
Just a velvet cap and mittens,
And a fluffy scarf of blue.
Many years have drifted o'er her
Since she wrapped her treasures so—
Since her heart broke o'er the baby—
First to come, and first to go.

When her life was new and sunny,
This great shadow o'er her fell,
And through years of pain and sorrow
She has learned to say, "'Tis well."
So she folds the shoe and stocking
In their wrappings, silver-white,
Kisses them and whispers softly,
"Safe within the fold, tonight."

But the little cap and mittens—
Pressed to lip and cheek and brow,
Blinding tears upon them falling—
Where is he who wore them, now?
Tossing o'er life's stormy ocean?
Swirling in the maelstrom's might?
Far from love, and home, and harbor;
Will he lose the beacon-light?

Little fluffy scarf—'t was Girlie's—
Girlie, now a matron grown;
O'er her path, no frost has fallen;
Only fragrant flowers have grown,
Grandma wraps again the parcel—
Kissed it, as we kiss our dead;
"For His Name's sake, He has prom-
ised—
I will trust Him still," she said.

H. W. M.

Christmas Greetings

To our thousands of readers, we
send cordial greetings and sincere good
wishes. May the dear Christ-child
spirit enter in at your door and abide
with you through coming days. May
it bring to you the peace that is price-

less and the "good will toward men"
that ripens hearts for noble deeds of
loving kindness and active charities in
the broadest sense of the words. To
many it can not be a "merry Christ-
mas," yet let us hope that it may be
a comfortable one, full of broad sym-
pathies and hopeful endeavors. Re-
member that all poverty is not of the
purse, and that to the hungry-hearted,
kind words and companionship are
more precious than pearls. Gifts are
of many kinds, and few of the most
appreciated have a money value. Give;
but let the giving be done in loving-
kindness and according to your means.
A kind word, a touch of tenderness, a
show of sympathy, a cordial hand-
clasp, a note of remembrance sent out
across the dividing distance—all these
are more precious than silver or gold.
Nothing satisfies the heart so much as
appreciation. May your holiday season
be a happy one. Look for the bright
side.

Odds and Ends

A narrow strip of cream colored
canvas was converted into a wall pocket,
of five compartments, and decorated
with cross-stitch design in two shades
of red, black and green, with heavy
mercerized cotton. It hangs under-
neath the bedroom mantel, and holds
shoe-strings, corset laces, wash, rib-
bons, tapes, etc. In the kitchen is a
good sized wall pocket made of green
art linen that was a sofa pillow cover
when new, to hold house cloths. On
the same wall is a similar case of
green denim for papers, magazines,
etc., for reading during the intervals
of cooking. On the pantry door a bag
of ticking showing tulips on a cream
ground, holds wrapping paper, neatly
folded. Some pretty flowered ticking
made a trunk cover, another piece cov-
ered a large box for patches. A piece
of white flannelette with black dots,
was fashioned into a broad, shallow
bag with drawstrings, to hold all
scraps of embroideries and laces, all
neatly rolled. Silkoline of Oriental
design made a neat bag for holding tapes,
braids, narrow laces, finishing braids,
whalebone casings, etc. To hang un-
der the lid of the sewing machine, for
catching scraps instead of letting them
fly at random about the room, is one
of the well-known bags with an em-
broidery hoop in its mouth, or opening.
One of like design may be used as a
receptacle for soiled collars and hand-
kerchiefs, that one often wishes not
to go with the regular wash, and one
of smaller size and dainty material
makes a pretty hair receiver. You will
probably find material also, for a nice
sewing-bag, a darning bag and large
and small embroidery bags. Pieces
from percale, chambray and other
shirt waists were packed neatly and
sent to the grandmother, who takes
much pleasure in making quilts for
her numerous grandchildren. I have
not mentioned the use of silk patches,
except for bags of various kinds, and
I would send the surplus to some
friend who is interested in the making
of rugs, portieres, or something of that
kind, as large quantities can be used
in that way and it is not worth while
to start with a limited amount. Sev-
eral bunches of ribbon remnants pur-
chased in a large department store
can easily be used in making these va-
rious articles, also a box of assorted
sewing silks, which come in the cheap
grades. Many other articles could be
particularized of pretty birthday and
Christmas gifts, for a school girl, a
young mother, or busy housekeeper. I

often take pleasure in conjuring some-
thing useful out of a given piece of
material, never being satisfied until I
feel sure the result will be worth while.
In that way my time is not wasted, and
someone is benefited.—Selected.

Christmas Giving

In Twentieth Century Home, Eliza-
beth M. Gilmer says: "An exchange
for Christmas gifts, where you might
unload your celluloid tokens of affec-
tion, and where harassed young men
could swap off the nameless embroid-
ered mysteries that their feminine
friends send them for an honest gar-
ment, would meet a long-felt want;
but these things must be left to the
reformer. Surely, out of all this an-
nual hurley-burley and worry and an-
xiety and confusion that leaves us
wrecked in health and nerves and
spent in spirit, there must be some ra-
tional way. Let's start an anti-Christ-
mas crusade, and let's begin at the
fountain head of misery and abolish
the Christmas gift among elders. Let's
give our children less; let's have plain-
er dinners and eat less; let's even re-
member the poor oftener, and not deal
so much in that charity which bestows
turkeys on the twenty-fifth of Decem-
ber and leaves the needy to starve the
balance of the year. Somewhere there
must still be a Christmas spirit of
peace on earth and good will toward
men, but it isn't in these days when
the only joyful thing about Christmas
is that it comes but once a year."

Christmas Decorations

Christmas decorations are very gay
this season, and many very lovely
things are very cheap, with no end of
designs and new inventions from Santa
Claus land. Tinsel, cotton, wool, spun-
glass tissue paper, scrap pictures, and
many other materials are liberally
used in the manufacture of all kinds of
attractions. The counters are bril-
liant with shining things, while the
display windows are scraps of real
fairy-land. Spun-glass flowers and
fruits, baskets of tinsel and cotton,
ships of cotton with ribs and masts of
tinsel, sail under a spread of isinglass
canvas. Birds, butterflies, babies and
unnumbered other like lovely things
are shown; silver lilies with centers of
gilt tinsel, candle-holders of bell-like
flowers, with crinkled petals, stars that
glitter like "the real things," scrap-pic-
ture angels and heads of beautiful ba-
bies nestled in the heart of exquisitely
shaped and colored flowers, all sorts of
impossible animals and ingenious toys
—it is a veritable fairy-land, lacking
not even the funny old Santa Claus
himself, to make it the more beautiful
in sweet, childish eyes.

Query Box

Anxious.—All animal oils used on
the face are said to stimulate a growth
of hair thereon; vegetable oils are less
likely to do so. Ask your druggist.

Housewife.—The conventional sup-
ply of chairs for a bedroom is one side
chair and one low rocker, but others
chairs may be introduced.

Mrs. M. B.—Materials and directions
for making Tenerife wheels can be
purchased at almost any store dealing
in art or fancy-work materials.

Mrs. R.—A good quality of Floren-
tine orris root can be had for about
ten cents an ounce, and used alone
makes a delightful perfume for sachet
bags. Patronize a reliable druggist.

Reefe.—Cravenette is a process, not
a cloth, and is used to render fabrics

rain-proof. The cravenette cloth can
be purchased by the yard, and you can
make the garment yourself.

Florist.—The Mexican exhibit of or-
chids at the World's fair, was donated
to Shaw's garden, St. Louis. It was
particularly fine. No admission fee is
charged at Shaw's garden.

J. B.—There were about 19,000,000
admissions to the World's fair grounds
at St. Louis, but thousands of these
were for the army of people entitled to
free admission because of being em-
ployes, while other thousands were for
another army of people to whom the
association extended, for various rea-
sons, the courtesy of a "pass."

Mrs. Alice R.—For a lavender sachet
for your linen closet, take one pound
of dried lavender flowers, one ounce
of benzoid, half an ounce of oil of
lavender and one ounce extract of
musk; mix well, put in sachet bags and
lay among your linen.

Householder.—Send for Farmer's
Bulletin No. 183, for information re-
garding butchering, curing and pre-
serving meats; also for Bulletin No.
203 for household methods of putting
up fruits. The bulletins are free. Ad-
dress Division of Publication, Depart-
ment of Agriculture, Washington, D.
C.

Dressing The Baby

The temptation with too many of
us is to keep the baby in white clothes,
no matter what its surroundings, and
while the dear little one does look
sweet in white, the over-worked moth-
er should seek to lessen her laundry
work by dressing him in colors. Dear
little Brighteyes will look just as sweet
to us, and we shall have more time
to admire him, if we lay aside the
dainty cambrics and muslins with
their distracting tucks, ruffles, laces
and embroideries, and replace them
with sensible colors and simpler trim-
mings. So many of the new cotton
fabrics, calicoes and ginghams in pret-
ty dark colors, are now open to our
choice and launder so daintily that the
use of them will make a large differ-
ence in the size of the laundry work
while in no wise detracting from the
baby's sweetness. If light gray flannel
skirts and drawers are combined with
the little colored dresses, a still great-
er reduction may be effected, and they
may be trimmed with worsted lace or
contrasting braids, making them quite
as pretty in their way as the white
ones, and a deal more comfortable to
the baby.

Governing Children

Headstrong children are plentiful
now-a-days, and it requires almost in-
finite patience and wisdom to guide
into safe channels their self-will. We
are told that "to spare the rod is to
spoil the child," and sometimes force
is right and necessary, but more often
it isn't. Much depends on the temper-
ament of the child, as to the kind of
restraint that should be placed upon
it, and what will be "good" for one
child will do infinite harm to another.
There are many ways to punish a
child, when there is need of it, other
than by whipping, but in whatever the
punishment may consist, one should
firmly impress upon the child's mind
that it must yield obedience to your
guidance. One thing must absolutely
be avoided—that is, telling the child
an untruth. Let it know it can de-
pend upon your word, and that, if you
promise it a thing—even if that thing
be a punishment—it will get it. If you
lie to your child, how can you punish
it when it lies to you? Once let the
fact that you are untruthful become
clear to the child, and you lose its re-
spect and confidence; it will not be-
lieve you nor trust you implicitly
again.

I do not know but that a strong will
is one of the best endowments a child
can have. The weak will goes as the
wind blows; it can never hold its own.