



The Home Department
wishes a
MERRY CHRISTMAS
and
HAPPY NEW YEAR
to all.

THE WINDOW WISHERS

The little window wishers, with their
tender eyes of blue,
Standing there before the toy shops,
don't they touch the heart of
you?

Don't you almost shiver with them,
as their tattered clothes you see,
The ragged little urchins, with the
patches on each knee?

Can you see them longing, yearning
in sweet childhood's wistful way
And forget them in your planning for
a merry Christmas day?

Oh, the little window wishers, baby
hearts and baby eyes,
With their trusting faith in Santa
gazing there in glad surprise
At the dollies and the soldiers and
the Teddy bears, believing
That they will not be forgotten. Can
you see them without grieving?
Can you think of them on Christmas
when the merry morning starts
Disillusioned, waking up to empty
stockings—broken hearts?

Oh, the little window wishers, look-
ing longingly today
At the wonders in the toy shops in
sweet childhood's wistful way,
Dreaming dreams of Christmas
stockings filled with candies and
with toys;

Just as full of faith and fancy as
your own girls and your boys.
When you see their big eyes glisten
as these splendid things they
view,
Can you rush by and forget them,
don't they touch the heart of
you?

—Detroit Free Press.

Some Christmas Thoughts

At the coming of the Christmas
time, we are apt to give much
thought to the likes and dislikes of
those about us. We want to please,
and we do not spare ourselves in
the endeavor to bring into other
lives a moment of happiness. We
are even happy because of the happi-
ness we bestow. Yet how often,
when the occasion is past, do we
sink back into our selfish selves, and
shut out the needs of another, for-
getting that the whole world is cry-
ing for comfort every hour in the
year. A letter comes to me this
morning, in which the writer says:
"Let us plead for kindness to the
living, and the loving. If we would
only feel and act and speak tenderly
and lovingly every day of the year,
all the bitterness, the petty fault-
finding, and the censuring and the
selfishness would cease to dwell in
our hearts. Today, all the tender-
ness wells up in our hearts; we are
considerate and kind, and we
breathe nothing but gentle affection-
ate greetings. If we could only
forgive the living, as we forgive the
dead, forgetting everything but the
kindness, how much happier we
should be! If only the whole year,
the Christmas lesson of "good will
to men" could be stirring our hearts,

how much less sorrowful regrets and
memories would be a part of our
lives!

"O, friends, I pray tonight—

Keep not your kisses for my cold,
dead brow;

The way is lonely; I am travel-
worn;

My faltering feet are pierced with
many a thorn;

Forgive, O, hearts estranged, for-
give, I plead;

When dreamless sleep is mine, I
shall not need

The tenderness for which I long
tonight!"

Kind words to the living are bet-
ter than kisses to the dead. One
fragrant blossom of loving appre-
ciation pressed in the trembling
hand of the living is infinitely bet-
ter than banks of flowers for the
bier.—S. H. H.

Decorating the House for Christmas

Green vines and red berries should
be in evidence, though there are
some who object to hanging wreaths
and stars at the windows, alleging
that the decorations should be for
those within, rather than for outside
observance. But it is the one season
of the year when even the most
selfish wishes the casual passer-by to
catch some glimpse of the happiness
within, and the little wreaths and
stars, with their sparkling red and
white berries, or their red dots of
flowers, have a message for the world
which says "Good will to men,"
whether the dweller means it or not.
So, let us "let our light shine,"
hanging up the cheerful little things
against the smiling panes of glass.
Evergreen vines from the woods,
with bright sprays of berries may
take the place of the holly, and many
pretty things can be fashioned from
red tissue paper, or the green; while
the everlasting ropes of popcorn will
fill out many a deficiency. Branches
of pine, with their brown cones cling-
ing to them, may be used in many
places. Preserved autumn leaves
are also pretty decorations where
economy is demanded. "Where
there's a will, there's a way," and
the plainest meal may be made
beautiful in serving, if only we use
the means at hand. For the Christ-
mas candies, the home-made, if
pains are taken, far exceed in excel-
lence anything that can be bought,
so far as harmlessness is concerned.
Many fine candies have a very bad
effect on the stomach, while home-
made candies, just as fine, can be
eaten without any bad effect.

A Household Festival.

From Christmas Eve until Twelfth-
Night, the house should be gay with
holiday decorations. Twelfth-Night
is a Christian festival observed by
the Roman Catholic and other
churches on the 6th of January, be-
ing the twelfth day after Christmas,
in commemoration of the Savior be-
ing manifested by the miraculous
appearance of a Star to the Wise
men, or Magi, who came to adore
Him, bringing gifts. In some coun-
tries, it is observed as a household
festival.

For the Christmas Tree

For a small tree, there should be
a couple of dozen sheets of white
tissue paper, at least two bolts of
red or green baby ribbon, or a ball
of gilt cord; a dozen holly-paper nap-
kins, a few yards of tinsel, some
Santa Claus stickers to attach the

cards to the different gifts, some
Christmas tags for the parcels. There
should be folding paper bells of dif-
ferent sizes, a couple of dozen
candles of various colors, tiny lan-
terns and candle holders for the
tree, a roll of red crepe paper to
make festoons for the rooms, a holly
set of paper table cloth and napkins,
and little red crepe paper dishes to
hold bonbons and salted almonds
and peanuts. To this articles may
be added as many others as the tree
demands and the purse will supply;
but these will make a very pretty
adornment for a small tree and
table. There are so many pretty in-
expensive things on the market
that one can fill any want, if she
have a pocket-book that will "foot
the bills." Of one thing, the family
should strictly beware—that of go-
ing in debt for Christmas cheer in
the way of useless adornment. Bet-
ter one plain gift paid for than a
dozen, the paying for which will add
torments to our minds for months
after.

For the Christmas Goose

Two excellent stuffings for the
Christmas goose are made as fol-
lows: Mix two cupfuls of warm
mashed potatoes with half a cupful
of onion juice, half a cupful of wal-
nut kernels rolled fine, a few spoon-
fuls of cream, a tablespoonful of
butter, the yolk of two eggs and
seasoning to taste. Mix well. An-
other is made with two cupfuls of
bread crumbs, one large sour apple,
a cupful each of raisins and boiled
chestnuts, a stalk of celery and a
small onion chopped fine, a large
lump of butter, some pepper and salt
and enough cream to give it the
proper consistency. If more stuffing
is made than needed, make the sur-
plus into small balls and bake a
golden brown, and use to garnish
the platter. Apple sauce, or cur-
rant jelly is the proper accompani-
ment for goose. Try either of these
stuffings and report.

Decorating the Tree

Here are a few suggestions for
decorating the Christmas tree with
but little expense: Take plain card
board and mark out circles and
stars, crescents, maltese crosses, or
as many different designs as your
fancy may suggest, and let them be
of varying sizes. Then take silver
or gold paper and cover each design
by pasting smoothly on each side.
The silver paper will show hand-
somer than the gold among the dark
green branches of the tree. On one
side of the design, between the card
board and paper, lay in the end of a
six-inch length of black thread, to
hang it by. When the candles are
burning, the thread will be invisible.
These may be hung all through the
branches of the tree.

Other ornaments may be made by
cutting hearts out of red paper
(crepe paper is pretty), using two
hearts to each ornament. Cut a nar-
row strip of white crepe paper
lengthwise of the roll and quill it
around the edge of the heart in the
shape of a ruffle, fastening it with
library paste; then paste the other
heart on, having the ruffle between.
If a bit of sachet powder is sprinkled
on a piece of cotton and placed be-
tween the hearts, this will delight
the children. Suspend these hearts
by bits of baby ribbon, or pretty
colored silk or gilt cord.

Where there is a growing family,

and not too much money, each child
may be asked to make part of the
ornaments; these should be accepted
as an evidence of the child's interest,
and this will endear the tree to even
the little tots. A few glittering orna-
ments, or other trimming could be
bought, and when taken from the
tree, put away for another time, ad-
ding a few each year, and it will not
be long until you will have plenty
and to spare. The custom with
most of people is to let these tree
dressings be destroyed by the chil-
dren, which is willful waste.

For the Presents

In making presents of home-made
articles, make them neat, and as
"like new" as possible. All new
materials must be pressed smoothly,
and old materials must be cleaned—
washed, if necessary, and pressed.
Before presenting, they must be done
up in neat packages, and given as
"Christmassy" a look as can be done
in order to please. The pretty gay-
colored paper napkins are fine for
tying up packages, and there are so
many widths of Christmas ribbon,
with special tags and cards, besides
the always-to-be-had spray of holly
or other Christmas greens, either the
natural or the artificial, that no
package need be plain or slovenly.

The Christmas Table

Scarlet and white should be the
color scheme, and the very best and
snowiest linen should be used on the
table. The center piece may be em-
broidered in a design of mistletoe, or
real holly may be used as a frame,
the bright berries and green leaves
resting with good effect on the table.
If candles are used—which they can
be with good effect, the shades
should be of scarlet, glistening with
silver stars. A silvery basket filled
with maiden's hair ferns and red
roses may be used on the table, or
may be suspended from the chande-
lier just above the centerpiece. If
suspended above the table, it will not
interfere with the guests seeing each
other. Scarlet ribbon should be
used plentifully, twisted with holly
and reaching from the chandelier to
each plate, or to each corner of the
table.

A green and white dinner may also
be carried out for Christmas day.
The flowers, in this case, should be
fine ferns and lilies of the valley,
with a lace center-piece framed in
sprays of mistletoe. The Christmas
ribbon, stamped with sprays of holly
or mistletoe may be used with good
effect.

Christmas Candies

In making candies, there are
various ways of coloring it. Nearly
all druggists keep coloring powders
or liquids which are harmless, but
there are many colors which come
from fruits and vegetables which are
at hand. If you want the candy red,
try beet juice; cranberry juice is
also excellent for coloring. For the
beet or cranberry coloring, the pulp
must be boiled. Cut up the beet and
use very little water, boiling until
the juice is all in the water. For a
cupful of the juice allow one cupful
of sugar; boil until it is quite thick,
then put into a bottle, and you can
use much or little, as you want the
color pale or dark, using this syrup.
For yellow, a little saffron should be
steeped in a little soft, cold water,
until the infusion is a bright yellow.
For green coloring, the juice of
spinach leaves may be used. For
deep reds or pinks, use a little
cochineal.

Cream Candy—One pint of granu-
lated sugar, one-half pint of water,
three tablespoonfuls of vinegar, or
one teaspoonful of cream tartar, a
piece of butter the size of a hickory-
nut; boil without stirring until it
threads, then pour into greased plat-
ters, or on a marble slab until cold