

Christmas Misfits

Opinions too often are formed without due regard to their importance. For instance we assume that men are very easy to please, that most any present will satisfy them. Many frank protests from men recently have made it quite clear that all the while most of us have been mistaken. Since we have been enlightened so freely on this matter our feelings have switched around and glide up and down as recklessly as any air craft, and about as uncertain where they will land. But our conclusions have finally settled to this point that "mere" man is really as mystical as he claims the gentler sex are.

We constantly hear of the "eternal feminine" but how about the "baffling male,"—perplexing as well—for he says one thing and means another.

We cannot blame him altogether if he objects to presents that he calls misfits. But whose fault is it? If he would beholden sincere with those near to him, he would fare much better. Surely, as matters now stand, it is quite discouraging to the donor to even try to please him. However, one is aware that presents are quite often selected without due regard to fitness or suitability. And now while there is "a kind a'feelin' in the air," while the Christmas spirit is abroad in the land, it has brought out these frank confessions, which we have no reason to believe are any thing but honest and sincere. Yet, it quite chilled us to the marrow to learn that most gifts are only accepted by these men for the spirit of Christmas which they typify—that the gift itself has no value whatever—even though the cost of time and labor to the donor was very great, and the nervous expenditure in obtaining them even more. A man cannot, or will not, we cannot say which it is, understand the keen desire to please him. If one asks what he would like, ten to one he answers "socks" and turns you off with a joke leaving you to go on puzzling your weary brain. But he knows down deep in his inmost being that he really wishes to be remembered. He prefers to choose his own wearing apparel—but his very perversity leads you to believe otherwise. The chances are if he reads much, that the last novel is old to him and unless of artistic taste pictures appeal only slightly.

Easy chairs may not fit all purses. Hence women are bound to fall back on homemade things dubbed "dinky" by a sarcastic male who confesses he swears in secret over them honest to admit it is not he? A purple necktie worn by one man becomes as a hangman's rope. What a vivid imagination he has—it should be turned into better channels. Rummage sales profit, as well as the Salvation Army after the Holidays, by misfit gifts. But here is an exception, this man sacrifices his feelings by wearing a fancy vest which he abhors. Surely the blood of martyrs flows through his veins—and he is quite out of place in this century.

The general complaint seems to be that most gifts are not at all what a man would choose for himself. Men are more conservative than women and only social or climatic conditions cause them to vary their wardrobes—while women are prone to go far to the other extreme. In theirs and do not usually get the man's point of view, if they wish to really please them with gifts. Women have a penchant for really pretty mere nothings which falls short of "mere" man's appreciation. He can see nothing to charm or call out enthusiasm in dainty colors or soft silks which women rave over.

"No black velvet slippers embroidered in gold please," shouts a heartless bachelor.

Now, pray tell who will see them? Why bless your soul, the dear girl who worked her heart into those slippers with that gold thread, saw you wearing them in your Den long before Christmas.

Of course you were there.

After your good Christmas dinner—when you lit your cigar and leaned

back in the great chair with your feet elevated to the proper height, and you puffed away while the wind howled—and the sleet tapped like tiny fingers on the window pane, and you forgot every thing but the girl's sweet face that you saw faintly wreathed in smoke. And the tiny fingers tapped, tapped, and the cold wind blew, but you feel very cozy and happy. Yes—life held so much and was so full of kindness and Christmas cheer brings up the joy and bubbling that you feel but can't explain and these very slippers are the cause of it all. Yet you don't want them Mr. Bachelor.

I cannot solve you—neither can you solve yourself. The question arises—"Do women lack perception in selecting gifts for their men folks?" With one voice the men say, "They do." So there, you "eternal feminine" ones, bestir your selves—and don't buy your better half a red necktie when you never in your life saw him wear anything but a black one. Buy instead a bath towel big as your lace curtain. He will appreciate it for its size, and not for its usefulness. Avoid gay bath-ropes. They are as a red rag to a bull—and would meet the fate of decorating some "ne'er do well"—probably.

An Eastern gentleman was all but the means of starting up the comic opera of the Mikado, by shipping his surplus gifts—including more than a half a dozen gay robes to a western ranch—where the wild and woolly boys threatened to go on a strike if not permitted to have theatricals occasionally.

On the whole a woman is as serene and comfortable in her joy of giving as a cat before a grate fire.

Her imagination is not used as a search light to discover flaws, but it pictures only happiness, which she wishes to bestow, and she trustingly believes she has succeeded in doing so.

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"Spirit of Christmas"



REV. J. R. NANN'GA.

The esteemed editor of The Tribune has asked us to write some thoughts on the above subject for the special Christmas number. We gladly consent to do so. First, we would please the untiring editor, and second would help and aid a little to make The Tribune the best possible county paper to read.

Christmas comes but once a year. Again this happy time is near. There is no day and no season that has taken such a hold upon our people as the Christmas tide. The reason is, it commemorates an event in the world's history that is quite unique. It stands alone in the annals—not only of time, but also of eternity—the birth of the Christ.

The person must indeed be born great, who with perfect propriety, can write on "The Spirit of Christmas." Although it is nineteen hundred and ten years since the first Christmas, yet the influence of this night is more potent than ever. The spirit of this event is gathering momentum as the years go by.

Christ is a fact, and a factor in this world. How He did set the silent forces that make for the betterment of humanity into motion. Like the laven, the conquering spirit of the Christ is doing its work. We view with astonishment how our Lord is conquering nation after nation. What was Germany when Boniface went there with the gospel, or of every other country since? The spirit of Christmas is ever at work for the betterment of humanity. But says someone, there are so many that are non-Christians, that are not influenced by the Christ's spirit. It is true there are many in Christian lands that shut their eyes against the light. It cannot however be said that they are not influenced for the better. This Son of Righteousness is shedding His light all around.

The angels sang of peace on earth and good will to men; and more and more this twofold blessing is becoming a reality. War is becoming less frequent and will decrease as the Christmas spirit increases. Then the spirit of good will is growing rapidly and increasing more and more. When we pause and think how the good will is finding expression in the many Christmas dinners, when friends meet their friends, and above all the many family gatherings that can only take place at the blessed Christmas tide, we cannot fail to see from whom this inspiration comes, that prompts all these kind deeds.

We also call attention to the fact that the goodwill above all else, finds its most active expression in the spirit of giving. God gave, and we give. The money spent for gifts each Christmas is simply beyond all computation.

The spirit of giving is preeminent in the Christmas spirit. Then it should be said that the spirit of giving is not confined only to the Christians but all are influenced by it. The Jew cannot withhold his hand, the Chinese or Japanese coming to us must soon join. This spirit of giving is abounding everywhere.

Lastly, the Christmas spirit is the spirit of joy. What a time it is for childhood. In nearly every Sunday School preparations are going on to give joy to the children. The angels' song is still prolonged and the earth has caught the inspiration of joy and song. It is a faithful saying worthy

of all acceptations that Christ Jesus has come to this world to save sinners. Reader is this Jesus yours, is your heart the Bethlehem where the Christ was born? Then you will have the true Christmas spirit.

REV. G. L. NEIDE

Christmas teaches simplicity, it teaches fraternity, it teaches the fatherhood of God, the brotherhood of man. The blessed Lord was born on Christmas day. What for? Why did God take upon Himself our human nature? Why did He come. He came that He might live our life, to be to us an example, meeting our manifold temptation, thinking our thoughts, teaching us how to live. He came to make clear to us that God cares. He cares for the individual, as well as for the race. Jesus came also that he might manifest the Eternal God, that He might make plain to us of the life beyond the gate of death. Men, everywhere, at all times had been asking the unanswered question, "Is death the end." The cry of a man was, who can deliver me from the body of this death, that cry echoes and re-echoes down through the centuries from the cave man of Southern Gaul to Socrates of Rome, men everywhere sought and delved for an answer to humanities craving for some word to quell the heartbreaking storm of despair that raged in their breasts as to whether death is the end. And I say it reverently—God had pity on the race, and He sent His adorable Son to tell us. He came that He might set up here amongst us the kingdom of heaven. "Gloria in Excelsis," sang the angel choir, "Peace, good will to Men," peace and love of God for the individual as well as for the race.

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