

CHRISTMAS GIFTS GALORE

Timely Hints for People Hunting for Presents.

GOOD THINGS FOR YOUNG AND OLD

An Assortment of Suggestions Calculated to Aid in Solving the Vesting Problem of Choosing the Right Article.

The approach of Christmas brings to the front the familiar vexing problem—the selection of presents. To the heads of the home it is a trying one, especially if new and striking gifts are sought.

The solution of the problem depends largely on the size of the purse. If the latter possesses a healthy, prosperous aspect, there is little difficulty experienced in procuring acceptable gifts.

For Old People. It is hard to select presents for those who have passed the "sunny" side of life and who no longer take an active interest in its frivolities.

Grandma and grandpa are dear old people, with hearts as young as the youngest and minds capable of enjoying everything. But one can scarcely expect grandpa to begin wearing a new style watch when one of his old ones will grandma want a set of the new-fangled hairpins.

Such things are pretty on young people, say grandma and grandpa, with a smile and a sigh. "But—the old way is best for us after all."

What, then, can one select for the occupants of the armchair? What can one give them which will be just the thing needed for comfort and luxury?

To begin with, a clock is always an acceptable present. It need not be an expensive one, nor a showy one, as long as it has a big, plain face and a pair of hands which point out the time a long way off.

Both grandma and grandpa like nice pocket handkerchiefs. Notice the kind which seems to be a favorite with grandma and get him half a dozen just like them with his initials on them.

Always humor grandpa's taste a little, because he probably knows to a nicety what pleases him. Give him a kind and delicate fall in with his wishes.

Grandpa probably has a cane. But has he a nice black silk umbrella? Has he a storm coat? Does he own a pair of the new kind of high cloth overshoes?

Notice the styles in these things, gently sound his tastes and buy accordingly. A cup and saucer, an oatmeal set, a handsome goblet, a deep blue boer mug—no matter what may be grandpa's principles—a handsome plate for fruit, ornaments for his table and nice, warm foot rugs are very sure to be appreciated by him.

If he likes to smoke, notice the style of his favorite pipe and get another just like it. Get him a pound of his favorite tobacco and put it in a fine tobacco jug. Give him a few bottles of wine. He is in the habit of taking a little "for the stomach's sake," and send along a fancy tin box containing the best fruit cake you can buy or make.

Grandma likes nice linings if they be after her style. Observe and select the right things. Take a gold dollar and have your initial put on it. Have it made into a pin and you may be sure grandma will treasure it as long as she lives.

Give grandma a few yards of fine, broad lace for her caps, her neckerchiefs or her aprons. Buy material for a pretty house dress for her, and let her have the pleasure of making it up into a gown.

If she has no chair of her own in the dining room, give her one which will be more comfortable, perhaps, than the dining chairs. Give her an individual set of pretty plates, cup and saucer and butter dish for her own use. Notice if she has plenty of cushions and foot-stools in her room.

Give her three or four pots of hyacinths not yet bloomed, or if she be a semi-invalid a bird in a golden cage, or, maybe, a jar of gold fish would interest her.

Grandma loves pretty pictures. A sweet-faced child in a white frame. A group of graceful pets or an etching of something quaint and interesting—all these things please her.

man a pillow, even if he is married, for the best wife in the world is sometimes just a little tired of having her pet face-filled pillows jammed around by her careless lord and master, and it is such a triumph for a man to have a pillow of his very own on every couch in the house to put his head or his feet on just as he likes. The clean-ribbon pillows are always bright and gay for men, and so are the new Berlin wool pillows which have the design embroidered in and require only the plain filling in stitches for a finish.

And then there are the afghans, that every man enjoys so much. Very beautiful and appropriate are those made in stripes of leaf-brown shading to gold in the center, and crocheted in star stitch, alternating with dark stripes of the old plain afghan stitch, embroidered in the fleur-de-lis of the lighter shades.

And down spreads for couches or for the bed itself a man does not object to at all, and enjoys much more than the price of the goods he pays for. Buy in all kindness of heart, but with, according to man's ideas, a deplorable lack of sense.

And there are the most beautiful black and white silk suspenders, with gold and silver buckles, in chased and filigree patterns, and corset-cases fitted into a solid silver cup that holds just a bit more than the thimbleful; there are little silver checks for the name on valises, and the most ingenious of card counters, besides the various and costly matinee necktie fasteners and all the smoking and desk appointments. Besides, you know, a man likes all the dainty soaps and perfumes, toilet waters and sweet-smelling things that women suppose him to have a soul above.

Hints for Girls. If you are not adept at "making things," save your pennies to buy a good knife, with a corkscrew, a pair of scissors and a button hook attachment. It will be appreciated by its masculine recipient.

A girl with a taste for needlework can manufacture a pair of silver-mounted suspenders that will cost only half the sum demanded for them in the store. Nearly every man likes a clock for his dressing table. You can, if you are ingenious, go one of the little doll clocks and glorify it by mounting it in a wooden framework, upon which you have written a motto in liquid gold.

Give a man the biggest and squarest paper basket you can find. Coax it into elegance by liberal coats of white enamel and glorify it upon one side of it a "splashing" bow.

If there is a "pottery bakery" within reach get one of the good matured workmen to turn off a pair of beer steins for you and decorate them yourself with dashes of Pompeian red and Dutch blue.

A tiny brass chain with a large and very sharp pair of scissors attached makes an acceptable present for a literary friend with a mania for "solving problems" and for mending in a large screw attached to the end for fastening to a desk.

Men like, more than people give them credit for liking, pretty pots of growing flowers. Finely illustrated books, embroidered handkerchiefs and night shirts, perfumes, fancy soaps, sachels and all kinds of "sweet smelling things," as well as good brush brooms, hand saws and traveling rugs.

A very useful gift for a gentleman is a chest protector, which can be made of black satin and lined with quilted satin or silk. The edge is bound with ribbon. It is to be worn with a dress coat in cold weather to guard against taking cold.

To Please Your Better Half. The list of desirable gifts may be headed with an article which is perfectly sure to please. No doubt about it! What is it? Why, a fine umbrella, of course. Select if you can a handle which matches your wife's winter costume. You know in winter a woman carries an umbrella two or three days in a week, so make the gift such a pretty one that it will be an ornament and not a burden.

Wives have a great fondness for novels. If your wife is wearing black garments, and if you are sure that she has not bought a muff for two or three years, get her a sable muff, or a Persian lamb one, or a mink muff trimmed with cunning little heads and tails. Or get her a new-fashioned bonnet. And if she dresses in colors there are many beautiful fur and feather neck trimmings which women like and which are to be bought of all dealers.

Wives are sentimental, too. They dearly love presents that seem to come directly from the heart and which are such as no one else could possibly give. A crayon picture of yourself, life size and tastefully framed, would make a very loving gift. A link bracelet with your pet name for her engraved upon the inside of it, would be appreciated, and so would one of the new and pretty rings which seem specially designed for love gifts.

A wife, with a woman's true selfishness, is pleased with gifts which mean quite as much for the family as for herself. An encyclopedia with all its volumes complete, for example, or an unabridged dictionary, or a new table for the sitting room, a table with a shelf underneath, and a top large enough to do duty for all the evening occupations would be well received by her.

Wives like pretty furniture. They like brass bedsteads; they have a feeling about them that is not to be expressed in words. Buy a foot rest, a tall, slender, screen artistically decorated, a new drapery for the mantel, a Bagdad curtain to throw over the perhaps faded couch, a pair of fur-lined slippers for old days, a standard lamp, a decanter and glasses, a three-winged dressing glass for the sleeping-room wall, a subscription to a home magazine, a picture often admired but never before owned, a little journey south, or money buy a new winter gown, and each and all of them things which a wife is sure to like.

Strange as it may seem, in view of the fact that they spend so little upon such things, wives are wonderfully fond of jeweled tridles. A tiny watch to be worn on the waist, quite inexpensive but very fashionable, pleases a woman. Drop upon the innermost finger a diamond little gift. A jeweled bug for the bonnet strings is cherished far beyond his burghish value, while a jeweled hat pin is preserved until a woman gets too old to go out and wear a hat.

more pleasing than those of chatelaine watches. They range in size from absurd little ornaments, hardly as large as hazel nuts, and encrusted with jewels, to watches about an inch or an inch and a quarter in diameter. A woman's watch is very apt to be a piece of frivolity, but for practical usefulness the chatelaine watch surpasses all others. In the nature of things it is being continually knocked about and cannot keep correct time, but it is picturesque. It is a utilitarian thing turned into an ornament, and, therefore, the very absurdity and contradiction of it pleases "my lady."

Good Things for Girls. It is difficult to choose a present for a young girl. She is usually so clever at making things that to give her embroideries and paintings done on silk and plush is merely to reproduce her own handiwork.

Of course every one is pleased by a Christmas gift, no matter what the gift may be. But in making a selection it is very nice to choose something which has about it the stamp of novelty. Girls like silver things for the dresser or the sewing table. Give a girl a little silver thimble case shaped like a nut, a perfume bottle of silver filigree, a silver cold-cream box, a silver candlestick or a silver tray for pins.

Give her one of the new style feather fans, with just four very dashing plumes in it. Give her a china silk handkerchief, edged with real lace. Give her a china silk tea gown of real Chinese pattern, or a silk petticoat, or two pairs of gloves tied together with a ribbon and your "best love."

If you want to delight her by the finest, largest perfume atomizer in the store. And see that its decorations are in accord with the dressing table which it is to adorn. Sets of embroidered sachet bags, seven in a set, are enthusiastically welcomed, and so are glass bonbon cases, silken sweetmeat boxes and Dresden china fruit plates for the "cosy room" table.

Girls are very fond of your girl friend leave an order at the florist's for roses to be sent to her each Sunday morning during the year. Or, if this is beyond the limits of the purse strings, order the latest magazine to be left at her door for each week. Or send her a season ticket to some amusement which you know she covets.

Let her gift be individual. Let it be something which seems to say, "To you from me. Think over your girl friend's tastes and make your selection. If you are fond of prettiness get her a jeweled hat pin, a gold bow for her hair, with a pearl drop nestling in its depths, a set of "jeweled" hairpins, link buttons containing your initials, and hers, cuff pins for her dress sleeves, a jeweled buckle, gay with brilliant stones, a breastpin with an ideal face set on it, or a cunning gold "litter" to hold up her dress skirt.

Girls like pretty red slippers and stockings just to match. Girls like odd footstools, dainty wicker chairs, splidored desks, spindle-legged tables, gold card tables, silver stamp boxes and manicure sets, of course, and hand-glasses, too, as many as you choose to give.

Get the present in time to have it "marked." The pretty calendar you have selected must have the dear girl's initials dashed on it in liquid gold in your own handwriting. The odd little souvenir spoon must have her monogram engraved in the bowl. Her lap desk should have your initials and hers on one corner of the blotter. The scissors you give her must have "Dorothy," or "Jennie," or "Maad" upon the big blade.

If you give her a purse be sure to put a lucky penny in its inside pocket marked with your name. And if a knife be your choice place a talismanic word of friendship upon it.

Give her a girde, as unique as possible, a peculiar brooch, a pin, or a ring, different from anything she has seen. Give your girl friend—the prettiest, sweetest thing you can find. But—be sure that it is in accord with her tastes.

THE BOYS AND GIRLS. Kenimby is sometimes very thoughtful of other people's comfort, although sometimes he is not, says Harper's Young People. He has one very bad habit his papa says, which not bought it of a clock early every morning and insisting upon making remarks. His papa is usually the one to whom these remarks are made and, of course, listening to what Kenimby has to say makes it unnecessary for him to wake up and brush the cobwebs off his wits. Once or twice Kenimby has been scolded for interfering in the way with other people's sleep. He has been told that he may talk all he pleases but that it must always be in a whisper so that his papa and mamma shall not be annoyed.

Having this little lesson in mind one morning about two weeks ago, Kenimby, having waked at the usual early hour, was rather cautious to know how early it was. Looking over his papa's ear he whispered softly into it, "Papa, what time is it?" So soft was the whisper that papa never seemed to hear it, but slept peacefully on, and so Kenimby tried it again.

"Papa, look at your watch and tell me what time it is, please," he whispered. "This time papa was awakened. "Oh, dear, Kenimby," he said, rubbing his eyes sleepily. "I'll never grow beautiful if you wake me up by telling me the time every morning."

"I didn't mean to wake you up," said the boy. "But you were talking in my ear," returned papa. "How could you expect to do that without waking me?" "I was talking in my only whisper," said Kenimby. "I wanted you to tell me what time it is, and I whispered so you could tell me without waking me up."

A young lady traveling in a Main street car, says the Buffalo Express, was approached by a conductor at a weak moment, and with a most disastrous result. "Not a yet, is he?" queried the knight of the fare register, referring to the young charge by the lady's side. "Not quite," replied she, grasping at an idea.

"Why, yes, I am, too. I'm nearly seven," rejoined the young one, with injured pride, and no amount of expostulation could change the reply. So two fares were collected where otherwise there might have been but one. And the people on the car enjoyed the joke.

Tommy had just returned from Sunday school, and his mother asked him if he had been a good boy. "Not very," he replied. "Then you didn't get a good behavior card?" "Yes, I did. I saved the money you gave me for the heathen, and bought two cards with it from the other boys."

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