



By SENORA BARRA.

It would serve our souls well if, at this happy Christmas time, we could lay aside our own sorrows and our own disappointments and enter into the joyousness that the great Christian anniversary represents.

All are planning present giving, and the whole time for weeks has been taken up with thoughts of what each shall give the other dear one.

Senora Barra does not belong to that class of iconoclasts who believe that the Christmas customs are all that should be done away with. The very happiest times in her whole life revolve about the delights of this season.

Happy? Why, the world was mine that day for many months afterward. I know now that the doll cost my mother and father many anxious hours before they could plan its purchase, but during the time it was in my hands I felt that I had won the world.

It is too true that the Christmas season has become just a time to spend all one's time and energy in planning gifts for friends which it will take months to pay for.

The story of the Christ child is so beautiful that it has been softened and softened in this season of remembrance of the baby that came to make the world better, and whose birthday anniversary we celebrate with such joy.

Christmas decorations need not be limited to planing and cutting. A wide range of the big shops. Tissue paper is now much used even in the city.

It has seemed so impossible to keep portulaca closed in winter that every one has become reconciled to the fact, and lets the draft sweep thru the room at will.

There is a whole world of indignation done up in a nut loaf, but it is certainly good eating. Here is the way to make it.

187-10TH-20TH ME.

A Sketch of Gallant Service by the Late Gen. Geo. H. Nye.

(Much of this was taken from a reporter about a year with the gallant Gen. Nye.)

In 1845, the 24th of November, I commenced work in the Hallowell cotton mill at its cost in 1842. A little incident happened while I was working there. I remember one Saturday afternoon, after I had cleaned my works on the machines, I was then in the repair shop.

There is really no reason why some women should look such atrocious ghouls in their clothes, because one color in a certain fabric costs no more than another color, and on the color of the dress you wear everything depends.

Do not throw away lettuce because it is withered. First wash in cold water, place on plate, cover with crock or pan over it, and your lettuce will be as crisp and tender as when first taken from the garden.

Here is an idea. A woman says that a flat brass button sewed on the corner of a dishcloth will be a great help in washing dishes. It can be used as a scratcher, and will not injure the fine china.

Fish that is to be fried should be ordered to be sent early, as it cooks much better if previously rolled some time in a clean cloth to insure perfect dryness.

When ironing, the best thing with which to rub the irons is a fairly large pad of folded brown paper. This will also serve to test their heat. Besides this, a cloth should be kept on hand on which to wipe off any flakes of soot or dirt.

We certainly ought to welcome anything that saves us the trouble of shaving. The hair is tied with a bit of silk ribbon the color of hair. Then it is rolled over the finger into a long, loose coil.

Victor Hugo wrote that when he gazed into the eyes of a little child he saw there a reflection of divinity, and he trembled. This is the poetic expression of a great truth; the beauty and sacredness of the human entity when it is nearest to the source of all life.

The Battle of Antietam.

The 17th was the battle of Antietam. The day before I knew that a battle was near by, and I was very glad.

The night before the battle the rebels were in a corn field between the rows of corn, and all during the night we heard picket firing.

Gen. Mansfield was in front of our regiment, trying to stop our firing, thinking that we were firing on our own men.

It was a hard-fought battle, and I have thought many times since if Phil Sheridan had been in command of the army that Lee would not have escaped.

But when to-morrow came the orders came, "Bury the dead." Then I had to write many letters to the parents of the boys who were killed in the fight.

The traveling was bad. The roads after the rain were in such condition that we could not go on.

We were looking forward to May 3, when our regiment's two years' time was to expire. As the time drew near to be mustered out it was rumored that the Government was going to hold the regiment.

The next day we moved back to Culpeper and went into camp. Soon after it was a general order that we were to be reorganized.

The 24th of May I received orders to proceed at once to Winchester. We took the train for Winchester, and the next day the soldiers often had to ride in freight cars, as Pullman cars were not so plenty then as now.

We moved through Maryland in easy marches, 15 to 20 miles a day. We forded the river near Stone Mountain.

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We marched all around the fortifications at Washington trying to intercept Gen. Early, who was on the outskirts of the city. We went into camp, and remained there some time.

After the Grand Review in Washington, in May, 1885, the regiment was sent to Georgia and South Carolina and engaged in reconstruction and judicial duties and court-martial, when not in command of my regiment, which was retained 14 months after Lee surrendered.

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