Scenes That Prove Santa Claus Is All Ready for Trip He Will Make Tonight

GIVING BEST WAY TO BECOME HAPPY

Thought for Christmas Furnished In Letter Giving Example.

"LITTLE OLD LADY" PROVES A BLESSING

Remembered While Alive and Her Benefactors Were Very Happy.

By FRANCES CARROLL.

I DO not believe I can give you a more beautiful thought on the day before Christmas than one contained in a letter which came to me from one of my readers a few days ago. She says:

"Dear Miss Carroll: Some time ago we resolved, my husband and I, that if we could meet a certain obligation by the first of December, we would send five dollars to a certain old lady for Christmas.

"Should she die, custom would demand that we spend this amount in flowers, and we decided that a five-dollar bill would give her more enjoyment at this beautiful season than she could get out of a thousand dollars' worth of flowers placed in her dead, cold hands.

"The incentive was one which made our efforts to meet the stipulated obligation all the more strenuous, and it was not an easy thing to do in these times of high prices.

"But we succeeded, Miss Carroll; we succeeded!

"And today we sent a crisp, new bill to the Little Old Lady.

Makes Givers Happy.

"She cannot be as happy over it, by any possibility, as it has made us to send it.

"During the days of our struggle for the sending of this money fragments of that poem 'If I Should Die Tonight' have been running through my head.

"I wonder if you will be so good as to publish it in the series of 'Poems Women Should Know'?

"It may point the way for others to gain real Christmas joy by our method."

Don't you think that is a very beautiful letter?

I do.

And I believe it will shame the woman who has bought only for those who are expecting Christmas gifts from her.

I am publishing the poem "If I Should Die Tonight," believing with the dear Lady-of-the-Letter that it may "point the way for others to gain real Christmas joy" by following the plan which made her realize that "it is more blessed to give than to receive."

If, through the crowded weeks of preparing for the happiness of those in the home circle, and others near and dear, you have forgotten "The Little Old Lady" who may not need your tender thought another Christmas, it isn't too late to remember her tonight, and add to her cheer tomorrow, if not with a gift at least with a message, or better still, a visit to cheer her lonely heart.

Not Necessarily Old.

Or maybe that in your case "The Little Old Lady" is some child who has prayed for Santa Claus, believing.

It may not be a "Little Old Lady" at all but an old man instead, or some one who looks out upon the joy of others tonight with sick, pain-stricken eyes.

It is no matter WHO your "Little Old Lady" IS, so long as you do not become so absorbed in preparations for your own happiness as to forget her.

When dreamless rest is hers she will not need
The tenderness for which she longs tonight.

Gifts in Stockings At Christmas Party

At a party for children, with a different game at each table, the hostess had a tarlatan stocking for each guest, and in it were dropped cunning wee Christmas favors, one for each game won. At the end the score was counted and the favors were retained as souvenirs. The children were delighted. The stockings had ribbons run in the top, two of each color. In this way partners were found.

Raisin Cake.

Two-thirds cup dark brown sugar, one-fourth cup butter, one egg, one and one-half cups flour, one level teaspoonful cinnamon, one-half teaspoonful nutmeg, one cup raisins, one-half cup of juice from raisins. Cook raisins twenty minutes, drain off juice, and save one-half cup of same in which dissolve soda. Cream butter and sugar, add well beaten egg, sift cinnamon and nutmeg with flour, and add next. Next add raisin liquor and soda and lastly the raisins. Mix thoroughly and bake in moderate oven in greased and floured pan.

Poems Women Should Know

Editor's Note: Every poem which will appear in this series is one that has brought a throb of hope, a throb of courage, a throb of happiness, or of inspiration to some human heart. In clipping and saving the series you cannot afford to miss one number.

If I Should Die Tonight

If I should die tonight,
My friends would look upon my quiet face
Before they laid it in its resting place,
And deem that death had left it almost fair;
And laying snow-white flowers against my hair,
Would smooth it down with tearful tenderness,
And fold my hands with lingering caress.
Poor hands, so empty and so cold tonight!

If I should die tonight,
My friends would call to mind with loving thought,
Some kindly deeds the icy hands had wrought;
Some gentle word the frozen lips had said;
Errands on which the willing feet had sped;
The memory of my selfishness and pride,
My hasty words would all be put aside,
And so I should be loved and mourned tonight.

If I should die tonight,
E'en hearts estranged would turn once more to me,
Recalling other days remorsefully.
The eyes that chill me with averted glance
Would look upon me as of yore, perchance
And soften in the old familiar way.
For who could war with dumb unconscious clay?
So I might rest forgiven of all tonight.

Oh, friends, I pray tonight,
Keep not your kisses for my dead cold brow.
The way is lonely, let me feel them now.
Think gently of me; I am travel-worn;
My faltering feet are pierced with many a thorn.
Forgive, oh, hearts estranged, forgive, I plead!
When dreamless rest is mine I shall not need
The tenderness for which I long tonight.

(Ascribed to Rev. A. J. Ryan, 1862; Also to Alice Cary, Ben King, and Others.)

Fudge a Favorite Christmas Candy

Fudge is a favorite with most Christmas candy makers, not only because everybody likes it, but because it is comparatively easy to make.

Perfection, it is true, may not be easily attained, but there is not so much danger of hopeless failure as in the preparation of French creams and some other candies.

The following rule for fudge comes from one of the women's colleges, and it is particularly delicious: Boil three cupfuls of sugar and one of milk together, after adding two or three squares of chocolate.

Let the fudge boil until a little dropped on a cold saucer will harden when stirred rapidly with a spoon. When this stage is reached add a teaspoonful of vanilla.

No molasses or other similar substance should be used—nothing but sugar, milk, chocolate, a little butter and flavoring. Rich cream is sometimes used instead of butter and milk.

After testing it and adding the butter and flavoring, beat it till it begins to grow thick, and then pour it, before it hardens, into buttered pans.

Pecan Cake.

One pound brown sugar, one pound flour; two pounds seeded raisins, three-quarter pound butter, one pound pecan nut meats, one nutmeg, six eggs (beat separately), one-half cupful molasses, one-half pound crystallized pineapple, one wineglassful brandy, one teaspoonful soda, one teaspoonful baking powder.

Question Box of The Times

It does not matter how personal are the things you want to know. Send your query to Question Box Editor, and she will answer you promptly where it is possible to do so. Your name will not be printed where you so request.

Everybody Else's.

A. S.—"It is usual to give the possessive form to else rather to the substantive; as, somebody else's; a suit of clothes like everybody else's."—Webster.

Lawn Handkerchiefs.

Mrs. L. H. E.—Fine linen lawn or Persian lawn would do for the handkerchiefs. French nainsook without dressing, is also a good material to use.

Impression Paper.

Embroider—Yellow impression paper, which may be purchased in any art store, may be used for transferring a pattern on dark material.

Baby's Sleeves.

Young Mother—The baby's arm grows very rapidly. A very good way of making the sleeve is to cut it an inch longer than is necessary at the armhole. This can be let down as the arm grows longer.

Cleansing Cream.

Agnes K.—Orange flower water, 4 ounces; almond oil, 4 ounces; white wax, 2 ounces. Melt the wax in a double boiler, then add the oil, and before it cools put in the elderflower water; beat until cold.

Love Grown Cold.

A. C.—If it is true that your sister has won your friend's affections and that he will not break with you for fear of hurting your feelings you do wrong to hold him for such a cause. You can hope for no permanent happiness in marrying a man who prefers another woman.

Why not try a little indifference and accepting the friendship of other men. Human nature is such that one always wants that which it is difficult to get, and a man not infrequently grows indifferent to a girl when she seems too easy to obtain.

(2) Lay the knife and fork side by side on the plate.

(3) You will have to send a self-addressed stamped envelope for an answer to your third question as it involves the names of business firms which are not given through this department. In doing so repeat your question.

MEN HOLD UP IDEALS THEY DON'T ENFORCE

Urge Friends to Marry Practical Girls When They Wed Frilly Ones.

ILLUSTRATION FOUND IN WOMAN'S DRESS

After "Batting" Milady's Clothes They Take Pride In Puffs and Curls.

By DOROTHY DIX.

IT has often been observed that the girl who is commonsensical, and practical, and capable, and domestic; who wears flat-heeled shoes and high-necked dresses, and no corsets, and who knows how to make good bread and the sort of pies that mother never used to bake, is invariably the maiden that a man recommends to his friends, and says, "She would make the very wife for you!"

For himself, however, he picks out a wife who is foolishly feminine and frilly and who unites in her own person pretty nearly all of the weaknesses and peculiarities of her sex and that he has spent his time in deriding.

The truth is that while men hold up certain ideals for our emulation they don't in the least want us to conform ourselves to them. Of this we have many and conclusive proofs.

Folly of Dress Of Woman.

Take the matter of woman's dress, for instance. There isn't a man living who isn't ready to mount the rostrum at a moment's notice and deliver a homily on the insane folly of feminine fashions. Just think, men cry, of the disgusting spectacle of four pounds of false hair pinned on a woman's head! Think of the criminal risk of committing suicide that a woman takes when she strips off her warm clothes and goes to the opera with no protection over her chest and arms but a pearl necklace! Think of women teetering around in two-inch-heeled shoes! Think of them running the risk of having forty-seven different sorts of diseases by lacing a thirty-inch waist into a twenty-two inch belt measure!

And all the time there are good, warm, loose clothes to be had, and broad, flat shoes, and neat, inconspicuous bonnets that you can tie under the chin. Why, oh, why, can't women have enough sense to dress in the way of which men approve?

Picks Out Greatest Doll.

And then, after having exhausted himself in batting women's clothes, Mr. Man goes out and picks out the most dolled-up woman he can find, and asks her to dinner, and to the theater, and swells his chest out with pride because she has got so many puffs and curls on her head, and a gown so extreme in style that everybody rubbers at her. Not for anything you could name, would he be caught out with a lady whose head looked as slick and small as a peeled onion, and who was modestly attired in a rational dress.

Still another weakness of woman that men never weary of deploring is the feminine tendency to gossip and to be scandal mongers. But do men wish us really to reform this bad habit? Far from it.

Every married woman will bear testimony that while her husband never fails to reprove her for repeating servants' tales, and the tittle-tattle of the neighborhood, he does not censure her until after she has told the last word about Mrs. Blank's suspicions about the people next door, and how Mr. Smithkins didn't get home until 4 a. m. and Mrs. Blank was seen kissing a man whom she said was her brother, but you never can tell how much truth there is in what people say about their relations.

These inconsistencies of man are not mentioned to find fault with him. Quite the contrary. They are our salvation, since woman, at best, is but a weak creature, prone to mistakes and to boggle things, but they show how much wasted time and effort it is for her to aspire to perfection if she hopes to gain a husband thereby.

Holiday Salad.

Procure a firm, round green pepper. Cut off the stem end and remove the pulp. Let it stand in salted water ten minutes. Wipe dry and fill with the following mixture: Cream cheese mixed with chopped walnut meats and mixed with French dressing. Pack tightly into pepper case and let stand three or four hours. Slice with a sharp knife. The white circles of cheese edged with the green make an attractive dish. Garnish with tiny stars cut from canned pimentos. Serve with French dressing.

Uncooked Cake.

Take equal parts by weight of nuts, dates, figs, raisins, and shredded cocoanut and put all through the food chopper. Grease a bowl with butter and then press the mixture down into the bowl and weight it. Let it stand several hours. Then turn out on platter and cut.

PUT SENTIMENT IN CHRISTMAS GIFTS

Presents Doubly Precious If Accompanied By An Apt Quotation.

A GIFT is doubly precious if accompanied by some sentiment or apt quotation; even rhymes, limericks, or jingles are acceptable. Here are a few that I have clipped from time to time, hoping that some reader would find exactly what she wished. While I am unable to give the name of those who wrote many of them, I am sure that he or she will be glad to have them passed along, as all good things of this life should be:

For a calendar:
May all the days
Throughout this year
Sunshiny be to you,
My dear.

To go with a hand-made handkerchief:
A snowy bit of whiteness
With love I send to thee.
Each stitch put in with rightness,
For your Christmas 'tis to be.

With a purse:
Some have called me trash,
But that never can be true,
For when I'm filled with cash
You never will be blue.

For a needle and pin case:
Needles and pins! Needles and pins!
When you've no place for them trouble begins.

To write on a card:
It cannot be measured or put in a box.
This wonderful gift that I send;
But I know that it will last till the very day
When you reach your journey's end.

And so at this beautiful Christmastide,
With my very best wishes I send
The choicest gift that I can find—
'Tis my love for my very dear friend.

For a blotter:
Blot out all the faults you see.
Remember only the good in me.

To propose with pair of gloves (this may help some bashful swain who is wondering "how to ask her"):
A little hand, a soft white hand,
A hand, I know 'tis thine,
These gloves will fit. So may I ask
That gloves and hand be mine?

Appropriate Addition to Christmas Menu Is Biblical Quotation With Each Item

THIS is the season of the year when the following unique bill of fare should appeal to every man, woman, and child celebrating Christmas, for while they are feasting in plenty it is well worth while to remember the Good Book in which the many dishes offered were first mentioned. Each item on the bill of fare is accompanied by an appropriate quotation from the Bible:

And upon the table of shewbread they shall spread a cloth of blue, and put thereon the dishes, and the spoons, and the bowls, and covers to cover withal: and the continual bread shall be thereon—Numbers iv. 7.

Eat it with the bread that is in the basket.—Leviticus viii. 31.

And salt without prescribing too much.—Ezra vii. 22.

And a little oil in a cruse.—I. Kings xvii. 12.

The bright shining of a candle doth give thee light.—Luke xi. 36.

Tell them which are bidden, I have prepared my dinner, and all things are ready.—Matthew xxii. 4.

Let us eat and be merry.—Luke xv. 23.

A feast is made for laughter, and wine maketh merry.—Ecclesiastes x. 19.

Ye hear the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, dulcimer and all kinds of music.—Daniel iii:5.

Give us this day our daily bread.—Matthew vi:2.

Two hundred loaves of bread.—II Samuel xvi:1.

SOUP.

Pour out the broth.—Judges vi:20.

Feed me, I pray thee, with that same red pottage.—Genesis xxv:30.

Eat this roll.—Ezekiel iii:1.

Drink no longer water, but use a little wine for thy stomach's sake.—I Timothy v:22.

FISH.

We remember the fish which we did eat.—Numbers ii:5.

And they gave him a piece of a broiled fish.—Luke xxvi:42.

Being of the fish which ye have now caught.—John xxi:10.

Eat thy bread with joy.—Ecclesiastes ix:7.

Every man at the beginning doth set forth good wine.—John ii:10.

ENTREMENTS.

Olives.—Micah vi:15.

And the hare.—Leviticus xi:6.

Chickens.—Matthew xxviii:37.

Harts and fatted fowl.—I Kings iv:23.

Give me a little water to drink, for I am thirsty.—Judges iv:19.

There is a cup, and the wine is red.—LXX Psalm, 8.

ROASTS.

Thou mayest eat of the roebuck, and of the hart.—Deuteronomy xii:15.

A lamb.—Leviticus v:7.

All clean fowls ye may eat.—Deuteronomy xiv:20.

Cause strong wine to be poured.—Numbers xxviii:7.

VEGETABLES.

Take also unto thee wheat, and barley, and beans, and lentils, and millet.—Ezekiel iv., 9.

We remember the cucumbers, and the leeks, and the onions, and the garlic.—Numbers xi., 5.

After that the full corn in the ear.—Mark iv., 28.

The manna was as coriander seed.—Numbers xi., 7.

GAME.

And he brought quails.—CV. Psalm, 40.

Two young pigeons.—Leviticus, v., 7.

The partridge.—Jeremiah xvii. 11.

There is a crying for wine.—Isaiah xiv., 11.

DESSERT.

Carry these ten cheeses unto the captain.—I. Samuel xvii., 18.

Behold, a basket of summer fruit.—Amos viii., 1.

One cluster of grapes, and they brought of the pomegranates and of the figs.—Numbers xiii., 23.

One basket had very good figs.—Jeremiah xxiv., 2.

Thou mayest eat grapes thy fill at thine own pleasure.—Deuteronomy xxiii., 24.

We remember the melons.—Numbers xi., 5.

They brought bunches of raisins and wine.—Chronicles xii., 40.

And they gave them drink in vessels of gold and royal wine in abundance.—Esther i., 7.

Drink thy wine with a merry heart.—Ecclesiastes ix., 7.

Daily Horoscope

"The stars incline, but do not compel."

Sunday, December 25, 1910.

Now the omens that appear.
Counsel men to aid and cheer.

ON this 359th day the day's increase begins to exceed a minute. The Moon, in a powerful and watery sign, has Mercury in square and good aspect, while Saturn is in a evil place.

This day, according to the rules of astrology, is ill for speculation, all enterprises or plans that involve others' loss or harm and evil for avaricious thoughts and deeds.

It is a bad time to show harshness or to be unforgiving and relentless. There is a sign menacing the "hard of heart and the harshly righteous."

Mercury in this place is held by the rules of astrology to favor merriment, lightness of mind and wit, amusement, artistic things and entertainments that involve music, singing, dancing, lecturing or acting.

Uranus holds a place that is held to be powerful for all the nobler and higher emotions, favoring ideal thought, errands and deeds of mercy, high resolves and all acts of true love or friendship.

Persons of clever brains and tongues should be careful to curb their speech and control their thought. The tendency is read as being conducive to speeches that will wound.

Revengeful and suspicious temperaments will be prone to borrow trouble and invent causes for offense where none is intended.

Persons with this birth-date are under signs that promise success from energy.

Children are born today under signs held to confer luck. The Christmas-born have always been considered children of fortune, gifted with intuition and magnetism.

Cranberry Marmalade Christmas Delight

Wash three quarts of cranberries, barely cover with water, and cook until the berries are tender. Press through a sieve and add to this juice and pulp six pounds of warm sugar, two pounds of seeded and chopped raisins, and four large, clean oranges. The oranges should be minced fine, thus using skin and pulp, but the seeds should be picked out. Cook until thick and turn into glass jars. The orange skins must be cooked until thoroughly tender. While cooking watch carefully that it does not burn. Stir often.

LAST MINUTE RUSH EXTRAVAGANT ONE

It Pays to Think and Take Christmas In the Proper Spirit.

THIS is a trying day for good resolutions. Have you never vowed you would be sensible and shop this year well within your income—then break every vow you made in the excitement of the last days holiday spirit?

It is easy enough to make and keep good resolutions when the stores are not crowded with Christmas shoppers and the temptations to buy well nigh irresistible.

If you must not economize—don't attempt it. There is no greater joy than to be able to give freely and widely at Christmastide. The woman who can give and won't, is to be pitied. If money is plenty get in the way of temptation and spend, spend, spend.

If you are to feel the pinch of your Christmas giving the rest of the year, if such giving is foolish generosity or reckless shutting of one's eyes to consequences then flee the stores this last day as you would a quarantined ward.

To be carried away by the enthusiasms of the moment does not trouble you today, but it will next, and for many weeks thereafter. It is such extravagance—generous though it be—that is spoiling the Christmas spirit in this land.

We have need to keep as tight rein on our Christmas gift propensities—if we cannot afford to let our feelings run away with our common sense.

It avails little to plan wisely for months then spend foolishly for two or three days in the holiday week. Be extravagant if you can; if you can't, be wary in putting yourself in the way to be tempted.

Recipe for Turkey.

Here is a recipe for turkey with Spanish dressing: Prepare the fowl in the usual way and make the dressing as follows: Melt a tablespoonful of butter and fry two large onions until a light brown, toss in one-half pound of Hamburg, fry until done, add four slices of bread minced, a spoonful of capers, one-fourth pound of blanched almonds chopped fine, one-fourth pound of seeded raisins, a few olives, minced; season to suit the taste and fill the bird.