

THE GOOD SAMARITAN AT CHRISTMAS

How Philanthropic Women Labor to give Cheer and Comfort to the City's Poor



Where their only Christmas is the Holiday Basket



Women's Clubs and Church Societies Sew for Weeks in Advance to Clothe the Poor



Gifts for Maimed and Crippled Children

HERE are two sides to this great, sacred festival of gift-giving and good will toward men.

On one side you may add material cheer and comfort to the less fortunate and poor, and so divide your pleasures and gain; or you may ignore the true spirit of Christmas and selfishly enjoy the good things the occasion has brought you. Among the latter class are mostly numbered those who are abundantly able to give generously, yet who possess such miserly instincts that a mere pittance suffices to relieve their dormant conscience.

Yet those who pass by hungry men and children, squalid, cheerless homes, where "Merry" Christmas is but a mockery, do not extract the same genuine satisfaction and honest enjoyment as those who have helped others according to the means at their disposal.

However, there are many good Samaritans among the wealthy class who give bountifully at Christmas, and in which class are found society women who are veritable fairy godmothers to the poor and unfortunate.

CHARITABLE SOCIETY WOMEN

So many unjust things are said about women who play their part in the social world that it is taken for granted that they ignore the serious side of life and know only the pursuit of pleasure. Yet there is scarcely a woman of any social prominence who is not interested in one or more "pet" charities, and who labors faithfully, giving both her time and money for the betterment of mankind.

These women carry on their charities in such a quiet, unostentatious way that only their very intimate friends know of their work.

A certain woman, well known for her lavish entertainments, performs a unique charity every year. She employs a woman to canvass business offices and shops in search of deserving women and young girls, who are living away from their homes, or who virtually have none but their boarding houses. The number of guests varies from 200 to 250. On Christmas night at seven o'clock they are given an old-fashioned dinner, typical of its kind, in a large hall, gayly decorated with holly and greens. At the conclusion their hostess and benefactress makes a brief, motherly speech, extending to them the good wishes of the occasion. The dinner is followed by an entertainment, and as a souvenir bon-bons and holiday books are distributed.

On New Year's night a similar act of Christianity is performed to men and growing boys. Yet some people declare that this good woman shamefully misuses her wealth!

ANOTHER SCATTERER OF "SUNSHINE"

Another "social butterfly" employs a half dozen needy women several weeks before Christmas to make all sorts of garments for women and children. She patronizes wholesale houses and thus secures a discount on her purchases, which, even at a reduced rate, is quite a substantial sum. The garments are then collected, the women paid well for their services, and the city's poor are so much better off in worldly comfort.

While comparatively few women can afford to be so generous, every stitch and garment will add physical and even mental cheer to the unfortunate.

A home for incurable children is gladdened each year by a half dozen trees laden with gifts for the helpless little inmates, besides an abundance of wholesome sweets, and the donor's name figures prominently every week in the social calendar.

WHY THERE IS NEED OF CLOTHING

Various church organizations and charitable societies are busily engaged for months in advance in preparing to alleviate suffering and add cheer and comfort to the poor and unfortunate. Last year in New York the Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Children received and fed at its own expense 7301 children, for each of whom, had it not been for the intervention of the society, there would have been no place but the jail.

In a single year throughout the United States the societies have cared for 50,000 homeless and abused children. Imagine, if you can, what it means to reclothe nearly all of these children, and what enormous quantities of clothing it requires, when nearly eighty-five per cent. must be furnished with entire outfits. The demand for clothing (not necessarily new) for children of both sexes under 16 years of age is becoming greater every year.

Do not forget these little unfortunates when your generous impulses seek a worthy purpose at Christmas time. Notify any church society or independent organization and they will be glad to call for children's, women's or men's clothing. This act of charity will cost you nothing, but it means so much to the really needy.

A woman well known for her long and ardent

support of philanthropic work makes it her practice every year to visit hundreds of prominent men and women, soliciting money or orders for foodstuffs and coal, and it is said that her smile is so winning, her plea so eloquent that those who are unaccustomed to donate to charitable organizations are utterly astounded at themselves when they see the generous size of their check in black and white.

A certain family have long made it their practice to keep a year-round fund, which is collected several days before Christmas, and with which are purchased suitable eatables for the poor of their neighborhood. This is a very practical way of accumulating money and one that would not be too much of a drain for the average purse.

DON'T FORGET ELDERLY PEOPLE

The old and feeble, living in charitable institutions and private homes, should not be neglected at Christmas. They, too, require your holiday benevolence and thought. The old man or woman

selling papers on the street corners is also a worthy subject for your Christmas charity.

A score of young girls belonging to a church guild have labored industriously that all sorts of comfortable, cosy things, such as elderly people appreciate, bed room slippers, knitted shawls, flannel jackets, caps, boots, besides silken patches, yarns and crocheting outfits, will contribute materially to the happiness of the old ladies in a certain home, providing for their physical being and offering them profitable entertainment meanwhile.

Those whose years of experience have brought them wisdom, do not look upon the mercenary side of a gift, valuing it according to its cost, but think only of the kindly thought that prompted the action, and prize even a most commonplace article, because they have not been forgotten. This is the true Christmas spirit, loving and giving in token of the perfect "Gift."

There is no one who needs your thought more than the "shut-ins." Have you thought of them?

For a Merry Christmas Entertainment

LAST Christmas an original entertainment was given by a Sunday school teacher to her class of boys and girls that was intended to instruct as well as amuse. The children were well enough to have some idea of geography.

Soon after they reached the teacher's home she conducted them into a room decorated to represent Norway. Here they were greeted in a most cordial manner by a maiden dressed in a costume of Norway, who told them the story of Christmas in that country, which is called Yuletide instead of Christmas, and is celebrated by feasting—all quarrels are made up.

She spoke of the preparations made by the mothers, the way the gifts are distributed from the tree, how the birds are remembered with bunches of wheat placed outside of the window on poles, and that all animals are given extra portions of supper; how strangers are treated on Yule-peace day.

After the story little girls in the native costumes of Norway appeared from among the pine trees with trays of dainty sandwiches.

Then they went into another room, where many dainty articles from Holland were displayed in a very artistic manner. After a hearty welcome from a maiden in the typical Dutch costume some time was spent looking at the pretty things before she began the story of how the Dutch people keep Christmas—as a holy day; do not work. Among other things she told them that Dutch children think Santa Claus comes driving a white horse instead of reindeer, and they clean their wooden shoes, and fill them with hay and oats for the white horse.

Here ice cream was served in little wooden shoes with flags of the country stuck in them like sails.

They next visited Denmark. Here was a pretty Christmas tree with dainty gifts for each one. A young lady in the native dress told how Christmas is celebrated there. Especially interesting to the boys and girls was that part of the story that the children in Denmark do not know about Santa Claus, but "Nisson," a little old man who is a Brownie and supposed to live under the ground, takes his place.

The idea is a beautiful one, and might be elaborated on for an entertainment for a Sunday school, suggests the Pilgrim.

A Modern Joist

ANY a manly heart is light, Many a rose-decked bosom heaves, Under the gleam of berries white, Set in the cluster of spear-shaped leaves.

What is the use of mistletoe now? What can its purpose be? Only this—Honor the ancient Druidical bough, It gives such a charming excuse for a kiss.

Quaint Yuletide Customs and Traditions

IN a rare old pamphlet called "Christmas Entertainments," dated 1734, we are told that "There was once upon a time Hospitality in the Land (of Britain). An English Gentleman at the opening of the great Day had all his Tenants and Neighbours enter'd his hall by day-break; the strong beer was broach'd, and the black-jack went plentifully about, with toast, sugar, and nutmeg, and good Cheshire cheese; the rooms were embower'd with holly, ivy, cypress, bays, laurel and mistletoe, and a bouncing Christmas-log in the chimney glowing like the cheeks of a country milkmaid; then was the pewter as bright as Clarinda, and every bit of brass as polished as the most refined Gentleman; the servants were there, running here and there with merry hearts and jolly countenances; every one was busy in welcoming of Guests, and look'd as smug as new lick'd puppies; the Lassies were as blithe and

buxom as the maids in good Queen Bess's day, when they ate sirloins of roast beef for breakfast."

The Christmas card is comparatively a modern innovation, and it is said to have been patented about the middle of the nineteenth century, when the ordinary calling cards containing the words "A Merry Christmas" were supplemented by printed cards upon which were various forms of Christmas greeting, and drawings of holly branches and the like. The oldest of these in existence, it is said, was published in London in 1846, and the custom is believed to have come from Germany.

The Yule-log is supposed to have been transmitted to the Britons from their Scandinavian ancestors, who at their feast of the winter solstice lighted great bonfires in honor of Thor. The fragments of one Christmas log were carefully

preserved, in the Middle Ages, to start the fire in the log of the next Christmas; and it was long a tradition that if a flat-footed woman, or a squinting person of either sex, was permitted to enter the house while the log was burning, bad luck to somebody was sure to follow.

Christmas, for a curious reason, is said to have been a peculiarly sad day for the farmers and rural householders of Cheshire; for by an ancient custom which prevailed almost universally in that county half a century ago, all agricultural servants engaged themselves from New Year's Eve to Christmas Day, by virtue of which agreement they took a week off for play and recreation; and left the families of their employers to wait upon and cook and work for themselves. Mr. Thomas Hughes describes these farm servants, men and women, as dressed in holiday attire and crowding the streets of Ches-

ter, with their week's wages in their pockets. "They invest their incomes in smock-frocks, cotton dresses, plush waistcoats, or woollen shawls, all of the gayest and most showy color and varieties, and they hold high carnival in the small shops and lowest taverns. It is amusing to mix in the throng on such occasions," he added, in 1855, "and to watch these children of nature unadorned; their straggling gait, their fanciful apparel, to hear their quaint exclamations and their outlandish dialect, which few educated natives could understand without a glossary."

All this goes to prove that the creator of Scrooge and of Tiny Tim was not the inventor of Christmas. He merely revived and restored Christmas, with the aid of Washington Irving; and taught us, on this particular day of the year at least, to do a little better to our fellow-men.

God bless us every one!

Christmas Entertainment in the Sunny South

PRETTY Yuletide custom which is observed in the South flavors of the hospitality for which that section is noted.

All during Christmas week a small artificial evergreen tree graces the table of the family that wishes to share its good cheer with its friends or those less fortunate than itself. The tree is artistically trimmed with tinsel and ornaments, and the small gifts concealed in the green branches are tied in attractive tissue paper packages, or imbedded in some floral tribute. The friends who breakfast or dine or lunch with the family enjoy the lighted tree, and each one finds some small token among the dainty boughs.

The same idea may be used in connection with the table decorations on Christmas Day, if desired. For instance, a yard or so of immaculate cotton batting may be stretched lengthwise, with holly about it on the middle of the table, to represent snow. At one end place the tree. At the other end set a wigwag made of heavy manila paper, covered with cotton, over which sprinkle silver flitters plentifully. Even the flaps of the opening should sparkle with the snow.

Beside the doorway Santa Claus may stand ready to get in the sleigh (a child's plaything) with the three reindeers which await him. On his back is a pack and the sleigh should be well filled with sundry packages. Mrs. Santa Claus and two or three little Santas may stand near the wigwag, ready to say goodby to "Jolly old Saint Nicholas."

To make Santa Claus and his family is an easy matter, if the housewife has a little patience and a small stock of materials. An old doll ten or twelve inches high will do for the Saint himself. Use plenty of red paint to color his cheeks and a bit of white fur for eyebrows, hair and whiskers. When dressed in a red fur trimmed coat and cap, sprinkled with mica—using daubs of glue first—he will make a first-class representative of the traditional Santa.

Small Santas make appropriate and unique bon-bon boxes. Bisque girl dolls about six inches high should be used for these. Dress in red crepe paper trousers, red blouses and red caps, all faced with white crepe paper. Little knots of white paper glued on make excellent buttons and a bit of white paper a pretty shawl. Long red toboggan caps should be imitated, slashing the ends for fringe and knotting to look like a tassel. Curly hair will make good whiskers.

Eccentricities of Feminine Dress

A WAVE of indignation regarding women's dress was one of the amusements of this year's silly season. The dainty blouse, with its transparent yoke and elbow-sleeve, has been condemned as immodest. The Irish muslins and filmy chiffons have been dubbed "Rags." "Baby" hats are frivolous. Ribbons, tulle and laces unnecessary.

There is no doubt, however, that the women of today are more tastefully and economically gowned than were their predecessors of any period.

In 1200, we are told that the sleeves of the dresses were worn so long that they had to be tied in knots, so that they should not be in the way! In 1826 bonnets were as large as umbrellas. And at the time of Queen Victoria's accession the favorite style of dress was a wide skirt of seven or eight breadths, lined with stiff muslin, and covered with a tunic of a contrasting color. Vivid and inharmonizing shades were in vogue, as will be seen in the following description of a fashionable gown:

She wore a blue satin robe, a black-violet mantle lined with blue satin and trimmed with black lace, and an emerald-green hat trimmed with roses as well as ribbons and feathers. In 1876, we read:

Alpaca skirts are trimmed with a quantity of small frills and kittings, the polonaise being looped up with bows and buckles. The dresses are worn partially open at the neck.

So the "peck-a-hoo" blouse, which has been loudly condemned, is only the revival of an old fashion.

Little Nursery Notes

Be very careful about baby's eyes, particularly in sunny weather. Sunshine is good for him, but warn your nurse that it must on no account shine directly on his eyes. An inexperienced nursemaid often does not understand this; she does not realize how weak and easily injured a baby's eyes are. Tell her how important it is to be careful; tell her a sudden glare, either of sunlight or lamplight, may do infinite harm. The cot should never face the light, either of the window or the lamp.

PRETTY THINGS IN THE NURSERY.

In the first six or seven years a child takes impressions from its surroundings that will remain as long as its life. So see that there are pretty things in the nursery—pretty pictures especially, not mere daubs of color. Goethe said once that every child should see a beautiful picture and hear a beautiful poem every day. Remembering how surroundings influence development, don't, if you can help it, leave ugly things in any place where the children's eyes must often rest upon them.

CARE OF CHILDREN'S HAIR.

At bedtime a child's hair should be loosened and shaken out, in order that the air may pass through it—and afterwards carefully combed and brushed. If the hair is worn plaited during the day, it should be simply tied together during the sleeping hours; but if the locks have hung loose all day, it is good for them to be loosely braided at night.

Some children catch cold very easily after having their hair washed. In order to dry it quickly and prevent this, use for the final rinsing quite hot water to which a few drops of alcohol have been added. Then rub the hair well with alcohol, and wring it out as dry as possible.

Next take two or three towels, divide the hair, and wipe each strand separately. Let the child sit in a warm room, or, if possible, in the sun, fan the hair for a few minutes, and it will soon be perfectly dry.

HOW TO CHOOSE A NURSERY.

Do not make the mistake of thinking that any room will serve as a nursery. If you want healthy, bright-eyed, rosy-cheeked children, choose a sunny, airy room, facing south or southwest. Sunlight kills the germs of disease, and children, like plants, require light. The nursery should, if possible, have plenty of window space, by which to let in the fresh air and sunlight.

HOW TO TREAT A SPRAIN.

A sprained wrist or ankle should be bathed in hot water or vinegar and water, and a damp, cold rag afterwards be wrapped loosely round the injured part, and the whole covered with a piece of rubber or oiled silk. A very hot bran or bread poultice, applied at once will often prevent swelling and pain. The patient should be kept perfectly quiet, as sprains require as much rest as a broken limb. Cold salt-and-water douches also do good.

American Girl for Countess' Son

THE great intimacy which has rather suddenly sprung up between the Countess of Warwick and Mrs. Arthur Paget is naturally setting their friends gossiping regarding the likelihood of an engagement between Miss Leila Paget and Lord Brooke. Mrs. Arthur Paget has just paid Lady Warwick a long visit at Warwick Castle. The former is still a great invalid, and for her comfort there was no end to the arrangements which were made nor the expense to which Lady Warwick went.

Mrs. Paget's entourage included two nurses and her maid. A quantity of furniture, including the patient's luxurious bed, which is quite a work of art, and was made in Paris during her illness, was brought down from Belgrave Square, her London house, where Mrs. Arthur Paget has spent the greater part of the last two years.

The Countess of Warwick makes no secret of the fact that she has set her heart upon Lord Brooke marrying an American. For years she has steadily worked for this end. Her heart's desire was for a long time centred on little Joan Reid, the daughter of the American Ambassador. That plan did not work, however. Meanwhile there were others she favored for the post of future Countess of Warwick, notably the Ogden Mills twins, with either of whom she would have been satisfied.

Now, however, all her desires are in favor of Miss Leila Paget, who will in time be rich. Whether she will succeed in inducing Lord Brooke to follow up is another story.

Old Yule Carol

WELCOME be thou, Heavenly King, Welcome born on this morning, Welcome for whom we shall sing, Welcome Yule.

Welcome be ye who are here, Welcome to all and make good cheer, Welcome all another year, Welcome Yule.