

The Home

By Hattie Haines Churchill.

Questions will be cheerfully answered by mail if postage is sent. Write to the manager of this department and tell what you would like best to appear in these columns. We want the housewives to look forward with pleasure to reading this part of The Ranch.

THE HARBOR OF CHRISTMAS TIDE.

Oh, the April blossoms were fair to see,
And the flowers of May were sweet,
And the zephyrs of June were all atune
When the wind went over the wheat.
Opal and amber and gold and red
The trees of the forest swayed,
Till the faded leaves were as withered sheaves
Where the wild northwester strayed.
Then December came, and an isle of calm
We found by the open fire
For the wounds of life there was touch of balm,
There was peace to the heart's desire,
As the children played, and the mother sang
That Christmas was drawing near,
When the Star should blaze o'er the pearl of days
And the smile shine through the tear.
And this was the song on the mother's lips,
And this was her tender tune,
And this was the light that knew no eclipse,
Clearer than sun or moon.
For who that would drink of the loving-cup,
And who that to God would climb,
Must unbar the door and watch once more
For the sign of the golden time,
Speed fast to the harbor of Christmas-tide,
To the haven of heart's content,
Where the great white galleons safely ride,
Where the merriest thoughts are sent.
Forget the hurt of the ancient grudge,
And the dark, depressing mood;
In the Christmas realm let love be judge,
In the world be only good.

—Margaret Sangster.

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LEST WE FORGET.

A great deal is being said at the present time about the scarcity of money. We hear people every day making remarks to the effect that it is only a short time before Christmas; that they can't do much this year, and are only making a few things to give their most intimate friends.

We don't need to be blue because we have not a lot, or even a little available cash. We should be happy that the perfection of our Christmas depends only on our doing the very best we can with what we have, and filling our hearts so full of peace and good will that its over supply radiates into the hearts of every one with whom we come in contact.

Many of our leading periodicals are advocating a different Christmas from the ones of the past decade with their fads, pretence and diplomacy, their craze for senseless giving to people for whom no real affection was felt, and to whom a gift meant nothing more than getting back something for that they had given the previous year.

The coming anniversaries of the birth of Christ are to be more like the ones of years ago—full of the real Christmas spirit. Instead of spending dollars for frilly, useless things, people are going to give pretty useful articles to those they love, send letters of good cheer and Christmas cards of simple greeting to others.

The happiest sensations we have come with the knowledge that some one has thought of us. People are beginning to realize that no pleasure can be derived from using the money which should be used in home keeping to buy presents for others, particularly, if by so doing, a greater burden is laid on the family provider. On the other hand, people are more willing than they used to be, to deny themselves in order to send a little ray of sunshine, a little cheery breath of the true essence of Christmas tide across the pathway of someone less fortunate.

The passing year must have brought sorrows and disappointments into the lives of many. Consideration and kindness bestowed upon them will bring about a state of mind in the thoughtful one that will come in no other way. Our cheerful word of greeting will do much to increase the happiness of the day.

It is true that the poor will always be with us. If we get our hearts right we will be willing to take those good, but slightly out of style, garments from the closets, where we have selfishly kept them to look at, and put them in good condition to do service for some one needing them.

A few cans of fruit, some pop corn balls, a box of plain candy may relieve the anxiety tugging at the heartstrings of a weary mother and make a day long to be remembered by the little ones.

The old magazines stacked away in the attic are treasurers to be given lavishly. What do people want of them when they never have time to look at them. There are many hungering for the knowledge to be obtained from their pages. The articles written in a lighter vein will help shorten the weary hours of the sick, and the pictures afford children a



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delight of which they will not tire.

And there are the aged. God grant that we train ourselves to do to them as we wish to be done by. Many are alone at the home of a son or daughter, "just waiting" as my own dear father said not many years ago.

The waiting is sad enough without the indifference of children. It takes so little to make them happy. It may be that our declining years will have to be passed the same. We know not what the future holds for us.

If we have to meet such indifference while we are "only waiting" we will be less lonely if we have within us the knowledge that we gave our best to those before.

Commence now to write letters. You need not mail them until the proper time. Take time to put into them messages of sympathy, good cheer or anything helpful to each individual. Don't fill up the pages with a recital of your own advantages, your own successes and ambitions, or cast a gloom by telling your real and imaginary troubles since the year one.

And don't be disheartened if your efforts are, seemingly, not appreciated.

There are lots of people like the one in the story who was at a charming lake resort. He was half sick, lonesome and blue. One evening he and a friend went down to the lake. The friend tried to cheer him up by calling his attention to the cool breeze, the beauty of the shore line and surrounding scenery, the deep, soft shadows in the lake, the ripples on its surface and to the grandeur of the rising full moon, then said, "Isn't it all beautiful?" The grouch answered, "Yes, but see the mosquitoes."

People like that are to be pittied

and need not give us annoyance so long as we have done our part.

The following was copied from a paper last year. Pass it along.

"I will be brave enough to give only where love, sympathy and helpfulness make giving worth while. I

(Continued on next page)

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