

Christmas Morning

By MARY GRAHAM BOWLER



CHRISTMAS comes but once a year, Christmas comes but once a year," shouted the children as they hurried down stairs on Christmas morning. Their daddy and mother followed and they sang too.

"Christmas comes but once a year!"

From the stairs they could see the library with the fire just started. There was a big tree all trimmed! And under and around it there were just the things they all had been waiting for, and a lot of other things they had never expected. Oh, how beautiful it was. It looked to the children as if it couldn't be real and it seemed to them as if they must be dreaming—as if all this wonderful room, filled with presents and stockings and everything else that was real, could not be real after all.

But they had thought this way on other Christmas days and they had not been dreaming on other Christmas mornings. To be sure they dreamed of Christmas before Christmas came but they didn't dream of anything nearly so wonderful as Christmas always was.

There were four children. Lucy and Betty and Robbie and Billy. There, in the center of the library, was the big tree. It was covered with candles and though it was daylight the candles were lighted and the shades pulled down so as to make the tree look its very best. And too, it wasn't so very bright at that hour, for they were always up very, very early on Christmas morning.

They began to see the things on the tree they had asked Santa Claus for, and then they looked to see if he had taken the notes they had written for him wishing him a Merry Christmas.

Sure enough! He had taken them. They wondered if he had been pleased and they hoped very much that he had.

All these thoughts went through their minds very quickly and then they began to say, "Ah," and "Oh," and "Isn't it wonderful," and "Look!"

"Well," said their daddy, "let us sit down and look at all our presents."

They sat down on the floor. And each one took a stocking which had been hanging in front of the mantel piece. Every stocking was well filled, and each stocking stuck out queerly so that no one could guess what was in it.

What a guessing match there was before they emptied the stockings—just to keep the surprise a little longer, for they had an idea that Santa Claus wanted them to be as surprised as possible. And when they did guess that was in some of the stockings it was such fun!

After the stockings had been looked at and the oranges and apples had been taken from the tree, the presents were taken from the tree.

The candy cones and candy animals and the decorations were kept on, for the candy would be eaten later on and the decorations would be kept through the Christmas season.

There were many presents around the foot of the tree. And now they knew that they weren't really dreaming. They were really, really alive, and this was really, really Christmas. Everything about it was real and their presents were real and they were wide awake and beginning to get hungry, for they hadn't waited for breakfast first. They ate Santa's wonderful oranges and mother told to daddy:

"Dear me, I wish I could find big oranges like Santa Claus does. It's a better shopper than I am!"

And their daddy laughed and said, "He's a smart old fellow. It's hard to get ahead of him. And even if we don't find such good oranges we get them every year through his goodness!"

"He's the dearest soul in all the world," said Lucy, "except the family."

"He's wonderful," said Betty, "and my dollie is so adorable. He gave me just the kind I asked for."

"He's a wonder," said Robbie and Billy together, and then everyone took his or her orange and paraded to the dining-room, singing once again, "Christmas comes but once a year!"

ALWAYS WARNING OF RAIN

Birds, Insects, and Weeds Foretell Downpour to Those Who Are at All Observant.

The shepherd tending his sheep or the laborer on the farm will not hesitate in his reply to the often asked question, for these men of the fields are almost uncannily weather wise. Their barometer is not only the moon, the clouds, the stars, but also the beasts, birds, insects and weeds.

The following signs, among others, warn the countryman of the coming rain or storms. "M. P. M." writes in the continental edition of the London Mail:

The shrill cry of the peacock screaming from the farmyard gate.

A herd of cows prone on the meadow, instead of grazing on the pasture.

Lambs leaping and frolicking with extra vigor in the fold.

Ducks balanced on their heads in a pool with only their tails and a portion of their backs appearing above the water line.

A flight of swallows skimming low.

Smoke ascending in a straight line from the chimney.

The continued sound of croaking frogs from the ditches.

The antagonistic condition of the bees round the hive.

The silence of singing birds in the woods.

The pimpernel on the banks with its scarlet blossoms closed against the onslaught of the storm.

The extra brilliancy of the stars (on the eve of rain).

The haze around the moon.

Spiders seeking refuge within the cottage or the barn.

The unusually distinct roar of the train heard from afar.

POET WAS ERRATIC GENIUS

Thomas Chatterton Did Marvelous Work Before His Suicide at the Age of Eighteen.

That marvelous boy poet, Thomas Chatterton, a youth with wonderful attainments but whose genius was erratic, died before he was 18 years old, on Aug. 25, 1770, by taking arsenic "in anticipation of a slower death by starvation."

From his earliest childhood, Chatterton had a ghastly familiarity with the idea of suicide, and among his papers preserved in the British museum is a last will and testament. "Executed in the presence of Omniscience, the 14th of April, 1770," full of the wildest wit and profanity. While there is a peculiar interest to all he wrote, he is best remembered as the author of the so-called "Rowley Poems," which number nearly four-score, "Kilnour and Jug" being the only one which appeared during the lifetime. Some of them possess that beauty of imagination with which we associate the work of Keats and Coleridge. These poems, as well as Rossetti and William Morris, owed much to Chatterton.

During the last few months of his life he worked with a hundred hands and poured forth satiric poems, political essays, burlesques, letters in the style of Junius, and mediated writing a history of England. For a time his prospects seemed to brighten, and while many editors were willing to use his articles and gave him praise, few were willing to pay for them.

Why the Moon's Phases

The light of the moon is due entirely to reflection of the light of the sun, and the different phases of the moon to its position in relation to the position of the earth and the sun. When there is a new moon, half of the surface of the moon is illuminated, but the greater portion is turned from the earth and only a delicate crescent appears to us. At the first quarter, half of the illuminated surface is turned toward us, and at the fifteenth day the moon reaches a point in the heavens directly opposite to that which the sun occupies. She is then in opposition, and the whole of the illuminated surface is turned toward us, and we have a full moon. From opposition the moon passes on in her orbit, gradually decreasing in size, or rather less and less of the illuminated part being turned toward the earth.

Bells in History

Bells are old, old friends of men. Centuries and centuries ago, even before Christ, the ceremonies of Isis were celebrated with bells, and later, according to Exodus, there were "a golden bell and a pomegranate, a golden bell and a pomegranate, upon the hem of the robe"—the robe of ephod. Bells have summoned soldiers to arms and Christians to church. They have rung fires and tumults. On the third day of Easter in 1282, 8,000 French were massacred in cold blood by John of Procida at the ringing of Sicilian vespers. On the 24th day of August, St. Bartholomew's day, in 1572, bells rang in the massacre of 100,000 Huguenots. At the time of Nelson's triumph and death at Trafalgar, the bells of Chester rang a merry peal alternated with one dead toll.

Pro and Con

"They tell me women have no strength of character."

"Nonsense!"

"That's what I say. Did you ever hear of an aviatrix stopping in midair to powder her nose?"

"No, sir. I never did. But do you suppose she is going to meet anybody in midair who can see whether or not her nose is shiny?"—Birmingham Age-Herald.

CHRISTMAS SHOPPERS' GUIDE

SILKS IN HOSIERY OR MOST ANYTHING MAKE A SPLENDID CHRISTMAS GIFT. GIVE SOMETHING THAT IS DURABLE AND DAINTY.

BEAUTIFUL SILK HOSIERY FOR MEN, WOMEN AND CHILDREN.

A department filled to overflowing with unsurpassed offerings in first quality Silk Hose, well known and reliable makes, in all popular styles and colors, and at prices to suit every purse. Nothing more essential to a well dressed man's or woman's wardrobe than silken hosiery. You could do no better than select from these. Pure Silk Thread Hose from \$3.00 to \$4.00. All full-fashioned and semi-fashioned in full showing of all new and staple colors. All first quality. Other makes at \$1.75, \$2.00, \$2.39, \$2.69, \$2.90. Artificial Silk Hose for women, from \$1.20 to \$1.75. These come in all sizes.

INFANTS' SILK HOSE
Pure Silk Hose for the baby, in white; sizes 4 to 6½ years, \$1.00 to \$1.35.

MEN'S SILK HOSE
Pure Silk Hose of first quality and very appropriate for the men's Christmas. In black, cordovan and grey, \$1.00 pair.
Men's Artificial Silk Hose, in black and brown, at 50c pair.
Men's Silk Hose, which are a splendid bargain in all colors and sizes, 2 pairs for \$1.25.

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Knit Underwear Section

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Silk Envelope Chemise Specially Priced
Beautiful Silk Envelope Chemise in styles with hemstitched top and shoulder—bodice effects, and with hemstitched bottom. All sizes in white and flesh color.



SILK VESTS

Extremely beautiful silk vests made from extra heavy tricot glove silk in styles, with tailored top-bodice effect, with hemstitched band and shoulder straps. All sizes, in white and flesh color.

BLOOMERS

Silk bloomers of fine quality glove silk with elastic knee and top and reinforced. Exceptionally well made garments in all sizes in white and flesh colors.

DAINTY SILK NIGHT GOWNS

We have an unsurpassed offering in night gowns. Made of crepe de chine and georgette crepe, with nicely trimmed bodice and hemstitched. These are very appropriate for HER.

CORSET COVERS

Excellent quality of crepe de chine and georgette crepe, tailored and daintily trimmed with heavy laces and hand embroidered. These are nicely interwoven with beautiful ribbons.

BOUDOIR GIFTS

An extensive showing of the late designs in boudoir caps that please the particular lady. Trimmed in lace and ribbon novelties. Will appeal to the women. Colors in pale-blue silk, white and flesh.

THIS IS A RIBBON CHRISTMAS
For never before were ribbons more beautiful or more universally used, and we are pleased to announce that it has been our good fortune to gather an unsurpassed stock of the most popular new and staple ribbons in all widths, colors and patterns suitable for all purposes.

MEN'S SILK SHIRTS
No doubt he would be more than pleased to get a handsome silk shirt for a Christmas present. We show them in an assortment of beautiful patterns. All sizes at the price of \$7.00 each.

HER GIFT—A WAIST
Irresistibly lovely are the blouses, irresistible are the prices. Georgette and crepe de chine, in varied styles and colors. Popular shades in pale green, red, pale blue, navy, brown, white, flesh, pale yellow, corn, maize, black and most every shade that a woman may desire. We, without any doubt, carry the largest supply of real waists in the city. They are moderately priced.

SELECT FROM OUR LARGE STOCK OF BLOUSES THE GIFT FOR YOUR LADY FRIEND.

WE SUGGEST SILK FOR CHRISTMAS, AS WE THINK THAT IT IS APPROPRIATE AND MOST SUITABLE. THEREFORE, VISIT OUR STORE TO SELECT YOUR CHRISTMAS GIFTS OF SILK IN GARMENTS AND UNDERGARMENTS.

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Medical Education in China.
The China medical board of the Rockefeller foundation will soon have in operation in Peking a splendid institution for medical research and teaching—the Peking Union Medical college. A group of 15 buildings is in course of construction. On account of their green-tiled roofs the new buildings have already acquired the name of "the Green City." The college will open in the autumn of 1919. A preparatory school was opened two years ago. It is expected that the whole establishment, including a new hospital, will be running by the end of 1920. The board plans to open another medical institution in Shanghai.—Scientific American.

Horses Still Numerous.
Despite the large number of motor cars and trucks made in America, horses and mules seem to be holding their own, according to a recent trade statement.

Although 7,700,000 automobiles have been produced in the United States since 1899, half of which were manufactured since 1915, there are now 21,534,000 horses and 4,925,000 mules in the country with a total value of \$2,900,000,000.

SPECIAL NOTICE
Of monthly meeting of BUSINESS MEN'S ASSOCIATION, Friday evening, December 12th, 6:30 P. M. Banquet at the Deer Head Grill. All members urged to attend. Matters of importance to the association to be discussed.

By order of the President.
W. C. VAN EMON, Secretary.

Power of Ideals.
It is hardly possible to estimate the power of ideals in human life. I am disposed to think there is no one who does not have his ideals, conscious or unconscious. Some there may be who are not clearly aware that they possess them, just as we all breathe and do many other things which we are not conscious of. But I am disposed to think that absolutely every human being really does have, hung on the walls of that room of his mind where dwells the wonderful faculty which we call the imagination, pictures, dim or clear, of what seems to him the most desirable kind of life—pictures of persons, whom perhaps he knows, or may be has known in some past time, or if not that, then persons dreamed of, who represent to his thought the kind of life he would be able to live.

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