

SHOPPING WITH THE MUSE.

Thus spake the Sage at Christmas time—his words were full of heat; "The only thing I like to get in my stocking is my feet."

A CHRISTMAS TREE STORY.

The Brook babbled and laughed gleefully to itself, and trickled from under the stones and out from its bed to the bank where the purple-petioled violets grew.

the God that made us had a Dear Son whom He sent down here to help mortals. They did not understand and took Him and made a cross of wood and nailed Him to it and broke His heart with their ingratitude.

From the ash heap, where he lay dying, the Tall Spruce could catch a glimpse of the crest of the hill where he was born. The ashes were choking him, the hot May sun was parching him, and his strong heart was filled with a great yearning for the cool shadows and the moist rich earth.

For making both ends meet, and a little money go a long way, it seems that the ingenuity of a little 8-year-old boy in Germantown holds the record. Many a grown-up person with a plump purse might take a lesson from the usefulness of the articles selected.

SANTA CLAUS.

I used to watch for Santa Claus With childish faith sublime, And listen in the snowy night To hear his sleigh bells chime.

Shoe-Black Jim.

In a small crowded room in one of the rear tenement houses of a great city where the sun's rays were never known to shine, or fresh air allowed to penetrate, our little Jim lay dying.

Months before I one morning saw him standing on a street corner, with his shoe box strapped to his back, calling out in tremulous tones, "Shine sir?"

Old Kris in an Automobile.

Kris Kringle up-to-date will whizz about the city on a gas engine, a big 40-horse power automobile. He comes to Philadelphia this year under the auspices of a charitable society named in his honor the Santa Claus Association.

Wrapping Christmas Gifts.

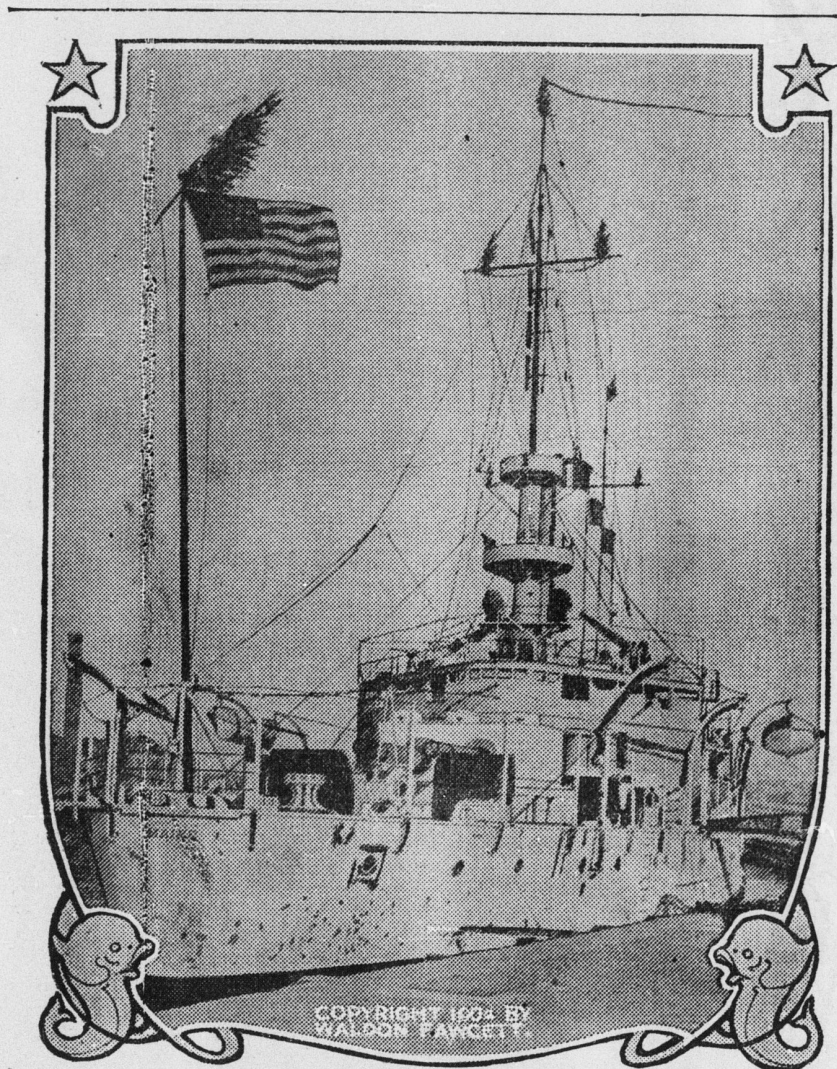
There is an art in wrapping Christmas gifts so as to add to their attractiveness. Provide yourself with an abundance of white tissue paper, a package of the inexpensive Japanese napkins that come at this season with the holly borders, then plenty of red and green bell ribbon, the shape of holly berries and leaves for tying.

Christmas Day in the Navy

By H. A. Ferrin

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THERE is one feature of civilization which always follows the flag around the world. That is the spirit of Christmas.



BATTLESHIP MAINE DECORATED FOR CHRISTMAS.

harbor of some home port, where proximity to shore insures an abundance of the usual accessories, Christmas on board a man-of-war is not essentially different from the holiday of the land-lubber.



JACKIES PREPARING THE CHRISTMAS DINNER.

Uncle Sam feeds his seagoing servants pretty well at all times, but at Christmas he spreads himself. Besides, the Jackies generally have a few gold pieces saved up to put on the finishing touches, and the committee on comestibles is kept busy for days before the festival hunting all kinds of delicacies to their lairs.

welcome an American warship to an anchorage alongside on Christmas day, for they know what Yankee hospitality means. Seldom does a crew of an American vessel on service beyond the seas sit down to its Christmas dinner alone.

After dinner general leave is granted and in home ports many of the sailors go ashore to visit relatives and friends. Most of the men, however, and on a foreign station practically all, remain on board for the sports to which the afternoon is devoted.

be washed out in honor of the day. The plea is usually effective. The distribution of Christmas mail, following the athletic programme, takes the place of the distribution of gifts at home.

The officers have their dinner in the evening. The day has very likely been a lonesome one in the wardroom, for if the ship is on a home station all the officers who can get away and who have families spend the day ashore.



GIFTS FOR THE MAN BEHIND THE GUN.

Gifts for the man behind the gun. Last year the Panama incident was very creditably "worked up" on one battleship. This year the Russian and the Jap will have to take their turns as targets for the minstrel's merry quips.

- Hang it up. —Get kissed under it. —Forget that it's parasitic. —Think what a past it has. —The Druids regarded it with awe. —Found upon an oak, it with superstitiously regarded. —It was considered as sacred to sylvan deities of old. —To deck a house with it was to invite the sylvan spirits. —This interesting plant is known to botanists as the "viscum album."