Bellefonte, Pa., December 20, 1912.

FOR AND ABOUT WOMEN

DAILY THOUGHT.

Christmas time I have always thought of as good time; a kind, forgiving, charitable, pleasan ime.-Charles Dickens.

Christmas Giving.

A great change has come over the face of the ages. Things are not what they once were. The Christmas of fifty years

ago is passing away.

Whether this is because there are not so many children, as formerly, or because we have become less mystical and more mercenary every year it is hard to tell. I suppose the old Adam blames it upon

The presentation of gifts still continues but it is like a great exchange; the mystery and surprise have given place to supply and demand. The exchange of gifts did not come to us direct from christianity. In heathen countries it has been a custom for thousands of years. been a custom for thousands of years. New Year's day in Japan is celebrated by every family having something new in the home, and by the sending and receiv-ing of presents all over the Empire. It was a beautiful sight in Tokyo to see the children going from door to door of their friends' houses followed by servants carrying large lacquer boxes or feruskis filled with beautiful toys, battledoors and shuttle cocks, kites and so on. Presents are so great a feature in Japan that almost every house of any pretentions has a godown connected with it. It is a separate building made fireproof to hold the gifts and valuables of the family. the gifts and valuables of the family. The Japanese do not always buy new gifts, but sometimes go to their godown and choose something for a friend. In that way it often happens that in time the presents come back to the original donors. As christianity has been carried into heathen lands customs have been exchanged with the heathen. Dr. Van-Dvke tells us we got our "First Christmas" Dyke tells us we got our "First Christmas Tree from the Thuringian Forest dur-ing a feast of the Dwinds. The Germans were about to make a humar sacrifice to the gods, of a beautiful flax-enhaired child. He was cavorting about

enhaired child. He was cavorting about with his playmates, all unconscious of the fate that awaited him. A priest of the true God appears carrying a lamb as a symbol of Christ, and as with Abraham of old the child is exchanged for the animal. The religion also is changed. The priest offers to take their symbol of the fir tree if they will take the spirit of Christ into their hearts; so we got the Yule log and the Christmas tree. Prince Albert carried it with him into England when he married Queen Victoria and when he married Queen Victoria and thence it was brought to our shores.

Add to these symbols the personal element of Saint Nicholas, the patron Saint

of the children.

Saint Nicholas lost his parents when he was a very young man and used the large fortune which they left him in helping the children. In the town where he lived three maidens were without dowries and their father was deeply distressed by his inability to obtain for them suitable husbands. Saint Nicholas supplied the dowries to the delight of the father and of questions. daughters: the husbands were then not As an example of how questioners olas was observed on the 6th of December and was easily merged into our Christmas celebration, Santa Claus and

Kris Kingle being synonymous tithes.
We still have the Christmas tree and the Santa Claus. What have we lost? I fear it is the spirit of giving and that we

I once knew a lad who was born with the true Christmas spirit in his heart. He the true Christmas spirit in his heart. He had not much money and no artistic talent. Looking about for a gift for his mother he spied a rooster with particularly fine feathers. Three of these feathers he plucked from the tail and stuck them in the lid of a spool box. To make the lid a fit setting he sewed beads all over it. It was a beautiful gift in the eyes of his mother; it brought a tear to her eyes, as she realized the thought and pains that had gone into it, and made the true value of the gift.

Last Christmas a woman of some

Last Christmas a woman of some means sent cards to all her rich friends to whom she had fromerly sent presents wishing them a happy Chrismas and telling them she had used the money generally spent upon them for poor children, who otherwise would have had no Xmas. Several young men who assisted in giv-ing a tree and a happy evening to a num-ber of children said it was the best part

ber of children said it was the best part of their Xmas.

Let those who have no children do something for some one else's children, particularly for those who can expect little or nothing and then let them say "It has been a stupid day" if they can. The Christ child came into the world with these words "I came not to be minis.

Christ child came into the world with these words, "I came not to be ministered unto but to minister," and "The servant is not above His Lord."

Let the man buy it who said "Xmas is a ridiculous custom. I give people presents this year that they do not want, because they gave me gifts last year that I did not want."

They did not intentionally give what

cause they gave me gifts last year that I did not want."

They did not intentionally give what they did not want, but it is not surprising that those who give in such a spirit would not know what the other deserved. That is the whole point, to try and find out what is deserved by the one and to whom we give. Whether in our own household or outside, if they desire what they need as many do, then give the things needed, but if they desire what they do not need and one can do it wisely, give the thing desired, for it is a time for surprises.

Imagine the surprise of the shepherds when the heavens opened and the angels appeared, on that first Xmas moon, singing "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace good will toward men."

There are a great many people who do not suggest angels on the opening of heaven on Christmas day because they have done nothing special for any one outside their own household.

We should not be retarded from giving because we cannot give rich gifts. Christmas is not a time for ostentation but for true feeling. It is wonderful how far a child can make a dollar go if he knows it is the extent of his means. It would be well for us grown folks to have a more child-like spirit in giving. A letter has just been received from a friend on board the steamship Laconia, sailing to Algiers. She writes—

"I have been dressing my first doll and

"I have been dressing my first doll and

tons and drawn strings so she can be undressed and put to bed properly and though her dress is of several kinds of chintz, she looks like a very sweet and proper "English Miss," and as a first and last touch I securely sewed a sixpence on her waist, so the little child in the London slums will have a few pennies London slums will have a few pennies

for sweets at Christmas time. The London Evening News sent several hundreds of dolls to each Transatlantic ship, and a large box of scraps, to be used in the descript of them. to be used in the dressing of them, so almost every woman on board has been busy. Wasn't it a happy thought? Though we have all groaned over the scraps, and wished we could be in a shop for at least a winute. Our eterovades for at least a minute. Our stewardess has presented me with some light green tapestry brocade for my next dolly. It is covered with peacocks eight inches high, and my fair dolly is but a few inches taller, so I am not eager to begin. What a motherly heart the London Evening News must have!

ANNE HARRIS HOY. Publicity Committee of Bellefonte Woman's Club



JOLLY game for the Yuletide evening is called "It." In playing this game some people are exceedingly clever.

while others are very unsuccessful. The players sit in a circle, and a questioner is chosen and sent from the room. The circle selects an object, or an "it," for her to guess from answers to questions she will ask. These ques tions must refer always to the object to be guessed as "it" and be answered only by "yes" or "no." The questioner does not know that each answer will really refer to the left hand neighbor of the player interrogated, but that is the secret of the game and the thing that confuses and worries a questioner almost to lunacy. She may ask the same question-always to the leftseveral times in succession or all around the circle if she thinks she can

guess "it" in that way. The questions are limited in number. the latter being fixed by common consent. The number of questions, however, must not exceed in number the players, but the number of players may be less than the allotted number

It to find. The feast of Saint Nich- may be confused the following is given:

Mrs. So-and-so may be selected to be "It." The questioner is called in. She asks of a man, "Is it a man?" His left hand neighbor is a woman, so he replies, "No." Of the next or the neighbor just mentioned is asked, "Is it a woman?" Her next neighbor being a man, again comes the answer "Is it alive?" of the next. "No." "Yes." Now, as there are no living things but men and women in the room the questioner begins to see light and suspects the intention to confuse

Of course she knows there is some rule by which the questions are answered, and so she may go all over them again in reverse or some order until two answers agree. This may be difficult, because the object and arrangement of the circle are to make the answers disagree. It may be that she learns that "it" is a woman after all. and then she must find out, again by questions as to type, age, proximity. color of gown, etc., which one of the

THE BARGAIN COUNTER GAME

A Charming Way to Spend the Christ-

The Christmas bargain counter is a charming fireside game for Christmas night that will amuse and at the same time instruct the nursery children. The bargain counter may be the nursery table set in front of the fireplace or hearth. On the counter are laid as many as one likes of the toys which the children received from tree and Christmas stockings. One child is chosen to take charge of this play toy shop, and a second child leaves the room after looking carefully first at all the toys on the counter to determine their names. While this child is absent from the room a third child selects and hides one of the toys. When the second child returns he must try at one guess to say which of the toys was sold during his absence. If he guesses successfully he may be the next toyman. To make the game more difficult two or more toys may be hidden. Another and slightly more difficult way of playing the bargain counter game is to have the toyman change the positions of the toys while the child is out of the room. The child on returning must rearrange them, if he can in exactly the same positions that they had when he left the room. The articles on the bargain counter may be scraps of color instead of toys. Red. orange, yellow, green, blue and violet ribbons, balls or Christmas tree candles may be laid out in the order of the rainbow colors. While one child is either blindfolded or outside the room the child in charge of the colors rehave another not yet begun. My first is or order, and the other child must guess alility and neatness "if I do say it who should not." All her clothes have but-

SOAP BUBBLES.

Soap bubbles are never so beautiful as on Christmas night, with the tree and the lights and the presents to give the thousand shades of color to the sparkling globes. Christmas soap bubbles must be good ones, so into a pint of warm water shave a piece of laun dry soap about an inch square. When dissolved add a tablespoonful of gum arabic and stir till melted. Then add a teaspoonful of glycerin, and lastly a quart of cold water. Hot water is necessary to dissolve the various ingredients, but unless cold water is added they expand and break too rapidly in the blowing process. For variety add a little current juice for pink bubbles or orange juice for yellow.

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sufferers.

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