

THE CHRISTMAS STAR

The Christmas star swung bright and low To guide the Wise Men long ago;

The Christmas star through clouded years, Through manhood's wars and woman's tears,

The Christmas star this wintry night Invades my home with tender light;

The Christmas star, it shines afar Where our eternal treasures are.

THE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT

In spite of the December blasts which were sweeping around the corner, blowing thin skirts against thinner legs,

"It ain't no difference what Miss Sweeting done, I guess Miss Devons ain't no such slop, no ma'am, she ain't."

"You shut yer face, Louisa May," she retorted, haughtily. "I tell yer I was promoted from Miss Sweeting's class last week an' before I left she was tellin' Miss Gray there was a meetin' of all the teachers, an' they was talkin' over what we should have."

"I guess Miss Devons ain't takin' no orders from Miss Sweeting," she remarked. "Ain't she boss over eighty in the department, an' Miss Sweeting got only a dozen kids to mind."

"If you wouldn't mind," she said, softly, "I have a favor to ask."

"Come here, chicks," she said. "Why do you want crosses?" Florabel twisted her legs around each other, but Louisa May spoke up bravely.

all the long year to have what they wanted—provided always the want was within the limits of the treasury—and in this way should they be filled with the Christmas joy and learn to impart it to others.

"What opens an' shuts eyes," Lena was saying to her neighbor. "Nefers haf I so seen, but so it iss. Blue eyes and gold hair—ach, wie wunder-schon!"

"You know," she said, "that Christmas will be here in three weeks, and you know that the Sunday school gives each of its scholars a present."

"I'll wait," she said, gloomily. "But I don't get nothin' fine; yer can't fool me. Asks us what do we want an' then gives us work-baskets."

"Oh, I guess so," exclaimed the latter, bitterly. "Favor-ite! Favor-ite! She jeered at the two friends with extended tongue and feet wide apart."

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give us the chains if we get the crosses." She paused, out of breath, and Miss Devons pondered the motives.

"After all," she reflected, "I suppose we all mix up things, though we aren't always so honest about it."

"You see," asserted Lily Hammond. "We don't get what we ask for. I told yer 'twas a trick to keep us here."

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her and then they fights somethin' fierce." Poor Louisa May! As Miss Devons thought of the little martyr she felt inclined to weep herself.

Floralbel's own tears gushed forth afresh as she surveyed her fallen idol, and Miss Devons picked her up bodily and nestled her in her lap while she wiped away the tears and strove to make clear the difference between hatpins of brilliants and imitation diamond rings.

"Ain't she the foolish one?" remarked Mrs. Franke, cheerfully, as the visitors entered. "I tells her sooner she stops cryin' she gets well, but it ain't no good me talkin'."

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FOR AND ABOUT WOMEN.

DAILY THOUGHT

When the Yule log burns upon the earth, With carol, chime and Christmas cheer, A fire should kindle in each soul.

Is your Christmas gift to the house this year to be one that will be used in the kitchen? If so, let us—old veterans that we are in this business—make a few suggestions about selecting articles that are well made, good looking and designed to lighten some of the numerous tasks involved in doing one's housework.

Now a fine contraption, not at all new, but nevertheless interesting, which looks as though it might be a mouse trap or a bird cage, is a device which every salad-eating family should possess.

A self-seal porcelain pudding mold which eliminates using a bag is a fuel saver as well as a labor-saver. A funnel up through the center of the mold permits the heat of the boiling water to reach the interior of the pudding as well as the outside, and so a shorter period of cooking is adequate.

The mold must first be well buttered. (In buying a pastry brush, get one with an adjustable cap which will release the bristles for a thorough washing.) Then the pudding batter poured in, and, as in the case of the open dish in the photograph, a dab of pie crust or dough is pressed into the funnel.

While we are on the subject of desserts we'll mention the new pastry flaker which sells for 25 cents. The working part consists of a wire mesh on a strong oval-shaped frame. There is a conveniently shaped handle to hold it by while you chop up and down, mixing the shortening into the flour.

The housekeeper who entertains largely, if not lavishly, will like a box of cooky or sandwich cutters—six different shapes, all of minute dimensions. A box of them costs 60 cents.

The bowl of oatmeal and milk will be enhanced beyond measure for the two-year-old if he can eat it off a decorated tray on which Little Boy Blues and jumpingjacks prance and strut in waterproof colors. Such trays are made to fit right over the high-chair rack, and the price does not exceed what one would naturally want to spend on a charming young man at Christmas time.

Any woman who loves to cook will delight in having a bright, shiny pot of good proportions in which she can simmer a soup for days at a time, or stew a tough old fowl, or do a pot roast. The one in the photograph is made of fine quality spun aluminum and comes in four or five different sizes, costing \$5 and up.

FARM NOTES.

THE PENNSYLVANIA HEN.

See that all market crops that are to be held over winter are protected against freezing and other damage.

Do not delay your order for trees for next spring's planting too long, say foresters of the Pennsylvania State College. Determine what you need, how many, get a blank, and send your order in.

Do not feel disappointed if the house plants do not show profuse bloom during December. Short days, cold nights, and unfavorable indoor conditions will affect blooming, but if the plants are supplied with water, fresh air, stimulation, and warmth they will make a brave showing later.

Protection of the hive is a two-sided job since it means not only protection against cold, but also against wind. Apiaries situated where there is a good windbreak will do well. The best windbreak is afforded by evergreens which allow the wind to sift gently through the apiary.

In most localities, the hives should also be packed in some efficient way. Where warm days occur frequently enough to allow the bees to fly, a good packing is given by leaf or straw-filled chicken wire nets, cut to surround the hives on three sides.

Autumn is the time to protect bulb plantings from destruction by moles, mice, and pocket gophers. It is in spring that complaints arise over damage done by these burrowing animals and this damage is best prevented in fall, the season when tulips and lilies are commonly planted.

For both mice and pocket gopher poison is the best method of eradication. A good poison for pocket gophers is green clover leaves picked when free from dew or rain and powdered with strychnine alcohol at the rate of 1 ounce of powder to ten pounds of the leaves.

Mice may be poisoned with whole wheat mixed with a strychnine starch paste dropped into little holes made by the rodents, or placed under boxes or in tin cans, or in the mole runways the mice are using.

Bulletins prepared by the Biological Survey giving detailed instructions as to the best methods of trapping and poisoning have been prepared and may be obtained by writing to the United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C. Rodent and mole eradication work in the fall is much more certain to save the bulbs than is work undertaken when the damage becomes apparent.

New Automobile Law.

Failure to have a windshield cleaner on your automobile is an offense under the new motor vehicle code of Pennsylvania, according to announcement by the Keystone Automobile club, which lists a number of practices now permitted which will be forbidden under the new law, effective January 1.

Loan registration plates to another. Fail to have a windshield cleaner. Have any plates, cards or lettering of an obscene or vulgar nature attached to the car. Have any posters non-transparent on the windshield or windows.

Drive with more than three persons on the driver's seat. Coasting down grade with gears in neutral. Fail to report to police every accident where injury resulted or damage exceeded \$50.

Real Estate Transfers.

T. M. Gramley, et al, to Ralph E. Shook, trustee, tract in Gregg Twp.; \$900. Ralph E. Shook, et al, to Dairymen League Company or Association, tract in Gregg Twp.; \$850.

FOR AND ABOUT WOMEN.