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Where have they gone to—the little girls, With natural manners and natural curls, Who love their dollies and like the toys And talk of something besides the boys?
Little old women in plenty I find, Mature of manners and old of mind; Little old firms who talk of their "beaus," And vie with each other in stylish clothes.
Once, in the beautiful long ago, Some dear little children I used to know; Girls who were merry as lambs at play, And laughed and rollicked the livelong day.
Where have they gone to? If you see One of them anywhere, send her to me. I would give a medal of purest gold To one of these dear little girls of old.
—Ella Wheeler Wilcox.

A Christmas Bell.
Swing wide! send forth your swelling notes, sweet bells!
Once more 'tis Christmas-tide o'er all the earth;
No silver throat so sweet a story tells:
The Christ was born—the stars sang at his birth;
Celestial choirs the anthem rolled along,
And angel hosts gave chorus to the song.
It would almost savor of sacrilege to declare that the Christmas tree has grown tiresome, but occasionally there are souls brave enough to say so. For those who feel that way about it, a welcome substitute is found in the Christmas bell, which is made of three or more hoops of graded sizes. The hoops are wreathed and hung, the smallest at the top, the next in size just below it and so on, so as to give the effect of a suspended bell. The ropes or cords by which the hoops are connected and hung, are wound with green. At the top they are brought together and fastened to a ring in the ceiling. Such hoops may be had of a cooper or easy of adjustment and the effect is very pleasing. The same ornaments used to adorn the regulation tree are displayed on the hoops, and the gifts are attached by narrow ribbons, which are cut when the packages are removed. A Japanese lantern hung in the center of the bell is filled with mottoes, bonbons, etc., and when the gifts have all been distributed a blow from a cane breaks the paper sides of the lantern, and a shower of sweets makes glad the hearts of the wee folk of the party. If the lantern is filled with flowers, the downpour is equally pleasing and rather daintier.

Joy of the Little Ones.
Christmas is the day of the little folks. To them the old customs are not beginning to lose attractiveness. As long as Santa Claus remembers to drive his sleigh over the roofs and fills the stockings at the chimney corner, so long as Christmas trees blossom with marvelous fruit, and Father Christmas with flowing beard and deep-toned voice is there to take the toys from the branches, so long is the Yuletide season a magic one to the children. Holidays and presents, parties and new dresses, toys and candies, nuts, oranges, colored tapers and waxen floors—it is fairly land come anew, and the children love it.

THE CHRISTMAS DINNER.

A Palatable Menu With Recipes for the Odd Dishes.
In homes where Christmas is considered the high and holy festival of the year all energies are directed towards its proper celebration. The house is redolent with the odor of pines; wreaths are hung in the windows and every outward and visible sign is made to emphasize the nature of the festival. The table is in holiday trim and the cooking savors of the general rejoicing. Dishes that never appear at any other time now find a place on the menu. Holly and mistletoe are used for the table decoration and many of the dishes are wreathed with foliage. The Christmas dinner has always its plum pudding crowned with a sprig of holly. The following menu and recipes may be of assistance:

- Salted almonds. Oyster cocktails. Celery.
 - Cream of barley soup.
 - Toasted crackers. Halibut timbales.
 - Potato balls with cream sauce.
 - Roast turkey with chestnut stuffing.
 - Cranberry jelly.
 - Sweet potatoes. Cauliflower au gratin.
 - Roman punch.
 - Broiled squabs on fried mush.
 - Lettuce and radish salad.
 - Roquefort cheese. Wafers.
 - Mince pie. Pumpkin pie.
 - Frozen plum pudding.
 - Coffee. Bonbons.
- Oyster cocktails are served in ice shells made for this purpose or in large claret glasses. Put five small oysters into each glass. For one dozen plates allow seven teaspoonfuls each of prepared horse radish, tomato cat-snip and vinegar, ten teaspoonfuls of lemon juice and one of Tabasco sauce. Thoroughly mix this dressing and put an equal quantity into each glass. Both oysters and dressing should be very cold.
To make the chestnut stuffing for turkey, secure one quart of large French chestnuts, shell them and cook them in boiling water until the skins are loosened. Remove the brown skins and again put the nuts into boiling water and cook them until they are tender. While the nuts are still hot rub them through a very coarse sieve or colander. Mix with the sifted nuts a very few bread crumbs and two tablespoonfuls of melted butter, and season with salt and pepper. Make the mixture moist with a little sweet cream and fill the turkey, but do not press the stuffing in closely; and the bird is ready to roast.

ANGER IN THE GIFT.



Maudie—I would like to look at some toys.
Dealer—Yes, Miss. What kind of a head do you want?
Maudie—I'm not particular. Only it must be of a material that will not make him sick at the stomach.
I heard the bells on Christmas Day. Their old, familiar carols play, And wild and sweet The words repeat, Of peace on earth, good will to men!

CHRISTMAS PRESENTS

THE

Buy Christmas PRESENTS Early—Absolute COST.

J. M. GIBBING & CO. STOCK

Which is being closed out by the Trustee at ABSOLUTE COST, contains many rich and useful goods much appreciated as holiday presents, which were bought for this winter's trade. This list will help you select, but be on hand early to get the plums as they are all to be closed out at once without reserve and at ABSOLUTE COST.

SUITS FOR MEN.

\$5.00, \$6.75, \$7.50, \$10.00, \$12.00, \$13.00 ABSOLUTE COST.

OVERCOATS.

\$4.00, \$5.00, \$7.50, \$9.00, \$10.00, \$12.00 ABSOLUTE COST.

SUITS AND OVERCOATS FOR BOYS.

\$3.50, \$4.75, \$6.50, \$7.50, \$9.00 and \$10.00. ABSOLUTE COST.

CHILDREN'S SUITS.

90c., \$1.25, \$1.75, \$2.00, \$2.50, \$3.50. ABSOLUTE COST.

CHILDREN'S REEFERS.

Plain or with brass or pearl buttons, \$1.75, \$2.25, \$2.75, \$3.25, \$4.00. ABSOLUTE COST.

EXTRA TROUSERS.

49c., \$1.00, \$1.25, \$1.50, \$1.75, \$2.50, \$3.00, \$3.50. Were 75c. to \$5.00. All at ABSOLUTE COST.

SINGLE VESTS.

50c., 75c., \$1.00, \$1.25. ABSOLUTE COST.

UNDERWEAR.

Fleece lined, natural wool, camel's hair, Derby ribbed, white fine merino, all weights, all colors, 50 and 65c. grades, 39c. Extra fine medicated wools, fleece lined or wool Derby ribbed, 59 and 79c. "Luzerne" Hygenia, highly recommended by physicians everywhere, 79c.—or \$1.00 and \$1.25 for \$1.50 and \$2.00 grades.

WORKING GLOVES.

Buckskin, hogskin, horsehide, asbestal, (fire and water-proof) muleskin—all the very best leathers lined or unlined, 19c., 39c., 50c. or 79c. All at absolute cost.

HOLIDAY PRESENTS. Interesting and useful—all at cost.

MACKINTOSH COATS. Blue, black and light covert, with cape, fine sweep, reg. \$4.00 grade, \$2.50.

Elegant box coats, blue, black and light covert cloths, very long, double breasted, velvet collar, regular \$7.50 grade, \$4.50. Extra good grades cape mackintoshes, \$4.00.

UMBRELLAS.

Plain or silver mounted, enameled steel rod, tassel and cover, \$1.10, or \$1.25, \$1.50, \$1.75, \$2.00, \$3.00 or \$3.75.

SILK HANDKERCHIEFS.

Plain or fancy border, Pongee, 19c. Finer grades, 39c and 75c. Initial silk, fine quality, 39c.

SILK MUFLERS,

39c, 75c, \$1.25, \$1.50, \$2.25.

WALKING STICKS.

Plain or silver mounted, 50c, 75c, \$1.00 and \$1.25, from 75c to \$2.

DRESS GLOVES.

Fine kid, 69c, or 79c, \$1.00 and \$1.25. Mocha, reindeer, astrakan, lined or unlined same prices.

SMOKING JACKETS,

\$4.50 and \$8.50, from \$7.50 and \$12.00.

Night robes, plain or embroidered front, 45c, 59c, and 79c. Sweaters, plain, with large sailor collar, or turtle, maroon with lemon stripe, black with orange stripe, blue with white stripe, or all the plain colors, men or boys, 79c, \$1.20, \$1.50. Golf hose, 39c, 59c, all sizes and colors. Neckwear—bows, ties, imperials, four-in-hands, 19c, 39c. Children's tams or skating toques, 19c or 39c. Fine suspenders, plain or fancy, 19c, 39c and 59c. Trunks, valises, traveling bags, 75c to \$20.00. White and fancy shirts, 39c, 69c, 79c.

ABSOLUTE COST FOR ANYTHING IN STORE.

JOSEPH GOLDSMITH, TRUSTEE.

K. G. E's at Benton.

Theta Castle No. 276 Knights of the Golden Eagle, of this town went to Benton by special train last Thursday night. The number who went was probably about sixty, and all had a delightful time. They arrived at Benton at eight o'clock, where they were met by the Committee in charge of the arrangements and conducted to the hall. After conferring the degrees on the applicants for membership, they were invited to H. A. Kemp's, where all sat down to a table laden with good things. After all had done justice to the elegantly prepared supper, and a vote of thanks given to the Eagles of Benton for their very kind treatment, all made their way to the station, boarded the train and arrived home at 2.30, Friday morning feeling more than repaid for their trip.

Verdict for Ash Bros.

\$3600 damages to the plaintiff, was the verdict returned by the jury in the case of Ash Bros. vs. the Berwick Water Co., at the trial in Wilkesbarre on Friday morning. The case which was for damages for diversion of water power, was removed to Wilkesbarre for trial from the courts of Columbia County. At the first trial in this county, the jury gave a verdict for the plaintiff of \$6500, for damages, which the court cut down to \$4000. The Water Company secured a new trial and a change of venue, which resulted as above stated.

Earl Hess, one of Espy's most popular young men, died last Saturday morning from what is supposed to have been internal hemorrhages. For some time he had been troubled with frequent bleedings of the nose, which soon so seriously affected and weakened him that he was compelled to abandon his work at Dr. Redeker's in this place, and return to his home in Espy. He however, grew rapidly worse, the bleedings being with him almost constantly, and although every available means were used to save his life, all were in vain. Funeral services were held on Tuesday of this week. He was in his 17th year.

Ashland expects to get a new Reading Depot.

NORMALS AT WASHINGTON.

The following appeared in last Wednesday's issue of the Post, published at Washington, D. C.:—"About the finest collection of bright young faces that have brightened any Washington hotel for a long time can be seen at the Oxford, where over 150 young ladies and gentlemen, students of the State Normal School at Bloomsburg, Pa., are domiciled. They are under the fatherly care of Dr. J. P. Welsh, President of the institution, and are having a happy time inspecting the sights of Washington."

BASKET BALL.

The basket ball season will open next Tuesday evening in the Normal gymnasium, with a game between Danville and W. H. Eyer's Bloomsburg team. Danville is said to have a strong aggregation this year, and a good game may be expected. The Normal is having a vacation and the accommodations for the down town will be all the better. The diagram will open at Slate's, where seats can be reserved.

There will be services in St. Paul's church on Christmas morning at ten o'clock. The choir has been making special preparation of a musical program, which will include Jackson's Te Deum, a new Jubilate, and an anthem "Blessed be the Lord God of Israel," introducing the old hymn "Adeste Fideles," with beautiful effect. The offertory will go to the Christmas fund, and will be applied to relief of the families of disabled and deceased clergymen in the diocese.

Everett Warren, Esq., of Scranton, was admitted to the bar of this county last Thursday. He is one of the counsel in the suit of Martha Case against the D. L. & W. R. R. Co. Owing to the fact that Mr. Scarlet, one of the counsel for Mrs. Case, was unable to get here, being engaged in a trial at Wilkes-Barre, this suit was continued, and all the jurors discharged for the week on Thursday.

Quite a number attended the Poverty Social at the Carpet Mill, on Friday night.

50c. Holiday Neckwear for 25c. White Silk Handkerchiefs 19c., 25c. and 49c.

BIGGEST BARGAINS

ON EARTH!

SELLING OUR GOOD CLOTHES

At Lower Prices Than You Pay for Cheap Goods.

You will recognize the saving when you see

Our Splendid Overcoat for \$3.98. Well Made Suits for \$3.75. Dressy Overcoats for \$5.00. Elegant Cheviot Suits for \$5.00.

Sold in some stores for double the money. Bought at less than the cost to make is the reason.

Long Warm Storm Coats, Solid Comfort From Chin to Heel, \$5.00.

Our elegant Rochester Overcoats are selling as usual in great numbers. No wonder. They are non-comparable for beauty of workmanship, elegance of fit and fineness of finish. Dollars off of our low prices in these fine goods makes truth stronger than fiction.

D. Lowenberg Clothing Store

Bloom's Best Clothiers, Hatters and Furnishers.