



CANTIQUE DE NOEL.

O holy night! the stars are brightly shining,
It is the night of our dear Saviour's birth;
Long lay the world in sin and error pining,
Till He appeared, and the soul felt its worth.
A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices,
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.
Fall on your knees! Oh hear the angel voices!

O night divine! O night when Christ was born!
Truly He taught us to love one another;
His law is love, and His Gospel is peace;
Chains shall He break, for the slave is our brother,
And in His name all oppression shall cease.
Sweet hymn of joy in grateful chorus raise we,
Let all within us praise His holy name,
Christ is the Lord! then ever, ever praise we,
His power and glory evermore proclaim!

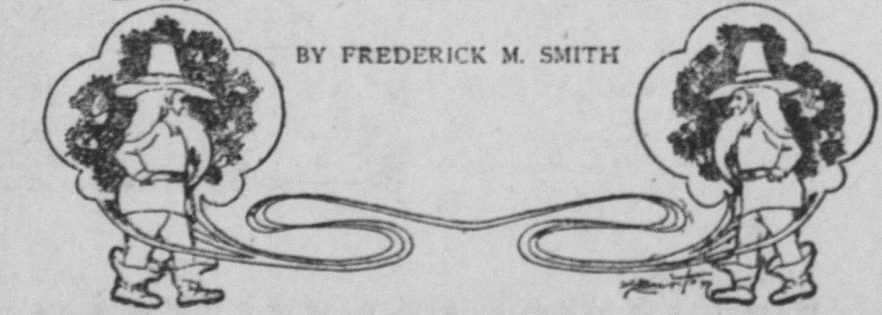
CALM ON THE LIST'NING EAR OF NIGHT.

Calm on the list'ning ear of night,
Come Heaven's melodious strains,
Where wild Judea stretches far,
Her silver mantled plains.
Celestial choirs from courts above
Shed sacred glories there;
And angels with their sparkling lyres,
Make music on the air.

"Glory to God!" the sounding skies
Loud with their anthems ring,
"Peace to the earth, good will to men,
From Heaven's eternal King!"
Light on thy hills, Jerusalem!
The Saviour now is born;
And bright on Bethlehem's joyous plains
Breaks the first Christmas morn.

Peter and the Green Men

BY FREDERICK M. SMITH



PETER sat looking out of the window wondering what he should do without a Christmas tree, for his mother had said that there was little chance of St. Nicholas coming that year, and what was the use of having a tree when there was nothing to put on it. They lived in the great Thuringian forest, near the high little village of Igelsiebb. Peter's father was dead and the grandmother was ill, so that the mother had to earn bread for all, though Peter helped. In summer he hunted balsam roots like the other village folks.

And now here it was the day before Christmas, and Peter had been told that instead of thinking of a Christmas tree he must be thankful if there was enough black bread to go round. He was thankful, but he could not help wishing for a tree. He looked at the grandmother huddled by the fireside. Hilda, the baby, was playing on the floor, and his mother was making a bundle of balsam roots. This she gave to Peter. "You are to take these to the village and give them to the doctor in exchange for medicine," said she, "and be sure you hurry back, for there will be a snowfall by night."

Peter took his wooden shoes from the oven, where they had been warming, and as he put his blue stockinged



The Nativity.

feet into them the good warm wood made him smile. Then he clumped out into the road, and stood for a moment looking up at the great black fir trees all laden with twinkling snow crystals, and back into the forest he looked where the snow carpet lay white and the tree trunks cast blue weird shadows. He never ceased to regard the forest with awe and wonder, for the foxes ran in it and the wild deer hid in its depths; above all, did not his grandmother tell of the queer little Green Men who lived in the ground, and who sometimes appeared to children?

The cold suddenly brought him back to himself. He blew into his fingers, and off he went up the road to the village.

The snow was well trodden. Just as he got to the place where the road goes past the big rocks and the ever-running spring he heard somebody call "Peter!" He stopped and looked around, but never a soul did he see in all the forest. Yet he was sure he had heard a voice, a thin, small voice, and the thought that there was some one near who could see him, but whom he could not see, set his heart a-thumping with fear, so he started off again, and if he had walked fast before you can imagine that he made good time now.

"Hi! Peter!" said the voice again, and this time he saw on the hillside above him a little man beckoning. Near by were two other little men trying to drag a tree. It was a small tree, but it was too big for the little men, who were no higher than Peter's knee. All these men were old and were clothed in green.

As Peter looked at them his eyes opened wide and his fear left him, so that when they all beckoned again he floundered toward them through the snow.

"Peter," said the spokesman, "just help us with this tree, will you? It's a Christmas tree, and we can't get it home."

Now Peter was a wise lad for his years, and he had not listened to his grandmother's tales for nothing. He knew that these were the wonderful Green Men and that it paid to be polite to them. But being a German he was cautious. "Where do you live?" asked

the Green Man, "but the way to get there is through this hole at the foot of the old fir."

"Well," said Peter, "if one has the luck to have a Christmas tree it's a pity that one shouldn't get it home, so I'll help."

"You push," said the Green Man, "and we'll pull. Now!"

With the three pulling and Peter pushing they managed to get the tree into the ground, though when he stopped to think of it, it was funny that so big a tree should go into so small a hole.

Peter was puffing and his shoes were full of snow, but he sat down to empty them and looked ruefully at the place where the Green Men had disappeared. Suddenly one of them popped out of the hole. "It's all right," said he; "we are able to manage. Thank you for helping us, and a merry Christmas to you."

Peter laughed. "That is as may be," said he, "but with the grandmother ill and no money in the house there is little chance for merriment."

"Cheer up," said the Green Man, "and here is a groschen for you. Now we shall see what you will make of it, Adieu."

The Green Man walked back into the hole, and Peter was left alone in the quiet forest; it seemed stiller than ever now. He looked hard at the groschen in his hand. He had heard about groschen that came from the Green Men, though he had never known anybody who had one. They were said to be very lucky, and if a man got one he was made for life, for as often as he spent it he found another in his pocket, provided that he had spent the last for some good thing.

The more Peter thought the more he believed that he had just such a groschen, and with his fingers tight around it he again set off for the village. He knew very well what he would buy first. At Herr Keibel's store was a humming top that he had long coveted. As soon as he could he did his errand at the doctor's and then turned his steps toward the store. Sure enough, there in the window lay the top, but there by its side was a Japanese doll with slanting eyes and a queer, long gown. It, like the top, cost a groschen. Peter knew that Hilda, the baby, wanted a doll. He stood on one leg and then he stood on the other. He looked at the doll and then he looked at the top. He was in two minds what to do, for he knew that his groschen might be the wonderful sort he had heard about. Should he buy the doll

was a humming top. Peter opened his eyes, I can tell you.

"Did you meet the man?" said his mother.

"What man?"

"Why, the forester from the castle," said she; "he drove up just a little while ago and brought in these. I was for telling him that he had made a mistake, but he said, 'This is where Peter Shuman lives, isn't it? Then this is the place to leave the tree,' and he went off. But you must have met him, for he has just gone."

Then Peter laughed, for he knew a thing or two himself. "It was not the king's forester," said he, "but the Green Man who lives at the bottom of the spring by the big fir." Then he told his tale.

"'Tis true, 'tis true," said the grandmother; "it was the Green Man."

"Pooh!" said the mother, "it was the forester from the castle, and it was the princess who sent the things; as for the Green Man, you must have dreamed it."

"That is as it may be," said Peter, "but here is the doll that I bought with the groschen given me by the Green Man, and a lucky groschen it was, too."

Well, his mother could make no answer to that. And, besides, everybody knows that the old grandmother was right, and that the little people still live in Thuringia in the great dark forests and show themselves now and again to boys and girls who are unselfish.—Woman's Home Companion.

CHRISTMAS MENU

Oyster soup Crackers Pickles
Celery Bread Butter
Chicken croquettes Green peas
Roast duck Apple sauce
Boiled onions Mashed potatoes
Celery and apple salad Cheese straws
Plum pudding Mince pie
Fruit Nuts Cheese
Coffee

Those He Don't Want.

When a man says he doesn't want any Christmas presents, he means that he doesn't want any that are charged to him at the stores, or bought with his own money.—Acheson Globe.



"PETER," SAID THE SPOKESMAN, "JUST HELP US WITH THIS TREE, WILL YOU?"

and risk finding another piece of money for the top, or should he buy to the top and leave the doll to chance? Finally he said to himself, "If I buy the doll and do not find another groschen I shall have to go without the top, but I should be ashamed to buy the top and then have nothing to give to Hilda, for have I not been told that at Christmas one must give to others and not think of himself?" So he made a dash for the steps, and when he came out Herr Keibel had the groschen and Peter the doll.

Every one knows that this was the right thing to do; Peter knew it, too, but when he had gone a little distance he stopped and very softly felt in his pocket. Now you think, of course, that he found another groschen immediately. Not a bit. And if you are disappointed I am afraid Peter was, too, for though he examined all his pockets he found nothing. Every now and then on the way home he tried a new search and just before he went into the house he took off his jacket and shook it, but not a glimmer of money did he see. "Well," said he, "it is plain that the groschen was not so lucky as I thought, but anyway, I'm glad I got the doll for Hilda." And with his best foot foremost into the house he went.

The room to Peter was strangely light. The mother was bustling about, and Hilda sat on the floor with a big doll in her arms, while there in the chimney corner was a great tree; candles glowed on its boughs, silver threads glittered in the candle light, and tiny balls of green and red and gold glistened among the leaves. There was a heap of nuts and cakes and apples at the bottom, and upon the heap

was a humming top. Peter opened his eyes, I can tell you.

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"And what did Santa bring you?" "Ah, shucks! Only a blame indestructible wagon."—New York Journal.

WHAT CHILDREN CAN MAKE FOR CHRISTMAS

By L. O. Lennart.

THE making of gifts that are really pretty is not always easily done. Numberless presents can be made from paper, paints, ribbons, cardboard, tacks and boards, but one must admit that ingenuity in arranging these properties counts for more than the mere selection of materials. These can be put together in such a clumsy and careless manner that they will have absolutely no pleasing quality, and then again, if proper care is taken in their arrange-



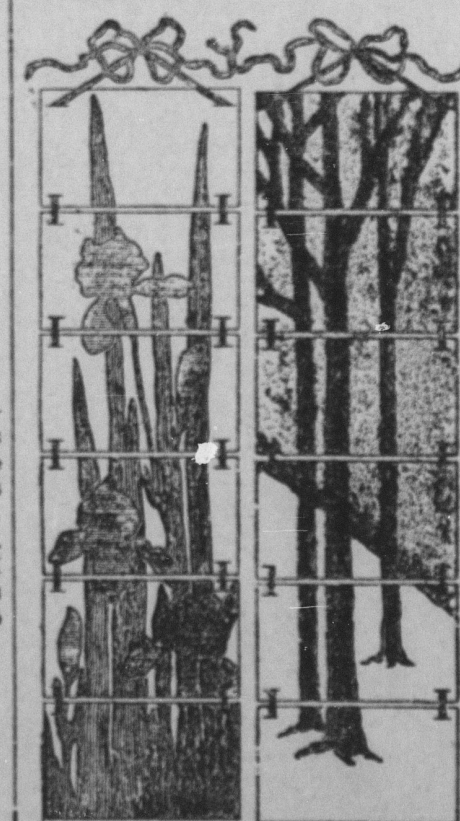
SOME DAINTY BOOK-MARKS.

ment they will form an article that is genuinely artistic. So almost entirely upon the ingenuity of the child, upon its cleverness in putting things together neatly, will depend the effectiveness of the following articles, though to be sure none of them are difficult to make.

Since, then, the presents must be inexpensive, easily made and pretty, we will first consider a poster calendar, representing a fireplace on Christmas Eve, a present which fulfils these three requirements. To begin with, secure a piece of cardboard nine inches long by six inches wide, and cover this entirely with bright green paper. Then a short distance from the bottom of this paste a piece of red paper four inches long by three and one-half inches wide. On this latter mark off bricks with ink, and at its top paste a piece of blue, purple or gold paper for a shelf. A piece of black paper two by two and one-half inches or two by three inches pasted upon the brick-marked piece will serve to represent a fireplace. If a number of tiny stockings can be fastened to the mantel they will add much to the appearance of the calendar. A border of gilt three-eighths of an inch wide finishes off the edge, and a small calendar pasted above the fireplace completes the whole. The gilt can be bought at any art store for ten cents a yard, and is easily put on by means of water and a brush. This Christmas calendar is a present that the child can give to any member of the family, with the certainty that it will be appreciated.

Book-marks also make very neat and acceptable gifts. These can be made of water color paper or heavy writing paper decorated with designs similar to those shown in the three illustrations. Large flowers with one petal partly cut, for the purpose of catching the leaves of the book, and houses with open shutters, or barns with open doors, the shutters and doors being likewise to catch the leaves, are also very effective designs for book-marks.

Blotters are always useful gifts. Pretty covers can be made for these of water color paper decorated with ink bottles upright or overturned,



HOW ENVELOPES MAY BE UTILIZED.

pens or quills, or with tables covered with letters and papers. Or if a decoration of a different kind is desired, the designs shown for the book-marks, worked out in colors, could be taken as patterns.

Envelopes, fastened one above the other by means of narrow ribbon, can take the place of memorandum books. Six envelopes fastened together in this manner, with the names of the days in the week upon them, will prove a very useful gift to a busy society woman who can never remember all her engagements. Newspaper clippings, recipes and the like kept in these envelopes would be sure to be easily found when wanted. The manner in which these are put together, and suggestions for decorations for them, are shown in the two illustrations above. Envelopes so arranged make an article both for use and for ornament. They are intended to hang upon the wall.

THE SABBATH SCHOOL

International Lesson / Comments For December 21.

Subject: Christmas and its Teachings, Luke II, 8-20—Golden Text, Luke II, 11—Memory Verses, 10, 11—Commentary on the Day's Lesson.

8. "Same country." Near-by, probably not a mile from Bethlehem. "Shepherds." The employment of tending sheep had been honored in the earlier times of the Jewish people. Jacob, Moses and David were shepherds. But now it was a calling that was looked upon by the Jews with contempt. Why was the announcement made to shepherds? (1) The announcement of His advent was not to be made to the rulers of the people, or to the priests, for these men were under the influence of worldly and selfish ambitions and could not discern spiritual things. The shepherds were humble men, "waiting for the consolation of Israel," and were in a state of mind to accept the heavenly announcement. (2) God had seen fit to appear to the weak instead of the mighty. Read 1 Cor. 1: 19-31; Psa. 8: 2. (3) God had always blessed the shepherds. He had called Moses and David away from the shepherd's crook, and now the "Son of David," the Chief Shepherd, who styled Himself the Good Shepherd, who gave His life for the sheep, is to be born in the city of David, and it seemed fitting that the shepherds should be honored with the first announcement. In the field, the shepherds were in the fields, affording no ground for concluding that the nativity could not have taken place in the winter. The average temperature at Jerusalem for five years was, in December, fifty-four degrees.

9. "Angel." Divine messenger. Angels have always taken a lively interest in the things of this world. It was an angel that appeared unto Zacharias announcing the birth of John, and to Mary with a similar mission regarding the birth of Christ. An angel appeared to Jesus in the garden, and to the disciples at the sepulcher and at the ascension. Jesus on one occasion said He could call twelve legions of angels, and we have the blessed assurance given that "He shall give His angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways. They shall have thee up in their hands, lest thou dash thy foot against a stone." Psa. 91: 11, 12. "Come upon them." Stood over them. "Glory of the Lord." That extreme splendor in which the deity is represented as appearing to men, and sometimes called the Shechinah—appearance frequently attended, as in this case, by a company of angels. It is likely that the angel appeared in the air at some little distance above them, and that from him the rays of the glory of the Lord shone down upon them. "Sore afraid." Terrified with the appearance of so glorious a being. There is no proof here that the shepherds were morally impure and afraid that divine justice was about to be meted out to them. Even holy men tremble when they come in contact with the supernatural.

10. "Good tidings." The literal meaning of gospel. I am come to declare the loving kindness of the Lord. My message will cause great joy. It is a message to you (Jews) first, and it also reaches to "all the people." To the whole human race. See Gen. 12: 3; Matt. 28: 19; Luke 2: 28-32; 24: 46, 47; Col. 1: 21-22. 11. "It began to be." John 1: 14. David's greater Son begins His earthly career in His ancestor's home. Seven hundred years before a prophet had predicted the Messiah's birth at Bethlehem. Mic. 5: 2. "This day." Unbelievers seek to make an argument against the wisdom of God because He waited so long before bringing forth the Redeemer of mankind. The reply is, 1. Christ came in accordance with a long line of prophecy. This long time, Prophets must be raised up, and then hundreds of years must elapse in order to fully verify their utterances. 2. Christ came when the political factors of the world were most favorable. The whole world was practically under Roman control, and this fact was the means of bringing Christ and His followers immediately before the nations of earth. Notice the nations represented at the time of the crucifixion and at Pentecost. 3. Christ did not come until the world had done its best without Him and had made a complete moral failure. The wisdom and culture of the world were very great, and yet, morally, it was groping in awful darkness. Thus the coming of the Messiah became a necessity if the world was to be saved from moral collapse. And now, "in the fulness of time," in God's time, at just the right time, the "Desire of All Nations" appears. "A Saviour." (1) A deliverer. (2) A restorer. (3) A preserver. Matt. 1: 21. "Not shall be a Saviour, but 'born a Saviour.'" "Christ." The anointed One. Christ is the Greek word corresponding to the Hebrew word Messiah. In ancient times prophets, priests and kings were anointed with oil when set apart to their sacred work. Christ was anointed for these holy offices, which we may share with Him by His anointing us with the Holy Ghost. Christ is sufficiently qualified to sustain these important offices. "The Lord." God, as well as man.

12. "A sign." The very thing that would have caused them to doubt was made the sign unto them.

13. "A multitude." They descended to honor the Prince of Peace. "Heavenly host." The army of angels, which is represented as surrounding the throne of God.

14. "Glory—in the highest." Christ is the highest glory of God. "On earth peace." Peace to man; peace with God; peace of conscience. "Good will to men." has shown His good will by sending the Messiah.

15. "Let us now go." There is no time to lose. Let us go now. This is the language of obedience desiring to receive assurance and strength by seeing for themselves this thing which is come to pass.

16. "With haste." Filled and thrilled with holy joy they could not linger. "And found." It is probable that by communitating their experiences to each other their faith was greatly strengthened.

17. "Made known abroad." As soon as they had seen the Child they began to tell the glad news to every one they met.

18. "Wondered." The story of Jesus is the most wonderful story to which human ears ever listened, and it still causes those who hear it to wonder.

19. "Pondering them." Weighing, or carefully considering them. Every circumstance was treasured up in her memory.

20. "Glorifying and praising." These simple men returned to the care of their flocks, giving glory to God for all they had seen and heard.

Coin Walks on Edge of Knife.

This very entertaining trick is done in the following way: Make a spool of three coins of different sizes, a dollar, a ten-cent piece and a half dollar, by sticking them together with a little piece of wax. By placing this spool on the edge of a knife you have solved the problem. The dollar will roll up and down the knife to the great amusement of the audience.

May Marry American Heiress.

It is said that a brother of the khedive of Egypt has fallen in love with an American heiress, who re-