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**Early Christmas Morning**

FOUR little feet patter on the floor,  
 The single-cuff'd hands peep in at the door,  
 Hear the merry laughter of the chimney's rear,  
 Early Christmas morning.

Two little stockings full of sweets and toys,  
 Everything so charming for little girls and boys,  
 How could they look, then, making such a dreadful noise  
 Early Christmas morning?

Down beside the stockings many gifts were spread,  
 Dolls, drums, a cradle, and a brand new sled;  
 "Have I not been busy?" little Nellie said,  
 Early Christmas morning.

Four little boys foot on the sidewalk cold,  
 Two little faces with wet and lumpy suds,  
 Peeping through the window where those gifts were hid,  
 Early Christmas morning.

"Yes," says John to Nellie, as he spies the tree,  
 "We're so many presents—tell you what we'll do:  
 If you had of mine any, how, dear Nell, will you?"  
 Early Christmas morning.

Two little hearts went into the house, were called,  
 Favors hooped upon them till they stood unshod,  
 Was not this the angel's song, "Peace, goodwill to all!"  
 Early Christmas morning! — Mary K. Peck

**Decorate the  
 Christmas Package**

EVERY one when sending a Christmas gift desires it to appear as attractive as possible. When we receive a gift nicely wrapped with its own paper and decorated with pretty Christmas seals, there is an added pleasure. This is especially so when we realize that the sender has spent time and cleverness to give this little touch of personal thoughtfulness.

Many varieties of Christmas seals may be purchased, but a little originality will not come amiss even in these small details.

There are seals for the outside package and the heading to be used on the note paper, conveying the good wishes of the giver, or on the little card of greeting. These two in each set match. This gives another touch of the unusual, which is always sought after.

Have a piece of carbon paper, place it over the note paper, card or seal, and on top of this one of the designs. Carefully trace with a sharp pencil the entire outline. An exact duplicate of the design will be found on the note paper or seal ready for tinting. This may be easily done with water colors or wax crayons. Poinsettia should be colored a warm, bright red, with yellow centers and dark green stems.

Holly, the special emblem of this season, has berries of vivid, fiery red and glossy leaves of dark green.

A dainty basket of forget-me-nots would be pretty colored yellow, the flowers a faint light blue and the bow-knot of pale pink. Now we have the mystic sign of the holidays, borrowed from the Druids, the mistletoe. The berries of this plant are a pearly white and the leaves a yellowish green.

Spend a little extra time giving the Christmas gift this novel decoration, and the pleasure it affords will never cause you to regret having done so.

Economy is to be considered at Christmas time. Our purse-strings have been stretched to the breaking joint purchasing gifts for relatives and friends. To put this fascinating bit of handwork upon the Christmas package costs comparatively nothing, aside from the time you spend doing it. This fact counts very little when we add to the enjoyment of others.

These few suggestions will probably cause endless ideas for the Christmas package to present themselves to you. Make your gifts radiate the holiday spirit; give this little bit of personality and attractiveness to as small a thing as the Christmas seal.

**JOY OF CHRISTMAS**

Season Proves That Men and Women Are Friendly Beings.

Desire to Make Presents and to Be Cheerful Shows People Wish to Be Congenial.

ONE of the finest things about Christmas is its trueeness, the joyous reality of it. At Christmas time no exhortation is necessary to make it go; Christmas never has to be made a "success," as a parade or a pageant.

Christmas is in a certain sense an institution; it comes at a certain date each year; it always has its Christmas tree, its stocking, its poultry dinner colored with cranberries. But it is one of those institutions that has never been institutionalized; it exists in the nature of man.

Christmas proves to us that men, women and children are at heart friendly beings. The spontaneity of Christmas giving and Christmas cheer proves what people really want to be—good friends.

Wars go on at other times; men and women quarrel among themselves over property or over other men and women; artificial requirements are imposed that incite to greed, dishonesty and bitterness. But at Christmas time there comes over the broad surface of our western civilization, which is pretty much like other civilizations, a great reversion to type. Man wants, most of all, to be happy, he wants to dance and sing and to make other persons happy. At other times than Christmas something seems to be wrong, and man reasons that someone else is to blame.

At Christmas time there is a general forgetting of everything but being natural. Christmas is the great annual armistice of that portion of humanity that has come to be segregated under the name of Christendom.

Christmas is the finest thing that has come out of Christianity, because it is the friendliest thing. Men and women are not naturally and healthily meddlers; the best part of their lives and the most of their happiness does not come from the tyranny they exercise or the repressions they set up or the reformatory cruelties they inflict on others.

At Christmas time men and women forget to be anything but children again.

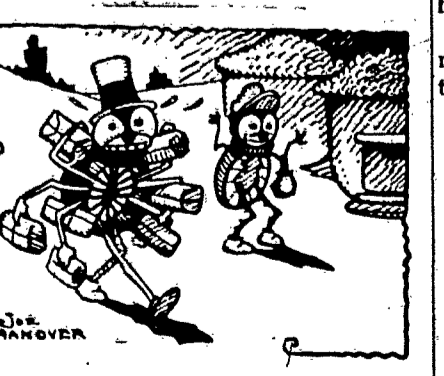
Perhaps some day there will be a sort of Christmas every day of the year. Perhaps men and women will be able to forget more often and more completely, and thereby live more completely, the elimination of bitterness and artificial antagonisms being both the cause and the effect of this happy state.

Perhaps one of the lessons of Christmas is that we have more to forget than to learn.—Detroit News



**HOW UNKIND**  
 "Fred is getting nearsighted."  
 "It doesn't follow that there is anything the matter with his eyes because he can't see one under the mistletoe."

**Christmas Packages.**  
 A woman whose Christmas packages never fail to reach their destination in safety says she always writes the name and address of the recipient upon the inside wrapper of the box containing them. Packages sometimes lose their outside wrappings, but if the postal clerks can find the address on the inside wrapping all will be well. This woman also ties up the inside wrapping securely before putting on the outside cover.



**VERY USEFUL**  
 Mrs. Bug—My I am glad I married Mr. Spider. He can carry so many bundles, when I do my Christmas shopping early.

**Santa Claus' Books**

WHEN the evening shadows gather and the time is eight o'clock you can hear, if you will listen, Mr. Sand Man's gentle knock. When you'd better hustle lively—time your evening prayers were said. And each boy and girl well-tucked in their cozy, downy little bed. For when Mr. Sand Man's knocking sounds the signal, you may know Santa Claus is closely watching from his palace built of snow.

And the children that are naughty and don't mind their ma's and pa's set their names down in the "Bad Book" that is kept by Santa Claus.

Boys who never split the kindling, and the girls who always cry when they're asked to wash the dishes—Santa Claus has got his eye on such boys and girls, and watches with a sad and sorry look as he writes each name in sorrow on the pages of his book.

And the girl who never hurries, but lets mamma do the work, and the boy who's always scheming all his little chores to shirk—They may think no one pays notice when they don't help ma's and pa's. But their names are on the "Bad Book" that is kept by Santa Claus.

But old Santa keeps a "Good Book"—it's the bestest book of all, where he writes the names of children who are prompt at duty's call, and the boys who split the kindling and the girls who never shirk. But rise early in the morning and help mamma with the work, and the boys who never grumble when there's work for them to do, and the girls who help their mamma till the housework is all through—Oh, they needn't ever worry when it's Christmas time, because all their names are in the "Good Book" that is kept by Santa Claus.

Is your name down in the "Bad Book"? Well, there is still a chance for you, and if you will listen to me, I will tell you what to do. Don't act naughty, don't talk rudely, don't be noisy, be polite; get up early in the morning, and into bed early at night. Cheerfully perform each duty, do your work before you play. Never put off till tomorrow work that should be done today. If you do these things, dear children, it will please your ma's and pa's and your names go in the "Good Book" that is kept by Santa Claus.



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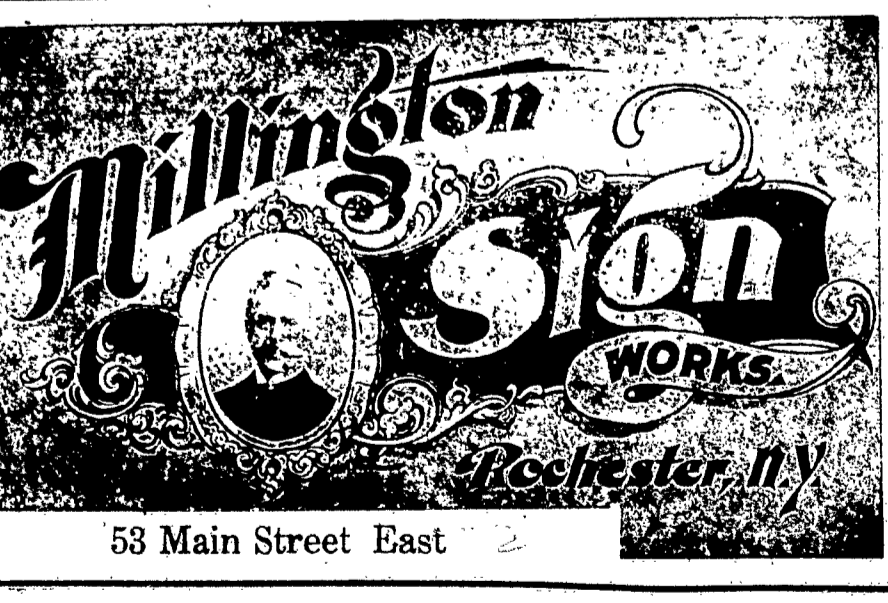
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**Perry's Pies**

**Christmas Is Come!**  
 Now Christmas is come  
 Let us beat up the drum  
 And call all our neighbors together  
 And when they appear  
 Let us make them such cheer  
 As will keep out the wind and the weather.

**Imperative.**  
 Crawford—Does your wife beg you for Christmas money?  
 Crabshaw—I wouldn't put it exactly that way. She issues an ultimatum.—Judge.