

Let the Children Do Own Shopping

Encourage Kiddies to Choose Presents Which They Wish to Give.

By MARGARET BRUCE

LAST Christmas when I opened one of the family boxes that come each year filled with many small gifts from every member of one branch of relatives to every member of the other branch, I came across a package labeled "from little Phillip to Aunt Helen." It contained a little ribbon do-funny concealing some lingerie tape and an ivory bodkin.

I laughed aloud. Little Phillip is a rip-snorting, mischievous small boy, without a feminine thought in his head. Of course I knew that he not only had not sent the fussy little case, but that he hadn't even seen it. It was sent by some of his feminine elders, and his name was pinned on it. I fell to wondering just what he would have sent me if he had picked it out himself. And I heartily wished he had!



That set me thinking of the amusing story I heard a few years ago of a little child who was given 15 cents apiece to spend for each member of his family, and sent out alone to do his Christmas shopping—with a watchful mother in the background, of course. He proclaimed, as we will do, that he hadn't the least idea what to give anybody.

"Pick out just what you think each one would like best of all," his mother advised him.

Well, he came back with gifts that exhibited his powers of observation, to say the least. He got his mother a ten-cent wrist watch, because he said he had heard her say the day before that "she wished that clock would stand still for several hours, she was so busy!" He got one that would stand still forever! He chose a tack-hammer for his father, because "Daddy said, 'Where the devil did that tack-hammer go?'"—a remark which not only brought a blush of shame to the parental cheek but sent the rest



of the family into shrieks of mirth. But best of all was the gift he got for grandfather. It was 15 cents' worth of American cheese. "because granddaddy said he liked cheese the best of all." It is safe to say that no other gift he received pleased that grandfather as much as the little wedge of cheese.

Who else would have thought of these things; how better could the little chap have shown his individuality, his personal observation and selection? Let's encourage the children to choose their own gifts instead of robbing them of this pleasure and bit of experience.

(Continued.)

Christmas Feast in 200 A. D.
The very first evidence of a feast having been held in honor of the birth of Christ was in Egypt, about the year 200.

THE MISTLETOE KISS



He—Why do you shut your eyes when you kiss me under the mistletoe?
She—So I can imagine it's Jack. He's out of town this Christmas.

At Christmas Time

By Rosa Russell Logan
in Missouri Farmer

Like a golden treasure chest
My memory is to me.
There is a lock that holds it fast,
With thought the magic key.

Comrades of the past are there,
Friendly face and master mind.
Ready wit and merry heart,
Souls tested true and kind.

Some struck a spark—then alas,
Some lingered close and long,
Some sounded the sacred deeps,
Some sang a single song.

The key turns now at Christmas time,
My treasures to recall
With smile and tear, and tender pang
Of gratitude for all.

Now That's Settled
He (after breaking in on a dance):
"You know I've never met you."
She (indignantly): "Do you know who you are dancing with?"
"No."
"You are dancing with the only daughter of a United States senator."
"Do you know who you're dancing with?"
She (interested): "Why, no."
He (walking away): "Nobody."
"Was it you I kissed at Bob's last Thursday?"
"About what time?"

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The Goodwill Store

The Place for Bargains
NORTH WILKESBORO, N. C.

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