

Buds AND Blossoms

By
MAMIE MILLER



"Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls."--Jer. 6:16.

A legend that goes back 500 years or more tells us an old man, Joseph, and his bride were in a cherry garden. When she tells him of the visits by the angels, Joseph becomes suspicious and refuses to pick cherries for his wife.

Upon Mary's request, the branches of the tree bend over graciously for her. Joseph is stricken with remorse, and asks forgiveness. There are many carols about the cherry tree.

And here's another legend. A little shepherd girl of Bethlehem followed after the shepherds, who had received the angels' message and were journeying to the manger. All the shepherds took gifts, but the little shepherd girl had no gift to give.

Suddenly there appeared an angel in a glow, and scattered white roses in her path. The little girl gathered them up, and presented them to the little Lord Jesus.

Charles Folden, a German professor at Harvard, provided a Christmas tree for his son each year, beginning in 1832. The first Christmas tree in a church was provided by a pastor, Henry Schwan, in 1851, at Cleveland, Ohio.

The following are nationally known Christmas trees: a tall tree at Pasadena, Calif (1909); The Tree Light, Madison Square Park in New York (1912); The Children's Christmas Tree, Independence Square, Philadelphia (1913); Christmas Tree Lane, a mile-long avenue in Altadena, bordered by gigantic, graceful deodar cedars whose branches spread 40 to 50 feet (1920); The "National Living Christmas Tree" at the White

House, lighted each year by the President since 1924.

This week, for our Buds and Blossoms poem, we bring you "On Going Home For Christmas" by Edgar A. Guest.

He little knew the sorrow that was in his vacant chair;

He never guessed they'd miss him, or he'd surely have been there;

He couldn't see his father, seated sorrowful and dumb, Or he never would have written that he thought he couldn't come.

He little knew the gladness that his presence would have made,

And the joy it would have given, or he never would have stayed.

He didn't know how hungry had

the little mother grown
Once again to see her baby
and to claim him for her own.

He didn't guess the meaning of his visit Christmas Day
Or he never would have written that he couldn't get away.

Are you going home for Christmas? Have you written you'll be there?

Going home to kiss the mother and to show her that you care?

Going home to greet the father in a way to make him glad? If you're not I hope there'll never come a time you'll wish you had.

Just pause and write a letter--

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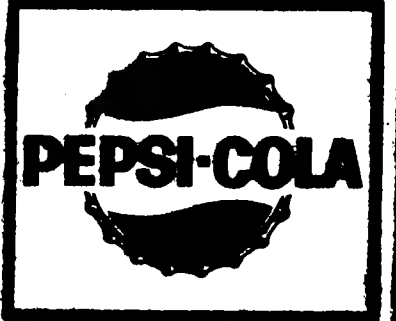
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