

IT PAYS TO GIVE THE PEOPLE an invitation to trade with you. The best way to invite them is to advertise in THE TIMES.

VOL. V. WALTER B. BELL, Editor.

ELKIN, N. C., THURSDAY DECEMBER 24, 1896.

CHRISTMAS.

Feathery flakes are dancing, dancing, In the gray morn's frosty gleam--

Feathery flakes are falling, falling, From the sides in softest way--

Feathery flakes are a'fling, a'fling, Through the chill December air--

Soon the bon bons will be falling As the flakes have fall'n to-day--

And the children dancing, dancing, Till all their little feet--

And the children dancing, dancing, Till all their little feet--



already brought beautiful wreaths of berried holly and white veined ivy-leaves to twine round the carved pulpit and the choir-stalls?

is given by Him to us as the best gift from His Heaven. It is holy, eternal, ever-abiding, and it is ours, yours and mine--the most perfect union of hearts, my dearest one, in the tenderest, truest sympathy.

And in the faint grayness of the morning, one scene more. The soldier in his travel-stained great coat, with tears in his blue eyes, and passionate pain drawing deep lines on his pale face, and his love biding a last good-by, while the stars paled and the tardy daylight straggled into the cottage.

It was Christmas time again, and the priest had preached and prayed, and given the old beautiful benediction, that floated out like a message from Heaven over the kneeling people--

He had been kneeling by her side then, with the lights flashing on his soldier's coat and his brave, handsome face, and she had heard his voice throughout all the service, in ringing, clear tones that she knew and loved so well, so truly and passionately.

As the clock in the tower chimed four, old Johann Maria entered the dimness of the church upon the hill, where soft red lights shone like far-away stars before the altar.

And she had obeyed him, as she always would obey the voice that was more to her than life itself, and they had been happy--perfectly, passionately happy--in their great, unfeignable love.

"What is love?" he said to her, as they walked home in the evening, watching the star gleams, like points of diamonds, flash on the dark waters of the Neckar: "What is love?" he had asked, and she had looked up to the beautiful, grave face before she answered:

"Love is the most perfect and the holiest of friendships, my beloved. It means the merging of one's self into another's being, and the living for another. It is based on sympathy, deepest and truest, and its keynote is unselfishness. It is something that cannot die, for it belongs to God, and

DECORATING THE TREE.

How to Make a Pretty Effect in the Glowing Light.

The first step in the work of trimming the Christmas tree is to tack a square of crash to the floor under the tree. This saves the carpet from the drippings of numerous candles and the general debris which the dismantling of the tree invariably occasions.

The green tub, in which the tree should stand, supported by three cross pieces of pine nailed to the edge to hold it securely in place, is almost sure to be in the housewife's possession. Conceal this by a covering of white cotton batting, dusted thickly with coarsely powdered mica to resemble snow, says the Philadelphia Press.

The newest conceits for tree decorations are artificial fruits and vegetables, which are cunningly devised. Tied to the tree with bright ribbons, they form a pleasing contrast to the green foliage. Fairies, dressed in wonderful gowns of bright colored paper, looped with narrow bebe ribbon are bought at a low figure.

In lighting the tree, modern science comes strongly to the fore. If there are electric lights in the house, an attachment is easily made, whereby the tree can be lighted with tiny incandescent bulbs of different colors. In case the house is without electric lights, a storage battery may be obtained at moderate cost.

For convenience in distributing the gifts, it is a good plan to place on each gift a number, while the mistress of the ceremonies keeps a written list of each member of the household, with their corresponding check. The distribution is usually made by the child or children for whose enjoyment the tree is arranged.

One of the most blessed things about Christmas is that it makes so many people feel young, writes Edward W. Bok, in Ladies' Home Journal. It is the one season of the year when everybody feels that they can dismiss abstract thoughts, put dignity aside, forget the worries of the world, and for a time return to their youth.

Superstitions of Christmas. The superstitions of Christmas are more numerous even than the observances which owe their origin to heathenish rites. Among certain European peasants the belief still prevails that on Christmas morning oxen always spend a portion of the time on their knees. This they do, according to the peasants, in imitation of the ox and the ass which, a legend states, were present at the manger and knelt when Christ was born.

The Epicure's Bird. The eagle has the laugh on the turkey at Christmas time. Philadelphia Record.

Some times, said Uncle Eben, "de houses dat has de bigges' families an' de littles' tukky seems ter hab de mos' Christmas in 'em." Washington Star.

Mother Gets Her Instructions. If you're waking, call me early, Call me early, mother dear, For long before 'tis daylight In my stocking I would peep.

The Goose--"What's the difference between the Easter gift and the Christmas turkey?" The Turkey--"I dunno." The Goose--"Why, one is dressed to kill and the other is killed to dress." Truth.

THE RETURN. Illustration of a man and a woman in a room.

THE LAST GOOD BY. Illustration of a man and a woman in a room.

THE JOY OF MARGERETTA. A CHRISTMAS STORY. CLEARLY defined shadows were falling across the aisle of the old church on the hill, the gray, lonely building that had stood there so long, amid sunshine and shadow, watching, as it were, the peaceful village in the valley below.

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What is CASTORIA

Castoria is Dr. Samuel Pitcher's prescription for Infants and Children. It contains neither Opium, Morphine nor other Narcotic substance.

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