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New York.

Round the Christmas Tree

By Mary Mason Wright

Nearly all the holiday festivities, nowadays, circle round the Christmas tree, especially if there are children in the family; and even in school, church or community affairs the tree usually is the center of attraction for all.

Personally I am an ardent advocate of letting the children help to make the decorations for the tree, since some of the most precious memories of my childhood cluster round the time spent with my sisters and brothers in making the tree trimmings, and I enjoy doing it as well.

It is always well to plan a scheme of decoration for the tree so that there may be no crude color combinations that would detract from its beauty. White, scarlet, gold and silver, are all effective against the deep green of the tree.

Arrange a table around which the children can work, and place on it crepe paper, cardboard, scissors, picture wire, tin foil, gilt paper, sewing material and paste. As we all know, pop corn strung on thread makes nice chains to festoon over the branches, and this is work little hands can do. Cranberries may also be strung by little fingers, using only the firm berries.

Tasks That Children Love.

Besides the chains, the pop corn has many other possibilities. For instance pop corn balls decorated with fringed belts of red crepe paper held in place by a Christmas sticker make delightful edible decorations. The numerous designs that may be fashioned with pop corn and nougat are almost endless, beginning with attractive little baskets to hold small candies or nut meats. Stars, crescents, animals and boats may all be formed by using waxed-paper patterns as a foundation, which can be easily removed.

Mold the baskets in neat rows by means of a little nougat, fastening the handle in place after the body of the basket is finished, and completing them with a sprig of holly and a jaunty bow of scarlet ribbon.

Children can form wonderful decorative trimmings out of a few sheets of tin foil, gilt paper and some cardboard. The shapes of five-pointed stars, crescents and other designs are cut out of the cardboard and then covered with the tin foil or gilt paper is pasted on. Black or green thread may be fastened to one of the tips of the stars and crescents to suspend from the branches. Delightful little bells may be formed by cutting cardboard into circles and then cutting them into halves, each half making a bell by forming them into cones and pasting the edges together. They may be covered with red crepe or silver or gold paper. Place a knot in a bit of red yarn, string on a cranberry for a clapper and pass the end of the yarn up through the point of the cone and tie in a loop to suspend by.

The children will enjoy making little bells and cornucopias to hold candy and meats and small gifts on the tree. The baskets may be formed of picture wire and then covered with colored crepe paper or tin foil.

Chestnut burr baskets may be made of birch bark, laced together by red ribbon run through holes punched by an awl or a sharp point of the scissors. Strips of the bark may be used for handles. Frosted or icicle baskets are unusual, yet quite pretty against the deep green of the tree. Form baskets of picture wire and wind around with narrow strips of cloth frayed at the edg; then dip them in a very strong solution of alum water and hang up to drip and harden. There is no end to possibilities of baskets and holders made out of ordinary pasteboard boxes.

For any sort of a Christmas-tree party a good idea is to have most of the decorations of the edible sort; then the tree may be almost entirely stripped and the children made happy. Refreshments for the party may be served from the tree. Aside from the pop corn, candy, cookies and fruits can be transformed into delightful decorations.

Dolls made of lollypops are very popular decorations. The faces may be made as dainty or grotesque as you please, and then frills of crepe paper may be tied securely around the sticks for petticoats. Little dresses of organdie or crepe paper are placed over these with the sleeves stuffed with cotton; or they may be dressed to represent little Red Riding Hood and other characters.

Then there are the stick-candy maidens with marshmallow heads that will delight the children. Features may then be put on with coloring pastes or melted chocolate. Gay crepe paper bonnets and capes may give them a smart look.

Ginger-Cake Santa Claus.

In regard to the cookies, those which are star shaped or ring shaped should be used. Ice the cookies with orange icing, or sprinkle them over with red sugar. The rings may be decorated with gayly tinted frostings, and small candies and citron arranged to represent holly wreaths. The old-fashioned gingerbread dolls must also be provided with currant or raisin eyes and mouth.

Have the tinsmith make you a Santa Claus cutter, and cut a number of jolly fat Santa Clauses out of the ginger-cake dough. Paste a large Santa Claus head sticker on waxed paper and press into dough for the face. Use white icing to represent the fur cuffs, coat and boot tops, sprinkled over with coconut. Little red candies may be used for buttons and belt, and melted chocolate for making boots.

Gilded English walnuts with one end pried open and a knotted thread slipped in securely are nice. Dolls made of raisins, prunes and marshmallows will please the children. Use well-washed raisins for the legs and arms, stringing them on toothpicks. Stick the sharp points into the prune body and attach a round marshmallow for a head by means of a toothpick. Bits of candied cherry or cloves may mark the features.

Just a word in regard to lights for the tree. If one has electricity in the home there is no more satisfactory way of lighting up the tree than by the tiny colored globes. If candles are used one must be very careful, especially if there are small children about. Flashlights make a very good light; the globe part may be covered with colored crepe paper and the body part with green paper, and then tied securely to the body of the tree or on inner branches.

The Same Old Smiling Santa Pays Another Visit to the Children

Queer Christmas Gifts

"Didn't they use to tell us, Ann," said Mrs. Peters, "that in China people paint their coffins pink and blue and pea green and yellow, and keep 'em in the front parlor to look at till they're wanted? Seems to me I remember something of the sort."

"So do I," assented Ann Tenney. "They make one another presents of 'em, too. 'Tain't likely a person would forget such an everlasting little fact, once they knew it. That miss sentry doesn't told us. But why do you ask, Lydia?"

"Because I've just been out to the Twiggses'. It's so far that folks don't get round much over to Wells, and Mrs. Twiggs said that there hadn't a soul been in since Christmas day, but they were glad to see me. They showed me their presents, and all talked at once, specially I guess that Gran'ther Twiggs wanted a rise out of it. He's pretty deef now; so I yelled at him: 'Have a pleasant Christmas, gran'ther?'

"'Hey?' says gran'ther. 'Oh, yes, yes! Fine Christmas; and the folks gave me the best present of all.'

"'That's nice,' says I; 'aren't you going to show it to me, gran'ther?'

"'Hey?' says he. 'Show it to you? Well, now, Lyddy, sorry to disobleege a lady, but it ain't possible. Not today; mebbe not till spring. Ye see, Lyddy, it's up to the cemetery.'"

Ann gasped. "Lydia! They couldn't have—"

"It isn't just for gran'ther, Ann; at least it has the saving grace of being a family monument, I understand."

"But his name will go on it first. Awful! How could they?"

"I'd have said awful, too, if I hadn't heard gran'ther chuckle. Seems they got it set up two or three weeks beforehand and took him over in a sleigh for his first view Christmas morning. He's as pleased as Punch!"

"I wonder," mused Ann, "did they tab it with 'A Merry Christmas'?"

Lydia laughed. "It doesn't sound exactly Christmasy, does it? Well, there are plenty of queer folks in the world, and I s'pose it's natural enough some of the queerness should show up Christmas time. The Twiggses aren't the only ones. There was Henry Brimble giving Louisa arch supporters. Considering it was waiting on him that broke her arches, it does seem that she was entitled to 'em for plain everyday, without having to wait till Christmas. And Maria Teeby, you remember the year the Teebys gave her the opportunity of having her appendix out at the hospital? And Myra Pressey who sent little Mymie to the dentist to have her front teeth straightened, and—"

"Mean dodges, I call 'em all!" interrupted Ann with [illegible]

"Oh, well, I don't [illegible] say exactly that. There [illegible]

"Maybe not? [illegible] Ann with a [illegible] are two sides to every [illegible] course. Well, [illegible] me a gift for [illegible] if you [illegible] he [illegible] and [illegible] Christmas?"

Sunday School Lesson

December 23. Lesson XII— Paul's Last Message—2 Tim. 4: 1-8, 16-18. Golden Text—I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith.—2 Tim. 4: 7.

ANALYSIS

I. THE LAST APPEAL, 1-8.

II. THE DIVINE PROTECTOR, 16-18.

INTRODUCTION:—Several years have passed since Paul wrote the letter to Philemon which was studied last week. He had escaped from his first imprisonment and been free to carry forward his missionary effort, reaching probably Spain, whence he turned east to cover some of the ground already traversed. But near the end of the reign of Nero, in A.D. 68, he is again arrested, and now there is no chance of his release, since the proceedings against the Christians are much more severe. It is the tradition that Paul was beheaded outside the city of Rome and that his body was buried in a place where now we find the church called Paul-without-the-wall. There, three letters, which include two to Timothy and one to Titus, are named "pastoral" because they deal with the problems of the pastor. Matters of discipline and government are discussed, and directions are given for the choice of bishops and deacons, while there are warnings against the different forms of heresy which are beginning to appear.

I. THE LAST APPEAL, 1-8.

V. 1. Timothy is urged to devote himself with all energy to his pastoral task and different arguments are given to stimulate him to further endeavor. In this verse the fact of the final judgment is set forth as a powerful appeal. The day is coming when all men must appear before the judgment seat of Christ. It is the same argument which is found in the earlier letters of the apostle, and was ever present to his mind. Life is a great trust, and we must some day give in our account.

V. 2. The varied duties of the pastoral office are mentioned. First come preaching, to which Paul gave much weight. In 1 Corinthians he says that the Lord has sent him to preach. "Be instant in season, out of season." This refers to the whole work of the evangelist which must be exercised at all times. There is no particular season for God's work. Every season is God's. Sometimes the pastor must reprove those who do wrong, or he must rebuke, or again he must encourage, but also with mind and patience and with a careful use of knowledge. Patience and prudence are great pastoral graces.

V. 3. The great danger to the cause of Christ seemed to be the appearance of false teachers who were spreading abroad all kinds of false doctrines. They were setting forth wrong views of Christ, were advocating wrong courses of action, so that now the church had to guard herself against very many insidious attacks. The people are spoken of as having itching ears, eager after novelties and rejecting the authorized teachers of the word. Every succeeding generation has had examples of such.

V. 5. This prevalence of evil teaching is a further argument to induce Timothy to exercise renewed zeal. The times call for strong leaders.

V. 6. A third appeal is made by Paul's reference to his imminent death. Some discussion has arisen over the cause which induced the apostle to speak in such unusual terms of himself. He feels that the end is near, and that his chances of getting a favorable sentence are gone. His death-warrant is about to be signed. Two reasons are suggested. He may have wished to encourage Timothy and the assurance that there was a crown awaiting all those who would devote themselves to such faithful service. Perhaps he may also have felt that within a short time there was necessity for the younger ones to take the place of those called away. How can the church continue unless each new generation brings its new workmen?

Vs. 7, 8. The figures are taken from the athletic life of the time. The Greek games were very famous, only in this context the crown is not of olive or laurel, but of righteousness and of life.

II. THE DIVINE PROTECTOR, 16-18.

V. 16. This verse reveals the severity of Paul's ordeal. The first answer is probably the first part of this present trial. It does not refer back to the first imprisonment several years earlier. In this last trial there was no one to stand by his side. "All men forsook me." It is not easy to understand this. In v. 11 he says that Luke was with him, and one cannot conceive of Luke proving unfaithful in this sore necessity. Probably it means that none of those Romans, who were influential and had shown some interest in the gospel, came forward to make a strong plea on his behalf. He had no influential advocate.

V. 17. But in contrast to all this, "The Lord stood by me and strengthened me." God sent forth his spirit into the heart of Paul enabling him to make a bold and able defence and confession, so that the Gentiles who attended the trial, and, no doubt, represented many of the leading families of the city, heard the message which Paul delivered. So great was the impression made that Paul had received a brief respite from the mouth of the lion. This same strength will still be given to him when he comes to the last and fatal trial of all. For God is able to bring all his children out of every earthly tribulation.

Christmas

IF all the bells of Christmas
Should ring in one wild chime
They could not tell thy joy, O World,
At this exultant time.

And if the hosts of heaven
And all the sons of earth
Cried jubilantly in one voice
The news of Jesus' birth.

Their peans could not even then
Reveal the smallest part
Of the swift joy that hidden lies
In one thrice-humble heart.

Strange that one simple story
Should rush across the years,
And blind us with its glory
And hush our deepest fears!

—Charles Hanson Towne.

The Nativity

(The two Phophets come in:)

1st Prophet
Sir, now is the time come
And the date thereof ran
Of his Nativity.

2nd Prophet
Yet I beseech you heartily
That ye would show me here
That this strange novelty
Were brought unto you?

1st Prophet
This other night so cold,
Hereby upon a wold,
Shepherds watching their fold
In the night so far,
To them appeared a star,
And ever it drew them near,
Which star they did behold,
Brighter they say a thousand fold
Than the sun so clear
In his midday sphere;
And they these tidings told.

2nd Prophet
What, secretly?

1st Prophet
Na, na, hardily,
They made there of no council,
For they sang as loud,
As ever they could,
Praising the king of Israel.

2nd Prophet
Yet do I marvel,
In what pile or castle,
These hardsmen did him see.

1st Prophet
Neither in halls, nor yet in bowers,
Born would he not be,
Neither in castles, nor yet in towers,
That seemly were to see.
But at his Father's will,
The prophecy to fulfil;
Betwixt an ox and an ass
Jesu this king born he was;
Heaven he bring us till!

2nd Prophet
Sir, ah! but when these shepherds had seen him there,
To what place did they repair?

1st Prophet
Forth they went, and glad they were;
Going they did sing,
With mirth and solace, they made good cheer,
For joy of that new tiding,
And after as I heard them tell,
He rewarded them full well
He granted them heaven therein to dwell.
In are they gone with joy and mirth,
And their song is Noel.
(There the Prophets go forth.)

—From the Coventry Play, Fifteenth Century.

The worst of love in a cottage is that the love doesn't last and the cottage does.

Mennonite's Back Tell of Hardships

Refugees From Paraguay Reach N.Y. on Way to Canada

New York.—Fleeing from pestilence, fever, and the possibilities of starvation in the unproductive farmlands of the Mennonite Colonies of Paraguay, were 18 additional Mennonite refugees, who arrived here recently aboard the Munson liner Western World. They narrated more tales of the hadships which have befallen some 2,000 members of their sect, who migrated from Canada two years ago with the hope of finding and developing extensive fertile acres in Paraguay.

Mrs. Emma Harder declared that she had lost her husband in the Mennonite colony. His death she attributed to mal-nutrition and malaria. She asserted that he had shared his money with the starving members of his sect, and recalled that she borrowed seven peos from William S. Grant, purser of the Western World, in order to defray the expenses of herself and her seven children, who returned with her by the liner. Before disembarking from the ship she was tendered a purse of $250, which the passengers had collected upon hearing of her plight from the purser. This sum will enable her to return to her friends in Canada.

The purser also collected $135 which was given to Anton Schroeder, another destitute Mennonite aboard the liner, who was borne to St. Mary's Hospital, Hoboken, suffering from a serious attack of malaria. Additional sums were supplied to the nine others.

"The least worn the soonest mended," as the lady of the revue remarked the other day.

Canada Asked to Join Parley on Liquor Issue

Washington Seeks Conference on the Suppression of Drink Export

Ottawa—The United States has asked Canada for a conference to consider an extension of the border agreement of 1924, for the purpose of more effectually suppressing the liquor traffic between the two countries. Although reports have been circulated to the effect that Canada is being asked to prohibit the export of liquor, or else refuse clearances to liquor cargoes obviously destined for the United States ports, these reports are only guesses, responsible officials here declare.

William Phillips, United States Minister to Ottawa, has been in informal communication with the Prime Minister, who is also Minister of External Affairs, and his suggestions are now before the Government in Council, but nothing has been made public as yet.

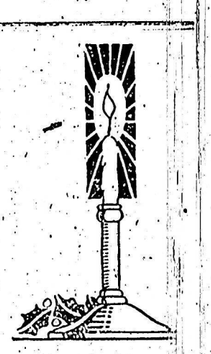
It would simplify the situation so far as the United States is concerned if all export liquor trade was stopped. But such a drastic step could only come through an act of the Canadian Parliament, as at present such export is entirely legal.

The liquor, it is asserted, is not only made here, but sold, delivered and paid for here, and the purchaser assumes whatever risk is attached to attempted shipment across the border. This valued for the last 12 months at nearly $28,000,000. A large proportion of it is whisky destined for the United States. While Parliament may think fit to do a neighborly act and prohibit exports be argued that there is no such provision in the law of Great Britain, France or other countries, which are exporters. No reply to the suggested conference has been sent as yet, but Canada is expected to agree to it.

The chief provisions of the treaty as it now stands is for the notification of clearances of liquor-laden vessels and the refusal of clearances, ostensibly to foreign countries, of motorboats which obviously could not weather the conditions of the high seas.

Misgivings are what a woman has about her next door neighbor's character.

Coolness can be caused by hot words.



"By Royal Warrant" Means Something

To Be "Appointed" Purveyor To The Royal Family Means Much To Merchants So Honored

NINE TAILORS

London.—"Nine tailors make a man," said the old proverb. Apparently the Prince of Wales has taken it to heart, for he has nine tailors waiting to make his new suits of clothes when he comes back from his African tour.

They are the only tailors in the world who are privileged to display the royal arms with the sign, "Tailors to His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales." Altogether the royal family has 1,400 tradesmen who, "by appointment," display the coveted royal warrant over their shop windows.

How many thousands in addition would like to do the same has never been revealed. It is known, however, that in the past twenty-seven years 3,000 firms have been brought to court for using the royal arms without authority. Many others have ceased to use them, but they have hauled down their colors when anyone noticed the irregularity and threatened legal action.

The grant of a royal warrant is jealously guarded by London tradesmen, and woe to any upstart who tries to use it wrongfully! It is not a mere matter of ceremony, but of pounds and shillings and pence. The mere appearance of the royal insignia over a shop is an advertisement which brings in hundreds of pounds a year especially from American visitors to London who like to buy at the same shop as the King and Queen.

In the list of 1,400 firms supplying the royal family there are a few surprises. King George has a purveyor of angostura bitters in Trinidad, a purveyor of orange curaçao in Amsterdam, and until last January he had a purveyor of lamprey pies in Gloucestershire. But the lamprey pie-maker died; and his unique distinction died with him.

King George has a kilt-maker in Edinburgh, and tartan manufacturers in various Scottish towns so that he can appear in appropriate clothing during his vacation in Balmoral Castle. He has a golf club maker in a New Brunswick village, a taxidermist, a philatelist and two fireworks makers—although for what purpose nobody knows. He has a turtle-soup maker, a fan-maker, a horse-hair maker, a purveyor of feathers, and even a purveyor of sheep-dip for the royal flocks!

Queen Mary, too, has her own list of official "purveyors." Among them are antique dealers, pin makers, hairpin manufacturers, and even a dealer in shawls in far-away Delhi.

Holly Berry Beliefs

[illegible]

A CHRISTMAS PRAYER

Christmas;
Old bells ring new, and [illegible] bright star
Shines with a [illegible]
Far shepherds dream on Bethlehem's hills,
It is again the magic night.

Christmas:
O blessed God who gave Thy child,
Let all hearts rise in gratitude
Grant each may feel that splendid love
That glorifies the Christmas mood.

—George Elliston.

A woman would sooner wear a new hat that doesn't suit her than an old hat that does.