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**A CHRISTMAS WALK**

In silvery softness the anthem closed  
Like a slowly silenced bell;  
The sacred calm of a peace divine  
Like a benediction fell;  
And out on the morning light that spread  
A glimmer of amber gray,  
I walked with Margery home from church  
On an old, old Christmas Day.

A bland, mild day—for the rugged month  
Had chosen a kindly mood,  
Like a wonderful mellow aftermath  
From the Autumn's plenitude.  
With scarcely a pang of wholesome cold  
Did the Winter's breeze blow,  
As Margery walked from church with me  
On a Christmas long ago.

The earnest words that had touched our  
hearts—  
The warnings, kindly and wise—  
Had left a shadow of tenderness  
In Margery's violet eyes;  
The merry, hoydenish maid I'd known  
For a twelvemonth's flying space,  
Had taken on that old Christmas Day,  
A new and womanly grace.

As through the tremulous opal clouds  
That shifted and swayed apart,  
A sun ray lighted the rosy face,  
The wish was born in my heart  
That down the trail of the unspent years,  
Whatever their trend might be,  
The soft-eyed maiden beside me then,  
Might walk to the end with me.

Attentively watching the velvet flakes  
By the white gale set a-wing,  
I breathe the spirit of other years  
While the bells of Yuletide ring;  
And near me, smiling with happy eyes  
At our children's romping play,  
Is the girl who walks from church with  
me

On that old, sweet Christmas Day.  
—Harriet Whitney Durbin, in People's  
Home Journal.



**LESSON OF CHRISTMAS DAY**

Example of Christ Should Inspire Unselfishness and Make Us Try to Remedy Faults.

Christmas should inspire a world of unselfishness. The example before us is almost too perfect, for it rather frightens us to attempt such divine heights of self-abnegation, but we can try. It will at least take us from the depths of selfishness, where most of us now are. Each Christmas day should teach us something of the lesson of the Holy Child's life.

If we could learn from Christmas, today and in the succeeding years the serious lessons of self-betterment and ennoblement it has to offer, how infinitely better it would be than just to look on it as a holiday for gifts and feasts, for extravagance and foolishness.

So take an hour or two off on Christmas day and give it up to retrospective and self-inspection. You will each find faults, if you judge yourself impartially, for no one is perfect. Then make a serious determination to try to overcome those faults, for only trying to improve is there any growth in character. If you are satisfied with yourself you stay just as you are with all your faults and virtues. But if you try hard to remedy the faults your character is constantly growing broader. This is the lesson which Christmas day has for each of you.

**CHRISTMAS**

Sparkling snow on the ground  
—an invigorating tang to the  
air—the mouth-watering smell  
of cooking from the cozy home  
kitchen—our boy safely home  
from overseas with brave stories  
to tell and all the manhood crys-  
tallized in him—relatives and  
old friends gathering at the festi-  
ve table—holly wreaths at the  
windows and a crackling fire in  
the open hearth—the hilarious  
laughter of kiddies as the new  
toys make them bubble over—  
mistletoe nailed mischievously  
above the door for the kiss you  
mean to give bustling, unsus-  
picious mother—the silvery,  
tranquil peal of church bells  
across the soft-snowed open  
places—an amazing forgetful-  
ness of the dour anticipations  
and business worries of only  
yesterday—a sudden re-bellef  
that love is life—  
That is Christmas!

**NEEDLESS PRECAUTION.**



Hubby—It's all rot and nonsense to try to make children believe there's such a character as Santa Claus. They ought to be taught better.  
Wifey—Our children don't need to be taught better. They know there's no Santa Claus in this house.

**The Day We "Ate."**

In other words, Christmas is the day where we shall celebrate, masticate and bicarbonate, and the next day we shall medicate.

**Majestic Bowling Alleys**

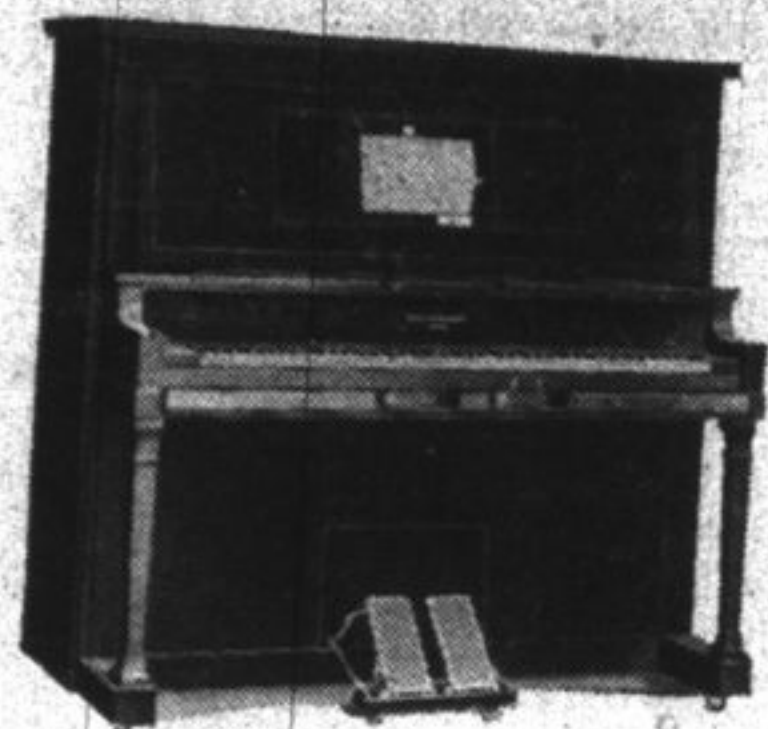
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