

## How to Give the Presents

### THE WIFE'S CHRISTMAS.

Ah, how can you speak so cross, Charlie?  
It isn't kind or right;  
You wouldn't have talked a year ago,  
As you have done to-night,

You wonder to see me sit and cry,  
Like a baby vexed you say,  
When you didn't know I wanted a gift,  
Nor think about the day!

But I'm not like a baby, Charlie,  
Crying for something fine,  
Only a loving woman pained,  
Could shed such tears as mine.

For every Christmas time till now—  
And that is why I grieve—  
It was you that wanted to give, Charlie,  
More than I to receive.

And I would not have cared to-night,  
Charlie,  
How poor the gift, or small,  
Had you only brought me something,  
To show  
That you thought of me at all.

The merest trifle of any kind,  
That I could keep or wear,  
A flimsy bit of lace for my neck,  
Or a ribbon for my hair.

A pretty story of lovers true,  
Or a book of pleasant rhyme;  
A flower or a holly-branch to mark  
The blessed Christmas-time.

But to be forgotten, Charlie!  
'Tis that that brings the tear;  
And just to think that I have been  
Your wife but a single year.

### A CARD OF ST. NICHOLAS.

Say, Santa Claus, you dear, old boy,  
I've passed the stocking stage,  
I feel no more that childish joy  
Since I have come of age;  
And yet I hold your memory dear,  
As witness what I write—  
I ask a precious gift this year  
From you on Christmas night.

Through you—that is to say, you know,  
Of course, 'twill come from Kate,  
I'll catch her 'neath the mistletoe,  
And bid her tell my fate;  
And do you be my angel there,  
And exercise your art  
To move the maiden sweet and fair  
To give to me her heart.

### CHRISTMAS SNOWBALLS.

This is a pretty way to bring gifts.  
The snowball can be made any size  
by putting hoops together, strengthened  
by a few straight pieces of wood  
in the proper places. This is covered  
with stout muslin drawn over the  
frame, and cotton is sewed on it to  
give it the proper snowy look. The  
gifts are put inside, wrapped and la-  
belled, and the opening closed and  
concealed. Finally it is sprinkled with  
frosting powder, and rolled into the  
room, makes a novel and charming en-  
tertainment.

### THE CHRISTMAS TREE.

Select a medium-sized tree, cut off  
some of the lower branches, and set it  
in an old butter tub, nail or paint  
keg, which will look better if painted  
green. Fill the tub with stones,  
to support the tree firmly. Buy a few  
wax tapers, which will have a socket  
and pin for fastening to the branches  
of the tree. Some evening set all the  
children to stringing popcorn and  
cranberries. Make and frost a dozen  
little cakes. Then with a pencil draw  
a baby's face on every one; some may  
be crying, some laughing. Take tis-  
sue paper, either pink or blue, and cut  
a circle about two inches larger than  
the cake, pink it with the scissors,  
and an inch from the edge run in a  
thread. Put one cake into each pa-  
per, draw up the thread and it makes  
a little hood for the baby's face.

Cut small bags, about a finger long,  
from tarlatan, overcast with any  
bright-colored worsted, and run a  
worsted string in the top; then fill  
with candies and hang on the tree.  
Tarlatan can also be cut in the shape  
of a child's sock or mitten.

### CHRISTMAS TREE FAIRIES.

Dancing Christmas fairies always  
enhance the children's delight in the  
Christmas tree, and once made can  
be used year after year. Buy up a  
dozen or more of five and ten-cent  
dolls, and to add to the variety have  
among the number some Japanese and  
colored dolls. Dress these to represent  
fairies in bright hues of spangled gauze  
tarlatan or tissue paper, and liber-  
ally sprinkle their hair and gar-  
ments with diamond-dust powder.  
Each doll should be provided with a  
dainty pair of fairy wings made from  
spangled tissue paper and fastened to  
the body by means of concealed wires.  
These wires should be coiled to obtain  
motion in the wings, and nothing bet-  
ter can be used than the fine spiral  
coil that comes out of worn-out  
brooms. The least motion will set this  
spiral to quivering, causing the wings  
to move as if in flight. In like man-  
ner use the spiral wire to attach the  
dolls in hovering positions over and

around the tree. The effect is magi-  
cal; every footstep causes jar enough  
to start the dolls dancing and cir-  
cling above and around the tree, as if  
the invisible fairies of the air had  
come down to join the Christmas  
glee.

### CHRISTMAS THOUGHTS.

What delightful times we have had  
planning for Christmas day, in pre-  
paring gifts suitable for our friends  
and loved ones. Little tokens of our  
regard and kindly feelings toward  
them, for it is not the money value  
of the gift that makes it appreciated  
so much as the loving thoughts that  
have prompted the giving. Try to re-  
member this if there be one among  
your friends who may perhaps give  
you some valuable present and for  
whom you may have only some little  
trifle in return. Your circumstances  
may be different from those of your  
friend, but the remembrance will be  
none the less prized if the true friend-  
ship is there. God pity the poor lone-  
ly mother on Christmas eve who has  
no precious little ones to awaken in  
the morning; who, perhaps, has known  
the clinging touch of baby fingers but  
who is now alone in her sorrow. How  
this night brings back to her mem-  
ory Christmas eves that have passed  
when she, too, had tiny stockings  
hanging near the chimney corner.  
Thus it ever is, what brings pleasure  
and happiness to some brings sorrow  
and pain to others. Let us keep this  
thought in mind, and out of the full-  
ness and gladness of our own joyous  
Christmas, let us try to help those  
round us who are not so blessed.

### OUR SHIP IS IN.

Here is a suggestion for those who  
are looking for a change in the plan  
of giving out the presents: A large  
packing box, somewhat oblong in  
shape was secured and was set upon  
end. The top part was cut out so  
as to form a sort of puppet stage such  
as is used in a Punch and Judy show.  
The front and sides were covered with  
curtains of Turkey red calico and were  
prettily draped with holly. On the  
stage was a gallant ship made out of  
pasteboard, only one side, that next  
to the audience, being necessary.  
Only a little ingenuity will be re-  
quired to arrange the masts, spars and  
riggings. A captain and cabin boy are  
placed upon the deck. These are also  
cut from pasteboard and are made to  
move by some person standing behind.  
The captain is supposed to call his  
boy and tell him to go below and  
bring up the treasures with which  
Santa Claus has laden the boat and  
with much merriment these are then  
distributed to the ones for whom they  
are intended.

### THE CHRISTMAS FISHERMAN.

The Christmas tree, perhaps, comes  
first in the minds of children, but  
for the tired mother, looking forward  
to Christmas with both dread and  
pleasure the following account is given  
of a very successful plan of dis-  
tributing presents: Some of the  
simpler ones were placed in their  
stockings, for they could not quite re-  
lign that dear old-fashioned way  
of searching for Christmas treasures,  
but most were kept for the "fishing  
game," which comes later on. After  
the dinner was over, the family were  
invited to the sitting room, and a cur-  
tain was hung across the open door-  
way, at a sufficient height to pre-  
vent a sight of what was taking place  
on the other side. As many parcels  
as possible had been made of the pre-  
sents, which were from necessity few.  
Pretty candies were made into sepa-  
rate packages; a few peanuts in an-  
other and perhaps some raisins in a  
third. Great was the laughter when  
a raw potato was carefully undone  
from one small bundle. Each child re-  
ceived a similar joke. The presents  
were distributed impartially, and it  
was planned that each child should  
receive one in turn, although they did  
not always "fish" out their own.

A sufficiently stout cord with a  
hook attached was fastened to a short  
stick. Taking turns, each child threw  
the hook over the curtain, and pull-  
ed up a present for himself, or some  
other member of the family. Exclama-  
tions of pleasure followed one after  
another, as the gifts were undone, al-  
though they were all inexpensive,  
many being of home work. It was a  
good illustration, of "How little it  
takes to please children," for their  
satisfaction was unbounded. Pleasant  
recollections of childhood days are  
treasures to us all; and this amuse-  
ment helped to give the children a  
happy day, and cost but little extra  
trouble.

A woman will usually make ten ex-  
cuses for her boy to one for her hus-  
band.

## POMPEII AND GALVESTON.

### A COMPARISON OF THE DISASTERS THAT BEFEL THEM.

Awful Calamity Which Overtook Pompeii—  
Over 2,000 Per-sons Perished—One-Third  
More Fatalities Occurred In the Gal-  
veston Hurricane.

Pompeii is believed to have had rather  
more than 20,000 inhabitants. The  
city stood on an elevation overlooking  
the sea, the whole of the Bay of  
Naples being in view, while in the  
background loomed grim Vesuvius, the  
destined destroyer, close by flowed the  
River Sarno, which was crossed by a  
bridge. The volcano was supposed to  
be extinct and its sides were culti-  
vated all the way up to the summit.  
Grapes were largely grown and wine  
making was an important industry in  
the neighborhood which likewise pro-  
duced cabbages famous for their ex-  
cellence.

It was the city of the clan of the  
Pompeys, founded by the Oseans, an  
ancient Italian tribe in the sixth cen-  
tury B. C. or earlier, afterwards con-  
quered by the Samnites, a rival tribe  
and eventually absorbed by mighty  
Rome. The culture of the people was  
very Greek; they worshipped various  
Greek gods and used the Greek names  
for their weights and measures. Be-  
ing so beautifully situated and having  
a delightful climate Pompeii, was a  
favorite resort of wealthy Romans  
many of whom had villas there. Cicero  
had a handsome "cottage," as it would  
now be called, and the Imperial fam-  
ily maintained a palace close by. The  
villas were mostly on the high ground,  
back of the town toward Vesuvius and  
facing the sea.

Small earthquakes were frequent,  
but not much was thought of them.  
On the 5th day of February, in the  
year 63 A. D., there came

### A TREMENDOUS SHOCK.

which was a warning of what was to  
follow. It threw down a large part  
of the city, including the beautiful  
temples of Jupiter, Apollo and Isis,  
but most of the damage was repaired  
by the time of the great catastro-  
phe.

The eruption which was destined to  
be so memorable began early in the  
morning of Feb. 24, 79 A. D. Spectators  
looking from a great distance saw a  
mighty cloud spread and overhang the  
city like a vast and ominous umbrella.  
There was still plenty of time to get  
away in safety, and doubtless a major-  
ity of the people did escape, before the  
impending volcanic storm began. Judg-  
ing from the number of skeletons thus  
far discovered, it seems probable that  
not more than about 2,000 persons  
actually perished. However, a great  
many who attempted to leave in boats  
may have lost their lives.

Admiral Pliny, with a fleet, was not  
far away, and letters brought by  
mounted couriers reached him as early  
as 1 p. m. that day begging him  
to come as quickly as possible with  
his ships and help to rescue the peo-  
ple. He sat sail immediately, and, ar-  
riving, within sight of Vesuvius at  
nightfall, ran into the rain of pumice  
that was then falling. It was impos-  
sible to make a landing at Pompeii,  
and so he disembarked at Stabiae,  
where it was

### HAILING CINDERS

at such a rate that during the night  
he was obliged to leave the room in  
which he slept for fear lest the door  
might be blocked up. On the follow-  
ing morning he died, being suffocated  
by volcanic fumes.

Early in the afternoon of February  
24 the hail of pumice began to fall,  
upon doomed Pompeii, the pieces aver-  
aging about the size of a walnut, to-  
gether with torrents of rain. It  
must then have been almost too late  
for anybody who remained in the city  
to get away. Repeated shocks of  
earthquake contributed to the horror  
of the scene, incidentally demolishing  
the bridge over the Sarno and so  
shutting off escape in that direction.  
Meanwhile, rivers of pumice mixed  
with water flowed down the slope of  
Vesuvius on the other side and  
overwhelmed the neighboring Herculaneum.

The pumice fell in Pompeii until the  
streets of the city were covered eight  
to ten feet deep with it. Its weight  
broke in the roofs of many of the  
houses and the destruction of lives  
must already have been frightful.  
Nevertheless many of the people still  
survived, seeking refuge in cellars and  
other places of retreat. They must  
have imagined that there was still  
hope when early in the morning of  
the next day, Feb. 25, there came a  
great shock and ashes began falling  
in a continuous shower with the rain.  
Though day had arrived it grew dark-  
er than ever, if possible, a cloud of

### FRIGHTFUL BLACKNESS

settling down over the land, while

the lightning and thunder were appal-  
ling. Shock followed shock and  
the survivors must at last have con-  
cluded that their last hour was at  
hand. Such was in truth the case.  
The storm of ashes lasted nearly all  
day long. They drifted in through the  
windows of the houses and suffocated  
all who remained alive. They cov-  
ered the city with a sheet of death  
six to seven feet thick.

Thus was completed the destruction  
of Pompeii. If the estimate of fatali-  
ties above quoted be fairly correct  
the loss of life was not more than  
one-third as great as during the re-  
cent hurricane at Galveston whose  
terrors may be said to have fairly  
equalled those of this ancient catastro-  
phe though so different in kind.  
When it was all over the roofs of  
many of the houses still emerged  
above the volcanic debris, which had  
overwhelmed the city. Herculaneum  
however had wholly disappeared un-  
der the streams of mud, sixty-five feet  
deep in spots, which had flowed over  
it. This mud being a sort of natural  
concrete, soon hardened into stone,  
which is to-day of such solidity as to  
make excavation work extremely dif-  
ficult.

### THE DATE OF THE FLOOD.

Bible Facts on Which the Southern Bishop  
Based His Question.

Some people have had fun lately  
over the reported rejection of eight  
candidates for the African Methodist  
ministry in the South by the exam-  
ining Bishop because they could not tell  
the date of the flood. Nevertheless,  
the Bishop who asked the question  
knew what he was doing. It may  
not have been a fair question, but  
there is a concise answer to it in the  
Bible, and he no doubt thought that  
the eight candidates, if they were  
well versed in the Old Testament,  
would answer it at once.

The date of the flood was 1,656 years  
after the birth of Adam, in the sec-  
ond month and the seventeenth day.  
It began then and continued for forty  
days and nights. This is how it is  
figured; The third verse of the fifth  
chapter of Genesis reads thus; "And  
Adam lived 130 years and begat a  
son in his own likeness, after his  
image, and called his name Seth." Then,  
in the sixth verse, it is told  
that Seth lived 105 years and begat  
Enos. Adam, says the fourth verse,  
lived 800 years, after the birth of  
Seth, and the latter after the birth  
of Enos lived 807 years. So it goes  
on, Enos begat Cainan when he was  
90; Cainan begat Mahalaleel when  
he was 75; Mahalaleel begat Jared  
when he was 65; Jared begat Enoch  
when he was 162; Methusaleh was born to  
Enoch when the latter was 65, and  
when Methusaleh was 187 he begat  
Lamech, and Lamech's son, Noah,  
came into the world when the father  
was 182. This brings us down to  
the birth of Noah, which, according to  
the added ages of the several patri-  
archs at the time their sons were  
born, occurred 1,056 years after the  
birth of Adam.

In the seventh chapter of Genesis  
the eleventh verse reads as follows;  
"In the six hundredth year of Noah's  
life, in the second month, the seven-  
teenth day of the month, the same  
day were all the fountains of the  
great deep broken up and all the win-  
dows of heaven were opened." This  
was the flood, and it came to pass in  
the year 1656 after the birth of  
Adam.

### A NEW ARMY RATION.

German Troops Fed Upon a Novel Pre-  
paration of Chocolate.

German military correspondents  
speak very highly of a new ration  
which has been tried during the re-  
cent maneuvers of the Austrian troops  
in Galicia. Owing to the nature of  
the country and the extensive area  
covered during the exercises, it be-  
came necessary to provide the troops  
with some portable food which could  
be prepared in a very short time or  
even eaten without preparation. Vari-  
ous forms of nutriment were tried,  
but the one which gained most favor  
was a so-called "chocolate ration."  
This was invented by a doctor, and  
consists of ordinary chocolate with an  
admixture of albumen and certain fat-  
ty matter. In a few minutes this can  
be cooked either in milk or water and  
eaten as it is. The nourishing value  
of the preparation is very great, 100  
grammes affording as much sustain-  
ing value as nearly half a kilogramme  
or five times the amount of beef.  
Moreover, the chocolate keeps remark-  
ably well, and is affected neither by  
heat nor by long storage in damp and  
badly-ventilated magazines.

### THE RETIRED BURGLAR.

He Tells of a Trifling Incident That Once  
Led to His Arrest.

"Of all the fool things that a man  
in my business can do," said the re-  
tired burglar, "the very fooliest of all  
is carrying about with him something  
that he's picked up in the course of  
his work. I used to think that writ-  
ing letters and leaving them behind,  
something by which a man might  
some day be identified, was the most  
fool thing of all; but I am satisfied  
now that carrying something around  
is still worse. I realized this when  
something I was carrying got me into  
trouble.

"I always carried a leadpencil in my  
pocket, and I lost this pencil, some-  
how, one day, and the same night pick-  
ed up another from a desk in a man's  
library and just tucked it in my  
pocket. I wanted a pencil and I just  
took this one, and thought no more  
about it. I carried that pencil I guess  
three or four months, sharpening it  
occasionally, and so gradually wear-  
ing it down. The last time I ever  
used it was in a railroad station where  
I'd just seen a big express wagon  
drive up with a couple of boxes that  
caught my eye as maybe containing  
things that I'd like to have; both go-  
ing to the same town, but not very  
far out, and I thought maybe I'd run  
out there some night and look through  
these boxes. I don't believe in luck,  
but I sort o' had a notion that I'd  
find something very good in those  
two boxes, and I liked the idea of  
getting the clue to them in that way.  
So I goes into the waiting room of  
the station again and just puts down  
those addresses before I forgets 'em;  
writing 'em down at one end of a  
desk that was there by the window  
of the telegraph office.

"I'd put the piece of paper that I'd  
made the memorandum on in my  
pocket, and was just putting away  
the pencil, when a man that had step-  
ped up to write a telegraph, and  
found no pencil on the desk there,  
turns to me—he'd seen me writing—  
and says: 'Will you kindly lend me  
your pencil for a minute? And of  
course

### I HANDED IT OVER TO HIM

without the slightest hesitation, and  
then I stands there and looks the  
other way so as not to seem to be  
looking while he was doing his writ-  
ing. And I thought he was writing  
a pretty long telegraph, and I was  
just about to turn around and look,  
when I feels a hand on my shoulder,  
which I couldn't very well mistake,  
and looking around I found, as I ex-  
pected that it was a policeman that  
was clawin' me, and my friend there,  
that I'd lent the pencil to, was stand-  
ing alongside of him, pointing at me,  
and saying:

"I charge this man with burg-  
lary."

"Quite a change in the situation?  
Well, I should say so. And all through  
that pencil. That pencil was just a  
plain, common, simple pencil, of good  
quality, with nothing remarkable  
about it at all except that across the  
flat end of the head of the pencil, the  
end not used, there were eight little  
straight lines, four in each direction,  
crossing at right angles, and mak-  
ing a sort of a plaided effect, pretty  
well faded now, but still perfectly vis-  
ible. And this pencil belonged to the  
man that had borrowed it of me, there  
in the station. Makes you laugh to  
think of my luggin' around something  
that was marked? It does me now,  
Well, it was easy enough to prove that  
the house had been robbed, and that  
the pencil I had came from it. And  
it interested me a little bit, too, to  
see how easy they were able to prove  
the marking on the pencil. This  
man's little daughter made it, and she  
swore to it without any sort of doubt  
or quibble. She'd sat down one day  
at her father's desk and marked those  
lines on the end of a pencil with a  
pen just for fun.

"Of course there was no sort of  
actual proof that I stole it, but there  
was proof that I had it in my posses-  
sion. I said I found it; and when I do  
try lying I make the bunglin'est work  
of it you ever heard of. That's the  
kind of a job I made of it this time;  
and of course they knew, you know.  
But they gave me only a year. Still  
that was enough to learn me that les-  
son anyhow. I never, after that car-  
ried about with me anything that I'd  
gathered in, any longer than it was  
necessary to dispose of it. I may  
have other tricks, now, just as fool-  
ish, but that one I dropped right  
then."

### REASONABLE.

Husband—I don't see why you have  
accounts in so many dry goods stores.  
Wife—Because, my dear, it makes  
the bills so much smaller.