

Kitty's Christmas Eve

WHEN the train from Ogden and the Pacific coast drew up, puffing noisily, at the town of Gunnison, Col., at two o'clock in the afternoon of December 23, there was seated in the middle section of the sleeping car a very cross-looking old gentleman. You could see at once he was out of humor. He looked so much as if he might, on slightest provocation, bite you wouldn't have been surprised to hear him bark.

It was a cold, unfriendly stare that he bestowed upon Kitty Waller when, bundled up in a great red coat and a warm hood, with a paper box under her arm and a little satchel in her hand, she was shown by the porter to a seat just across the aisle from his own.

She couldn't have noticed the look, for as the train began to move she plunged in among his bags and shawl straps, almost knocking a book from his knee in her eagerness to obtain the last glimpse of a woman on the platform, which was on his side of the car, says Brownink, King & Co's Monthly.

"I beg your pardon," said she, "I wanted to say good-by to auntie."

"You seem to have said good-by to your manners," was the hateful reply, and Kitty, now alive to the fact that the gentleman was very cross, crept back to her own seat and nestled quietly in the corner.

She was only ten years old, but she had grown up tall in the Elk mountain air, and her cheeks were rosy. This was her first ride on a railroad. Indeed, from her uncle's half-log, half-frame house, where her mother had died when she was a baby, no tracks have those of miners or jack-rabbits were visible. Now she was going all the way to Denver to spend Christmas with Grandma Waller.

She knew the train was due in Denver at seven o'clock the next morning, and that after a long, happy day she would hang her stockings in the big room grandma had so often written her about, and old Santa Claus would fill it.

As early as seven o'clock the good-natured porter prepared the funny bed in which she was to sleep, while she looked on in open-eyed amazement, and by eight o'clock she was in the land of dreams, the last sound she heard being the voice of the "cross gentleman" scolding the porter for making up his berth with the head toward the engine.

It was early when Kitty awoke, and the train was not moving. Happy and scarcely stopping to wonder why they were not in Denver, Kitty dressed herself, and presently from between the curtains opposite came the "cross gentleman," grumbling aloud and calling for the porter.

"Is afeard, sir," said that individual, "we're done stuck here for most of day. The big tun' this side of Marshall pass has caved in."

Then the conductor explained that a section of one of the mile-long snowsheds had fallen, and that all they could do was to wait for a wrecking train from Pueblo.

"And not a blessed thing to eat," said Kitty's fellow passenger.

With trembling hands the little girl opened her box of luncheon. Hard-boiled eggs, a pot of jam, sardine sandwiches, thick slices of buttered bread and lots of cookies.

"There's more than I can eat, sir," said she, "won't you have some?"

The "cross gentleman" arose. He looked for a moment at Kitty, whose eyes sank to the floor, and then, with a bow as though she had been a grown-up young lady, he crossed the aisle and seated himself opposite to her.

It was not until afternoon that the damage ahead was sufficiently repaired to allow them to proceed, and when evening—Christmas Eve—came the train was just making its way through the Royal gorge, nearly 24 hours late.

FOR MEN OF THE HOUSE. A Laundry Bag or Necktie Case Make Appropriate Christmas Presents for Them.

If one begin in due season, the work of planning and making Christmas presents need not be unduly burdensome. The difficulty besetting her who wishes to give only what she herself has made is that there are so few things of home manufacture one dare inflict upon a man.

Bearing this in mind, we offer for consideration two articles that seem appropriate for father, brother or man friend, a laundry bag and a necktie-case. The bag should be made of some washable material, of coarse cream crash, or of denim in blue, red, tan or green. Place rings at top by which to hang bag, as the draw string kind is annoying when one is in a hurry and wishes to cram things in without delay.



CONVENIENT LAUNDRY BAG.

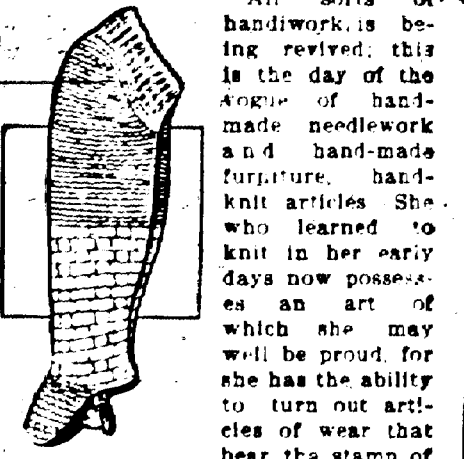
The necktie-case illustrated is made of white linen, embroidered in violets and lined with violet silk. Of course, another flower and lining to correspond may be chosen, one that harmonizes well with the toilet furnishings of the recipient, if the color of these is known. Baste lining to sheet of wadding on which ornate root or some good sachet powder has been sprinkled, and loosely tack to white cover here and there, in such a manner that the latter can easily be removed for laundering.

All sorts of handwork is being revived, this is the day of the Anglo-made needlework and hand-made furniture, hand-knit articles. She who learned to knit in her early days now possesses an art of which she may well be proud, for she has the ability to turn out articles of wear that bear the stamp of gentility—and are of the very highest fashion, too. Hand-knitted sweaters bringing almost twice as much at the stores as machine made, and the hand-knitted baby socks, caps and socks are very high-priced.

So this year grandmother has a wide choice in the matter of what to give for Christmas. We offer cut and description of child's leggings, and trust the design will prove a pleasing one to the knitter. Materials required, one hank four-fold Germantown wool, three steel knitting needles, No. 15. Cast on 51 stitches and knit across two plain and two purl, repeating for 11 rows. Twelfth row plain (make a ridge of two rows of knitting) and repeat until you have four ridges. Knit 17 stitches more, forming the knee turn and knit back. Add 12 stitches at the end of each needle and knit 17 stitches, you complete 17 ridges on the knee. Knit plain 17 ridges on the leg part. For the fancy part, knit three purl rows, and repeat across the needle. In working back purl seven and knit three across, the needle. Work in the way until there are three ridges, and then reverse the design. Repeat until there are 12 blocks, narrowing one at the end of each needle and at the end of every section there 25, and 22 stitches. For the instep, knit 27 stitches and slip the other 13 on another needle. Knit back 12 stitches (of the 25) and leave the remaining 13 on the first needle. Knit the 12 stitches back and forth until there are nine ridges knit. Two more ridges narrow every and one. With the needle left at the right side of the work, pick up stitches along the edge of instep and knit across the top. Repeat same on left side of work knit back and forth until there are three ridges below the instep part. Bind off and sew up leg seam.

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FOR THE KNITTER. An Acceptable Present Grandmother Can Make for the Little Ones for Christmas.



Child's Knitted Legging.

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Her Christmas Gift

MARGARET WILSON sat by the window in the front room of the diminutive flat. In the street below the lights along the curbing twinkled frostily. The sidewalks were lined with hurrying people, all of whom carried bundles and loitered and were jostled with rare good humor.

Day after to-morrow Margaret could go cheerfully back to her prosaic holiday. In the meantime this greivous prospect of loneliness.

O, well, she would make the best of it. To-morrow morning she would spend reading her beloved Stevenson. In the afternoon the matinee, and after that dinner at the cafe down the avenue, where the linen was snowy and the coffee had a delicious flavor.

She would keep up a sort of forced cheerfulness and forget she was alone. She angrily brushed a tear from her cheek.

As she did so the bell in the hall whirred noisily. She went to the opening tube and called a dispirited "Hello."

"Hello," came the cheerful response. "That you, Margaret? Merry Christmas! Kindly unlock the door and I'll ascend."

She opened the hall door and waited on the landing. Presently from the semi-darkness of the place Jack Carlton appeared, puffing prodigiously.

"Hello!" he puffed. "Long flights, these. Ought to move down or have an elevator to move me up."

Margaret's face brightened perceptibly at the sight of him.

"I'm glad you came," she said, fervently.

"Course you are," he affirmed. "Knew that beforehand or I wouldn't have come."

"I didn't expect you," she said.

"What?" he exclaimed. "I desert you on Christmas Eve? Never!"

She led the way to the front room and lighted the red-shaded lamp. Carlton threw off his overcoat and lounged comfortably in a Morris chair.

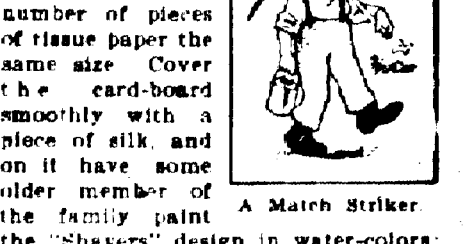
"May I?" he said, drawing a chair from his pocket.

"To tell the truth," she said, "I almost had the blue devils when you came. You must entertain me."

TO MAKE FOR FATHER. Some Little Things the Children Can Construct That Will Be Appreciated.

Little fingers can construct the following articles for Christmas, and the owners feel the glow of satisfaction because they, too, have had part in the holiday preparation. The receivers of the gifts be much pleased that the youngsters have devoted so much thought and time to them.

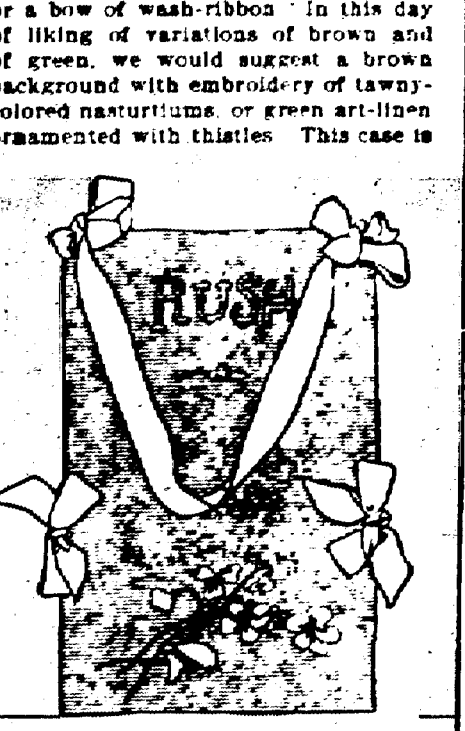
To make the case for shaving papers, cut a circular piece of card-board the desired size and a number of pieces of tissue paper the same size. Cover the card-board smoothly with a piece of silk and on it have some older member of the family paint the "shavers" design in water-colors; or, and perhaps better, let the youthful worker finish the gift herself, paste on the silk figures cut from some advertising page of paper or magazine. To have "done it all herself" will be a great triumph. Fasten shaving-papers and outside together with a cord loop.



For the match-striker, use a covered card-board foundation, put on the "shavers," as suggested with the "shavers," but have the gentleman's trousers of sand-paper.

ACCEPTABLE XMAS GIFTS. A Couple of Suggestions for the Holiday Season for the Home-workers.

When one wants a postal card it is always at a rush time, and yet nothing is more elusive than the postal card—unless it be the notorious collar button. Which fact is explanation for the need of the case herewith illustrated. The case, which is made of colored tissue, has a card-board foundation and may be finished with either a cord or a bow of wash-ribbon. In this day of liking of variations of brown and green, we would suggest a brown background with embroidery of tawny-colored nasturtiums or green art-linen ornamented with thistles. This case is



CASE FOR POSTAL CARDS

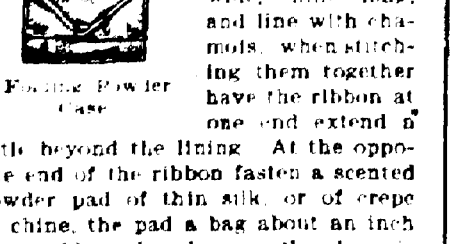
suitable for presentation to that troublesome being man, as it is practical and so convenient.

Another article that probably would meet with masculine appreciation is pine-needle pillow, a small one to throw over the top of a lounge chair, or a streable one for couch or bed. Very pretty designs for these are now shown in the shops, artistic and inexpensive ones. We have in mind tan cotton with brown cones embroidered thereon, and some lettering among the cones, a wood-antique quilt.

If one is not skilled with the needle, a very pretty case for the fragrant pine can easily and cheaply be made of thin leaf-green silk, and it will convey a pleasant suggestion as well as the more elaborate cone-embroidered one.

POWDER CASE FOR XMAS. One That Is Both Practical and Easily Made by the Home-worker.

To traveler and shopper the powder case is a friend in need, and the one here illustrated is practical, easily made, and can be rolled into small compass. Materials needed are a bit of ribbon, a bit of chamois, a fragment of crepe de chine. Take a piece of raffia ribbon four inches wide, nine long, and line with chamois, when stitching have the ribbon at one end and extend it



Favorite Powder Case

like beyond the lining. At the opposite end of the ribbon fasten a scented powder pad of thin silk, or of crepe de chine, the pad a bag about an inch or so wide and as long as the chamois is wide. A case for the pad is made of a piece of ribbon a little wider than the bag, is stitched along the outer edge and fastened with some baby ribbon when the bag is not in use. Another recommendation for this powder-case is that the chamois and powder are in one piece.

Her Christmas Mite

MRS. PLANNITOUTE (thoughtfully)—Dear, I have determined to make a new departure this Christmas. I feel that the spirit of Christmas lies, not in the giving of expensive trifles to those who have the comforts and luxuries of life, but in remembering those who suffer deprivation of the very needs of existence.

Mr. Plannitoute—That is very sweet of you, dear, I'm sure.

Mrs. Plannitoute—Yes, I have promised to donate the hundred dollars you always give me for Christmas gifts to Mrs. Van Sproddem's Christmas tree for poor children.

Mr. Plannitoute—I could not with the money put to better use. If more of this sort of giving were common, Christmas would be—

Mrs. Plannitoute—Yes, wouldn't it? I shall just tell everyone my intention, and people will understand—

Mr. Plannitoute (warmly)—They will do more. They will value your kindness of heart, beyond any gift you could bestow on them individually. Your thought is noble!

Mrs. Plannitoute—Thank you, dear, so much! Of course, our own children, and Tom's children, and Emma's little ones, we can't blackball them. It would be cruel! And there are three or four of my very oldest friends. I could scarcely say to them that they must not expect to be remembered.

Mr. Plannitoute—Now, I am just recalling that I told Sister Lou I would get her a new wrap for Christmas. The dear girl quite looks forward to it.

Mr. Plannitoute—Oh-h-h! Mrs. Plannitoute—And there's Dr. Offenbach! Dear, when we reflect that man did for darling Bertie, gratitude simply commands—I was looking at a glorious set of Shakespeare yesterday—as he is such a lover of Shakespeare, a gift of that sort might pay, in part, the debt that money can never pay.

Mrs. Plannitoute—'m-m-m! His bill was the sort that money could pay.

There's nothing else, I must accept some recognition to Mrs. Strubelcher. Her wedding gift to Lilian was magnificent! I have ordered a silver chafin dish for her—the new model, that has that funny contrivance for—

Mr. Plannitoute—But Louise you said you had taken a new departure this Christmas!

Mrs. Plannitoute—I have, my dear, but I even think of giving my Christmas allowance to the poor and needy ones!

Mr. Plannitoute—Yes, but you also declared you wouldn't therefore, make presents to your friends!

Mrs. Plannitoute (reproachfully)—Arthur! Am I surprised at you! Because a person wishes to be charitable to some persons, is that any reason for being brutal to others? It would be simply brutal to neglect any of these duties I have mentioned.

Mr. Plannitoute—You have promised your hundred dollars to Mrs. Van Sproddem, and it would take almost another hundred to buy the things you have enumerated.

FOR THE GIRL TO MAKE. Crocheted Bedroom Slippers Will Not Prove Disreputable and Will Be Appreciated.

The school girl should not be required or expected to endanger her eyes and overtax her nerves with elaborate pre-Christmas labor, but usually the energetic miss wants to have part in the preparations for the grand festival of giving. We therefore suggest a gift that is not difficult to make, is useful and pretty—a pair of crocheted bedroom slippers. The materials needed are one and one-half hanks of Germantown wool, a pair of lamb's wool

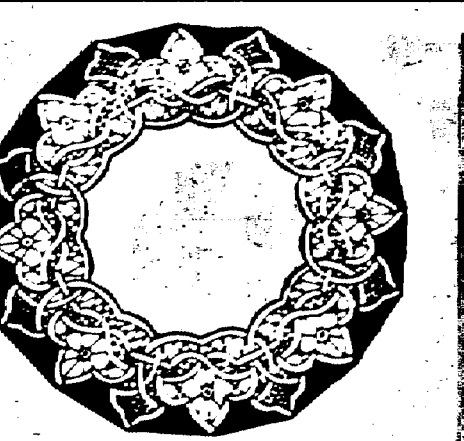


THE PUPIL BEDROOM SLIPPER

60's a bone crochet hook, No. 3 or 4. Commence by making nine chains, make half-stitch rib and widen by two stitches in each row, make 18 rows for nine ribs, which completes the vamp, begin sides of foot by taking up 12 stitches, rib, but do not widen any, make 34 rows for nine ribs, connect at left side, and finish top by making shell; six whole stitches for first row, and seven stitches for second row. Turn slipper wrong side out and sew to binding on sole. Finish front by making bow of ribbon and sewing to vamp.

BATTENBERG CENTERPIECE. It Takes Much Time to Make, But Is Always an Acceptable Christmas Present.

A hand-made center piece takes considerable time to make, but the donor of such a gift is rewarded when something has been fashioned that brings pleasure to the recipient. The woman too busy to indulge in fancy work herself appreciates especially the handwork of others and this should be borne in mind when deciding to whom and to whom to send a needlework

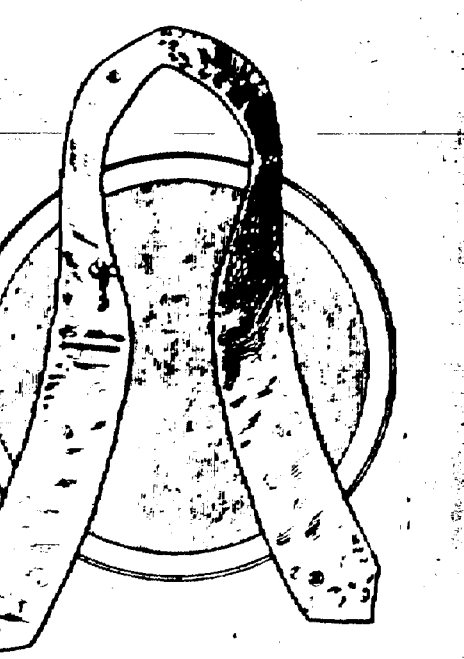


A DAINTY CENTERPIECE

gift. The accompanying Battenberg piece does not require a great deal of work, but is effective and pretty. It may be made either of cream or purple, white if the former would be suitable for library or sitting room table. Frau Battenberg's own recipe is artistic and different from the ordinary, and this combination may prove a welcome suggestion to the Christmas worker. The stitches employed are all easy and simple, principally plain Brussels point mesh, spider web, Sorrento cross-stitch and plain Russian stitch. Each rim and ten yards of bias are required for a 6-inch piece.

THE STOCK-COLLAR. They Are Always Appreciated by the Dainty Women as Christmas Presents.

Not only is there a variety of stock-collars to offer for Christmas gift, suggestion, but the stock-collar has allied in its requisition the case for stocks and the stock-protector, two articles to cheer the jaded searcher after novelties. The case for stocks should be made of white linen, or some other washable material, be flat, of a width



A STOCK COLLAR NOTE FOR

to hold without cramping the tab-and-stock of a length to contain without folding the turn-over collar. The stock-protector, which is not folded away in the secret recesses of a bureau drawer, but parades as an article of dress, worn to protect collar and dress front from the outer wrap, should be of richer material than the stock-case. It is very pretty made of thick satin edged with silk cord and fastened with fancy loop or frog. One's monogram or initial may be embroidered on the protector below the fastener, in a silk corresponding with the color of the finishing cord.