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# Dicky's Christmas Stocking

## A Little Christmas Play for Children

**Characters:** Dolly, a little girl, dressed in dressing gown. Dicky, a little boy, dressed in dressing gown. Santa Claus, dressed in regulation Christmas clothes.

**Scene:** A living-room, with fireplace at centre of the "stage," and a couch at right of it. There are a table and some chairs, and a rug before the fireplace.

**The curtain is drawn, disclosing Dolly, with her stocking ready to hang up. It is a small stocking. Dicky holds a very long and very large stocking, fashioned from some bright red material.**

**Dicky (he holds up his stocking)—How's this? I made it all myself. Santa Claus ought to be able to put a good deal in that, don't you think so?**

Dolly—Yes, it will hold a good deal, but I think you ought to hang up your own stocking. I think that one looks piggy, I do! It looks as if you wanted more than your share.

Dicky—Nonsense! Of course I do want a lot! Don't you?

Dolly—Well, I haven't asked for it, and I wouldn't hand up a stocking like that! I'd be ashamed. I'm going to fix something nice here for Santa Claus. He's sure to be hungry when he has been out driving about in his sleigh in the cold. I'm going to set the toy teaset he gave me last year right here on the table, and I've made some sandwiches and cake for him, too. Doesn't it look very nice? (She has been setting the table with cloth and dishes and plates, as if for a party.)

Dicky—Oh, let me have just one little cake!

Dolly—No! There are only enough just for him! I want him to have every single speck; I'd like one myself, but I'm not going to take any! Isn't he always doing nice things for us! I think we ought to do something nice for him, and so I made this surprise.

Dicky—Well, he wouldn't miss just one sandwich! I'm awfully hungry (He starts to take one.)

Dolly (catches hold of him and pushes him toward exit)—You musn't! Besides that, now that we've hung up our stockings, we must go to bed. It's late, and Santa Claus may be here any moment now. I thought I heard a noise! It sounded as if it were in the chimney. Hurry! He wouldn't like to find us here!

Dicky—No! I'm going to stay. I can hide under the table so he'll never see me! Look! (He crawls under table, upon which there is a cloth that falls far down over it.) You can't see me now!

Dolly—Yes, your slipper is sticking right out! You ought not to stay there, anyhow! It would displease Santa Claus! And he'll be sure to find you! You won't get any presents if you do!

Dicky—Well, then, I'll go curl up on the couch and pretend I'm asleep. (He goes over to the couch and draws a shawl over him. Dolly tries to pull him away.)

Dolly—Dicky, it's not fair. You must come! Suppose he should come down the chimney and find you here!

(Bells jingle.)

Dicky—There, now! That's he! You'll have to hide here, quick! (He draws the shawl over both of them, so that it covers their heads.)

(Enter Santa Claus from the fireplace.)

Santa Claus—Why! Why! Look at that for a stocking! (He stands before the fireplace, laughing.) Ha! Ha! That's Dick's stocking. Yes! He must think I'm going to give him everything he asked for! Mercy, if I did, there'd be nothing left for anybody else at all! What about the little poor children and the little sick children—and the little orphans? (He lays his pack upon the couch and gives the shawl a poke.) Fe-fo-fo-fum! I'll bet Dick's hiding there! (He pulls the shawl off and the children jump out from under.)

Dolly—We heard you coming and we hid!

Dicky—Oh, oh! I say! Let's see what you've got in your pack! Did you bring all my presents?

Santa Claus—Why didn't you go to bed and go to sleep like good children? (Crossly)—I have a good mind to go right up the chimney again! (Pretends to be going.)

Dicky and Dolly—Oh, please! Please don't!

Santa Claus (turning about)—Well, you ought not to be here. You know it isn't right!

Dolly—It's really my fault, Santa Claus, because I fixed up the party for you. See! There it is on the table. I put it on my toy dishes. I wanted you to have something nice when you came in cold and hungry, and you must be sure to notice the dishes! Not a one is broken! I kept them all—every one—and the other toys aren't broken, either!

Santa Claus—Oh, I didn't see the party or the dishes. Thank you! Thank you! So that's why you came to be here so late! But really you ought not to have done it, you know!

Dolly (she holds a chair out and seats Santa Claus at the table, and passes him the plate. Dicky, on the other side, takes another plate and seats himself.)

Dicky—Did you bring the toys I asked for in my letter?

Santa Claus—Do you really want all of them?

Dolly—I think Dicky wants more than his share!

Dicky—Oh, no! No, I don't!

Santa Claus—Well, there are ever so many children to think of, and some do get more than their share! Maybe Dicky doesn't know what he's asking for. Here, take a peep into my sack! (He opens the mouth of the Santa Claus pack-bag and Dicky peeps in.)

Dicky (jumping up and down.) Yes! That's the very drum I want! Say, can't I have those soldiers? I want the horn, and the skates, too—though I forgot to ask for those! I want that, and that, and that and that, and that, and—

Santa Claus—But I was going to take those to other children who need them more; you already have so many toys! Shall I really give them to you? What would the others do? They want them quite as much.

Dolly—He oughtn't to take them!

Dicky—The others can go without, can't they? I want those things! I do! Yes, I do!

Santa Claus—Well (he takes down Dicky's stocking and hangs the Santa Claus pack in its place), might as well, you know! He wants all I've got here.

Dicky—Oh, say! Isn't that jolly Dolly, see what I've got! You haven't got as much! That's what comes of the big stocking!

Dolly—I'm ashamed of you!

Santa Claus—Oh, never mind, Dolly! It's all right. It really is! See what he finds inside the bag!

Dicky—Well, I don't see why I shouldn't have what I want. I'm going to show you what I asked for. It's nothing to be ashamed of, I think! (He pulls the bag down and tugs it toward the front of the stage. He opens it and pulls out a huge parcel. The parcel is marked "Greediness.") Well, I did get it out at last, didn't I? (He sees the words.) Oh! (He hangs his head and looks down at the parcel.) I don't want that; that's horrid!

Santa Claus—It's what you asked for, you know! You wanted all that was there, and that's what the Christmas fairy does when children ask for too much. I can't help it; I'll have to call her. She is in the sleigh up on the roof. (Calls up the chimney). Christmas Fairy! Christmas Fairy! Come down! Come down! I want you to make magic with Dick's stocking!

(A fairy, dressed in red and green, comes from the chimney. She dances around the children and Santa Claus, and waves her wand over the package the Dicky drew from the bag. She turns it over, and there appears the word "Unselfishness," printed on the brown paper.)

Santa Claus—That's the magic! Now open it, Dicky!

Dicky—Well, I will. (He unties the string and opens the big box. It is filled with toys. He reads aloud the tags on them.) For the little poor children—for the little orphans—for the sick children in hospitals—for those who are shut-in—for the people who will not have many presents. (He looks through them all hurriedly.) Oh, there's nothing at all here for me!

Santa Claus—Nothing at all?

Dolly—Sure?

Dicky—Oh, yes, there is! It's a letter. (Opens and reads aloud.)

"Dear Dicky,—I am giving you the biggest thing that Christmas can bring to anybody. It is the chance to think of other people and give to those whom you can make very happy. It is much better than having a great many toys and presents all for your own self. I invite you to go with me in my sleigh to help give them all away. SANTA CLAUS."

(Dicky waves the letter.) Oh, do you mean it? I'd love to go with you!

Dolly—May I go, too?

Santa Claus—We'll all go. We'll all have the fun together! It's such fun to give—far more fun to think of other people than to think of ourselves! You'll see how happy you can make all the others! Oh, I tell you, that's jolly!

Dicky—I am ashamed of that stocking. I'm going to hide it!

Santa Claus—No! Just hang up one that's the right size—that is all! That's the right share! I'll take you with me, and then we'll come back after we've given a bagful of toys away. And the Fairy will fill your stockings with lots of happiness!

Dick and Dolly—Why, we have that already, though the stockings look quite empty! Won't it be jolly to give everybody a Merry Christmas and play with Santa Claus! (They dance about him. He takes hands with them, and the fairy and they circle toward the fireplace, singing "Merry Christmas.")

(Curtain. After the curtain falls, Dicky comes out before the audience.)

Dick (holding up a stocking)—I hope, when you hang up your Christmas stocking, you will all find it filled full of Happiness. And remember that Dolly and I helped make it! Merry Christmas!

# Little Yuletide Cakes

Was there ever a little girl or boy who didn't coax mother to make "lots" of those spicy "gingerbread man" cookies, or plummy cakes stuffed full of fruit and spice and everything nice? Little folks always think that little cakes are their especial treat, so here are a number for the holiday time and other times, some old ones that have been favorites in homes for generations, and some newer ones.

However, any cookie dough may be cut in fancy shapes suggestive of the season, such as stockings, stars, trees or bells, and decorated with icings in a variety of tints and flavors.

### Fruit Sandwiches.

One cupful of sugar, one-half cupful of shortening, one egg, one-half cupful of milk, one teaspoonful of soda, two teaspoonfuls cream of tartar, one teaspoonful vanilla and about two and one-half cups of flour. Roll thin, put the cookies in a pan then place a teaspoonful of the following filling on each end cover with another cookie.

Filling—One cupful chopped raisins, one-half cup sugar, one-half cup of water, one teaspoonful of flour and a little lemon or orange juice. Cook until it thickens.

### Christmas Gingerbreads.

Beat two cupfuls of molasses and a cupful of softened butter in a bowl until they are well blended. Add a cupful of sour milk; stir in also a quarter of a cupful of hot water in which a level tablespoonful of soda has been dissolved. Add the grated rind of a lemon, cloves and ginger to flavor (some like a stronger spice flavor than do others), then stir in enough flour to make a stiff dough. Roll the dough out thin on the board and cut into fancy shapes. Place the cakes on a well greased dripping pan and bake in a moderate oven. When almost cold, frost lightly with pink and white icing and tiny candies.

### Maple Sugar Puffs.

One egg, one heaping cupful maple or brown sugar, one cup sour milk, one-third cup shortening, one and one-half teaspoonfuls of baking powder, one-half teaspoonful soda, one-fourth teaspoon salt, one cupful chopped nut meats, and flour enough to make a batter that will drop from the spoon—about two and one-third cupfuls. Melt shortening and sugar together, add egg and beat the mixture vigorously. Then add dry ingredients, sour milk and nut meats. Drop from a teaspoon on buttered pans and bake in a rather quick oven.

### Almond Cookies.

Yolks of three eggs, three-quarters of a cup of sugar, one-third cup butter, one-half cup of almonds blanched and chopped, one teaspoon cinnamon, and one and a half cups of flour. Beat well, drop small spoonfuls on a well-greased pan and bake lightly.

### Peanut Butter Cookies.

Cream together one tablespoonful of shortening, three tablespoonfuls of peanut butter and one and a half cupfuls sugar. Mix well with two unbeaten eggs, and then add three tablespoonfuls of sour milk in which one teaspoonful of soda has been dissolved. Beat in flour to make the dough stiff enough to roll. Bake about twenty minutes in a hot oven.

### Star Cookies.

One and a half cupfuls sugar, one cupful butter, three eggs, a pinch of salt, juice and grated rind of one lemon, one-half cupful boiling water, one teaspoon of soda, and enough flour to mix (not too stiff). Roll out and bake in a hot oven. When cold, frost with white icing. Before the icing hardens, decorate with small pink candies placed so as to form a star.

### Oatmeal Goodies.

One cupful of sugar, one-half cupful butter, seven tablespoonfuls of sour milk, one teaspoonful soda, one cupful oatmeal, one cupful shredded cocoanut, one cupful chopped raisins and two cupfuls of flour. Drop from a teaspoon in a buttered pan and bake in a moderate oven.

### Butterfly Cakes.

Cut any soft cookie dough in butterfly shapes. Place a strip of candied peel down the centre for the body. Raisins or pieces of date may be pressed into the dough to imitate the spots on the wings.

# Guarding Your Health in Winter Days

By MARION DALLAS.

Once more the changing seasons have brought us Winter. The sun has crossed the equator in its journey south, leaving us with shorter days and longer nights, frosty mornings and cold evenings.

The question has been asked: Does this change affect our human system? Assuredly it does. Like passengers on a steamer going across the Pacific Ocean, who must adjust themselves to the changes in climate they encounter, so we find it necessary to give some heed to the change of seasons.

It is commonly thought that all the change necessary is to put on a little more clothing, close down the windows, light the fire, and we are ready for winter. There are other things which require our attention, if we regard our health during the winter.

### Change the Air.

The first thing is fresh air. The problem of procuring fresh air is a difficult one, because the cold weather necessarily closes windows and doors. During the summer, the majority of people live out doors and have become accustomed to plenty of fresh air. This supply of fresh air must be kept up. No matter about blizzards and low temperature, fresh air must be had at any cost. To obtain this first, every member of the household should get out doors once a day. If business requires out door exercises all right. But if not, take a good brisk walk and fill the lungs with fresh air. Those who work in factories or school houses should at least walk one way.

This is not all. The living-rooms should be well ventilated. There are ventilators contrived which allow the air to enter the room without a direct draft. But for the benefit of those homes which do not boast of these (and alas, there are many farm houses where ventilation is never studied), one can be made without much expense. A piece of board fitted to the lower sash, so that the length of the board is exactly the width of the window, will answer very well. The board should be about six inches wide. Raise the window and allow it to rest on the board so that no draft can come under the window. This will produce an opening between the two window frames so that the air will be constantly entering the room but there will be no draft.

In the living-room, where families spend most of their time, two such windows should be arranged. In the bed-rooms, too, there should be such a window.

Another fact to be kept in mind is, that the fire, whether it be a stove or grate, is constantly creating a poisonous gas, carbonic acid gas. If the stove or grate, it makes no difference, is not allowed free draft, all the time this poisonous gas is continually escaping into the room. There must be free vent or the air will be poisoned. Don't forget this. Scientists tell us, and common sense proves it, that a house which is well aired is easier to heat than one filled with warm, dead air. Let in lots of sunshine.

Artificial light, either gas or coal-oil, creates a certain amount of poisonous air. It has been estimated that one gas light consumes as much air as seven people. Surely then it is important that our homes should be kept supplied with pure fresh air.

The temperature of the rooms should be carefully looked after. Thermometers should be hung in different parts of the house. The temperature of the sleeping room should be about forty or fifty degrees Fahrenheit. In the living rooms the temperature should be allowed to go as high as seventy, but never above eighty.

### Drink Plenty of Cold Water.

The next important thing at this time of the year, is the internal use of water. During the summer we use a great deal of water. Perspiration has consumed large quantities of water and the system has demanded drink. But now perspiration is practically stopped, much less water escapes from the system through the skin. This materially decreases the amount of thirst, but it does not decrease the amount of poisonous material that must be eliminated from the system.

By means of perspiration most of the uric acid poisoning escapes through the skin, but now more of this poison must find exit through the kidneys. A sudden transferring of the function of the skin to the kidneys endangers these very important organs. In the cold weather we eat more solid food. This too, increases the amount of poison that the kidneys must eliminate. Together with the fact that the skin renders less than usual assistance, makes it a very critical time for the kidneys, especially the first few weeks of cold weather.

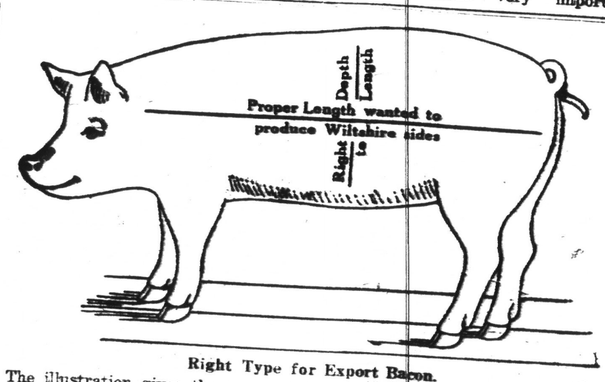
The kidneys ought to be assisted in this crisis. How can we assist them? Simply by drinking plenty of good pure water. Medicines that operate upon the kidneys only do harm. Diuretics in the long run will weaken the kidneys.

A glass of pure water just before each meal is the only medicine in the world that will assist the kidneys. Some people prefer to take cold water, either hot or cold water will assist. Dyspeptics will find hot water more agreeable. A glass at bedtime would not be out of place.

Cold water should also be used every morning. Gargle the throat. Rinse out the mouth. Those who do not take a cold bath every morning, should splash the neck and chest with cold water, and for those who already have nasal catarrh, snuffing cold water up the nose will be found useful. This fortifies the system against the action of cold air.

Don't imagine these precautions are overdrawn. They are just common prudence and are absolutely necessary to avoid the many ailments that are directly due to the winter season. It is always dangerous to catch cold. The liability to chronic and fatal diseases is greatly lessened if a cold can be avoided.

If people would allow themselves plenty of fresh air for the lungs, pure water for the kidneys, catching cold would almost be a thing of the past, and families who are forever going for the doctors would get through the winter with little or no illness.




Right Type for Export Bacon.

The illustration gives the type and conformation of the hog that alone will yield bacon to grade first in our export trade to Great Britain and is most wanted for our domestic trade also. The officially recognized standard for the type reads as follows: Jowl and shoulder light and smooth; back from neck to tail evenly fleshed; side long, medium depth, dropping straight from back, ham full, good general finish, no excess fat; weight 160-210 lbs. (These weights are on stockyards or at packing plants, farm weights will therefore rule 10 to 15 lbs. more.)

# The Sunday School Lesson

## DECEMBER 18

### Paul's Last Words, 2 Tim. 4: 6-18. Golden Text—2 Tim. 4: 7 (Rev. Ver.)

**Lesson Setting**—Tradition says that Paul was acquitted at the first imprisonment of two years described in Acts 28, and visited Spain (see Rom. 15: 28). From Spain the apostle seems to have gone to the east, visiting Corinth and Melitus (2 Tim. 4: 20), Troas 3). It was a heavy overcoat, which and Macedonia (1 Tim. 1: 3, etc.), Paul would need in his damp, cold Ephesus (2 Tim. 4: 13), and Crete dungeon. The books. There would (Titus 1: 5). After leaving Crete, he be the papyrus rolls in use for ordinecided to spend the winter at Nico- nary purposes. Especially the parchpolis (Titus 3: 12). Of the eight places ments; the more costly skins containbearing this name, Hastings' Bible ing likely portions of the Scriptures Dictionary decides for the one on the in Hebrew. Not even the near apwest coast of Achaia as the place proach of death turned the apostle chosen by Paul as his residence for away from the studies which he loved. the winter, while Dr. David Smith Va. 14, 15. Alexandria the coppersthinks that the Nicopolis in question smith; probably the Alexandria of 1 was in Syria-Cilicia. He was again Tim. 1: 20 and possibly Acts 19: 33, arrested, and after a second imprison- 34. Did me much evil; injuring the ment at Rome, suffered martyrdom apostle in deeds as well as words. The A.D. 68. The First Epistle to Tim- Lord reward him. It is the Lord's othy and the Epistle to Titus were business to punish, not the apostle's. written during the interval between Be thou ware also. It may be inferred the first and second imprisonments, that Alexander was in Timothy's the former probably from Macedonia neighborhood. Greatly withstood our to Ephesus, where Timothy was labor- words; strangely opposed the doc- ing, the latter from some unknown trines taught by Paul and also by all place, when Paul had decided to win- Christians.

ter at Nicopolis. The second Epistle to Timothy was written during the second imprisonment at Rome. The three Epistles are filled with advice concerning the way the young ministers, Timothy and Titus, should conduct the affairs of their congregations. Hence, along with Timothy, they are called the Pastoral Epistles.

**I. Paul's Conflict, 6, 7.**

V. 6. **Ready to be offered** (Rev. Ver. "already being offered"). I am being poured out as a drink offering. The reference is to the drink offering of wine which among the Jews frequently accompanied sacrifices (see Num. 15: 5; 28: 7). (Compare Phil. 2: 17). **Departure.** (See Phil. 1: 23.) The figure is taken from a ship going out to sea loosing the cables and weighing the anchor. So Paul looks across the narrow sea of death to the blissful port of heaven.

V. 7. **Fought a good fight.** Compare 1 Tim. 6: 12. The image may be from the Greek games, and if so, it refers to the mimic contests of war between combatants. **Finished my course;** the foot race which was a leading feature in the games. **Kept the faith;** the faith in the Son of God by which he had been saved, and by which he had lived (see Gal. 2: 20). The teaching which had meant so much for himself, he had kept, as a sacred "deposit" (1 Tim. 6: 20, Rev. Ver. Margin) to be handed on to others.

**II. Paul's Crown, 8.**

V. 8. **The crown of righteousness** (Rev. Ver.); either the crown that consists in the possession of righteousness like the "crown of life" (James 1: 12; Rev. 2: 10), or, more probably, the crown with which righteousness is rewarded, which marks its recipient as righteous in God's sight. **The righteous judge;** so different from the unrighteous Roman Emperor before whom Paul was so soon to stand. **That day;** the day of judgment. All . . . **that love his appearing;** all who look forward to the appearing of Christ. If we long for Christ's return, we shall receive the crown. Thus Paul, though standing on the verge of death, sees victory awaiting him, the object of his life is gained, and he rejoices to think of all those who, along with himself, and so many of them through his efforts, will receive the great reward.

**III. Paul's Companions, 9-15.**

Vs. 9-13. **Do thy diligence;** make an earnest effort. **To come shortly.** These pathetic words reflect the loneliness of Paul in his Roman dungeon. **Demas hath forsaken me.** Demas is mentioned in Col. 4: 13 and Philemon 24. He was apparently a native of Thessalonica. **Having loved this present world.** He chose earthly wealth or ease rather than the "crown of righteousness," v. 8. **Crescens. Titus.** No blame is laid on these for their absence. But the apostle was the lonelier for their going. **Luke;** the beloved physician and historian. He would feel that of all men, his place was with the apostle whose end was so near. **Take Mark;** to whom Paul was now fully reconciled and who had (Col. 4: 10), before this completely justified the risk run by Barnabas in giving him a chance to recover his character. **Tychicus;** the bearer of the Epistles to the Ephesians (see Eph. 6: 21, 22) and the Colossians, (see Col. 4: 7, 8). **The cloak . . . left at Troas;** when on his way to Macedonia. (compare Tim. 1: 3). Paul would need in his damp, cold dungeon. **The books.** There would be the papyrus rolls in use for ordinary purposes. Especially the parchments; the more costly skins containing likely portions of the Scriptures in Hebrew. Not even the near approach of death turned the apostle away from the studies which he loved.

Va. 14, 15. **Alexandria the coppersmith;** probably the Alexandria of 1 Tim. 1: 20 and possibly Acts 19: 33, 34. **Did me much evil;** injuring the apostle in deeds as well as words. The **Lord reward him.** It is the Lord's business to punish, not the apostle's. **Be thou ware also.** It may be inferred that Alexander was in Timothy's neighborhood. **Greatly withstood our words;** strangely opposed the doctrines taught by Paul and also by all Christians.

**IV. Paul's Confidence, 16-18.**

V. 16. **At my first answer;** the preliminary investigation before the Emperor or his representative, through which Paul had already passed. **No one took my part** (Rev. Ver.). There was no one to speak for Paul as his advocate. **All . . forsook me;** as the disciples forsook their Master, Mark 14: 50. **Not to be laid to their charge.** Compare Stephen's prayers for his enemies (Acts 7: 60), of whom Paul has been one.

V. 17. **The Lord (Christ) stood with me.** He did not fail when all others failed. **Strengthened;** according to the promise of 2 Cor. 12: 9. **Preaching . . . fully known.** All present at Paul's trial would hear the gospel, and what happened in Rome would become known throughout the world. **I was delivered.** At the "first answer" Paul was not condemned, but the decision was postponed. **The lion.** The meaning may be that he escaped being thrown to the lions of the Roman amphitheatre, the awful form of martyrdom which many early Christians suffered.

V. 18. **Unto his heavenly kingdom.** Paul is confident of God's help. Through death he will pass out of the power of his foes and enter the kingdom. The apostle was at last beheaded at Rome between A.D. 66 and A.D. 68.

### Application.

In his last words St. Paul had something to say in reference to the present, past and future. As to the present he is face to face with death, and is able without a tremor to look into the dark countenance of the shadow feared of man. I am already being offered and the time of my embarkation is at hand.

As to the past he is in a measure satisfied.

As to the future he is hopeful. No "wistful perhaps" fills the eyes with tears. "Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day." We note several things in St. Paul's vision of his certain future.

(a) "The day." "After that the dark." His eye pierced beyond the brief night to that eternal day. Do we as vividly anticipate the great to-morrow, or are our poor hopes sounded by a sleep?

(b). "The Lord," in the midst of that evolving glory even as he was seen amid the light at the Damascus Gate. The essence of heaven is not be gorgeous scenery, nor the glorious society of just men and women made perfect, but the fellowship of Jesus Christ.

(c). "The crown of righteousness." A crown woven out of righteousness for those who shall one day be made perfectly righteous in his sight. Let us not be like that man in the Pilgrim's Progress who could look no way but downwards and had a muck-rake in his hand. Over him stood one with a celestial crown on his hand, which he proffered him for the muck-rake; but the man did not look up nor regard but raked to himself the straws, the small sticks and dust of the floor of time.

## Modern Methods.

"These modern methods make me sick,"
Thus spake old Biddy Dominick.
"We used to please ourselves, you bet,
Folks took what fresh eggs they could get;
But now we stay up half the night
And lay our eggs by Mazda light.
This culling also I protest.
I'm getting old—I want to rest;
Yet if in laying I grow lax,
I'll be the next to get the axe."

Paint the roosts with crude oil to chase away chicken mites. Oil taken from the crank case of a car will serve.

"The requirements of a good farmer are at least four: The ability to make a full and comfortable living from the land; to rear a family carefully and well; to be of good service to the community; to leave the farm more productive than it was when he took it."
—Liberty Hyde Bailey.