

CHRISTMAS-TIDE

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Christmas-tide by Elizabeth Harrison

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ELIZABETH HARRISON

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BY

ELIZABETH HARRISON

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DEDICATED TO MY FATHER
FROM WHOSE HEART AND LIFE AGE CANNOT
BANISH THE
PERPETUAL CHRISTMAS-TIDE

—E. H.

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CHRISTMAS PRESENTS.

I.

CHRISTMAS PRESENTS.

Many mothers are sorely perplexed as the Christmas-tide approaches by the problem of how to select such presents for their children as will help them rather than hinder them in their much-needed self-activity. Let the toys be *simple, strong, and durable, that your child may not gain habits of reckless extravagance and destruction* which flimsy toys always engender. Remember a few good toys, like a few good books, are far better than many poor toys. Toys in which the child's own creative power has full play are far better than the finished toys from the French manufacturers. In fact, too complex a toy is like too highly seasoned food, too elaborately written books, too old society, or any other mature thing forced upon the immature mind. Your choice should be based, not so much on *what the toy is, as on what the child can do with it.* The instinctive delight of putting their own thought into their play-things instead of accepting the thought of the manufacturer explains why simple toys are