MY OWN TREASURY: A GIFT BOOK FOR BOYS AND GIRLS

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My own treasury: a gift book for boys and girls by Anonymous

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ANONYMOUS

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FOR BOYS AND GIRLS



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CHRISTMAS TIME.



Welcome, always welcome, Old Father Christmas! for with you come "the merry laugh and jocund sound," the sparkling yule-log and the mirth-creating misletce; with you do we have those smoking bowls of hot furmenty, and those ponderous platters of plum-pudding; with you it is that we join in the joyous gambols of the romping blindman's-buff, or in the sly merriment of the more humble hunt-the-slipper; again, with you do we—but stay, little use is it our here detailing the good things Old Father Christmas

brings, or the joyous customs of Christmas time. Well is it known that never is the laugh so merry, or the song so jovial, that never is the plum pudding so good, or are the charms of blindman's-buff, or hunt-the-slipper, so bewitching, as at the time of which we speak; and that never at any other time is merriment half as animating, as the mirth of a merry Christmas: and then there is the misletoe, that merry mischief maker; how many a time when we were young, would we tempt beneath its branch the fair form of some pleasing playmate, and then and there, with one of our blandest smiles, give her one of our sweetest kisses; for although we might disdain to do such an action at any other time, at Christmas it all was fair.

In those days of which we speak, when we were as young, ay, and as happy too as those for whom we now write, well do we remember how long before the time we thought of Christmas and its cheer; how many were the hours that we chatted with our school companion, about the places we should then visit, and the people we should then see; and how for days and weeks we were employed in preparing our tasks for the examination, determined when the holidays did come to take home a good character for persevenance and industry. But the first faint glimpse we had of Christmas, was in that wondrous letter. with its light up strokes and its firm down strokes, with its p's and q's placed in apple pie array, with its "dear papa," and its "dearest mamma," with its "I have the pleasure to inform you," and with its gratifying intelligence as to when the school would break up, and when the Christmas holidays would commence, with its telling of the progress made in Latin or in French, of the addition to the stores of arithmetic, or of the