

CHRISTMAS IN THE FARMHOUSE

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When as a child you read stories of Christmas celebrations where the houses were decorated with holly and mistletoe and the people had such jolly times putting them up, don't you look around your own house and wonder how that would look if trimmed with those same greens? And don't you long to smell their spicy fragrance and to have a hand in putting them up where you thought they would look the best? And don't you long to feel that peculiar Christmas spirit that is in the very air in cities and villages for more than a week before Christmas day itself? And then did you just settle back and say to yourself, "Well it's no use, "As long as I live on a farm Christmas must be just the same as it always has been an exchange of gifts and afterward an unusually big dinner."

I want to tell you that you are mistaken that you can have just those very same things, even in bringing in the old time Yule log, if you are so fortunate as to have an open fireplace in the farmhouse.

City people pay from 35 cents to \$1 for a small house Christmas tree and every one who can afford to buys a tree every year for his children. How often do farmers children have trees? And why not. Because the parents say, "We haven't gifts enough to make a pretty tree." Many people never put a gift on simply make it a tree of beauty for the children. Strings of popcorn, wishbones and canes gilded, gold stars, anything bright and shiny hung on a tree delights a child, a bag of popcorn with a few candies in it tastes five times as good if it has only once hung on a tree. Even if the gift must be underwear, shoes and things actually needed to wear, have them come as surprises and in as "Christmassy" looking packages as possible. It is well to keep the Christmas spirit in the home.

It seems a pity for us country people, surrounded by these beautiful things deemed luxurious by our city friends to make no use whatever of them and to let our lives become so common place. Christmas is not solely a time for gift giving and receiving and eating. It is a day for doing everything in your power to add to the joy of the children, a day to remember the feeble and lonely old people, a day to think of the strangers and the poor. If you haven't money to spend for gifts for them you can give some of yourself and of your own home Christmas cheer. I trust the farm homes will not be lacking in Christmas cheer that all of them will truly "Keep Christmas."

By Bertha G. Markham in Country Gentleman.

Note: I thought this article showed some insight on the Christmas tradition in the year of 1915.

*Read more about Putnam Co., TN at: <http://www.ajlambert.com>