OF GIFTS.

(Continued from Page 3) says he can't be flattered is flattered if you tell him that he can't be flattered.

spirit in your home, study to ap- had but one performance and was And left their flocks a-feeding, preciate every soul in it. You may heard only by a handful of aston- In tempest, storm and wind; have no money wherewith to buy ished shepherds. Yet on this single And went to Bethlehem straightway, presents, but if you put on the dispo- majestic, jubilant burst of song is The Blessed Babe to find. sition to find excellent and admirable founded all of the Christmas music qualities in all you meet, you will that was ever written! get more genuine human joy into the house than if you filled it from cellar to garret with gold.

you realize how lonely a thing it is ger of the Lord had announced the to grow old, and how one drifts and birth of the Christchild. It was drifts away? Get out of yourself. Give her your interest. Sit with heard before, sung by a choir such. All you within this place, her. Talk with her. Listen to her. Try to understand her.

and flaps his little hands up and down, all because somebody is paying him some attention.

Christmassy Christmas of your life, were the first to know! to be fullest of joy and cleanest of all disappointment and inward wounds, the very best and brightest season of all the year, as indeed it should be, just undertake, first of all, to forget your own self—and set about to find something in every human being with whom life brings you in contact, that you can appreciate.

You pass through this life but once. God sends you this and that man or woman to touch you here and there. Are you a fool, to despise them? Or are you wise, to make of every human relationship a vehicle in some measure of that love and helpfulness that transforms the world?

If into every family could come this most precious of gifts-appre-What sore and suffering hurts might regarding their origin: be lightened! What inner bitter- The Oldest English Christmas Carol. ness urged! And how the gentle

loves us all!

The first Christmas song was sung The shepherds at these tidings If you want the real Christmas nearly two thousand years ago. It Rejoiced much in mind,

You have guessed, of course, that Where this dear infant lay, the first Christmas carol was the an- They found Him in a manger, them of the angels sung to the shep- Where oxen feed on hay; Grandma wants appreiation. Do herds of Palestine when the messen- His mother Mary kneeling down, music such as mortal man had never Now to the Lord sing praises, as men have never heard since.

But more to the shepherds than Even the baby wants appreciation. the beauty of the music, even more Why, look how he crows and gurgles than the wonder of the opening until he almost chokes with glee, heavens and the blinding brilliance, was the joyous news . . . the news . . the news of the Saviour's birth The long-promised Messiah had come So, if you want this to be the most to earth and they, of all men living,

> "Glory to God in the highest And on earth, peace, Good will toward men"

By this first Christmas music, many composers have been inspired to write. In every Christian land there is Christmas music, some of it seemingly old as the nations themselves. The earliest celebrations of Christmas were distinctly religious and Christmas music was church music. When the followers of Christ were scattered to the four winds through the Middle Ages, their songs of praise were carried in their hearts and gradually blended into the folkmusic of their adopted countries.

Following is reproduced the Christmas songs of four nations ciation! What widening chasms of England, the United States, France, estrangement might be closed! Germany; also a bit of information

"God Rest ye Merry, Gentlemen"

God rest ye merry, gentlemen, Let nothing you dismay, For Jesus Christ our Saviour, Was born upon this day: To save us all from Satan's power When we were gone astray.

In Bethlehem, in Jury, This blessed Babe was born, And laid within a manger Upon this blessed morn; To which His mother Mary Nothing did take in scorn.

From God our Heavenly Father, A blessed angel came; And unto certain shepherds Brought tidings of the same: How that in Bethlehem was born The Son of God by Name.

APRECIATION, THE GREATEST and genial Spirit of the Christ Child "Fear not," then said the angel, would spread through and among "Let nothing you affright, us all. like a widening, shining river, This day is born a Saviour reflecting back the sunshine of that Of virtue, power and might; Eternal Love that shines ever down To free all those who trust in Him upon us from Him who made and From Satan's power and might."

But when to Bethlehem they came, Unto the Lord did pray.

(Continued on Page 7)

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