





satisfied, they flew up into the tall fir and pine trees of the garden; hymns of thanks and praise to their kind benefactress.

Afterwards Madame Lehmann went into her music room and gave a few lessons to some chosen pupils, while Rosa listened, enchanted, to these song birds of another kind. She almost laughed at the funny exercises, but the real song part she enjoyed. After a light luncheon they went for a walk; the two Lehmann sisters, with Rosa. The two little dogs happily dancing along beside them.

They walked quite into the country, through the fine, wide streets of the town. By the time they returned it was getting late and the wonders of Christmas Eve were to begin. First the fine dinner and then the tree. She had seen much scurrying back and



Artist HANS VOLKMER

Courtesy of S. HIRZEL, Publisher

Lilli Lehmann and Dakel Baby

forth of the servants and now Madame Marie warned Madame Lilli that both she and Rosa were not to venture near a certain big parlor, where the tree was being trimmed. They were among the special guests and must be surprised.

Rosa dressed hurriedly, putting on her very best dress of pale pink cashmere, with white lace at the neck and wrists and a huge pink silk sash tied in a big bow at the back, white stockings and high white shoes completed the costume, and she felt very grand, indeed, as she went down to dinner at the sound of the tinkling little silver bell.

Her cheeks were crimson with excitement and her blue eyes shone with happiness. She did not realize what a pretty picture she made as she hesitated in the door-way of the dining-room, but her hostesses smiled with pleasure and she was placed in the seat of honor between them.

Such a beautiful table! A large wreath of holly formed the centerpiece, the bright green leaves and red berries gay against the white cloth, tall silver candlesticks repeating the Christmas colors in their red candles; candies and spiced or pickled fruits placed here and there in crystal or silver dishes. Rosa's family were well-to-do farmers but they did not have the elegance of this table and Rosa, a little

artist in the making, absorbed with delight the beauty about her.

The dinner! Well, it wasn't half over when Rosa wondered how she was going to eat another mouthful. Such a marvelous meal, ending with the big plum pudding, and ice cream in dainty little forms; Rosa had a white swan with a red cherry in its mouth. Then cakes of all descriptions. And for the little guest a large wreath coffee cake, covered with nuts and filled with goodies, to take home to her family. How happy that made Rosa that her dear ones could share in the feast.

At last it was over and they assembled in the parlor, some friends arriving who had been invited for the tree, and with the servants bringing up the rear they proceeded to the other room.

As they were about to open the door Madame Lilli said "Wait," and gently covered Rosa's eyes with her hand. Then, "Now, look!"

And Rosa looked! Never had she seen such a Christmas tree. Never had she imagined one so gorgeous! Straight to the ceiling it rose, its dark, sweet smelling branches laden with glittering ornaments and sparkling tinsel snow; the candlelights reflecting color upon color and at the very top a shining silver star, the Star of Bethlehem; and around and about the tree packages galore.

What an hour of pure delight Rosa had! Gifts, more than even her kind parents had ever dreamed of, were all for her. Toys, books, candies and dainty things to wear; a pretty purse with her name engraved upon it, filled with shining pieces of silver and one big gold piece; gay ribbons, a complete winter outfit of ruby colored velvet—dress, hat and coat. And with this wonder costume went bronze boots with tassels!

No little girl of today, when children have so many pretty things, can ever know what those bronze boots meant to Rosa.

To crown all there was a dainty little gold bracelet and a locket that hung on a velvet ribbon from Madame Lilli's own neck. This is still worn, a gift beyond price, by Rosa.

There were beautiful presents for everyone and Rosa shyly gave two boxes of delicious Austrian sweetmeats to the Lehmann sisters that her mother had carefully prepared and put in her valise.

The little dogs had their share, too, but Munchie and Baby nearly quarreled over their cookies and it took quite a few moments to calm the growls. At the height of the festivities Rosa saw Lilli Lehmann slip a heavy wrap over her shoulders and quietly go out of the room. The maid, Elsa, noticed her look of wonder and said in a low voice: "Madame Lehmann is going to see the poor gentleman next door."

"Oh, is there a poor gentleman next door?" asked Rosa, "It is such a fine, big house I thought they were rich people."

Elsa laughed. "He is a *poor rich* old gentleman, for he is sick and all alone except for the servants. His wife and children are dead. Madame Lehmann and her sister run in to see him every day; she had a little basket of gifts and dainty sweets in the hall to take over."

This was a new thought. The wonderfully fine place, all the wealth in the world, and yet the owner was poor and lonely. Why she was far richer in her

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## ADDRESS TO TEACHERS

As delivered by Dolores Wilkins Kent at the Rosecrucian Fellowship, San Francisco, during the week dedicated to the Animal Kingdom.

Upon the balance wheel of kindness rests today the destiny of the world. We are witnessing the dawn of a new peace movement, sponsored by the leaders of thought and backed by the aspirations of all civilized humanity.

If the seeds of kindness had been planted in the youthful heart of Caesar, the history of Rome might have been different. The bloody imprint of cruelty is on every page of the book of life.

Juvenile crime is seriously troubling state and federal government; the narcotic evil is grasping in its pale distorted hands the very flower of the nation. It is imperative that statesmen, educators and parents should work together to save the most cherished possession—the child.

In order to do this a weapon to protect itself must be given to the one in danger and one of the surest weapons seems to be humane education. Its value as a cornerstone in the character building of the child is being proven in our public schools.

We are having the pleasure of seeing the seeds that the Latham Foundation planted some years ago ripen to a beautiful harvest in many of the surrounding schools.

The reports from superintendents, principals and teachers show the ethical value of humane education in developing the relations of the child to its classmate, teacher and parents as well as to the animal.

Our school magazine, story-board and play projects, poster and essay contests and the Kind Deeds Club established in the schools by our lecturer, all this work co-relating and blending with the curriculum of study, are developing the sense of responsibility, personal relationship, and kindness in the pupil, not only for the animals or bird pets he may have or contact, but in all human relationships. This sense of responsibility toward others involves a right amount of self-sacrifice and of the understanding of the oneness of all creation.

Humane education, rightly understood, means kindness, love, mercy and justice; these principles implanted in the heart and mind of the child will never be forgotten. They will firmly become a part of his nature.

Youth has never needed a guide more than today, when the aftermath of war, the luxuries and conveniences of our modern life, the very achievements of science place a thousand-fold more pitfalls for its feet than ever before. Hu-

mane education is undoubtedly one of the lights to guide these footsteps safely along life's way.

I should like to illustrate just what it means by an incident that has happened in one of our schools.

Our lecturer was told that a certain child would be quite impossible to do anything with, that he had just come to the school, but that they were finding him very much like "a rotten apple in a box," he was rapidly inciting the other children to disobedience and rebellion.

Our lecturer watched the boy; he was about 10 years of age; he seemed very surly and sneered openly at her work, trying to distract the attention of the pupils near him. This continued for several visits and she felt her grip upon the pupils slipping, due to this one influence. One morning when she arrived a little girl brought into the classroom a sparrow that had injured a wing so that it could not fly, but could hop and walk perfectly.

For some reason it was quite fearless and while she was talking hopped down the aisle straight to this boy's desk, it stood looking saucily up at him and chirping. The other children held their breath fearing that he would hurt the bird, but he sat quietly.

Suddenly our lecturer had an inspiration. She said, "He likes you; I really think that he will have to be your bird; will you take good care of him?"

This was the key that unlocked the heart of the boy. The bird chose him; she trusted him to take care of it; responsibility, love and kindness were developed. Today this boy is one of the most trusted and liked pupils in the school and the president of the Kind Deeds Club of his class. His character was gradually changed by the understanding and responsibility developed by humane education.

One lad in another of our county schools surely has the club spirit at heart. His neighbors are an elderly couple and the old gentleman is seriously crippled by rheumatism. This boy has been tending their garden and is planting vegetables, refusing to take any money in payment for this kind service.

So in time will this future generation becoming the citizens of tomorrow banish the cruelties that man in his ignorance inflicts upon man and in such large measure upon the animal.

Universal kinship must be born and fostered in the heart of man, then and only then will the world know lasting peace.

## ROSA'S CHRISTMAS EVE

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little farm home, for she had father, mother and brother. A warm glow stole into her heart and an intense pity for those who were lonely on Christmas Eve. But Madame Lehmann didn't forget; she went quietly away, not to disturb her guests, to bring cheer to her sick old neighbor.

Elsa, seeing the child's absorbed expression, went on. "Ah, Madame Lilli and Madame Marie are so good; they forget no one. This morning early the big baskets filled with good things for Christmas dinners went to all the poor people in the village and they send money to children and the poor in homes and hospitals in many cities. They are such kind ladies; they know what Christmas really means."

Rosa sat quietly holding her pretty gifts and watching the brilliant scene before her, Elsa's words ringing in her ears. "The real meaning of Christmas." Yes, that was it—"making others happy." That was the secret of it all. Why everyone loved the Lehmann sisters. They thought of others first; their loved ones, friends, servants, animals, birds, every living creature that God had made. Ever onward spread their loving thought and care to the poor, the old, the ill, lonely and feeble.

The real meaning of Christmas! Rosa's head began to nod. It had been a long and wonderful day filled with marvelous new scenes and many new thoughts. Overcome with it all, Rosa grew sleepy.

Suddenly a sweet voice said, "Come, dear." It was Lilli

Lehmann, with her arm about the little girl, they went upstairs together and a happy, drowsy Rosa hardly knew how she undressed or slipped into the warm, big bed.

The lovely singer's own hands tucked in the covers and her gentle kiss and whispered "Gute nacht, klines kind, schlofe woll." "Good night, little child, sleep well," like a lullaby, wafted her into dreamland.

The next morning Rosa went home so that she might spend the rest of Christmas with her family. She parted with her splendid friends with tears, but knew that she would return and that they would remain loyal and true friends forever.

Do you wonder why a famous artist like Madame Lilli Lehmann invited a simple little country girl like Rosa to her home, showered her with beautiful gifts and became her life-long friend? Because through her correspondence with Rosa she found a rare and fine spirit of kindness and love in her character. She was a real Kind Deeds Club member, although we were not known in Austria so many years ago.

Now, far away across the ocean in a foreign land, a sweet faced old lady remembers the trip to Germany; the sparkling sunshine upon the snow of that winter's day. She closes her eyes. Smiling, with outstretched hands of welcome, her loved dogs beside her; the happy birds singing in the trees above her, comes a beautiful woman—Lilli Lehmann—great singer, great heart and great woman!

On the sides of the big picture of Rosa's home you will see little pictures of tiles. How many can you match to the tiles on the stove?

The Latham Foundation for the Promotion of Humane Education  
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