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Twelve Points

Author Unknown

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CHRISTMAS CAROLS.

GOD REST YOU MERRY GENTLEMEN.

God rest you, merry Gentlemen,
Let nothing you dismay:
Remember Christ our Saviour
Was born on Christmas day,
To save our souls from Satan's power,
Which long had gone astray:
This brings tidings of comfort and joy.

From God who is our Father,
The blessed Angels came,
Unto some certain shepherds,
Brought tidings of the same;
That there was born in Bethlehem,
The son of God by name:
This brings tidings, &c.

Fear not, then said God's angels,
Let nothing you affright;
This night is born a Saviour,
Of a pure Virgin bright;
He's able to advance you,
And throw down Satan quite:
This brings tidings, &c.

The shepherds at these tidings,
Rejoiced much in mind,
And left their flocks a feeding,
In tempests, storms of wind;

And straightway come to Bethlehem,
The Son of God to find:
This brings tidings, &c.

And when they came to Bethlehem
Where our dear Saviour lay,
They found him in a manger,
Where oxen fed on hay;
The blessed Virgin kneeling by,
Unto the lord did pray.
This brings tidings, &c.

With sudden joy and gladness.
The shepherds were beguil'd,
To see the babe of Israel,
Before his mother mild;
O then with joy and cheerfulness,
Rejoice each mother's child:
This brings tidings, &c.

Now to the Lord sing praises,
All you within this place,
Like we, true loving brethren,
Each other to embrace;
For the merry time of Christmas,
Is drawing on apace:
And God send you a happy New Year.

TWELVE POINTS.

My gift is small, a dozen of points,
Wherein I'd have you knit ye,
And keep each point in its due joint;
So pure and just your life shall be.

The first point is, see that you keep,
And every night before you sleep,
See that you ask God forgiveness,
For all your sins and wickedness.

The second is, that I say,
Look, when thou seest the cheerful day,
Rise up and praise the God of might,
Who hath defended thee this night.

The third point that I thee require,
Down on thy bended knees desire,
The God of heaven may be your stay,
For to preserve you night and day.

The fourth point bids them to beware
And to avoid all subtle snares;
For Satan with his crafty power,
Seeketh men's souls for to devour.

The fifth point doth good council give,
Wear it for ever while you live,
And keep your conscience firm and pure,
Then God will bless you to be sure.

The sixth point that I'd have thee will,
Is for to use no subtle skill;
Nor for to work thy neighbour's woe,
As sure, take heed, and do not so.

The seventh saith, defraud no man,
But deal as justly as you can;
The widow and the fatherless defend,
Then God will bless you in the end.

The eight forbids the more or less,
For to avoid all drunkenness;
For drunkards are abhorred of God,
On whom he lays his heavy rod.

The ninth saith, fornication fly,
The wicked harlot will make thee dry;
Thy body will consume I say,
And bring thy soul unto decay.

The tenth says thus, do not forswear
False witness against no man bear;
Let no pretensions sway thy mind,
The eyes of justice for to blind.

The eleventh says, doth not desire,
Thy neighbour's for to require:
The tenth commandment still observe,
So shalt thou thrive and never starve.

The twelfth says, fear the God of might,
And truly serve him day and night;
Obey the King as 'tis thy part,
To thy country bear a faithful heart.

When these thy points you have possessed,
That is this night before you rest,
Keep well each point in its degree,
So knit them fast, and guarded be.