



In the First Christmaside.

With timbrel and with labor, with vio and with lute, Bend out of heaven, dear Spirits, across your frosty light...



There, he is gone, and I won't see him for a whole week, and the brown-eyed, slender young girl on the station platform dabbed a gathering tear from each eyelid...

George and Myra had always been inseparable companions, had grown up almost side by side, and gone through school together...

But why should George leave his sweetheart? The truth is, there was a condition attached to their betrothal which George insisted upon...

"Forever, George," replied the maiden, looking up into his face with a loving smile and snuggling up closer. "But it will not take that long. You know I have saved a little money out of my school teaching, and you have quite a large sum in Mr. Plumb's hands..."

The truth is the money was all gone, all their savings had been swept away. There had been trouble in Myra's family about which she knew little. Her uncle John had been drawn into a scheme, a shady transaction bordering upon a criminal offense...

Myra was ignorant of all this, for it had been kept a secret, and as Uncle John had departed for some unknown section of the great West, never letting anyone know his location, George considered his money lost, and that he would have to begin all over again, which meant a postponement of...



"There, he is gone," his marriage to the girl he so dearly loved.

There was his job in Plumb's grocery, and Myra's salary, but his wages were small, without prospect of increase, and Myra's salary as school-teacher would cease on her marriage. He was to be gone one week only. That was the understanding, and during that week he was to accomplish wonders and lay the foundations for a modest fortune. He had carefully read the newspapers, the columns of which glittered with opportunities to...

make enormous fortunes out of a small investment. He knew just where to go, and exactly what to do. Everything that glittered was pure gold to him.

The week flew away and no George. Instead, Myra received a letter, her first love letter, one full of protestations of everlasting love, and containing the information that he would be obliged to remain in Chicago another week, as he had something in view which would be lost if he went away from it.

Another week, and still no George. The letter which came in his place was very vague, though as full of love as the first. This did not reassure the girl, and she began to think something besides business was keeping him. Why did he write such incomprehensible things? What did he mean by telling her to have a little patience and he would bring back ten times the money they had worked three years to save? What did he mean by talking about diamond rings, silk dresses, velvet carpets and other extravagant luxuries she had never dreamed of possessing, and did not care about. What in the world was an "automobile" that he talked about paying fifteen thousand dollars for and that would make a mile a minute? She was uneasy and consulted her father.

"Don't you worry, Myra," said the old man after reading the letter. "To be sure, he does write kind of wild like, but he ain't going to do any of them things he mentions. The rush and shine of the city has gone to his brain. He's seen the automobiles and the skyscrapers, perhaps he has bought an interest in the Masonic Temple, they all do it, I've done it myself," and the old man chuckled at the recollection of his green, salad days when he swallowed gold bricks as a turkey does corn. "He didn't have more than fifty dollars with him, and when that's gone he'll have to come home."

This was all the comfort Myra got from her father, and she tried to be satisfied with his assurances that everything would come out all right. But another week followed the others, and this time there was neither George nor a letter. She said little, but thought much, and she made up her mind that she would not permit...



"Don't you worry, Myra," her life's happiness to slip through her hands without making an effort to prevent it.

Leaving the station where she had waited for the train that did not bring George, she walked into Mr. Plumb's store resolutely and cross-examined him.

"Why George and me have settled up our business. He drew out all the money left in my hands and borrowed all I could spare. I guess he ain't coming home no more unless he brings a carload of money with him. From what he writes I guess he's taking in all the sights and ain't leaving any of 'em out."

Returning home, Myra solemnly walked into the kitchen, where the family were at supper, having given her up, and calmly announced:

"I am going to Chicago to-morrow morning, father, and I'd like to have some money."

"For the land's sake, Myra!" exclaimed her mother anxiously. "What is it? Have you heard bad news from George?"

"No, mother, I haven't heard anything at all from him, that's why I'm going. It's no use making any objections," she continued hurriedly, as her father was about to speak. "I've made up my mind. I know something is wrong or George would write me. You know what happened to Uncle John?" and she broke into a flood of tears which she had been restraining all day.

"George!" exclaimed a handsome young lady in a surprised, glad voice, grasping the arm of a dejected-looking young man on a street corner, one of many who stood there waiting.

"Myra!" stammered the youth turning suddenly with flushed face and looking into the brimming eyes of the girl he loved. "What are you doing here?"

"I came for you, George. I left everything to come and find you. Come, let us go home. We can take a train in an hour," and she gently pulled at his coat sleeve, but he held back stubbornly.

"No, I won't go back home," said he doggedly. "I've been a fool. It's just as well to tell you, though, then you can say good-bye. Come into the restaurant yonder. We cannot talk in this crowd. They are already gazing at us suspiciously. We can order a cup of coffee and stay as long as we like."

"I expect I'm done for, Myra, and the best thing you can do is to go back home and forget me."

"Never," declared the girl positive-

ly. "I came for you and I am going to remain with you."

"Wait until you hear how stupid I have been; you may change your purpose." But Myra shook her head with decision.

"There's nothing to tell, except that I have come for you, and you must go back home with me or I shall stay here with you. If you still love me, George," she hesitated and she blushed rosy red, "we don't have to wait until we have the money for a cottage, we can—"



"George!" timidly into his face without finishing the sentence.

"Myra, darling, would you marry me just as I am, without money or prospects?" and George pressed her hand tenderly.

"Of course I would, and I will marry you this moment if you say so. I have left everything to tell you that I cannot let you leave me again."

So the two young hearts were united and they worked when they had work to do, which was not often, but they encouraged each other, and hoped on without repining. Their greatest worry was their landlady, who treated them like criminals when the rent fell behind a few dollars.

Early that morning they had received notice that on the day after Christmas they would have to vacate, the landlady explaining that she did not have the heart to turn anybody out of the house on that holy day. It was small comfort to them, for it mattered little whether it was Christmas or the day after, they would not be any better off.

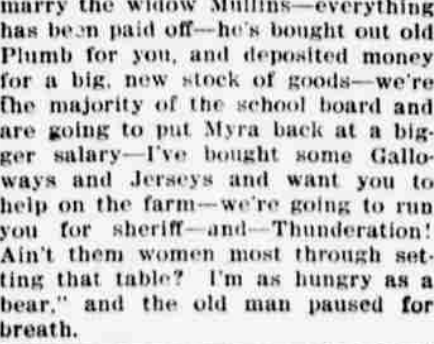
Later in the afternoon the two young people sat talking about their future prospects, not forgetting the far-off cottage. Myra placed on the table a loaf of bread, some butterine and a pot of weak tea. "This is our Christmas eve banquet," said she with a merry laugh. "And our last scintilla of coal," declared George, with equal levity. "To-morrow we will find a warm corner in some church and stay in it until we are thrown out, then next day—" "Oh, George, the next day will be the landlady," wailed Myra. "What shall we do?"

At that moment heavy footsteps were heard in the hall, and a thunder-knock sounded on the door.

"Heavens!" exclaimed Myra, "the landlady. She has changed her mind and will put us out to-night."

The door was flung open, and in stumbled two men laden with baskets and bundles, with Mrs. Dwight's motherly form in the rear. With a cry Myra was in her father's arms, and George was wringing his father's hand.

"Now you two women set the table," said he, breaking away from his son and taking charge. "We've come for you, George, and we're all going back home to-night. Them's the orders of both mothers, and they must be obeyed. Uncle John has come back with a mint of money—he's going to marry the widow Mullins—everything has been paid off—he's bought out old Plumb for you, and deposited money for a big, new stock of goods—we're the majority of the school board and are going to put Myra back at a bigger salary—I've bought some Gallo-ways and Jerseys and want you to help on the farm—we're going to run you for sheriff—and—Thunderation! Ain't them women most through setting that table? I'm as hungry as a bear," and the old man paused for breath.



"Our Christmas eve banquet. A happy party at that humble table on that Christmas eve, and a happier party the next day around the Christmas board. Mrs. Dwight was carried along in spite of her protests that she had no clothes, for it was she who had kept track of the young couple, whose parents waited to give them this particular surprise. Even the landlady was in the plot, and wept when her roomers left never to return, except in the shape of a good donation every Christmas eve.

Before the next spring had passed, the "cottage" had become a reality.

FREMONT GETS IT

New York Capitalists Decide on Fremont for Location

15000 HORSE POWER PLANT

To Furnish Electricity to Lincoln, Omaha, Council Bluffs, Columbus, Fremont and Other Near Cities

The board of arbitration, consisting of T. W. Klowman, of the John F. Kelly Engineering company, New York, and George H. Kimball, the well known western engineering expert, met in New York and decided to make an award in favor of the Fremont Canal and Power company, which concern will build a large hydraulic plant for the purpose of generating electric energy for light, traction and general power purposes in and around Lincoln, Omaha, Council Bluffs, Columbus, Fremont and several other cities in Nebraska.

The Fremont proposition was considered more feasible than the one submitted by the Nebraska Central irrigation company, which concern proposed to build a big plant at Columbus. The Fremont Canal and Power company was recently incorporated under the laws of the state of Nebraska, with a capital of four million dollars. The president of the company is W. J. C. Kenyon, general manager of the Union Stock yards, South Omaha, Neb., and L. D. Richards, a Fremont banker, is also largely interested in the project. Several Lincoln men are stockholders.

The company has awarded the contract for the construction and equipment of its plant, etc., to the John F. Kelly Engineering company. The initial capacity will be 15,000 horse-power every twenty-four hours. The site selected is on the Platte, some hundred feet south of Elm creek, on the south bank of the south branch of the Platte river. The hydraulic installation will consist of eight six-hundred horse-power units. The electrical installation will comprise eighty-six cycle generators, capable of developing 3,200 kilowatts each. The generators are to be connected to step-up transformers raising the voltage at about 40,000 volts. This voltage will be again reduced at Omaha to correspond with the voltage used in the city. A diverting dam is to be built across the Platte river at a cost of upwards of \$100,000.

A canal will also be constructed about twenty-five miles in length. This will entail an expenditure of nearly \$1,200,000. The large reservoir to be built at Elm Creek will cost some \$600,000, and another reservoir will be constructed at Pocoho will mean a disbursement of nearly \$500,000. The power house is estimated to cost about \$100,000. About \$150,000 will be expended on the hydraulic plant and \$400,000 on the electrical equipment. Construction work will begin in the early spring and inside of two years the entire system is expected to be in operation. Before completion nearly \$3,500,000 will have been expended.

National Anti-Saloon Meeting At the session of the national anti-saloon league in Washington, D. C., the report of the committee on resolutions was adopted. These pronounced the saloon to be the greatest criminal the world has known. Congress was commended for refusing to repeal the anti-saloon laws and asked to further appropriate for post exchanges and suitable places for recreation and amusement for the soldiers. The resolutions expressed joy that the saloon had been driven from the United States capitol building, commended Secretary Moody for his action in regard to the betterment of the morals in the navy yards at Bremerton, Wash., and urged the prohibition of the sale of liquors within two miles of army posts and naval yards. They also approved the Doolivar-Hepburn bill, making intoxicating liquors shipped into a state, subject to the laws of the state both before and after delivery.

Society to Stamp Out Crime Citizens of Chicago are banding themselves into leagues for the purpose of stamping out crime. The activity of the men is due largely to the raids of the Neidermeier gang and, after their capture, by a pair of hold-ups, who killed Attorney James A. Fullenwider at Forty-second street and Wabash avenue, within a block of his home. Mr. Fullenwider had gone out to see about some changes in the flat he owns and while returning was held up by the two men. After they had stopped him at the point of their revolvers, he took what he thought was a good opportunity and ran. Instead of pursuing him one of the thugs emptied his revolver at the fleeing man. Four bullets took effect in his back and he fell to the ground fatally injured. The footpads ran into an alley and escaped, having made no effort to rob the attorney after he had fallen.

Threaten to Withdraw Financial Support The faculty of Washburn college, Topeka, Kansas, ordered that the socialist club of the college discontinue its meetings. It is said to be the result of letters being received from eastern financial supporters of the college, saying they would withdraw aid unless the club was suppressed. The organization was formed by admirers of Rev. Charles M. Sheldon and was conducted according to his ideas. Some of the leading students of the college were members.

Draw the Line on White Officers It appears that Colorado is to have no colored contingent in her national guard. Two companies of colored men had been enlisted and were at the armory in Denver to be mustered in. Colonel Bloom was present as mustering officer when Major Charles Jones, a colored man, to whose efforts the formation of the companies were largely due, announced that he had learned that Governor Peabody intended to officer the companies with white men. The colored recruits at once refused to enter the service.

The Limit Generously Extended Renewed interest in the Nebraska state university temple fund has been aroused by the offer of Mr. Rockefeller to extend the time in which the \$23-333 must be raised. Under the terms at first made by the millionaire, the amount of money to be subscribed by students and citizens was to be procured before January 1, 1904. Just how long Mr. Rockefeller has allowed the promoters of the project is not known, though it is supposed that enough time will be given to make the extension worth while. Half of the money needed has already been subscribed, and with the "boost" given the fund by the literary societies, the committee thinks the entire amount can be secured without much difficulty by the time Mr. Rockefeller's offer expires.

Iowa Machinist Inherits Fortune Frank Bradley, a machinist in the employ of the Ottumwa, Ia., iron works, has fallen heir to a fortune estimated at one million dollars. His uncle, Thomas Bradbury, of New York, a piano manufacturer, named him direct heir in the will.

Tod Sloan Gets \$40,000 Damages The court which has been hearing the arguments in the case of "Tod" Sloan, the American jockey, against the French Jockey club of Paris, for \$40,000 damages for being warned off the turf in connection with Rose de Mai's winning the Prix de Diane at Chantilly in May last, found in favor of Sloan, and condemned the jockey club to pay the costs and damages, the amount of which will be assessed later. The case involved the jockey club's sole control of the French turf administration.

THE GREAT MERGER CASE

Upon the Decision of the Supreme Court Depends Freedom of Trade

The supreme court began hearing arguments in the case of the Northern Securities company, James J. Hill, J. Pierpont Morgan, Daniel S. Lamont and others, versus the United States, coming to that court on appeal from the decision of the circuit court for the district of Minnesota. That decision was to the effect that the purchase of the greater share of the stock of the two railroad companies constituted a merger and was contrary to the Sherman anti-trust law. The case involves the community of interest principle. The court room was crowded both inside and outside the bar. Attorney General Knox was present with quite an array of assistants from his office, while the opposition also was represented by a long list of distinguished counsel.

The brief of the government in the case was prepared by Attorney General Knox and Assistant Attorney General Day, and covers 180 printed pages.

After stating that the bill in the case was originally brought by the government to restrain the violation of the anti-trust law by the securities company in the consolidation of the Northern Pacific and the Great Northern railroads and that the decision of the court below was favorable to the contention of the United States, the brief enters into the following specifications as to the reasons for the action:

1st. The lines of railway operated by the defendants, the Great Northern Railway company and the Northern Pacific Railway company, are parallel and competing.

2d. That the combination is in restraint of interstate commerce and a monopoly.

The question of law growing out of the statement of facts are presented as follows:

"First—Has a combination been accomplished by means of the securities company in violation of section 1 of an act of congress approved July 2, 1890, entitled 'An act to protect trade and commerce against unlawful restraints and monopolies,' hereafter called the anti-trust act?"

"Second—Have the defendants monopolized or attempted to monopolize any part of the interstate or foreign commerce of the United States in violation of section 2 of the anti-trust act?"

"Third—Was the relief granted by the circuit court authorized by law?" The government maintains that each of these questions should be answered in the affirmative.

TWO FIRES IN ONE WEEK

George Meisner of Shelton, Neb., Has a Fire Loss of \$20,000

Fire destroyed the new elevator on the home ranch of George Meisner at Shelton, Neb., together with all its contents, which consisted of about 3,000 bushels of oats, 1,200 bushels of wheat, and 5,000 bushels of corn and a quantity of oil meal. The building had been finished only a year, and was of the latest improved plan, being built especially for grinding large quantities of grain, as Mr. Meisner is one of the largest feeders of cattle, sheep and hogs in central Nebraska, and the fire occurring at this time will work a great inconvenience, as he has several thousand head of stock now in the yards feeding. This was Mr. Meisner's second fire during the week. His home caught fire from a defective chimney and was only saved by prompt assistance. The losses on home and elevator will be about \$20,000, with small insurance.

Discovering Valuable Historical Facts

Under the authority of M. Delancey, minister of foreign affairs, E. Spencer Pratt, formerly United States minister to Persia, who is now residing in Paris, is making extensive researches in the archives of the foreign office, relative to the transfer of the province of Louisiana by France to the United States. The investigation has brought to light all the circumstantial details of the transaction, including the confidential letters of the French minister at Washington, advising his government as to various stages of the negotiations and the letters and documents signed by President Jefferson and Secretary of State Madison. Many of these have hitherto been unavailable, owing to the rules of the foreign office, which have prevented the copying of documents in the archives.

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A PROFITABLE MEETING

County Commissioners of Nebraska in Session at Grand Island

The state convention of county commissioners and supervisors spent a very busy day at Grand Island. The session was opened at 10 o'clock and the election of officers was first taken up, resulting in a little fight for president. On the fourth ballot Thorpe of Custer county was elected president over Gallagher of Hall. Gallagher was elected vice president, Falter of Platts-mouth, secretary; Honfeldt of Omaha, treasurer.

It was decided after considerable discussion to select a legislative committee consisting of one member from every county represented at this meeting, each county presenting the name of its member to the secretary and that such general committee select an executive committee of seven. The committee met after the afternoon session and organized by selecting Mr. Welton of Lancaster county as chairman and Mr. Falter as secretary. On motion the chairman, Mr. Welton, was authorized to select the committee and took the appointment of the same under advisement temporarily. Lincoln was chosen as the place for holding the next convention.

A question box was installed and various questions pertaining to county affairs such as the care of paupers, the filling of vacancies, house roll 112, the matter of commissioners' salaries, the difference between the old and new revenue law and the road laws, were taken up and discussed. The insufficiency of the levy for bridge work in some counties as compared with others principally the river counties as compared with the more western or northern, was more largely discussed and the matters of legislation as to road and bridge improvement appeared to be giving the commissioners the greatest concern.

Looking for Invasion of Isthmus

An additional battalion of marines will be recruited and held in readiness at Washington in case it is necessary to enlarge the marine force now in isthmian waters. In the event further reinforcements are sent the Yankee probably will be used to transport the additional marines.

At the navy department it was announced that the marine contingent on the isthmus would be reinforced by 500 men now on the Prairie, orders having been sent to Admiral Barker, commanding the North Atlantic squadron, now at Guantanamo, to dispatch the Prairie to the isthmus. She will reach Colon by Monday. It is felt that thus reinforced the marines now on the isthmus will be fully competent to preserve order and prevent any invasion.

Americanized Armenian a New Jerseyite

Attarian, the Armenian whose arrest precipitated the attack by Turkish police upon United States Consul Davis at Alexandretta, Syria, has been a resident, during the past four years, of Patterson, N. J., where he has been employed as a moulder.

Upon coming to America he left his wife and son behind and frequently tried to interest the United States and Turkish officials at Washington in securing permission for his wife and son to join him. Finally he decided to risk a journey home and bring them himself, though he told several friends he feared for his life if he again visited Turkish territory.

Canadian Parcels via England

Canadian merchants are much embarrassed by the fact that all parcels for points south of the United States cannot be forwarded by the direct route through the states, but must be shipped via Great Britain. The United States absolutely refuses to make a parcel postage arrangement that would obviate the annoyance. The matter will be brought to the attention of the postoffice department.

Hillman Inquisitive About Gen. Wood

Senator Hillman has prepared a resolution directing the judiciary committee to inquire into the status of nominations that failed in the last session and were renewed at the beginning of the present session of congress. The inquiry is for the purpose of developing the present position of General Wood in the army, and Dr. Crum as collector of the port of Charleston, S. C.

John J. Welch Killed in Wreck

John G. Welch, a former Lincoln man, was killed in the railroad wreck at Formosa, Kansas, last week. Little is known concerning the circumstances surrounding his death. He was foreman of a gang of laborers at Formosa, at the time of the accident. He was 42 years old and leaves one sister, Mrs. Charles Wray, who lives at 2016 O street.

Will Now Give Dowle a Rest

Judge Kohlsaat, in the United States district court at Chicago, refused to change the order made recently by which John Alexander Dowle agreed to pay the costs of the receivership of the Zion industries. The change was sought by the attorney for one of the creditors, the point being made that Dowle's solvency had not been technically proven in court.

Prominent Georgian is Dead

Hal T. Lewis of Greensboro, Ga., prominent throughout the state and formerly associate justice of the Georgia supreme court, died aged fifty-six. As a delegate to the Chicago democratic convention in 1896 he nominated Bryan for the presidency.

Attorney of Striking Miners Arrested

Much excitement exists over the arrest of Attorney Edler of Salt Lake City, Utah, who had been employed to look after the interests of striking miners who have been imprisoned on various charges. Edler was arrested as he stepped from a train and although he attempted to resist, he was hustled to jail by a deputy sheriff and several guards. The charge against him is criminal libel, based on a recent newspaper interview and is preferred against him by Noah Potter, a guard employed by a mining company.