

Little Cash

A Children's Christmas Story

By Bertha Masters

IT WAS Christmas eve in Durgan's department store, and to the happy children who accompanied their parents to see the glittering lights and the gorgeous Christmas toys the big store was a palace of splendor. But it was not one to poor little Edna Gray, the tired little cashgirl.

This Christmas eve Edna was very sad. She had planned to give her mother a nice Christmas present, and to crown it all she was going to hide the present in one of a pair of new stockings to hang on the chair beside her widowed and sick mother's bed.

A well dressed man and woman smiled as the little girl took a package of gloves to the bundle counter.

"She looks like Beatrice," whispered the woman softly, and the man nodded, with a smiling recollection of the little daughter tucked between the sheets at home dreaming of Santa Claus.

"Poor child," he murmured. And when Edna returned with their package he slipped something crisp and green into her little hand.

"Merry Christmas!" he laughed as they disappeared in the crowd.

"Oh, thank you!" breathed Edna as she peeked at the bill in her thin hand.

"Now I can get mother's dressing sack and stockings and tea and other nice things!" Full of happiness, she tucked the money away in her pocket and grasped a package handed over the counter by an impatient clerk.

"Cash" took the package, and it dropped from her tired fingers to the floor. She stooped to pick it up, and as she did so her fingers came in contact with a small square leather pocketbook such as men carry. She found a corner of the stairway quite vacant of shoppers, and out there she peeked into the pocketbook. It was crammed with neatly folded bills. Inside was a name stamped in gold letters, "George B. Lawton," with an address below it.

Edna's heart sank as she went back to her work. Of course she must return the pocketbook to its owners, and she suspected it might have been the man who had given the money and wished her a Merry Christmas—the lovely lady with him had called him "George"—and yet if she went to that address she would not have time to buy the things for her mother.

When she was outside the store at the closing hour she found herself in a mist of flying snowflakes. A friendly policeman told her how to reach the address she wanted.

A pretty housemaid opened the door and cried out in alarm when a very cold and bewildered little girl fell in a heap at her feet.

"Why, it's the little cashgirl!" exclaimed Mrs. Lawton, who had followed her husband into the hall.

Edna's hand struggled into her pocket, and she brought out the pocketbook. "I guess it is yours. What time is it, please? Will I have time to get mother's presents?"

Mr. Lawton picked her up in his strong arms and carried her into a beautiful living room, and the maid vanished to fetch a cup of hot broth.

A half hour later the Lawtons took Edna home in a great warm motor-car.

This Christmas Edna will not be a cashgirl in a store. She is in school now, and her future looks bright, thanks to her friends the Lawtons.

Bob Stillwell's Christmas

By ANNE CAREW

BOB STILLWELL sat down on his sled with his chin in his mittened hands and tried to plan what he could give folks for Christmas, for it was only three days away.

"I can't give a thing!" he muttered at last, for he did not have a penny of his own, and he knew that money was very scarce on the farm that year.

The Stillwell children would be lucky if they all had mittens and warm shoes and stockings. Yet Bob knew that his sister Nan was dreaming of a doll house, little Peter wanted a puppy all his own, and he didn't dare think of his big sister Amy and big brother Elmer and his father and mother.

"Why not make 'em something?" was the thought that came to him.

Bob jumped up and went home whistling through the woods. Under the pine trees he stopped and brushed away the snow. When he got through his pockets were full of dried pine cones, large and small, and some pieces of birch bark.

The day before Christmas Bob unlocked the woodshed door and looked at the result of his labors.

There was a doll house for little Nan made out of an egg crate, with real



He saw the Grandest New Sled.

wall paper on the walls of the two rooms, bits of carpet on the floors and some cardboard furniture that Bob had made. He had even tacked little scraps of lace at the windows for curtains.

For Amy there was the lovely picture from the Sunday newspaper which she had admired. Bob had remembered and had made a frame for it out of strips of wood, and on the wood he had glued tiny pine cones, pieces of birch bark and dried moss, and as the picture was a woodland scene you can imagine how pretty it was. Bob had found a chair rung, which he scraped and polished with some oil and turpentine. He put some screweyes in the ends, and Amy gave him a piece of narrow red ribbon to make loops—and, behold, there was a necktie holder for Elmer! For his mother he whittled a reel for her clothes lines, and it was a wonderfully handy thing, and for his father he bought a pipe. It happened this way: He did some errands for the man who kept the tobacco store in the village, and when the man would have paid him some money Bob said he'd rather have a pipe. So now they were all provided for except little Peter. How was Bob going to get hold of a real live puppy?

"You go over to my brother's place at the foot of Long hill, and you tell him I sent you," said the tobacco man. "Maybe he will let you have a puppy and work it out for him on Saturdays. He has a paper route."

"I'll do it if he will!" cried Bob eagerly. Half an hour later he hurried into the woodshed with a wriggling little puppy under his coat. Of course he had to tell his mother about that. And how Bob did enjoy the secret, running to and fro with milk and scraps of meat for the puppy!

When Christmas morning dawned I think Bob Stillwell was the most surprised boy in Little River. He was so interested in watching the pleasure of his brothers and sister with the gifts he had made with his own hands that he had stood smiling, forgetting to look at the tree for his own presents.

"Look, Bobby; look!" screamed little Peter.

Bob looked and turned pale with surprise. The grandest new sled, painted a bright red, runners and all. His father and Elmer had made it together. And there was a red woolen muffler that Amy had knitted for him and other things that Santa Claus brought him.

A Present for Santa Claus

By ELINOR MARSH

EDWINA'S mother was busy putting mince pies into the oven, so she did not notice the little girl when she passed through the room. Edwina wore her warm winter coat and tam-o-shanter, and her fat fingers were nudged up in red mittens.

"I've got Christmas errands to do, mother," said Edwina when she reached the door. "Tomorrow's Christmas, and I'm going to buy a present for Santa Claus."

"Well, I declare," Mrs. Ray sank into a chair and began to laugh. "A present for Santa Claus himself?"

"A real present. I've got 12 cents. I earned this money my own self, and I want to buy something for Santa with my own money."

"Very well, dear. I am sure Santa Claus will be pleased enough to be remembered. You had better go to Smith's store."

"All right," called Edwina as she went out. It was snowing a little—just little, light, floating flakes like tiny feathers. Inside the kitchen it had been warm and cozy, with a delicious smell of mince meat, fresh cookies and apples. Outside it was cold, and the stinging snowflakes made her cheeks tingle.

"What can I do for you, Edwina?" asked Mr. Smith.

"I want a pair of slippers—for a man," said Edwina, primly.

"What size?" asked the storekeeper.

"Very big ones," said Edwina in a grownup's manner.

"Hum!" smiled Mr. Smith in a mysterious way. "Well, you can change them after Christmas if they don't fit."

Edwina wondered if Santa Claus could come all the way back from the



"Santa Has Taken the Book and Candy!" She Cried.

north pole just to change a pair of slippers, but she said nothing until Mr. Smith showed her a very large pair of flowered slippers.

How good old Santa would enjoy those comfortable slippers!

"Will 12 cents be enough?" asked Edwina, anxiously.

"Ho, ho, ho!" laughed Mr. Smith. "Twelve cents? No, Edwina. The price of these slippers is \$2."

"I—guess I won't take them," faltered Edwina as she left the store.

Edwina hurried away from Smith's store and went to a little 10-cent store. Here were all sorts of things she could buy with her money, but it was hard to choose something Santa Claus might like. There were books—such nice stories, too. One in particular, called "Patty and Her Pitcher," was so delightful that Edwina was sure Santa Claus would like it. So she paid 10 cents for that, and with the remaining 2 cents she bought two sticks of red and white striped candy.

When she showed these things to her father and mother they did not even smile, but they said they were sure Santa Claus would be pleased.

"I shall hang a stocking for Santa and put these things in it," said Edwina, and on the stocking she pinned a note saying:

"From a little girl who loves you." She went happily to bed, and the next thing Edwina knew it was Christmas morning. She hopped out of bed and ran into the warm living room to see if Santa had been there.

What a wonderful array of toys—dolls and doll house and furniture, books and games and toy dishes, a little fur muff and a rocking chair and so many other things!

Edwina clapped her hands and jumped for joy. "Santa has taken the book and candy!" she cried, and then she found a little note signed "Santa Claus." "Thank you, dear little Edwina, and a Merry Christmas to you," it read.

INTERNATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

(By E. O. SELLERS, Acting Director of the Sunday School Course of the Moody Bible Institute, Chicago.)
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LESSON FOR DECEMBER 23

THE STORY OF THE FIRST CHRISTMAS.

LESSON TEXT.—Matthew 2:1-12. GOLDEN TEXT.—There is born to you this day in the city of David, a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.—Luke 2:11.

The story of the birth of Jesus is recorded in three of the four Gospels, Matthew, Luke and John, each of which contributes some feature essential to complete the picture. No one should teach this lesson who does not have a good "harmony of the Gospels." Every year for the 45 years of the International Sunday School Lessons, we have had the Christmas lesson taken from these three Gospels one at a time. This year in closing the present series, we unite all three Gospels in one complete story, "The Story of the First Christmas."

The order of events should clearly be kept in mind as follows: "The angelic announcement to Zacharias, the priest, while in the exercise of his ministerial office. The angelic announcement to Mary, the mother of Jesus, and to Joseph, her espoused husband. Mary's visit to her cousin, Elizabeth, and the birth of John the Baptist. The birth of Jesus and his circumcision on the eighth day (Luke 2:21). His redemption some 31 days later, introducing Simon the priest (Luke 2:22), and the purification of the mother.

The coming of Jesus was at the most opportune time in all the history of the world, for Palestine was the central region of the Roman empire. The whole civilized world was subject to Roman domination. He was born while the entire world was at peace, for once in its history. Travel was at its best, for the Roman military roads all centered in Rome and extended throughout the empire. The Greek language was spoken everywhere, along with native languages, so that the Gospel could readily be heard in all parts of the empire. The Old Testament was translated into Greek. The Jews were scattered throughout all lands, carrying this Old Testament with them, and had established their synagogues in nearly every city and town. There was also a wide-spread intellectual and moral awakening, and there was wide-spread religious unrest and a hungering for something better.

I. The Search. Notice that he who was born on this first Christmas, was the "only begotten of God." This divine being became flesh, a strange and seemingly impossible union, but only such a union of the human and divine could draw man to God. If Jesus had not been identified with the divine nature of God, all the love, honor and devotion which we give to him, would lead us into idolatry. (1) Wisdom leading (vv. 1, 2). See also Acts 13:6. Who these men were, we do not know. They were evidently students of the stars, and perhaps came from Persia whither Balaam went. (Numbers 23:7; Numbers 24:17-19.) They may have known of Daniel's prophecy. They came because they had seen a star. A little light, only a small star, and we may have the sun. (John 8:12.) The highest wisdom is to know God. (Prov. 9:10.) We do not have to seek far to find him. The highest wisdom is also teachable: "Where is he that is born?" These wise men were not the first ones to seek him, for the humble shepherds who had heard the angelic host (Luke 2:15, 16), immediately went to Jerusalem to make sure that the good news was true. Tradition only gives us the names of these men. They typify the world, the first Gentiles who came to seek Jesus. (2) Wickedness Seeking (v. 8-8). It is interesting to note the alarm of Herod, his suspicion and jealousy. Why? Note the carefulness of Herod's search. First the chief priests, who were the theologians; then the scribes and lawyers, who were the historians; then the common people who were familiar with the traditions; and, finally, the wise men (v. 7).

II. Wisdom Rewarded (vv. 9-11). Persistent obedient searching after God always brings wisdom. Notice the steps of the wise men. They sought, they found, they rejoiced, they worshiped and they gave gifts. The stable of Christ's birth is evidently an exchange for a house (v. 11 and Luke 2:7). The gifts they presented have a threefold significance: Gold, for royalty, indicating divine glory; Frankincense for deity, the aroma of his life; Myrrh, signifying death, his death and its value to mankind. Notice that they did not worship Mary.

III. Wickedness Felled (vv. 12-16). God intervened (v. 12). Notice the impotent rage of the enemy (v. 16). Christ was delivered. Herod was dismayed, and the people were desolate.

Suggestions: "The cry 'where' of the human heart is here answered. God answers all honest searching. God himself gave his best gift (John 3:16). God also desires our best gift. We must worship Jesus as king. Religion is not for the Magi alone, nor for the common people; it is for all. We have not far to go to seek the Christ. He is even more than near. 'For behold I stand at the door and knock.'"

IS RED CROSS WEEK

GOVERNOR NEVILLE URGES MAKING IT A SUCCESS.

ARE AIMING AT A MONARCHY

Program of Bolsheviki as Seen by London Newspaper—Liberty Bond Interest Coupons Now Due.

Lincoln, Neb.—Governor Neville has issued a proclamation designating this week as Red Cross week. His proclamation says:

"The war council of the American Red Cross has inaugurated a campaign for members which will commence on Monday, December 17, and continue throughout the week. It is confidently expected that 15,000,000 memberships will be obtained throughout the nation in that period, and the ultimate goal is to make membership in the Red Cross as universal as citizenship.

"The nation is pledged to a vigorous prosecution of the war until victory shall bring peace. Men are daily making the great sacrifice for their country and many who have been wounded in battle are being nursed back to health through the agency of the Red Cross.

"It can not be the privilege of all to bear arms in the great crisis, but it is the privilege of all to secure membership in the Red Cross and to the end that Nebraska may be the first state in the nation to reach the coveted goal, with membership as universal as citizenship.

"I, Keith Neville, governor of Nebraska, designate the week commencing December 17 as Red Cross Week, and urge the people of Nebraska to bend their every effort in making it a success.

Interest Coupons Now Due

Washington.—Interest coupons on the first liberty bonds, representing the initial semi-annual interest payment of the liberty loan, are coming in upon federal reserve banks by the bushel. If all bondholders were to present their coupons \$35,000,000 or 1 1/2 per cent on the \$2,000,000,000 total of the first loan would be paid out, and nearly nine million coupons would be exchanged for money. Many purchasers, however, probably will not exercise their option of receiving any interest payment at this time, and will hold their coupons to be cashed in later. Coupons may be cashed at banks or postoffices anywhere in the country. Holders of registered bonds will receive their interest payments by checks to be mailed from the treasury.

ARE AIMING AT A MONARCHY

Program of Bolsheviki According to London Correspondent.

London.—The real aim of the bolsheviki is a monarchy at least, and possibly a despotism, in the opinion of the Petrograd correspondent of the Post. He writes that for more than a month the bolsheviki have been openly preparing public opinion for acceptance of what, he says, after all, is the only fit form of government for Russia. It is this design of the bolsheviki, the correspondent asserts, which is the secret of their antagonism to the social revolutionists, social democrats and constitutional democrats, all of whom were formidable enemies of the old regime. Active propaganda long has been carried on under cover, on behalf of the Romanoff family, he says, and this propaganda incidentally turned the Russians against England, which is reported to have desired the overthrow of the autocracy.

German Bombs Kill Americans

With the American Army in France—a number of American railway engineers have been killed by German aerial bombs in a town somewhere behind the British front. A German bomb fell in a street in a town through which American troops were passing. Pieces of the bomb shattered the windows of a house in which there were officers, showering them with glass, but hurting no one. Two American soldiers have died in hospitals from gunshot wounds.

Submarine Chaser Sunk

Washington.—The navy department has confirmed unofficial reports that a small submarine chaser had been rammed and sunk off the Atlantic coast. The crew was saved. The department also announced that Gunner Arthur B. Toerpe and Seaman Thomas J. Rose were drowned when a naval patrol vessel was sunk by a steamer at an Atlantic port. Unofficial stories had told of the drowning of Rose and one other man and the rescue of the remaining seven of the crew of the patrol boat including one officer.

Will Not Attempt its Recapture

Amsterdam.—An indication that the Turks will not attempt to recapture Jerusalem is the answer given by General Steeger-Steiner, Austro-Hungarian war minister, in replying to a question raised in the army committee of the Austrian delegation, as quoted in a dispatch received here from Vienna. The general said Jerusalem was occupied without fighting and suffered no damage. Jerusalem will now remain indefinitely outside the fighting zone, the general said.

GREATER EFFICIENCY.

REDUCED COST

Grow Grain in Western Canada, Make Profits, and Show Greater Patriotism.

The nation-wide cry of "More Efficiency" has now reached even the most remote agricultural sections and there is a general interest amongst the farmers to increase their products and to reduce their expenses. The need of foodstuffs is greater than the world has ever before known, and every effort is being used to meet the world's food requirements, becoming more apparent every day. While it is true that this desire is attested by a general patriotism, there is an underlying factor in this extension work to secure some of the benefits that are being offered by a ready market at maximum prices. Wide-spread attention has been given to the opportunity in this respect in Western Canada, where fortunes are being made in a few crops out of grain at present prices.

It has been found that the open, level prairie can be cultivated for wheat and other small grains at a minimum price, and during the past few years the yields have been more than satisfactory. Wheat crops of forty bushel to the acre have been common in Western Canada in the last three or four years, and with a present available price of over \$2.00 per bushel this means a return on investment and labor that cannot be duplicated elsewhere. This is made possible by the low priced lands that can be secured for grain growing. The range in price runs from \$15 to \$25 per acre, according to location and other local conditions. In this period of "more agricultural efficiency" it is apparent at a glance that the farmer on low priced but high grade lands, growing his grain at a minimum cost, is reaping a golden harvest with the highest percentage of profit.

The cultivator of high priced farm lands has a big handicap to overcome in computing his profits on a \$200 an acre farm as compared with the agriculturist reaping as great, if not greater return from \$25 an acre land.

It therefore becomes a question for the farmer himself to answer, whether he is doing himself and his country the best service, by devoting all his energies to working high priced land that yields no better return than land that can be secured at one-eighth the price. It is a case of getting either minimum or maximum quantity. Many have already decided on the alternative, and with their spare money invested in and now working Western Canada lands, they are allowed to speak for themselves. Apparently they are satisfied, for we learn of cases where on a \$4,000 investment, in one year they have had their money back, with a profit of from 50% to 100%. Such is one of the steps in progressive efficiency now being demonstrated in the effort to create greater efficiency. The Canadian Government is using every effort to bring these conditions to the attention of the agricultural world, in order to secure the necessary increased grain production so greatly needed. The farmer in Western Canada is exempt from all personal taxes. His buildings, stock and implements are not assessed; and every encouragement is given to farmers to improve and increase their farm output. Reduced railway rates are being offered to new settlers to look over the country and to size up an unprecedented opportunity in farming.—Advertisement.

A Hot Excuse.

French matches may have improved in recent years, but not so very long ago they were quite unsatisfactory. A Frenchman was once arrested for having a lot of smuggled matches in his possession. The judge said to him: "What have you to say for yourself, prisoner?"

"Please, your honor," stammered the culprit, "it is true I use foreign matches, but only to light our own government ones with."

GREEN'S AUGUST FLOWER

Has been used for all ailments that are caused by a disordered stomach and inactive liver, such as sick headache, constipation, sour stomach, nervous indigestion, fermentation of food, palpitation of the heart caused by gases in the stomach. August Flower is a gentle laxative, regulates digestion both in stomach and intestines, cleans and sweetens the stomach and alimentary canal, stimulates the liver to secrete the bile and impurities from the blood. Sold in all civilized countries. 80 and 90 cent bottles.—Adv.

Domestic Economy.

Not infrequently a man is such a good domestic mathematician that he can save the price of a new suit by persuading his wife to have her last year's street dress made over.—Syracuse Post-Standard.

Keeping the Quality Up
LAXATIVE BROMO QUININE, the World-Famous Cure for Colds and Grip, is now 25c per box. On account of the advance in the price of the six different Medicinal Concentrated Extracts and other ingredients contained in LAXATIVE BROMO QUININE, it was necessary to increase the price to the Drug-gist. It has stood the test for a quarter of a century. It is used by every civilized nation.

Alasi

Eljones (in restaurant)—What's good here tonight, waiter?
Walter—Cash only, sir.

The best sleeping powder is a clean conscience.