

Story of a Lost Diamond.
A lady residing in a suburb of Boston sent her diamond ring to a well known shop there to be cleaned. A day or two later she took a journey of several hours. When she reached her destination she removed her glove, and lo, the diamond had come out of her ring. A diligent search failed to reveal the lost stone. She waited until her return to her home, and when the diamond could not be found there she went to the jeweler and told her story. "I am afraid that you loosened the stone when you cleaned it," she concluded. She had little idea that he would agree with her, but to her surprise, after carefully examining the setting, he admitted: "I am afraid we did. I beg that you will select from my unset stones a diamond of about the size and quality of your old one, and I will give you back your ring looking as near as possible as it did when it was new." And he never charged her a cent! Of course he knew who the lady was and that he could trust her to tell a true story.—Kate Upson Clark in Leslie's.

Brazilian Rat Catchers.
Rats are a great nuisance in certain parts of Brazil, where the climate is very warm. The common cat does not thrive for some unaccountable reason, but is replaced by a domestic rat catcher, whose presence causes a decidedly unpleasant sensation to visitors when first they come in contact with the creature. It is a species of small boa constrictor—the gibola. The snakes are not venomous. They sleep in the house, generally taking up their position at the foot of the stairs. When nightfall approaches they begin to awaken, and during the night they glide swiftly about the premises looking for rats. Gibolas are offered for sale in the markets of Bahia and Pernambuco at prices ranging from \$1 to \$5, according to the size of the creature. It is claimed that they are so easily domesticated that, if removed from one house to another, they invariably return to the house whence they have been taken.

Didn't Drop Into Poetry.
There is an interesting story of Wordsworth, who went to call on Miss Harriet Martineau at Ambleside, in the house which she had built and laid out, writes A. C. Benson in the Century Magazine. There was a gathering of neighbors present, and Wordsworth stood for a long time at the window contemplating the beautiful landscape outside. Then he turned to the party and said:
"Miss Martineau, I congratulate you on your beautiful little domain. The views are wonderful, and it will turn out to be the wisest thing you ever did in your life!"

He paused for a moment, and the guests expected some comment on the uplifting effects of communion with nature, but Wordsworth, with a fine gesture, continued:
"Your property will certainly be trebled in value within the next ten years!"

Mail by Rocket.
The island of Good Hope was the first of the Friendly Islands to be discovered by the Pandora in 1791. But this lord of many islets is very difficult of approach, for the seas are dangerous except to very small craft. The postmaster general has therefore invented a method of his own for the delivery of mails. He delivers them by rocket. When the hour of delivery arrives the whole population assembles on the shore to watch the great event, for it has happened that in midcareer the precious mail has burst and given its news to the waves. When the seven foot long rocket lands successfully there is a wild stampede of the natives thirsting for the latest news from Samoa or the Fiji Islands.—London Opinion.

The High C.
The famous composer and the noted tenor were standing by the rail of the ship looking out upon the tumbling waters.
"Yes," the composer was saying, "you took that high C perfectly."
"If I don't feel better in the morning," replied the tenor weakly, "the high sea is going to take me."
And he staggered toward his cabin.—New York Sun.

Condolences.
Mrs. Hen was in tears. One of her little ones had been sacrificed to make a repast for a visiting clergyman.
"Cheer up, madam," said the rooster comfortingly. "You should rejoice that your son is entering the ministry. He was poorly qualified for a lay member anyhow."—Philadelphia Ledger.

Self Sustained Humor.
"How did Borum get his reputation as a raconteur? His stories are not really amusing, and he doesn't tell them very well."
"No. But he can laugh at them in a way that makes him sound like a crowd."—Washington Star.

Wrappings of the Mummies.
The cloth woven by the ancient Egyptians was so durable that though it has been used for thousands of years as wrappings of the mummies the Arabs of today can wear it. It is all of linen, the ancient Egyptians considering wool unclean.

Truth and Life.
Where the seeking of truth begins, always the life commences too. So soon as the seeking of truth is abandoned life ceases.—John Ruskin.

Dame Rumor is the mother of Misfortune.—Philadelphia Record.

Carlo Dolci's Great Painting.



THE RED CROSS SEAL COMES FROM NORWAY

"HOW did the Red Cross Christmas seal originate?" is a question that is being asked by many during this holiday season, when millions of these stickers are being sold all over the United States. To Jacob Rils, the well known social worker of New York, and to Miss Emily P. Bissell, the energetic secretary of the Delaware Red Cross society, jointly belongs the honor of originating our American Red Cross Christmas seal.
In 1909 Mr. Rils' interest was aroused by the receipt of a Christmas tuberculosis stamp on a letter from Norway. He published an article about this queer looking stamp in the Outlook and suggested some possible uses for it in this country. Miss Bissell at once saw an opportunity here and prepared a stamp, from the sale of which her society realized \$3,000 for tuberculosis work. So impressed was she with this success that she induced the American Red Cross to take up the sale in 1908 on a national basis.

With very little organization and with hardly any attempt at careful advertising, the sale that year brought in over \$135,000 for anti-tuberculosis work in various parts of the United States. In 1909, with more organization, the sale was increased to \$230,000 and in 1910 to nearly \$310,000. Last year the sale increased to \$330,000, or 33,000,000 seals.

While our own Red Cross seal dates back only four years, "charity stamps," from which this idea originally sprang, go back to 1862, when "sanitary fair stamps" were first used in Boston to raise money for the care of soldiers wounded during the civil war. Nearly \$1,000,000 was raised in this way during the years 1862 to 1865.

After the war this method of raising money was discontinued in this country for a generation, although it found vogue in Portugal, Switzerland, Austria, France, Spain, Denmark, Norway, Russia, Sweden and other European countries. There are now hundreds of different types of charity stamps used in all parts of the world, as many as forty being used in America for children's hospitals alone.

Stamps or seals were first used to get money for the anti-tuberculosis crusade in Norway and Sweden in 1904.

The Christmas Stocking
HANG up the Christmas stockings; Leave not a dear one out, And wake on Christmas morning With ringing song and shout. For in the silent midnight Shall Santa Claus appear And crown with gifts of gladness The love time of the year.

Hang up the baby's stocking. The cunning little elf Is still too very thin To do it for herself. And hang the mother's stocking, Oh, very plain in sight! Some one must think for mother, Or she'll forget it quite.

Hang father's sturdy stocking Right here between the boys, And give him books and papers, As he gives the children toys. Let Santa Claus be careful About the politics. For father has a conscience That to the right side sticks.

Hang up the old folks' stockings; Hang up the little girl's. Dear grandma with her silver hair, Sweet Plossy with her curls, Will both be very happy When dawn, in russet cheer, The merry Christmas morning, The love time of the year. —Ethel Bridges.

CHRISTMAS MOTTOES.

Every one knows that a fitting sentiment to go with a gift greatly enhances its value. Here is a very old one, which is appropriate for nearly every individual, and is consequently a safe one to use; it is in the quaint old spelling, which is attractive in fancy lettering:
All joys and jollity wait on thy holiday;
True love and friendliness follow thy happiness.
One a little more sentimental goes well with flowers or a plant:
fond thoughts and constant prayers I scatter free,
Like flowers, along the pathway thou must tread.
Grateful and glad if haply they may shed Some fragrance to refresh and comfort thee.
The last one, which is by Tennyson, is beautiful inscribed in a book or to go with a calendar:
The time draws near the birth of Christ;
The moon is hid; the night is still;
The Christmas bells from hill to hill Shower each other in the mist.

THE OLDEN MISTLETOE RITE.

Origin of Present Use of the Classic Plant.
The druids at Yuletide used to cut the mistletoe to place upon their altars with elaborate ceremonies. Their name for it was all heal or all healing. There was a large procession, headed by the druidical priests, with bards singing canticles and hymns; then a herald preceded three druids, furnished with implements for severing the sacred plant, then the prince or chief of the druids, accompanied by all his followers.
The chief mounted the oak and with a golden knife detached the mistletoe and presented it to the priest, who received and bore away the branches with great reverence. Two white bulls were sacrificed during the rite.
On the first day of the new year the branches after resting on the altars in the interval were distributed among the people as a sacred and holy plant, the druid priest crying, "The mistletoe for the New Year." Just when the mistletoe became known as the "kissing bush" is not known.

A Mistletoe Romance

LAST night I went to call on Eulalie. On Eulalie, the fairest maid I know (That is, excepting Imogene and Clare), And as her coming down I did await I spied, low hanging from the chandelier, A sprig of brightsome holly, all aglow, Which half concealed a bright, contrasting spray.
Thick jeweled with the pearls of mistletoe, Then suddenly resolve leaped to my mind, A wild resolve and one extremely bold— To wit, that though I'd known her but six years, If she should chance beneath that chandelier To pause, I should at once assert the right, The ancient right of joyous Christmas tide, And strive to kiss her.
Lo, the maiden came, With welcome smile and outstretched glad hand, To where I stood expectant. She advanced Until, unconscious and serene, she stood Directly 'neath the shining mistletoe, And, though with trepidation in my heart, I kept my pledge unto myself and did The daring deed.
Sweet moments followed; then While startled she sought refuge in my arms, But brief the joy, for then from underneath A davenport her little brother crawled And cried: "Say, sis, I told you so, you know. I bet he'd bite. Pay up!"— But quick she led Him by the ear unto the door and out. What did the rascal mean? I do not know. Nor do I care for such things—I'm engaged.

An Unfortunate Oversight.
"Bless me!" said the thoughtless man. "Isn't this unpleasant! I haven't bought my mother-in-law A single Christmas present!"

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SHERIFF'S SALE.
By virtue of an order of sale issued from the district court of Lincoln county, Nebraska, upon a decree of foreclosure rendered in said court wherein Fritz L. Wierberg is plaintiff, and Roy Surber, et al., are defendants, and to me directed, I will on the 10th day of January 1914, at 2 o'clock, p. m., at the east front door of the court house in North Platte, Lincoln county, Nebraska, sell at public auction to the highest bidder for cash to satisfy said decree, interest and costs, the following described property to-wit: Lot one (1) in Block thirteen (13) in Peninsula Addition to the city of North Platte, Lincoln county, Nebraska. Dated North Platte, Neb., December 8th, 1913. A. J. SALANBY, Sheriff.

PROBATE NOTICE
In the county court of Lincoln county, Nebraska, December 2nd, 1913.
In the matter of the estate of William Shear, deceased.
Notice is hereby given, that the creditors of said deceased will meet the administrator of said estate, before the county judge of Lincoln county, Nebraska, at the county court room, in said county, on the 6th day of January 1914, and on the 10th day of July 1914, at 9 o'clock a. m., each day, for the purpose of presenting their claims for examination, adjustment and allowance. Six months are allowed for creditors to present their claims and one year for the administrator to settle said estate, from the 29th day of December, 1913. A copy of this order to be published in the North Platte Tribune, a legal semi-weekly newspaper printed in said county, for four successive weeks prior to Jan. 6, 1914.
d-4
JOHN GRANT,
County Judge.

NOTICE TO NON-RESIDENTS
Marie E. Jones, B. W. Jones, her husband, C. M. Gilmore, first and real name unknown, S. H. Stahr, first and real name unknown, I. Lipsky, first and real name unknown, B. W. Jones and M. E. Jones, his wife, first and real name unknown, H. L. Brown, first and real name unknown, Thomas H. Hughes and Henry Neveine, Defendants, will take notice that upon the 31st day of October, 1913, recorded in Book "A-12," page 659, warranty deed from C. M. Gilmore to B. W. Jones, dated January 4th, 1913, filed for record January 16th, 1913, recorded in Book "13," page 506, warranty deed from B. W. Jones and wife, M. E. Jones to I. Lipsky, dated January 7th, 1913, filed for record January 16th, 1913, recorded in Book "13," page 506, warranty deed from Marie E. Jones to C. M. Gilmore dated January 27th, 1913, filed for record January 28th, 1913, recorded in Book "13," page 576, Deed from I. Lipsky to Marie E. Jones dated January 24th, 1913, filed for record February 1st, 1913, recorded in Book "13-5," page 37, warranty deed from S. H. Stahr to C. M. Gilmore dated May 27th, 1912, filed for record February 6th, 1913, recorded in Book "13-5," page 181, also mortgage from C. M. Gilmore to B. W. Jones, dated December 12th, 1912, filed for record January 13th, 1913, recorded in Book "41," page 442, for the reason that all of the said deeds and mortgages are a cloud upon plaintiff's title and are null and void. Plaintiff also prays to have the title quieted in said plaintiff free and clear of all said deeds and mortgages, and for such other and further relief as may be just and equitable. He, the said plaintiff, claiming to be the owner in fee simple of all of the southwest quarter (SW 1/4) of section thirty-three (33), township ten (10), north range thirty-two (32), west in Lincoln county, Nebraska.

You and each of you are required to answer said petition on or before Monday, January 12th, 1914.
Dated this 26th day of November, 1913.
CHARLES A. READY,
By Muldoon & Gibbs, his Attorneys.

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT, FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEBRASKA, NORTH PLATTE DIVISION
In the Matter of Case No. 31 Charles L. Emmons,) In Bankruptcy Bankrupt.) Voluntary
Petition
NOTICE OF FIRST MEETING OF CREDITORS
To the creditors of Charles L. Emmons, of North Platte, in the county of Lincoln and district aforesaid, a bankrupt.
Notice is hereby given that on the 28th day of November, A. D., 1913, the said Charles L. Emmons was duly adjudicated bankrupt; and that the first meeting of his creditors will be held at the office of Walter V. Hoagland, Referee in Bankruptcy, in North Platte, on the 20th day of December, A. D., 1913, at 10 o'clock in the forenoon at which time said creditors may attend, prove their claims, appoint a trustee, examine the bankrupt and transact such other business as may properly come before said meeting.
Dated at North Platte, Nebraska, December 9, 1913.
WALTER V. HOAGLAND
Referee in Bankruptcy