## A Mother's Christmas Plan

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After All It Was Not a New Departure.

By F. A. MITCHEL 4444444444

"Mary," said Ernest Warfield, "we shall have to ignore Christmas this year. I'm sorry, knowing as I do how you and the children love the day and delight in making preparations for it, that such a course is necessary. But it costs money, and money I have not. Indeed, I am afraid this Euro- their stockings and diving into them. pean trouble is going to throw me out of business."

The words were spoken by the husband and father at the breakfast table shortly before Christmas. He had served an apprenticeship with a publishing firm, saving his money, in which he was assisted by a frugal wife, until he had accumulated \$10,000. This he had used to set himself up of a Christmas this year." in business, relying for success upon an idea he had conceived that he possessed a faculty for discerning those qualities in a novel which are calculated to please the public. In this he was disappointed. The public did not seem to fancy the books he published, and he lost most of his capital. Then came the war, and no one had money to buy books. The prospect looked very gloomy.

"I am perfectly willing, Ernest," replied his wife, "to do anything you deem necessary."

"I know you will, my dear. It's the disappointment to the children that troubles me."

"I will see that the children are satisfied with what we may be able to do for them."

The husband made no further remark, turning over the pages of the morning paper listlessly. He did not hurry to go to business, for there was Httle to do when he got there. Finally his eye struck an advertisement and he threw down the paper with a groun

"That novel, 'A Mystery of a Mirror," has reached a sale of 100,000 cop ies. It was offered to me, and I de clined it. 'There's not a particle of lit erary merit in the whole book. What's a publisher to do. I'd like to know, when the public will take in such rot as that and won't rend real litera-

"The critics say that 'A Mystery of a Mirror' is ingenious," said his wife. "What's ingenuity to do with literature? I tell you there's no literary

taste any more. The wife was thoughtfully silent for

awhile, then said: "We have for centuries been judging literature by the same old standard. and I am beginning to think that we are partly wrong. According to this standard, there is no merit in the work of a detective story writer who has made a great reputation and a fortune besides. Our literary magnates say that there is no literary merit in these stories I once thought so myself, but I

am beginning to doubt it." "There's money in them-that is, in some of them-at least for the author Whoever wrote 'A Mystery of a Mir. ror' has made a small fortune It's a dollar book, and 10 per cent royalty on a hundred thousand copies is \$10,000 If I had accepted the rotten stuff t might have made that out of it my-

"Never mind, dear. Better luck next a novel is like buying a ticket in a lottery. If you succeed in tiding over the your money into something that isn't so risky.

Warfield made no repty, but rose from the table with a sigh, kissed his wife and children and went to his basiness. As soon as he had gone the wife and mother gathered her children about her and, taking them into her confidence, told them that pape had lost money in his business and had requested that they ignore the coming Christmas. She had a plan that she thought no mention of Christmas till Christmas came. They were all agog to know what the plan was, but she would not papa" tell them. Nevertheless all agreed that. on papa's account, they would do just what their mother wished.

Whatever preparations for Christ mas Mrs. Warfield made she kept her own counsel. If gifts came into the house in advance she contrived to receive them herself and bide them But, whether they came or not, her has hand and children were ignorant of the fact. The husband being absent during the day and the children at school articles without their knowing may thing about it. The children, reposing every confidence in their mother, made no complaint at not receiving funds to spend for gifts for each other, for mam | ing his wife to decide what he should ma had told them that she would

provide presents for each to give When Christmas eve came the younger children insisted on hanging up their stockings. Their mother made voted herself for a time to hunting no objection to their doing so, for she had told her husband that she had provided a few inexpensive toys to fill them. After the youngsters were in bed she brought out the packages. Her | mtrably. husband could not see that they were inexpensive, but made no comment. If his wife was keeping a secret from him he was keeping one from her. He and lost every dollar of his capital and

close out his business. What he would then do he did not know. The horrors

of poverty stared him in the face. Before going to bed Mrs. Warfield slipped back into the dining room, where the stockings were hanging, and deposited a number of packages that she took from hiding places marked for and from different members of the family. The dining room had been selected for these gifts because there were in it a very large open fireplace and an ample chimney through which Santa Claus could get his fat body Besides, Mrs. Warfield intended that the family Christmas should begin at brenkfast time. It was then that the gifts would be distributed, and it would be impossible for her to conceau any longer her plan for the celebration

Christmas morning opened bright and crisp. The Warfield children were up, as usuai, at daylight pulling down Their mother joined them and forbade their opening any of the packages except those that Santa Claus had brought. A bright fire blazed and crackled and snapped on the bearth, joining in the festivities and adding to the children's happiness.

"Why, mamma," said one, "I thought we were not going to have this kind

"I didn't say that. I said that I had an especial plan for this year's Christmas.

"What is it?" "Wait."

Mr. Warfield came down and in the merry scene forgot for the moment the troubles in which the merrymakers were equally interested, though they were ignorant of them. He permitted little Billy to show him his jumping jack and consented to pull the string that worked its arms and legs. He was obliged to kiss Molly's doll and take notice of how it closed its eyes when it lay on its back. Mrs Warfield was as cheery as the chil-

"She doesn't know the worst," said her husband to himself, "or she could not keep up this way."

The thought brought back the gloom to his face, but his wife kissed it away with a smile.

Then his eyes took in the numerous bundles she had stacked about the fireplace, and he could not refrain from giving her a look as much as to say, "Why did you go to such expense?" But she gave him another kiss, and the children were constantly forcing him to inspect more gifts. And so it was that he got through this Christmas ordeal, with trouble at the door, better than might have been ex

When the children had emptied their stockings all sat down to breakfast. Thus far it seemed that no gift had been provided for papa. After he had asked the divine blessing he said to his

"I am glad, my dear, that you have acceded to my wishes in one respectyou have not inflicted a Christmas gift

upon me. "Lift your plate," was the reply.

Warfield did as he was bldden and revealed an envelope addressed to him. Opening it, be took out a check payable to his wife and indorsed to him for \$11,655.

"What's this?" "Stanford Bros.' check to me for roy-

alty on 'A Mystery of a Mirror.' Warfield looked at his wife inquir-He evidently did not under

"I wrote the novel," she continued, and sent it to you anonymously. 1 received it back with a printed unavaitable card. I sent it to other publishers, and they all declined it. Finally time. I think myself that publishing Stanford Bros, consented to bring it out. They are a new firm and have adopted a new plan of judging of manpresent trouble I hope you will put uscripts. They circulate them among a large number of persons such as may be expected to read them when published. Nearly all these approved. They published the book on the usual terns. This is my first remittance. but I understand from them that the book is still selling and will sell for

some time." There was so much of mortification mingled with this announcement that the authoress arose from the table and put her arms about her husband's would make the nuniversary just as neck. Then at a sign from her the pleasant as usual. She didn't say what | children followed her example, each it was, but pledged every child to make giving him a bag and a kiss and all erying:

"Glad you got your Christmas gift,

When he nad been duly bugged and kissed into a frame of mind acceptable to his wife and children he took up the check again, tooked at its face, turned it over and looked at its back and said: What do you propose I shall do

with it, sweetheart? "Whatever you think best"

"I shall do whatever you think best" "What use should be made of it is for future consideration. For the present it is enough for us to know that I have the wherewithm to give the there was ample opportunity to take in children a merry Christmas, and, as for you and me, well, we know that we have a new start."

Eater Warfield proposed that be contime the publication of fiction, leavissue and what decline. But she refused to make the trial and persuaded him to confine himself to what was less like a lottery. However, she defor some field that was needed and neglected and finally found one which she recommended, and her husband. following her advice, succeeded ad-

Christmas day was thereafter in the Warfield family a double celebration. It was not only Christmas, but an anbiversary of their being tided over a gulf of poverty and the beginning of

### was expecting on the 1st of January to WOMAN CHASED FROM HOME

ing at the top of his voice Nick De- of his fellow countrymen.

Just how the fracas started is not fine and costs known as they refused to tell. The man was evidently making a Harry Cramer is reported quite sick friendly call and became enraged at at hi shome in this city.

the woman. She was chased scream-BY MAN WITH A KNIFE ing from the house and ran to a

evening. The man was arrested Wed- Lusk and the man was arrested and All young people are from the Big building and loan association. nesday morning and pleaded gulity taken to jail. After pleading gullty Springs vicinity. The two young men and received a fine of ten dollars and he stated that he had no money and are farmers in that vicinity and they

#### Two Weddings at Court House.

Two weddings were solemnized neighbor's where she sought refuge. Wednesday afternoon at the court money on hand to close loans prompt-Flourishing a big knife and shout- The man was finally quieted by some house by Judge Grant. The two cou- ly. Borrowers in this association ples are Charles C. Mauser, 21, and make a saving on the repayment of mos chased Mrs. Pearl Lusk from her Complaint was filed with Judge Miss Pearl M. Ward, 23, and Ira Sout- their loans equal to \$250.00 to \$350.00 home on east Seventh street Tuesday Walker Wednesday morning by Mrs. hard, 21, and Miss Jessie K. Ward, 21. on a thousand over any competing was remanded to jail to lay out his will make their homes there. The young ladies are sisters.

sick list this week.

The Mutual Building & Loan Association of North Platte has plenty of

W. T. Heery, master mechanic of this division from Grand Island, was visiting friends in the city Wednesday and looking after some company af-Herman Timmer is reported on the fairs at this terminal. He formerly lived in this city.

# Only One More Day

THIS IMMENSE CO-OPERATIVE FAMILY IS CALLING YOU, they are telling you also that you can secure the same reductions in prices and terms. But you must hurry. If the sale only lasts one day longer, after that time you have to pay a great deal, more.

The other fellow has bought, its you that we are after now and we tell you, Mr. Piano Purchaser, if you intend to buy in the next two years it will pay you to do it now to day.

Your dollars will go about twice as far at this sale, and the saving is worth while.

OTHER FEATURES, BENEFITS ETC., WHICH DO NOT COST YOU A PENNY

FREE TRIAL-For 30 days you! may try out the piano you select in your home. If at the end of that time you do not want to keep it notify us and we will send for the plano and return to you every cent you? may have paid.

FREE EXCHANGE PRIVILEGE Any time within one year you may exchange your plane for a player or higher priced instrument and we will allow you all that you have paid out.

FREE DELIVERIES-All pianos or players are put in your home free of charge. This applies to exchanges also. WE GIVE FREE with each piano,

a stool to match and a scarf. WE GIVE with each player-piano, a bench, scarf and 12 rolls of music of your own selection.

WARRANTIES - Each instrument is guaranteed against all defects. Some five years, some a lifetime by the makers. On top of that we give our personal warranties, doubly protecting you.

We can arrange terms to suit the purse of most everyone, there is no excuse for you being without music in your home any longer. Join this CO-OPERATIVE movement for prices take our word for it, these prices represented to your notice.

### SAVE

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SAVE

The time to buy is when you can secure the lowest possible price, you can always buy pianos at their regular prices, but you can't always buy them for low prices quoted here. Remember these are all standard makes, thoroughly warranted, if they don't prove to be the biggest Bargain ever offered you, return it and we will refund every cent you have paid you must be satisfied.

This Sale Positively Closes Saturday Night, January 2nd So You'll Have to hurry.

TERMS on players to suit you. We will make a fair allowance for your old plane in exchanging for a player-plane.

PIANOS - Knabe, A. B. Chase, McPhail, Packard, Price & Teeple, Schaeffer, R. S. Howard, Kimball, Brinkerhoff, Smith & Barnes, Marshall & Wendell. Wilson, Crown, Holland, Gaston, Wil-

PLAYER PIANOS-Price & Teeple, A. B. Chase-Aristino, Schaeffer-Harmonola, Tpollo, Crown Combinola, Autopiano, Hoffman.

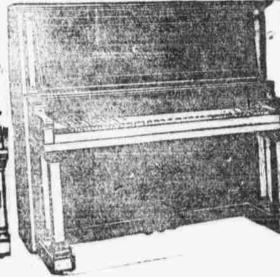




SALE PRICE \$410



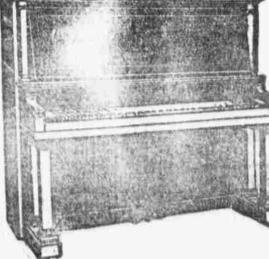
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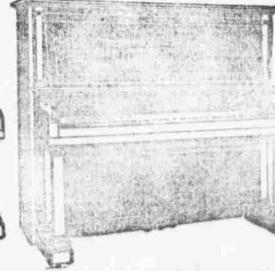
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