



In the First Christmaside.

With timbrel and with taber, with viol and with lute. Bend out of heaven, dear Spirits, across your frosty night, For the crown of every labor, and of every flower the fruit. The happy earth inherits, Love being here to-night!



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 with a small wad of handkerchief.

George and Myra had always been inseparable companions; had grown up almost side by side, and gone through school together, and finished off at the academy.

But why should George leave his sweetheart? The truth is, there was a condition attached to their betrothal which George insisted upon: "We must wait, darling, until I can provide a home for you. I must work and save enough money for a small nest for my bride. Will you wait for me, darling?"

"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."

"Ye-es," said George with hesitation and with a gloomy look, "but it does not increase fast enough to suit me." 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.

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 that 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 the 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 gaping 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 scuttle 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.

ADMIRAL SCHLEY ENDORSES PE-RU-NA.

Pe-ru-na Drug Co., Columbus, Ohio: Gentlemen: "I can cheerfully say that Mrs. Schley has taken Pe-ru-na and I believe with good effect." W. S. SCHLEY.—Washington, D. C.

ADMIRAL SCHLEY, one of the foremost notable heroes of the Nineteenth Century. A name that starts terror in the heart of every Spaniard. A man of steady nerve, clear head, undaunted courage and prompt decision.

Approached by a friend recently, his opinion was asked as to the efficacy of Peruna, the national catarrh remedy. Without the slightest hesitation he gave this remedy his endorsement. It appeared on later conversation that Peruna has been used in his family, where it is a favorite remedy.

Such endorsements serve to indicate the wonderful hold that Peruna has upon the minds of the American people. It is out of the question that so great and famous a man as Admiral Schley could have any other reason for giving his endorsement to Peruna than his positive conviction that the remedy is all that he says it is. The fact is that Peruna has overcome all

opposition and has won its way to the hearts of the people. The natural timidity which so many people have felt about giving endorsements to any remedy is giving way. Gratitude and a desire to help others has inspired thousands of people to give public testimonials for Peruna who heretofore would not have consented to such publicity.

Never before in the annals of medicine has it happened that so many men of national and international reputation have been willing to give unqualified and public endorsements to a proprietary remedy. No amount of advertising could have accomplished such a result. Peruna has won on its own merits. Peruna cures catarrh of whatever phase or location in the human body. That is why it receives so many notable and unique endorsements.

Address The Peruna Drug M'g Co., Columbus, Ohio, for free literature on catarrh.

Ask Your Druggist for free Pe-ru-na Almanac for 1904.

A young man lately attended a party, and on his return home complained to his father that a girl sat on his lap.

The well earned reputation and increasing popularity of the Lewis' "Single Binder," straight 5c cigar, is due to the maintained high quality and appreciation of the smoker. Lewis' Factory, Peoria, Ill.

The toasts at a banquet often make it a case of "stuff and nonsense."

A full dress suit is especially full on a tipsy fat man.

Hundreds of dealers say the extra quantity and superior quality of Defiance Starch is fast taking place of all other brands. Others say they cannot sell any other starch.

Too many high balls will lead you to the "three balls."

Debt is the hangman's noose around prosperity.

Beauty is skin deep, and few have thick skins.

To Cure a Cold in One day. Take Laxative Bromo Quinine Tablets. All druggists refund money if it fails to cure. 25c.

Making Glass. The art of making glass was introduced into Japan about one hundred and fifty years ago by a Hollander, who settled at Osaka. For several generations the knowledge of the process was confined to a single family, and it was not until about 1879 that the general employment of coal, instead of brick chimneys enabled the manufacturers to introduce improvements which placed the industry on a substantial basis. Osaka has continued to be the center of the industry, and now manufactures for export, besides supplying the home demand.

An Electric Printing Apparatus. Berlin will soon have an electric distance printing apparatus as an adjunct to the telephone. Through the contract with the postoffice department, of which the telegraph and telephone system is a part, the Ferndruck company is able to establish a special service for subscribers in Berlin and its suburbs, who can exchange communications in printed type by way of the main telegraph office. The apparatus is similar to a typewriting machine. After connection is made, communication can be had by simply manipulating the machine like a typewriter; even if the addressee be absent, the printing is done as if some one were at the instrument.

Well Remembered. Valley City, N. Dak., Dec. 14.—Two years ago Mrs. Mattie M. Boucher of this place suffered a great deal with a dizziness in her head. She was cured of this by a remedy called Dodd's Kidney Pills, and has not been troubled since.

Shortly afterwards she had a bad bilious attack, and for this she used Diamond Dinner Pills and was completely cured in a short time.

In January, 1903, she had an attack of Sciatica, of which she says: "I was almost helpless with the Sciatica, but remembering what Dodd's Kidney Pills and Diamond Dinner Pills had done for me before, I commenced a treatment of these medicines and in three weeks I was completely restored to health. I have great faith in these medicines, for they have been of so much benefit to me."

Dodd's Kidney Pills are very popular in Barnes County, having made a great many splendid cures of Sciatica, Rheumatism and Kidney Troubles. Many families use no other medicine.

There are so many ways of becoming unpopular that it is a wonder the average man has any friends at all.

"World's Fair." A St. Louis World's Fair Information Bureau has been established at 1601 Farnam St., Omaha, Neb., in charge of Harry E. Moores, where all information will be cheerfully furnished free of charge.

Piecework—the pie man's.

WINCHESTER "NEW RIVAL" Loaded Black Powder Shells shoot stronger and reload better than any other black powder shells on the market, because they are loaded more carefully and made more scientifically. Try them. They are THE HUNTER'S FAVORITE.

Telling a girl she has a heart of stone is not equivalent to calling her a "peach."

Quit Coughing. Why cough, when for 25c and this notice you get 25 doses of an absolutely guaranteed cough cure in tablet form, postpaid. DR. SKIRVIN CO., LA CROSSE, WIS. (W. N. U.)

When Loubet Retires. M. Abel Combarien, secretary general to President Loubet of France, is quoted as saying in a recent interview: "At the expiration of the period of seven years, for which he was elected, the president will step back into the ranks. He is a plain citizen, whom the people have raised to office for a given time, but he would consider it contrary to the spirit of the constitution for him to take advantage of his present position in order to secure re-election."

Don't you know that Defiance Starch, besides being absolutely superior to any other, is put up 16 ounces in package and sells at same price as 12-ounce packages of other kinds?

When you are cheering for your country, as you suppose, you are probably cheering for some big grafter.

You can't see an ideal oftener than once a week without scratching his venering.

Ridicule has torn down more than it has ever built.

GOOD HOUSEKEEPERS Use the best. That's why they buy Red Cross Ball Blue. At leading grocers, 5 cents.

You cannot carry a crooked rule along the straight road.

He became the Man of Sorrows for the sorrows of men.

Storekeepers report that the extra quantity, together with the superior quality of Defiance Starch, makes it next to impossible to sell any other brand.

The serpentine dancer doesn't care to "see snakes."

"Don't feel flattered that I laugh at your jokes," said an Atchison man to a joker. "I laugh because I am good natured."

Feet Comfortable Ever Since. "I suffered for years with my feet. A friend recommended ALLEN'S FOOT-EASE. I used two boxes of the powder, and my feet have been entirely comfortable ever since. ALLEN'S FOOT-EASE is certainly a god-send to me. Wm. L. Swornstedt, Washington, D. C." Sold by all Druggists, 25c.

The letter carrier is not expected to die at his post.

A man may use his pen poorly and his inkwell.

To dog a man's footsteps is enough to make him feel hounded.

THRIFTY FARMERS are invited to settle in the state of Maryland, where they will find a delightful and healthy climate, first-class markets for their products and plenty of land at reasonable prices. Map and descriptive pamphlets will be sent free on application to H. BADENHOOP, Sec'y State Board of Immigration, BALTIMORE, MD.

BEGGS' CHERRY COUGH SYRUP cures coughs and colds.

If afflicted with sore eyes, use Thompson's Eye Water



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BROMO-SELTZER 10c SOLD EVERYWHERE.

U.M.C. Smokeless Powder NITRO CLUB & ARROW SHOT SHELLS are winning everywhere at the trap-shooting tournaments. Loaded with A N Y standard smokeless powder, and for sale EVERYWHERE. Specify U. M. C. Send for catalog free. The Union Metallic Cartridge Co. Bridgeport, Conn.