

  
**SEVERAL NIGHTS BEFORE CHRISTMAS AND  
 CHRISTMAS NIGHT**

(BEING AUTHENTIC NOTES FROM A PHYSICIAN'S DIARY.)

Several nights before Christmas, when called to the house  
 Of a bar-keeper's widow,—a matronly spouse,—  
 Taken ill rather quickly, needing medical care.  
 Was wishing the doctor would be promptly there.

As I passed through the bar room, making way to the bed,  
 The patrons were gathered with noses of red;  
 Their coarse vulgar talk and their quarrels galore  
 Was a hint to my mind what their wives held in store.

The patient, whose name would be all wrong to mention,  
 Was found in the bed room, after making ascension,  
 Surrounded by comforts and luxuries aplenty,—  
 A woman whose age might be thirty plus twenty.

This picture I've painted passed by in my mind  
 Until several nights later it's sequel I find.  
 T'was on Christmas night when a call to the house  
 Was sounded in sorrow by a man's faithful spouse.

Their Christmas of misery which rum had upset  
 Was plain to all comers,—and I think of it yet.  
 In the corner near by stood a bare Christmas tree,  
 Two beautiful children,—one not more than three.

The mother, distracted, was wringing her hands  
 And Christmas for her seemed in far away lands,  
 For stretched on the floor in a drunken debauché  
 Lay the husband and father with vague, scattered thoughts.

To me it recalled, from a few nights before,  
 The visit I'd made at the bar-keeper's door.  
 So the memory expended for misery and drink  
 Makes the bar-keeper's luxury and comfort, you think?

But this luxury and comfort, in truth so obtained,  
 Is a sad commentary on riches ill famed,  
 For the man who was down on the floor in a drunk  
 Wrecked the Christmas of children, and mother's joy sunk.

So I say to you all, "Do away with strong drink,"  
 And of comfort to others let us now and then think.  
 For the great human race from the drink habit blight  
 Let us do like Saint Nicholas and bid it "Good Night."

By P. A. S.



SPECIAL EFFECTS

What ever engagements you may have for Christmas day do not fail in one thing and that being a visit to the Red Cross building. Arrangements have been made to have the structure extensively and gorgeously decorated. Camp electrician Webb has plans for unusual lighting effects which should be well worth seeing and among them being an illuminated red cross and star over the stage and another lighted symbol with the word "Welcome" tastily placed at the main entrance.

JAZZ DANCE

In addition to the regular Wednesday evening dance at the Red Cross building the music furnished by the Jazz orchestra of the 343rd Tank Corps on Monday evening was of such high quality that many of the audience were seized with the desire to dance. Accordingly an impromptu dance took place which by the moving of the tables and other articles of furniture soon assumed the aspect of a pre-arranged affair by virtue of the smoothness in which it was conducted and the merry-making mannerisms of the dancers.

THE  
**TERRELL MACHINE CO.**  
 Inc.

*Quill Cleaning Machinery*  
 10 EAST FOURTH ST.

**FIDELITY  
 MANUFACTURING CO.**

*Manufacturing Cotton Damask*  
 CHARLOTTE, N. C.

**SOUTHERN  
 COTTON WASTE GO.**

*Cotton Waste Dealers*  
 7 E. FOURTH ST.

**RIVERSIDE SAND CO., Inc.**

*"Raising Sand"*

REALTY BUILDING

**MEES & MEES**

CONSULTING ENGINEERS  
 AND INDUSTRIAL ARCHITECTS

**CATLIN & CO.**

YARNS AND CLOTHS

*New York Boston  
 Philadelphia Chicago Charlotte*

**J. M. OLDHAM**

*New York Life*

COM. MERCIAL BANK BLDG.

**MECKLENBURG LUMBER CO.**

*Yellow Pine Lumber*

REALTY BLDG.

**NEWSPAPER SERVICE**

Wholesale Paper and Printers Supplies

**Western Newspaper Union**

201-211 N. GRAHAM ST., CHARLOTTE, N. C.