

HE major felt a vague sense of personal griev-ance. It was Christmas morning. Everything was most agreeable at the hotel. As he had distributed his customary gold have to the 'bells,' the telephone side, the checkroom boys, his waiter

and the head waiter, and the cham-bermaid on his floor; he felt oddly

"Carrier, my boy," he told the tall, gaz-haired image in the mirror. Too're getting sentimental. You're thoroughly disappointed because there say't a soul in the world who can call out a 'Merry Christmas' to you. and mean it from the bottom of his heart. You're like a boy with nothing in his stocking. I'm ashamed of you, sir: I am indeed."

Yet that didn't help matters. wandered cround the deserted hotel serridors in the morning feeling ut-terly lost. Nearly every one seemed be going out to dinner to some acc where he was urgently desired our times he strolled over to the deak and looked casually up at his

desk and loosed casually up at his bea, but there were no mell and no presents for Maj. Pohert Lee Carter. The last time he had really de-etded to give up and ring up some bartiers associate to take dimer with him at the hotel. But he saw a let-ter in his box, and the clerk handed him a curiously shaped parcel, rather bulky and oval. He took it up to his

ews rooms, and opened it up to his ews rooms, and opened it with a fransy little thrill of anticipation.

By George, he was wrong. There was somebody, he didn't know who had remembered him. The last wrapper fell off, and he stood staring down to the little homework with health. a little homemade willow banket filled with mistletoe. A card on top road, "Love and Merry Christmas trem Pam.

Fam. He remembered no Pam. He opened the letter for enlightenment and as he read, his heavy graveysbrows draw closer together, and every now and then he ejaculated. God bless my beart and soul!"

"You won't remember me at all, but Fm Pamela Grayson, and my mother was your sister's daughter, so I'm your grandniece, see? Mother died abeut a year ago, just after we came north, and I have been here alone ever since. I didn't even know you were alive until cousin Florrie, of farter's Landing, down home, wrote-not told me to share this mistleting. and told me to share this mistletoe with you for she had gathered it is the old oak grove where you used to see when you were a little hoy. Here wishing you a merry, merry Christmas, and I wish I knew you, because a does certainly get fearfully loneome here in New York holiday time when you haven't any one of your very own." and told me to share this mistleto-

The colephone bell rang sharply just as the major was about to say "God bless my heart and soul" oneagain. But he lifted the receiver, and smiled at the soice that answered his

Delighted, Ralph, delighted, my bey, but you see, I am going to have a young lady guest here to dinner with me, my grandniece, sir, from Virginia. Now, instead of my joining you in your bachelor apartments, supposting you join as, and try and compensate to her for having a surely old for a dinner partner. Name's Pamela Grayson. Come right

Then be smiled, and kept on smil in the oddest, kappiest way. And based back in his deep leather chair, and lit a cigar, and watched the rings form overhead. up at them. He had four st Pam's grandmother had been youngest. And now somehow. youngest. And now somehow were all gone, as he thought "the way of the roses," and he was alone. He had rather lost track of all the nieces and nephews and grand Heres and grandnephews. Sentiment does not thrive in the New York at mesphere, yet as he looked at the otter, he felt an odd glow of pride. and he held the little basket of mis-tletoe out at arm's length, smiling retrospectively. Many a time he had gone up to the old oak grove to gather it for his mother to decorate the great at Christmas. And now this lit-

The major rose suddenly with quick Five minutes later be on his way up to the address in the letter. Upstairs two flights he climbed, and tapped at the low top door with its modest card:

od at the easel with her ok to him, a big blue apron on, and

Oh, holy town of Bethlehem, How still we see thee lie.

Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by."
The major stood at attention, but s she turned and caught sight of abe gave a little cry of joy.

le Bob! How did you come at

The bet she was bonnie, there to be was bonnie, the was bonnie, the way approximate in her girlhood. of her around her around her small head and wistful, childish may yet, it took him about ten minute to eak her into a "real" dress, as he said, and down into the waiting lay!

And how fast she talked. There

And how fast she talked. There are years to catch up, she told him, and is long as there who only the word them left in New York to upheld the pride of the Carters—"There's one more, child," warned he major, "But he is very distantly onnected, very. He is about year must eath us. Raiph Carter."

From ant very will, and did not peak, looking straight ahead of her. "Ever hear of him?" asked the major.

major.

"I just love his shadow," said Pam solemnly. "If it's the same one. I've tried and tried to paint pictures that would sell and finally I coased an old dealer on the avenue to let one of my Virginia gardens stand in his window awhile. You know Aunt Anna-bello's rose garden with the sun dial, and the old white coach house in the back? Well, it was snapped up by a Mr. Ralph Carter. And he wanted to know if I had more Virginia scenes. So I sent down the oak grove at sun-down along in November, with a big orange harvest moon stealing over the edge of the hill, and he bought that. And now I'm painting the old flagged walk under the grape arbor, with it all sunshiny, and Manny Martha Ann coming along from the outdoor kitchen with a big covered platter of fried chicken, and he's going to take that."

The major leaned back his herd,

aughing and shaking with pure encyment. Up on the Hudson, at Hast ings, stood Raiph Carter's bachelos home, and he had made it almost a replica of the old one in Virginia.



She Stood at the Easel With Her Back to Him.

Successful in every way in New York he had clung to the old southern tra-ditions almost fiercely, this tall, lean, clear-eyed lawyer.

clear-eyed lawyer.

"And so he's been hanging your rictures all over his walls," exclaimed the major. "God bless my heart and foul, child. This is certainly a merry hristmas for us all."

Fam was rather grave, though, as they went through the splendid red and gold corridors of the great hotel. The dinner was to be very select and private up in 'the major's reception room and she wondered what this disant consin would be like.

He was all she had wanted him to Even Pam could find no fault as the set next to him at the round table.

And oh, after years of lonely striving among strangers, how it made her cheeks glow and her heart beat to liear these two, the aplendid old malor and Rulph, vie with each other n their delightful courtery and com-

You don't know how good it is to and some one of your very own," she mid, when the major had gone out after the dinner was over.

"Don't 17" said Ralph, smiling down T've put in about fourteen at her. ears up here, and only the major to give me a cousinly greeting now and then. I'm mighty glad to find nother one, even if she is a nine-The major tells me he' to take a bonne for you and himself.

Why." Pam caught her breath ickly. "I didn't know that." So I will see a great deal of you

1 hope. He stopped and looked into her eyes. Someway they wavered under his gaze. The major's voice hailed

God bless my heart and soul, boy, an't you see she's under the mistle

I hung it there on purpose. Ralph stooped, and pressed a kiss the warm, half-averted pink cheek nile the major drank their health. "And to our next Christmas together, the little Pam, and you, my

soy, and this old chap who'll never be lonely again. next Christmas," pleaged "Will you kiss me then, Ralph.

But Pam's eyes only shone with happiness, and very demurely she an-

swered toe toast: "To next Christmas!"

DOROTHY 3 CHRISTMAS ZUCKER A-E-

AY, believe, me, the fell of were glad to see me has again, said Goorge Ports to the family at the di ner table. Fromessor its said I loaded like a s loge min, and all the lows said I and changed a great of

since September."

George had just arrived a few hose hefore for his first vacation but from college. He had, indeed, but very auxious to get home man among his old friends. The west hours on the strain he had while ways to the college of the college of the strain he had while ways to the college of the c

away by telling the other hoya about all the dances he was going to at-tend with Dorothy Smyth, "some tend with Derothy Smyth, "some classy girl from Bryn Mawr."

In the course of the dinner Doctor Porter could not but take down his son a little. The all-important finternity man was ternity man was rousted considerably for his overbearing manner. However George took it all with the stole dis nity of the captain of the freshman football team. As a matter of fact dad sank considerably in his son's

estimation After dinner George's older sister Mary asked him whether he was sing to call up Dorothy for the Chal-mas dance at the Hadley's.

"Aw, pshaw, here a fellow works his head off at school," said George is his best bluse, "he comes home for a fittle rest, and then you expect him to dance. And half the girls of school have it on Dorothy anyhow."

"What are you going to give her for Christmas?" said Mary, hidtog a smile, for she knew Just how George felt about Dorothy. "Goe I never thought about that

This last statement showed but how mood a time he had with his irretersity brothers the last days before vacation.

"Make it C. O. D., Georgie, Call on the hell size of vacation."

on dad: be'll give all you'll need."
"Not on your life," came back
George, "a college man must be able to shift for himself. Why, half the fellows work their way. I'll go out to earn the money myself tomorrow. Besides, I've been roasted enough."

True to his word George Porter was out early the next morning looking for remunerative toll. A window-card in a large cafeteria, "Help Wanted arrested his attention. He strolled up to the fat proprietor, seated behind the cash register, and honored him by offering him a college man's service "Any experience in the kitchen

he was asked.
In spite of the fact that the total of George's kitchen experience of sisted of a few evening's full memoring at Porothy's, he said boldly,

sure have.

This confused him a little. "Au-er at a friend's last winter."
"So you've been at Friend's exec."
Well, I'll take you. A dollar and a half a day and meals. Just go to the kitchen and get a white coat."

George had bluffed and he was

ing to make good the bluff. He rushed around at a great speed send-ing the soiled dishes to the kitchen. Accidently be picked up half a piece-Accidently he picked up helf a picce of lemon pie the owner of which had just gone to the ice water fateet to replenish her glass. "Wait a minute with my pic, if you plasses and the old maid victim of Goornels real. "No. I won't take anything back out of the mess on your transother Ven to not at a notice of the hero of many a football be

here showed a yellow streak. I bought the ple for the injured cue. Probably due to his pager over Id hen he next senttered the situ all over the floor. Without the los thought of sanitation he replaced on the stand. Suddenly the boas to im to carry all the silver to the schen to have it maded. Here the early Irish cook gove him a bot r otton. Why didn't you just take the kitchen and back. The au-ould have thought it was clean. I we they kicked to the bors. To

boy he has no feet of clearline Christmas shoppers coming into Seteria reminded Scores of his the dollar-fifty was not much, but mething that has been the last arce of many a young man-

whole day with soiled disher half-consumed food, and scotding was bad enough, but the worst came when we of George's pals came in duries the afternoon. Like a maiden cor-prised at her dip at the spring. George went into hiding. The man-user happened to see him ducking chind the counter and asked hi what alled bim

"Pst, don't let them see me!" said

"Who? Are the petice after y said the manager and grabbed him by the collar

This was too much for Georgia. The bowled over the manager and tout-

nd toward tools and deep limits and the control of the deep limits from the event shie of the Well, Architald, we can be at prefer face in the literal of the face, well, architald, we can be at prefer face in the literal of the face, for go and core the face, and core the face, and core the face, and core in the face of the face

officed bond' has for limits in elseved. Fasilies he was not a worked libe at his large work he had set not i to Steam in the favore could be not recommended in the Persy books to the date of the control of the state of the country of the state of the state

Thorn more dishered and the state of Course by the state of the state

Wes George was about to b a teories will anough to be controlled in the doctor of the but assumed after the doctor of the controlled in the timed to bid to say; if we presents I II all your box and boxt. It was the own: must best, it was the ver-lime. And Bonath says he saw y orthing for it. You shouldn't no or much trouble fust for me, Score-Trouble, Dorothy? Den't menti-te." And with somewhat of an effe-



"I Sure Have."

e added, "I had lots of fun; beat was working for you." Dorothy's head - it just a "!"

Dorothy," said George, oldn't I work for you all my life leorge placed his hands on Dor hy's fur cap and pressed buck ge-ir. Her head rose slowly and the ups met for one long second. Then George fastened his fraternit

in on her gown, the emblem which he rules permitted to be given on finneess and wives."

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The Spell of Christmas. Once more, we are under the specific christmes. We cannot be sour a critable or pessimistic, do our utmess

we have been subjected to a show both of gladness; kind thoughts are creatating with fullness and vigo hrough all the avenues of the mind we are clated, even jubilant, read for laughter and tears, sympathetis with the children in their give, tender thank the poor, and forder. toward the poor and forlors, strange ly accessible to life's best memories reverent toward religious faith, and almost willing to go to church. Al bis may seem to our pagen mind as couldn't a revival of religion, semi-bing inconsistent with proper comic austority, a senseless revel community at the expense of the proofs, habits, and releas of solid to

nounded into submission and symmetry, everyone for a few hours or days by the tides of an ideal existence. A. Gordon, in Atlantic Monthly,

Would Spoil the Show.

"If is prived to see distroct feet" b self-threes croppin out in a reparations for deviring a distriction of the on" said Parson Stowball, "Brust gg, who insists on bein' desta oh de 'caston, is er most man er true one, het inn' sakes? e r knew dat whenst b ' boot dat tree wif dem bo-his'n, dey mu't a chite in diich what maine bilieve he alle all de remembe er de Yelr e sieves ter see Brudder Bentles Santa Claus suit in de con'en

What Interested Him

Mr. Squiggs-I hear that Professor that the world will come to an eniext Christmas day Telumy Springs-Before or after dinner, pa?

Why He Changed.

Madre-I thought you and George acting shating Marlotte-So we were but when h or I have our test service of

STANKO

and to be narried to a man unled. Come in the morning is on an unitage, and the morning is or can unitage, and the morning is or room the station and and are recorded to drop in or the room in the arternoon—that wall become then going to bit hause. It is not explain to Mer. but was been s emplain to Meg. but you ishow as and to see a unit with the children's printing a fake Santa Claus for one, the just basely time to laten it better libb is such a tense i won't the nerve to tell him.

That hat's gasped Ted, jumping a from the dining table where he do been reading his last letter from or ever his solitary ment. Hastily but the waiter, he denied with all of strongh the hotel consider. there was no time to be lost for York was fourteen hours awar Tot cong for a messenger boy, 1st must to the office, and wise someor boy arrived was throwit a necessary belongings into a sul

tank board he maid to the Britis vector. I want you to an unit of a many wedding rise. Tomore are Christmas the stores will seed and I can't get it then a stores are open tonight An on the castocard platform ere by the eight-three—and be su d buy the best one the jeweler has What size, sir?" asked the boy

That's so-they come in differen ces responded Ted, excitedly wed-ing a bandful of cravats into his litense. "Oh, medium size, any size-nly hurry. And if you have time. et some jumping monkeys, and toy slooms, and tin kitchens and thing anything kids will like," he sald anding the boy two ten-dollar bills

The next morning, after a night steeping car. Ted Beverly was sti-mothless as he harried—laden will all-wrapped tin kitchens and various ther toys and a suit case-from his axi up the unpretentious brownston ant of the home of his friend la-aunders. Bob was Amy's broth-ad Amy lived with him and Pob' Meg, and little Bobble as

Mrs. Saunders-Meg-met him at

"How do you do?" she said in the oust matter-of-fact tone, just as if she and seen him the day before. "Do one in out of the cold. Bob will be ome in out of the cold. Bob will be glad you've come. If those purely lovely things are for my citled the glad you've come in the behind the love. Oh, by the way," she addressed, you have just every line. I was a not distracted. You have a re so obtained, but after you have a reso obtained.

o them out for two hours note who also know back as a no hours upstales before the

we invested to set the his action and the property of the property from the property from the control followed his invited in

"New, I will tell you" said " " the deer and locking it of her. "See, I brought year sould suspect something the be's just about your l play Santa for the children nga-this red suit. It's very il made it mynelf out of red out that so I think you can size nd this false fore and the action to beard and these majority may be hard to walk in a took more like Santa than were shoes. Anyhow I think they as tilee for Santa Claus."

a Amy well?" asked Ted rail-

Men excepty nodded her head retrustice. She was still thinks book the galothes. "It's formy to

I THE STATE OF THE PROPERTY OF

Ob, she doesn't mind the amoko," oplied Mrs. "Beildes, she almost ever crimes into this room." Ted felt himself defeated.

Ter m hour and a buit he remained in me solitary confinement and then deg came again to see that he was properly dressed and to give him the cue for his descent.

"Wait till I get all the way down and then start," she told him.

"Does Amy know I am here." Ted select with progressed and receiver.

usked with unconcealed concern.

"Hasn't the remotest suspicion of t." answered Meg. "I think she must be expecting someone for she has elephoned twice to the station to know whether the trains from the West were late. Yours wasn't late, as it? but I haven't said anything bent your being here."

"It's hard to navigate in these old

Per was hanging a hugh potato or full of toys on Ted's back. "I at the presents you brought to the presents you brought to the presents you brought to the and Pergy in with the rest." I will be a the presented of the present of the

In get safely down the first flight mairs with his heavy pack thumps on the stairs as he came. He se halfway down the last flight tien he caught a climpse of Amy a



"I Put the Presente You Brought in

eraned his head, easer to see the bod country for a record scaling the banisters, he missed his booking a the awaward galashes and with despirate effort to remain his hab-

The next thing he knew o was sprawling in a confused nd waite hair and sucking at the

tunis those gainshes re stores months a mark as he died himself out of the confusion of three stood Any, life and Mrs are not bothly and Pears all more less wide eyed and increalings.

Sain fell downstates that's all, but and to the sain.

sonh rel fownshire that sin, a birt used to ather, you know," in beg with rare presence of mind thems only to presence her chilton's faith in the myth of Sontains. She hurrisdly adjusted the lase free that had flepped up in the child.

Poor old Santa," said little Pepsy, examining the toys that had illed from the pack

Great gume, it's Ted!" began lieb un aside, but Mog chapped her and over his mouth

Meantime Amy was holding a whis-red conversation with the confused

these are papa's galoshes, d Hobby.

hat's not Santa, at all, anyway in hieles Pergy. "It's Mr. Tod Beys come to marry out Aunt Amy, there, and he's just dressed up Santa so's to fool mamma and Aunt Amy told us this mornthe was a going to marry her this was. Wouldn't Santa laugh if

ti me bin" Martine Bettypiper fyndiatell,