



THE CHRIST CHILD'S BIRTHDAY PRESENT.

By MAY G. RINGWOLT.

HE, with her sweet young enthusiasm, told them of the first Christmas... of the Christ Child cradled in the manger because there was no room for him...

to Him. Not far away is a great hospital for little children who have crippled legs and arms, and poor, crooked backs, sick children who can't run and play, but have to hobble about on crutches or lie in bed all day...



THE ANGEL AND THE SHEPHERDS.



Albert Eidefelt.

ing away the tears, she was soon skipping along in the sunshine, thinking what a lucky girl she was to have two lively legs, and a straight, strong back.

Agnes remembered the time, before dear father's death, when they lived in a cunning cottage of their own on a pretty avenue, but now mother and she had only one room at the top of a gloomy house on a forlorn back street.



HANGING THE STOCKING.

slipped timidly in. For a moment Agnes stood dazed, as if she had suddenly entered fairyland, for the bare walls of the room were festooned with heavy ropes of Christmas greens, the shades at the windows were drawn, and all the chandeliers brilliantly lighted, while above the awaiting manger shone a glorious electric star.

PANAMA EXPLOSION

Results in a Number of People Losing Their Lives

SCENES OF GREAT EXCITEMENT

Premature Explosion of an Enormous Elast of Powder Near Colon Claims Ten Dead and Fifty Injured.

Colon, By Cable.—A giant blast of dynamite, already prepared for firing, was prematurely exploded in the workings at Bas Obispo Saturday.

Numerous reports are current as to the cause of the accident but the official version from Culebra, which gives an estimate of ten killed and fifty wounded, states that during the loading of the last hole of the blast the dynamite in this cutting was discharged, and the remaining 22 tons were exploded by concussion.

The majority of the victims are penitents. Relief trains were sent to the scene of the disaster and one which returned here several hours later brought back the report that 45 of the injured had been sent to Anson Hospital.

The officials on the train stated that eleven dead had been found while many others in the camp of 120 who were employed in the cut were missing.

It was also reported by the trainmen that the explosion was due to a passing steam shovel, which hooked the wire leading to the immense charge of dynamite. Whether or not this was the cause of the accident, a steam shovel and crew, which happened to be on the scene were practically buried under the mass of rocks and earth thrown up.

Gangs were seen searching for the dead and assisting the wounded. Electric lights were set up and at night steam shovels were at work removing the tons upon tons of debris. Many of the men have been seriously injured, some of them probably fatally.

Tradition has it that the Panama Railroad cost one human life for every tie, what with accidents, insurrections and disease, and the construction of the canal has not gone along without exacting its toll.

There have been a number of accidents in the last two years, chief among which was the premature explosion of dynamite at Pedro Miguel in June, 1907, which resulted in the death of seven men and the injury of a number of others.

THE WORK OF CONGRESS

Congressional Summary.

The business of both houses of Congress was confined largely to listening to the reading of the President's annual message but in addition a few bills were introduced both in the Senate and the House and in the House a number of bills were sent to conference, among them being one providing for a new immigration station in Boston.

In addition, the Speaker announced the appointment of Mr. Higgins, of Connecticut, to a place on the committee on the judiciary, in place of Mr. Littlefield and of Mr. Martin to a place on the committee on Indian affairs in place of Mr. Parker, deceased.

For the first time during the present Congress there was a call of the committees of the House but no measure was reported by any of them.

The miscellaneous work of the Senate consisted in the main of the reference in executive session of about 1,500 recess nominations, which were sent to the Senate by the President, and the adoption of resolutions of regret on account of the death of members of the House who have passed away since the adjournment last May.

For nearly five hours the House of Representatives considered the bill providing for the taking of the thirtieth and subsequent decennial censuses, and passed it without material change. From the very outset of the debate it became evident that the progress of the measure toward passage would be impeded.

The session of the Senate was chiefly devoted to the formal presentation of departmental reports and the introduction of bills. The reports have been made public from time to time and the bills numbering 352 were chiefly for the granting of pensions.

The House of Representatives Saturday was in its old-time form. No particular programme had been mapped out, but under a call of committee several measures in which the members were especially interested, and in some cases vitally concerned, were considered.

Next turning attention to the bill providing for the protection of aliens in the United States the subject was threshed out at length. The measure had rough sailing and it was passed by a slim majority after the roll had been called twice.

Washington, Special.—At the War Department the first details regarding the withdrawal from Cuba of the American army of pacification, which has been on duty there since the fall of 1906, were made known on January 1st and will be completed by April 1st.

DUTCH SEIZE VESSEL

Venezuelan Ship Towed Into Port

PRILE CARRIED DUTCH FLAG

The Gelderland Steams Into the Harbor of Williamstad Towing the Venezuelan Coastguard Ship Alex Flying the Dutch Flag and Sporting a Dutch Crew.

Willemsstad, Island of Curacao, Special.—The Dutch cruiser Gelderland came into this port Sunday morning towing the Venezuelan coastguard ship Alex with the Dutch flag flying and a Dutch crew on board.

The crew of the Alex was put ashore and the Dutch officer and marines remained on board, the Gelderland finally taking the Alex in tow and steaming away with her prize.

The seizure of the Alex was in accordance with the plans of the Holland government when instructions were issued to the three Dutch warships now in these waters to make a demonstration off the coast of Venezuela and to capture any Venezuelan ships of war of guard vessels that they might find.

The people of Curacao are greatly rejoiced. The Governor of Curacao said: "The capture of our warships of coast guards and war vessels is not to be considered an unfriendly act against the Venezuelans. It is merely a reprisal against Castro's government which refuses to give satisfaction for his unfriendly acts toward Holland."

It is learned from the officers of the Gelderland that the battleship Jacob Van Hemsterck and the cruiser Friesland are now off La Guayra and that further captures may be expected at any time.

Taft's View of McKinley. New York, Special.—President-elect William H. Taft, speaking Sunday night at the dedication of a McKinley memorial organ in Metropolitan Temple, told to the audience the story of his official association with the late President, and declared with reference to the Philippine Islands that the policy laid down by Mr. McKinley in 1899 had been the policy of the present as it will be the policy of his own administration in the White House.

Mr. Taft will remain here until Thursday, when he leaves for Augusta, Ga., to spend the five weeks preceding his proposed departure to the Panama canal.

England Rushes More Troops to India. London, By Cable.—Another heavy draft on English home regiments for service in India was ordered by the war office. The troops will be ready to embark for India as soon as possible as the threatened Indian uprising is believed to be imminent. Friday's draft with the heavy reinforcements that started for India last Wednesday, has reduced many of the home battalions to mere skeletons and an additional call for recruits will soon be made.

THE DEAD TOTAL FOURTEEN.

Colon, By Cable.—The explosion Sunday at Bas Obispo of 21 tons of dynamite blast was the most serious accident in connection with the building of the Panama canal since the United States took control. A thorough investigation with a view to fixing the responsibility has been ordered and already officials are taking evidence.

Crooked Wisconsin Banker Sentenced. Milwaukee, Wis., Special.—John F. Schulte, aged 33, former paying teller of the First National Bank of Racine, was sentenced to five years at Fort Leavenworth by Judge Charles Schulte embezzled \$15,000, pleaded guilty and asked for leniency. Five years is the minimum penalty. Schulte was arrested at Cleveland on July 7.

Mail Carrier Badly Hurt. Spartanburg, Special.—Jesse L. Wood, a well known letter carrier, was thrown from his buggy early Sunday morning and seriously injured. The horse Mr. Wood was driving took fright on east Main street, just in front of the First Presbyterian church. He was thrown violently to the sidewalk and knocked unconscious. When taken to his home it was discovered that three of his ribs had been broken and one of his shoulders terribly injured. He is threatened with pneumonia, which makes his condition trebly worse.

Ohio Congressman Criticized Ill. Wooster, O., Special.—The man found unconscious in the chair car of a Pennsylvania westbound train here Sunday and taken to a local hospital was later identified as Congressman Grant E. Messer, of the Marion, O., district. Physicians declare he is suffering from uremic poisoning and acute congestion of the kidneys.

THE EVACUATION OF CUBA.

Washington, Special.—At the War Department the first details regarding the withdrawal from Cuba of the American army of pacification, which has been on duty there since the fall of 1906, were made known on January 1st and will be completed by April 1st.

Killed by Electric Shock. Yorkville, Special.—Mr. W. F. Downs, a native of Fort Mill, and for the past three or four years head machinist at the Tavora Cotton Mill at this place, was instantly killed by an electrical current. The electrical current which is furnished by the Southern Power Company, had failed and Superintendent Ramsour and Mr. Downs were searching for the trouble. The switch had been opened and Downs placed his hand on a wire he supposed dead but it proved not to be and he fell back lifeless.

Thomas F. Ryan Gives \$1,000 to Uncle Remus Fund. Atlanta, Ga., Special.—J. G. Lester, secretary of the "Uncle Remus" memorial association, announced the receipt of a contribution of \$1,000 from Thomas F. Ryan, of New York, to the fund for perpetuating the memory of Joel Chandler Harris. Mr. Ryan was tendered and has accepted the vice presidency of the association.

Wife of Millionaire is Arrested for Shoplifting. New York, Special.—Mrs. Louis J. Schloss, wife of the well known New York and Baltimore clothier, was arrested here last week for shoplifting. Different articles she had picked up amounted to about \$16. She pleads nervousness and ill health. The case will be heard soon.

MERRY CHRISTMAS For Family of Two. Oyster Soup, Gherkins, Roast Duck, Apple and Celery Salad, Potatoes, Scalloped, with Grated Onion, Squash, Plum Pudding, Hard Sauce, Tangerine Oranges, Grapes, Coffee.

For into you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour which is Christ the Lord.