THE CHRISTMAS BEARS.

By GERALD PRIME.

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ISABEL was having it out with her father. It was only a few days before Christmas, and she should have been at peace with herself and all mankind in general, but she wasn't. She had been telling herself all this particular day that as soon as her father came home she would put her case before him in a light so convincing that he would be brought to admit that he had been a little too arbitrary. Her scheme had not worked. She was beginning to realize painfully that her effort to gain her point had resulted in confirming her father in his opinion that it was a man's privilege to rule in his own home, especially when the woman of it was his only daughter, a girl of twenty, who could not be expected to know her own mind.

"You know perfectly well," said Isabel, with a final, hopeless attempt to snatch victory from the jaws of defeat, "that Jack and I have been lovers ever since we were children. We have been good friends for a long time. The only reason we don't keep engaged is because you don't approve of him."

"Well, rather," the other replied. "I have just dropped a cool $10,000 in the pit. If your man Truesdell has been equally out of luck he must be looking forward to a rather gloomy Christmas. It pleases me immense to think."

An hour later Van Ingen went into the writing room and penned a note to Mr. Truesdell to the effect that some unexpected and important business would compel him to forego the pleasure of a further discussion of the contemplated alliance.

On Christmas eve Goodale and Van Ingen met face to face on the street. The latter would have passed without a sign of recognition, but Goodale grasped his hand and greeted him cordially.

"I am afraid you people must have come out of your deal rather badly," Van Ingen stammered.

"Not at all," declared the other radiantly, with a final wave of his cane in the direction of his late rivals' land, which made the price soar. "We were lucky. The lower the price went the more we made. All in a day's work."

Van Ingen went off feeling more mystified than ever.

Bearly prices in the cotton market, he observed, rather disdefully. "Hope you're not involved, Van."

"No money to play with, dear old chap. I've just left a man up to his eyes in it. Tom Truesdell—know him?"

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He [illegible] Isabel's worthiness.

He [illegible] her father admitted. He [illegible] easier to manipulate [illegible] That night it appeared [illegible] But I haven't made up my mind yet. Mr. Van Ingen is coming to lunch with me tomorrow, and I shall make a study of him. He certainly ought to do great things for us socially."

Van Ingen was punctual at Truesdell's office on the following day. As he entered the busy place he found the bustle very disquieting to his nerves. Telephones clicked, clerks were shouting perplexing fractions into telephones, and there was an uproar quite unfamiliar to the young man's ears. All at once Truesdell rushed into view, almost overturning his distinguished visitor, and without even an apology shouted in a voice that seemed peculiarly disagreeable:

"Here, Goodale! Get a move on and sell all you can. [illegible] bushels to-day. Keep a cool head, man."

Having given his commands, Truesdell turned to his visitor. "You'll have to excuse me," he said. "I expected a quiet day, but the bears are on the warpath, and I'm having the fight of my life. Goodale will be here presently, and I'm [illegible] lunch. If I hate [illegible] enough left to pay for it."

The crushed parlor was away before the start of [illegible] but in a week [illegible] understood why so [illegible] was supposed to be should so [illegible] over his business. What was amiss? The idea was so irritating that he found a trifling consolation in the fact that his wooing had gone no further.

Just then Goodale returned, and Van Ingen felt it due to himself to learn something of the condition of affairs. His ideas of business were exceedingly vague, but he derived himself for the undertaking.

"Mr. Truesdell seems to be unusually excited today," he began. "I can't help thinking something must be up."

"Something is up," Goodale admitted quietly. "What's it about?"

"Oh, I see," said his host, with a dazed look which belied his assumption of intelligence. "Mr. Truesdell has been dealing very heavily lately, I believe."

"Very heavily indeed," Goodale agreed promptly.

"Many people will be very hard hit."

"Very hard indeed."

Van Ingen concluded that he had solved the problem. He thanked his informant, rose laughingly and proceeded to his club, inwardly grateful that he had escaped a terrible possibility.

While he was eating his luncheon a man whom he knew emerged from behind his paper and came over to his table.

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RESULT OF HIGH PRICES.

Suit Against M. L. Marley for Alleged Failure to Deliver Cotton According to Contract.

Wilmington Star

In Superior Court yesterday morning Messrs Alexander Sprunt & Son started suit against M. L. Marley, of Robeson county, for alleged failure to deliver to the plaintiffs at Maxton, N. C., 300 bales of cotton at 10 cents a pound according to contracts, one dated May 31st and the other June 9th, 1909. As in the other cases started recently, the plaintiffs are suing for the difference between the price they were to pay the defendant for the staple and what they had to pay for it on the open market, the difference in this instance being $[illegible]. The plaintiffs further allege that the defendant undertook to settle the amount without suit and paid in cotton and commissions $[illegible]. The suit is to recover $2,5[illegible] the remainder of the $[illegible]. Rountree & Carr represent the plaintiffs.

Could Not Be Better

[illegible]

STOCK LAW WANTED

News from Along the Line of Cumberland, Bladen and Robeson.

Correspondence of THE INDEX

We are glad to see in THE INDEX of December 9th an editorial on the stock law question. Give us more of the same goods.

A box supper at Vernon Friday night was an affair long to be remembered by the people of this section. Mr. J. D. Cannady sold the boxes in a way that delighted his bearers. Miss Mamie Carter's box selling the highest for $1.[illegible] purchased by Mr. B. C. Council. Yes, Bernice has a very serious case of cupidiphobia. Next the beauty contest opened, which was after the following order. To the prettiest girl receiving the highest number of votes were awarded a handsome sofa pillow. This was won by Miss Mamie Carter, who received 2[illegible] votes. Miss Ida Rid[illegible] stood second with 220 votes. The amount raised goes to the improvement of the school building. The amount raised was $1,2[illegible]. But we are about to forget the following contest. A case of soap was awarded to the ugliest boy receiving the highest number of votes. Mr. Norwood Davis was [illegible] he was expected. He received a [illegible]

Notice.

By virtue of the power of sale contained in a mortgage deed executed by [illegible] and wife to [illegible] Davis, and duly registered in the office of the Register of Deeds of Cumberland county in Book [illegible] page [illegible], the undersigned mortgagee will on Monday, January 17th, 1910, at 12 o'clock m. at the Court House door in Fayetteville, Cumberland county, North Carolina, offer for sale at public auction for cash the following described tracts of land in Cumberland county, to wit:

1st Tract. Beginning at a stake [illegible] Raleigh Plank Road [illegible] Jno. Burnett's upper corner [illegible] with his line [illegible] the back line [illegible] to a stake [illegible] Plank Road [illegible] the beginning, containing [illegible] acres more or less.

2nd Tract. Beginning [illegible] Mamie [illegible] the edge of [illegible] N. W. [illegible] Davis line [illegible] Davis line [illegible] containing [illegible] acres more or less.

[illegible]

FOR CHRISTMAS EVERYTHING For the Christmas Cake

[illegible] Fruits and everything of CHRISTMAS EATABLES you'll find at

WOOTEN'S
THE GROCER, Hay[illegible] St.

You Can Buy

New [illegible] for Sale 4[illegible] x 2[illegible] x 5[illegible] 4 [illegible] Roller Top Desk

Easy Terms

[illegible] Oak Crib
[illegible] Box Stove
New Typewriter [illegible]

[illegible]

127 DONALDSON ST.

Division Sale of Valuable Land

[illegible]

McKEITHAN-BARDEN WEDDING

Cumberland [illegible] entertained [illegible] Miss Willie [illegible] to Lake [illegible] Allan [illegible]

[illegible]

"A wedding of [illegible] interest [illegible] which was [illegible] plan [illegible] Miss Hettie Belle [illegible] and Mr. [illegible] Thornwell McBryde, of Fayetteville, which was beautifully solemnized last evening at the home of the bride, on Lee avenue.

"The attractive house was lavishly and artistically decorated with a profusion of Southern smilax, while pink carnations lent a touch of color here and there.

"The impressive ceremony was performed by Rev. W. H. Bell, and the bay window in the parlor, with its exquisite hangings of smilax and with white pedestals, on either side twined with green and holding dainty asparagus ferns, made an ideal setting for the bridal party.

"Mrs. Sam Houston was at the piano, and rendered Lohengrin's wedding march. The groom entered with his brother, Mr. Ernest R. McBryde, of Clayton. The bride was attended by her sister, Miss Fanny Bennett, and was very handsome in an elegant toilet of silver gray cashmere de soie, with cut steel trimmings over lace bands. The maid of honor was becomingly gowned in pure white crepe de chene, which had a tulle yoke seeded with pearls and pearl ornaments.

"After the ceremony, when congratulations had been extended, the guests were invited into the dining room and enjoyed an elegant supper of two courses, which was beautifully served. The damask covered table had in the center a cut glass vase filled with pink carnations and asparagus fern. Cut glass candelabra, holding wax tapers, were at either end, and garlands of smilax reached from the chandelier to the four corners of the table, while a delicate tracery of green gave a finishing touch.

"An elegant collection of presents was displayed in the hall, including beautiful gifts from out of town relatives and friends.

"Mr. and Mrs. McBryde left at [illegible] o'clock for a bridal trip to Northern cities. They will return here to spend the Christmas holidays, after which they will be at home to their friends in Fayetteville. The bride wore for traveling a stylish cloth suit, with moire blouse and beaver hat to match.

"Relatives of the groom who were here for the wedding were a sister, Miss Fanny McBryde, and two nieces, Misses Frances and Katharine Worth, of Davidson; two brothers, Mr. Archibald M. McBryde, of Charlotte, and Mr. Ernest R. McBryde, editor of the Clayton Enterprise, also Prof. J. A. McArthur, principal of the Lilesville High School."

A Thrilling Rescue

[illegible]

IN MEMORIAM

[illegible]

McQueen-Ferrell.

Mr. William Love McQueen, of Red Springs and Miss Floy Ferrell were married at St. Pauls Episcopal church at Clinton Wednesday. Miss Rometa Cooper was maid of honor and Mrs. S. R. Flowers was dame of honor. The other attendants were: Miss Annie Laurie Patrick with Mr. T. M. Ferrell, Jr., Miss Jewel Ashford with Mr. Jack Williams, of Warsaw, Miss Georgia Hobbs with Mr. J. M. Chestnutt, Miss Sallie Murphy, of Wilmington with Dr. R. F. Holiday.

The ceremony was performed by Rev. W. R. Noe.

Immediately after the ceremony the bride and groom left for Red Springs.

[illegible] Ranges, and Heaters. We have just received a car and prices right. Fayetteville Furniture Co. W. E. Brothers.

Letters of business concerning this paper or job printing should be addressed to THE INDEX or The Index Printing Co., and not to any individual connected with either.

Prof. L. H. Forbis, the popular principal of the Parkton High School, was an appreciated caller at THE INDEX office Saturday.

ADVERTISED AT LAST

THERE was a merchant in our town
Who was so wondrous wise
He saw his business running down,
Yet would not advertise.

SAID he: "I cannot see the sense
When trade is at its worst
Of multiplying my expense
Till what I find comes first."

A[illegible]

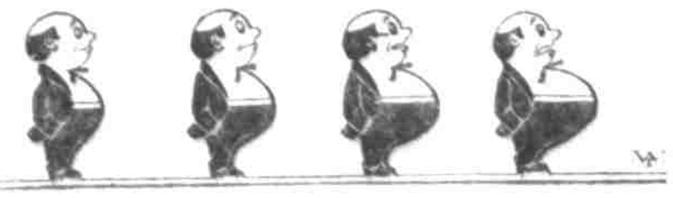
Land for Sale

I have a lovely farm I will sell. Suitable for all crops. Good state of cultivation. Terms easy.

W. H. DRAUGHN
Delway, N. C.

If business is dull advertise in The Index.

Every Little Bit Added to What You've Got



Makes Just a Little Bit More.

EVERY LITTLE BIT of good, attractive printing -- such as Handbills, Circulars, Folders, Pamphlets, Posters -- makes just a little bit more business. We'll do a little bit or a whole lot of artistic printing for you at prices JUST A LITTLE BIT MORE than bare cost.

Christmas Holiday Rates

VIA

ATLANTIC COAST LINE

On Sale December [illegible] 17, 18, [illegible] 24, [illegible] 1909, and January 1st 1910.

With final limit to leave destination [illegible] after the midnight January 6, 1910.

Tickets on sale to stations East of the Mississippi River and South of the Ohio and Potomac Rivers.

For further information, address nearest ticket agent.

W. J. CRAIG.
Passenger Traffic Manager.

T. C. WHITE.
General Passenger Agent.

WILMINGTON, N. C.

Red Seed Oats, North Carolina Seed Rye

A. E. Rankin Co.

183 Horses and Mules

Now on hand

OUR MR. BEVILL has returned from the Western markets, where he bought 51 Head of Mules and Horses. We have any kind of a Horse you may want: High Class Pacers, Good Trotters and Business Farm and Family Horses, well broken, Single or Double, as well as several extra Nice Saddle Horses and Pairs of Harness. We also have any size Mule from the heavy log Mule to the Smaller Cotton and Farm Mules. Each and every one guaranteed to be exactly as represented by us.

Buggies, Wagons, Harness, Robes, &c.

And the well known Hackney Buggies. We also have in hand at all times a complete line of the medium and cheaper grades, Harness, Robes, etc., to go with them.

We keep all sizes of Wagons, both one and two horse, on hand and can furnish you with any kind you may want, out of stock.

We pay the highest Maret Prices for Cotton.

If you need anything in our line call and see us.

Bevill & Vanstory, Fayetteville, N.C.