

The Montgomery

State Library

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NOV.



THE CHRIST CHILD'S BIRTHDAY PRESENT.

By MAY GRINGWOLT.

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 in the inn; of the Christmas carol of peace and good will sung by the angels to the shepherds watching their flocks by night.

Clarice's face was rapt; her eyes shone. Of all the teachers in the Sunday-school, none was so lovely as her own Miss Maud. She was certain that the Christmas angels had the same shining yellow hair. Did they



wear those fascinating gold hairpins, too? One was slipping out from the soft fluff over Miss Maud's left ear. If only she dared tell her! But that morning she had asked the awful privilege of holding Miss Maud's muff—a rich sable with a beautiful bunch of violets fastened to it—and there was no courage left for further intimate speech. Suddenly the spell was broken, and Clarice turned with angry jerk from the object of her worship, and fiercely scowled at an inoffensive little girl seated beside her.

"Excuse me," meekly apologized Agnes, the new scholar.

Clarice drew her light blue silk skirts away from the dingy brown cashmere touching them; held herself very straight; and, with a superb dignity, sniffed the violets on the muff. "And now, my dears," said Miss Maud, "as you know, Wednesday will be another birthday of the Christ Child, and who wants every one here to give Him a present—just as you would give a present to your own little brother on his birthday at home." She smiled radiantly. "Do you wonder how you can do that when the Christ Child has become a King in Heaven? I'll tell you. He left in His place all the poor little girls and boys in this big world, and told us that in giving to them we give

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. Wouldn't you like to make their Christmas so happy that they'd forget their pain?"

Her smile gathered up their eager nods of assent, as a golden thread gathered pearls. "I knew you would. Well, I'm going to tell you a secret." She leaned confidentially near. "The day before Christmas we're to have a dear little service down here, and over there on the platform will be an empty manger, and, as we sing our Christmas carols, we are going to march up to the manger and catch put in a gift for some little Christ child at the hospital. Won't we have a jolly time deciding what to bring? Why, it will be almost as exciting as if every girl of you were playing Santa Claus!"

Again Clarice's smiling face was clouded by a scowl, and one rude elbow poked the new scholar's arm. "Clarice!" exclaimed Miss Maud, severely.

"She's crowding me!" defended a sulky voice.

Miss Maud looked up at the little brown Agnes shrinking back into a corner. The child's eyes were luminous; her face flushed, her lips parted. "Agnes was so intently listening to me that I'm sure she didn't realize that she was leaning against anyone. I'm surprised at you, Clarice!" A cheek hid its shamed crimson in the soft muff. To have Miss Maud "surprised" at you was ignominy itself! Her tears wet the violets. It was all Agnes' fault. She would never forgive her—never!

And when Sunday-school was over and Agnes, with a timid smile, asked if she might walk up the street with Clarice, that unlikable little girl slipped her arm through that of her chum, Anabel, and, whispering and giggling, stalked by Agnes without a word.

The tears came into Agnes' eyes.



for mother would not let her play with the little girls in the new neighborhood into which they had moved, because the children there were rough and boisterous, and used naughty words, and she was very lonely. But she was a brave little soul, and dash-

THE ANGEL AND THE SHEPHERDS.



And the angel said unto them, Fear not, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ in the flesh.

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. Still, as her feet clattered up the dark, uncarpeted stairs, her heart was full of happiness because she had reached home at last—for even one room is home when mother is there.

"Oh, mother," exclaimed Agnes, "I've so much to tell you!" And cuddled in mother's lap, an arm about her neck, a hand patting her cheek, Agnes sweetly prattled of the Christ Child of old, and how His birthday was to be kept by giving presents to poor, sick little children left in His place. "And, mother," she cried, "I'm going to give a doll just like my own dear Peggy! Do you think, mother dear—if I sewed, too, you know—you could get the dollie dressed in time?"

The smile faded from mother's lips, and the arm about her girl's neck trembled. "My dear little Agnes," she murmured, with a catch in her voice, "mother is so sorry to disappoint you." She paused, then bravely went on. "Agnes has grown to be such a little woman that mother is going to explain everything to her. You know, dear, for three whole weeks mother had no work to do."

"Yes," chimed in Agnes, gaily, "and it was just beautiful! We took long walks, and, in the evening, instead of the stupid sewing, you told me the loveliest stories!"

"But, love," explained mother, with



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 waiting manger shone a glorious electric star. Then, ashamed of being so late, she hurriedly tiptoed to her place, and the vacant seat beside Clarice.

Clarice met her with a cold stare, but the gaze of Agnes' eyes never reached the unkind little girl's face, for it rested in fascinated awe upon a vision of beauty in Clarice's arms. It was a doll such as fairies might dream of. She had dark, clustering curls, and magnificent brown eyes. Her cheeks glowed with color, and there was the cunningest dimple in her round chin. She was dressed in clear velvet trimmed in white silk, and wore a claret velvet poke bonnet with white silk strings and an exquisite white plume gracefully touching the brown curls on the right side. And best of all, she had a necklace of gold beads, and gold bead bracelets dangling over her hands.

"Oh," murmured Agnes, "won't your little hospital girl be pleased?" "My little hospital girl!" scornfully whispered back Clarice. "You don't suppose I'd give my best doll away! Here's my present!"—she held out a box of jack-straws.—"Lady Lucille and I simply stopped in." She airily tossed her head. "We're on our way to a Christmas Eve party."

HANGING THE STOCKING.



a sad smile, "when there is no work there is no pay—no money to buy anything to eat nor coal to keep us warm."

"We ate every day, though, mother dear, and most generally always we had a fire."

"Yes, dear, because a kind man let us have all that we needed, and trusted mother to pay for it when she got work again. So, you see, Agnes, the money that mother is making now does not really belong to us, but every cent must go to pay our debts."

A small mother solemnly nodded. "It hurts mother very much not to give her darling any Christmas toys nor let her girl's kind heart have its wish about the dollie for the poor sick little child at the hospital, but Agnes will try to be a good little girl about it, won't she?"

The arms about mother's neck tightened their hold, but Agnes' mouth twitched, and she had to blink very hard to keep back the tears. If she had no present to lay in the Christmas manger, how would the Christ Child know that she loved Him? "Of course," she argued to herself, "I could explain in my prayers that I had nothing to give."

But had she nothing? Her face suddenly crimsoned, and a great lump choked her little throat. There was Peggy herself!

Without speaking, she got down from mother's lap, and darted across the room to her little bed. There, propped up by a pillow, sat Peggy in a stiff pink calico dress. The curls had all been combed out of Peggy's straggling hair; the roses had long ago faded from her cheeks, and in a sad accident Perry had parted company with the end of her nose.

"You dear!" whispered Agnes. Her lips formed a determined line. How could she have thought of giving Peggy up! What would she do all day without a dollie to play with? What would she do at night without arms. Clarice ran after her chum, Anabel.—The Interior.

It was the day before Christmas, and the children had sung all but their last carol which they were to sing as they marched to the manger and laid down their gifts one by one. The door softly opened, and a little brown shadow of a girl with a small pink object hugged to her breast

"Form in line, my dears," interrupted Miss Maud, briskly. "Yes, our class comes last, but you must sing all the time we're marching."

The children's voices caroled joyously as the procession pressed forward, but one little singer was mute. She was the last in the line, a little brown shadow of a girl with a small pink object hugged to her breast. Miss Maud stood by the manger, now heaped with all sorts of playthings, and nodded and smiled as each member of her class approached. Puzzled, she watched Agnes pause, look at the manger with frightened eyes, and hesitate. Then she saw the small pink object lifted to the child's lips, and heard the sound of a smacking kiss of farewell before trembling hands laid a doll with straggly hair, faded cheeks and a broken nose among the new toys.

"Why, my dear," cried Miss Maud, putting her arms about Agnes, "what is the matter?"

A great sob shook the tiny figure. "Tell me all about it," comforted Miss Maud.

And Agnes brokenly confided the whole story. But as she explained how mother's money belonged to somebody else, and how she had nothing to give the Christ Child except her only doll, neither of them noticed a little listener who drew nearer and nearer.

"No, no," cried Agnes, "I wouldn't take her back. I want the little hospital girl to have her—she'll preciate Peggy's crippled nose, won't she? Agnes forced a smile through her tears. "Only," she faltered, "it will be so—so lonesome without any doll—"

Something tugged at Miss Maud's skirts. She turned, and with a start of surprise, looked down into Clarice's eager face.

"I've lots more at home, you know," she whispered. And, laying Lady Lucille in Agnes' astonished arms, Clarice ran after her chum, Anabel.—The Interior.

MERRY XMAS 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

THE WORK OF CONGRESS

SECOND SESSION OF 60TH CONGRESS.

Opens... December 7, noon
Closes... March 4, noon

SENATE.

Republicans... 61
Democrats... 31

Total... 92

HOUSE.

Republicans... 221
Democrats... 163
Vacancies... 2

Total... 386

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. The Senate adjourned for the day at 2 o'clock and the House at 2:35.

Census Bill Passed.

For nearly five hours the House of Representatives considered the bill providing for the taking of the thirteenth 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 ineaped.

Pensions in Senate.
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.

American Railway Company Asks For a Charter.

Hawkinsville, Ga., Special.—Charter was applied for by a local attorney on behalf of interested parties for a charter for "The American Railway Company," which proposes building a line from Abbeville, Ga., to Winchester, in Macon county, Ga., via Hawkinsville and Grovania. The proposed road will traverse one of the richest farming sections of the State. It will tap the Seaboard at Abbeville and the Gulf line at Hawkinsville. Work will begin at once, it is stated.

Pope Blesses Mr. Taft and His Family.

Rome, by Cable.—Pope Pius blessed President-elect Taft and his family. The blessing was declared in the presence of Archbishop Glennon, of St. Louis, who told the Pope that he had received a letter from Taft in which the President-elect expressed cordial friendship for the Catholics. The Pope received the news with unfeigned delight and pronounced the blessing upon Taft and family.

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. The movements of the troops will begin 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 Rameur 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.

Two Die of Ptomaine Poison.

Westchester, Pa., Special.—Two members of the family of George VanHorn, of Mendehill, Chester county, are dead, and three others are ill as the result of ptomaine poisoning, caused by sausage prepared from a local grocery store. John VanHorn, eight years old, died Thursday, and his sister, Mabel, 10 years old, passed away Thursday night. Both suffered intense agony.

HOLT'S SLAYER CAUGHT

Well-Known Citizens of Durham Taken Into Custody For Assassination of Engineer Fred Holt.

Durham, N. C., Special.—The arrest of Reuben Barbee here for the murder of Engineer J. A. Holt last week, almost demoralized the lay visitors to the Methodist Conference and in a few minutes the news had spread all over the city.

Barbee was arrested Friday afternoon by a policeman for being drunk and that circumstance started the story of his connection with the crime. As a matter of fact, this step had been contemplated several days with accumulating evidence tending to show unfavorably against the Durham man. Barbee himself has exhibited an interest in the crime, not altogether characteristic, and this week said he had found the murderer whom he designated as Robert Golden, a colored helper at the coal chute. Reuben mentioned the single-barreled gun as evidence and said he wanted but little more evidence to cinch the reward. There are other stories that in his cups he has said he has killed four men and followed none to the grave. That record is supposed to be true, but Barbee never suffered for any crime.

The circumstances upon which the arrest was made are these: Barbee has been for years at loggerheads with the Southern Railway; he lives in the coal chute vicinity; he has a grudge against M. Greenberg, whose house was fired into the night of the Holt murder, and the officers have had no other theory than that the same man did both; he has done some talking; two negroes are giving testimony that they saw him come out from the coal chute the night of the murder and that he had a gun in his hands. Upon this testimony the arrest was made by Sheriff Harward and Detective Ashburn.

Banner Must Serve His Term.

Raleigh, Special.—According to a ruling just made by the Supreme Court finding no error in the trial below Lute Banner, a former member of the State Legislature, postmaster of his town and internal revenue officer, Watauga county, must serve his sentence of 30 years in the penitentiary for the murder of Ambrose Cline, whom he shot down as he was passing his store on the opposite side of the street with-out the least warning of his intention. The plea in the trial below was insanity, but the Supreme Court, Chief Justice Clark writing the opinion, declares that there was no evidence of insanity in the trial and expresses the view that Banner was lucky to avoid conviction of murder in the first degree, thereby escaping the gallows.

Decrease is Comparatively Small.

Raleigh, Special.—Corporation Clerk Wilson, of the office of the Secretary of State, made up his report on corporations, which shows that during the twelve months which ended November 30th last year there were 239 charters granted, while this year, up to November 30th, the number was 763. This shows a falling off of 324, or 70 per cent, in the total showing. The largest charter went to the Raleigh Light and Power Company, the amount being \$3,750,000.

Falling off Shown in Tobacco Reports.

Raleigh, Special.—The November report of the sale of loose leaf tobacco in the warehouses of North Carolina in the State Department of Agriculture show 17,831,000 pounds for November compared with 41,291,239 for October. Winston-Salem leads with 3,112,249 pounds; Wilson second, 1,899,017; Mount Airy, third, 1,470,843. Forty-one markets reported.

News of the State.

D. A. Lynch, assistant manager of the Davidson football team for the past season, has been elected manager for next year, season of 1909.

Editor H. B. Varner, of Lexington, and the party of nine young ladies who won a free trip to Northern cities in a voting contest, are now in New York and are having a big time doing that city.

The Champion Fibre Company, of Canton, is building a large boarding house at Sunburst preparatory to beginning work there with a large crew of hands. The force now at work at Horubuckle will be transferred to that place.

It is learned that High Point's public building will commence to take shape some time next spring. The appropriation calls for \$75,000 and High Point stands close to head on the list for appropriations to be passed upon.

Mr. W. E. Shepherd, railway agent at Mooresville, has resigned his position and will leave in a short time for the West.

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Hale Succeeds Allison.

Washington, Special.—A largely attended caucus of Republican Senators unanimously elected Senator Hale of Maine, as chairman of the Republican caucus to succeed the late Senator Allison, of Iowa. The position carries with it the chairmanship of the Republican steering committee of the Senate. Senator Hale's nomination was the only one before the

FOREST RESERVES

One of the Most Urgent Needs of the Nation

THE DEMAND FULLY GONE OVER

Governors and Prominent Men From Every Section of the Country Appear Before the House Committee and Urge the Establishment of Forest Reserves.

Washington, Special.—A distinguished assembly of witnesses testified before the House committee on agriculture to the need of the Federal government establishing forest reserves in the White mountains and in the Southern Appalachians. It marked the opening of the fight in this session of Congress for the creation of these reserves to protect the navigability of navigable streams, a purpose which the committee conceded is constitutional.

Besides Governor Guild, of Massachusetts, who was the spokesman until he was compelled to leave the city and turn his duties over to Col. William S. Harvey, of Philadelphia, Governors Chamberlain, of Oregon; Ansel, of South Carolina; Hoke Smith of Georgia; and Johnson, of Minnesota, former Governors George E. Pardee, of California, and Blanchard, of Louisiana, and Dr. Edward Everett Hale, chaplain of the Senate, were among those who appeared. Chairman Scott, of the committee, said the committee appreciated the public sentiment in favor of the project but that the problem of obtaining the desired end was difficult.

Representative Scott explained that the House committee on the judiciary had questioned the constitutionality of action on the part of Congress looking toward the purchase of land for the conservation of forests whatever it might do toward protecting the navigability of the streams of the country.

Governor Guild, in responding, laid emphasis upon the ability of the general government to undertake projects for the general welfare of the country, saying the appeal come from all quarters of the nation.

It is probably the first time in history that the Governor of South Carolina and the Governor of Massachusetts have joined hand in hand to appeal to Congress for the enactment of law for the general welfare of the United States," said Governor Guild, as he bowed to Governor Ansel, of the Southern State.

President Van Hise took the position that the peculiar rapidity of erosion in the Southern Appalachian mountains necessitated the establishment of a reserve there, for the preservation of the navigability of the streams and the protection of the harbors. He gave it as his opinion that the crucial area to be purchased was the lower slopes of the mountains where the inclines are so steep and erosion so rapid that their use for agriculture is less important than the preservation of the streams.

Nine Injured by Bomb.

New York, Special.—Creeping over the roof to an airshaft in the five-story tenement at 330 Sixty-third street, a Black Hand agent dropped a bomb to the ground. The explosion that resulted was terrific. The walls of the building reeled and tottered, almost falling, and every window within a block or more was shattered. Nine people in the building and in the street were injured by the explosion of the bomb, some of them seriously, although it is not thought that any of them will die. It was a miracle that no one was killed outright. The police are investigating the case and they have come to the conclusion that the bomb dropping was the work of the same Black Hand agent who three years ago kidnapped the small son of an Italian banker, who owns and occupies a part of the building, and that the motive was revenge, the banker having refused to ransom his son. The bomb-thrower made good his escape, but the police believe that they have clues which may lead to his capture, or possibly to the breaking up of a Black Hand gang.

Every Citizen to Become a Soldier.

Washington, Special.—Every male citizen in the United States between the ages of 16 and 45 is to become a part of the military force of the country and to be liable for military duty under the terms of a bill, the passage of which has been recommended by the President in a special message to Congress. The bill provides an elastic organization and, as the President says, under its provisions it will be just as easy to raise an army of 2,500,000 as of 50,000.

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