

The Green Christmas

Christopher G. Hazard

It was not a very cheerful boy that was looking out of the window at what little dirty ice the winter thaw had left upon the hill in front of the house.

It wasn't a very cheerful house, either. Mr. Bondage was a chainmaker, and when he came home from his iron works he always seemed to bring his business with him.

Chained to the front porch was an iron dog, whose fixed and ferocious snarl was a standing insult to all the village dogs that could get through the iron fence to dispute with him.

Besides all this, Ishmael had had no Christmas. Mr. Bondage did not believe in Christmas; to him Santa Claus was a foolish imagination and a hurtful superstition.

But Ishmael Bondage had an Aunt Sarah! And Aunt Sarah had the pleasantest home in the country. It was a low, wide, rambling old house.

When May came it seemed time for Ishmael to go home, but he was not very happy at the prospect. Indeed, he felt something like one on his way to jail, and even shed tears at the thought of leaving Sweetfield, so that a squirrel, seeing him wiping his eyes under a tree, exclaimed "Oh, what a rainy boy!" but the day came and Ishmael went.

Another surprise awaited him, however, for, as he neared home and entered it, everything seemed changed. The house looked sunny and pleasant in its new colors, the fence had disappeared, the iron dog had been moved to the barn, and the mailed knight had gone down to the ironworks to be turned into plowshares.

When Mr. Bondage went out to Sweetfield to visit his sister and to report upon Ishmael's progress, Aunt Sarah had her reward. "It is all your doing, Sarah," said he. "I needed someone to show me up to myself."

"Well, brother," said Aunt Sarah, "A Stitch in Time Saves Nine," as the proverb has it, and you certainly will be proud of our boy yet, as proud of him as I am of my big, new brother."

When December came blustering around again and brought Santa Claus and all his load of love and jollity, there was no place that more warmly welcomed him than Mount Freedom, as Mr. Bondage's home had come to be called, and of all the happy Christmas parties of that year, none was fuller of mirth and good cheer than the one at Mount Freedom.

It wasn't a very cheerful house, either. Mr. Bondage was a chainmaker, and when he came home from his iron works he always seemed to bring his business with him.



"A Wonderful Pocketknife."

It was the most interesting tree that Ishmael had ever seen, from the bundle at the bottom, through all the ornaments, lights and gifts, to the mysterious package at the top of it shone with kind and thoughtful love and sparkled with merry wishes and glad promise.

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THE ANNUAL ROMANCE

By Mary Graham Bonner

ROSALIND was engaged to be married. She was to be married the day after Christmas. She couldn't very well be married before then as her fiancé was so especially, unusually busy at Christmas time, and it would have been cruel, too, not to have waited.

For Bill, her beloved, took the part of a Santa Claus every Christmas for one of the big city stores. He was an ideal Santa Claus. He wasn't too tall, he wasn't too short; he was rather inclined to a stockiness of build, and extra clothes made him look an ideal round Santa. He had a ruddy face and snapping blue eyes—and dressed in a Santa Claus costume he was perfect.

How the children did adore him! And how he loved them! They whispered their secrets to him and their eyes danced with rare happiness when he waved a good-bye to them and called them:

"Sweethearts," and "My dears," and "Children dears," and other affectionate terms.

Rosalind had been thrilled when she had heard him first, in his deep beautiful voice uttering such beautiful words! For Rosalind had met him first when he had been a Santa Claus and she had been an extra sales girl taken on for the Christmas rush.

It had been her first meeting with him. But she had been kept at the store after the Christmas rush was over, and Bill had worked for the store for seven years now. Every December he was Santa Claus. The other eleven months he spent in selling kitchen utensils in the basement.

They had fallen in love with each other, though, at this time when he had been Santa Claus. And many a time when he had said: "Good-bye, dearie," to a child, he had been thinking of the pretty girl who was at that very moment selling dolls and giving her smiles, her beautiful smiles to a mother or to children.

And now a second Christmas was coming around, and once more Bill was Santa Claus, and as soon as he was through being Santa Claus they would be married.

"I've always had lots of romance in my nature," she said to him one evening. "I've always thought it would be awful to be like some folks—some I know and some I've heard that. One lady who came to the store with a friend was telling how she and her husband got along perfectly. They each had other friends, and sometimes they met and embarrassed others when they told that they were married. For one time the husband had been having dinner with a friend, and the friend had been looking flirtatiously at his wife who was also in the restaurant. "The friend had been much embarrassed when he discovered he had been

flirting with the husband's wife. And she was telling this as a good joke. "I wouldn't want that kind where one goes one way and the other the other way. And I wouldn't want to be known as a wife because I was quarreling with my husband. "You know how you hear folks say 'Well, you could tell they were married, all right.' I don't want that kind."

"And you won't have it, little girl," Bill said. "I'm for your kind of romance every time. I'm for the kind of a married life where folks won't think we're married—we'll be so happy! I had a friend once like that. Why, a cop called him down because he was making love to his wife and wouldn't believe they were married 'cause she called him 'darling.' They found it awkward, but they had the right idea."

And as Rosalind listened to her Santa Claus, as she counted the days before the wedding, she said to herself:

"It will be an annual romance to see Bill as Santa Claus, for it was as Santa Claus that I, too, fell in love with him as well as the children, and every year our happy, merry memories will be revived for us. We believe in romance and romance plays in us, for it, too, is going to play in us."

And someone who knew them both said:

"It wouldn't be a bad idea if every man could be as he was during his courtship days for a whole month of every year!"

Have Breakfast Room Tidy. Start the day right by having the breakfast room neat and tidy, even though a more thorough sweeping and dusting is done afterwards. If the table is set the night before a light cloth must be thrown over it.

KANNAPOLIS DEPARTMENT

Kannapolis, Dec. 20.—Kannapolis Y. M. C. A. will open its new auditorium Monday, December 23, with an excellent program. In the afternoon it will stage a special feature, the beautiful picture, "Under the Slipper." The show will be free to all and will be followed by a huge Community Xmas program at which time all the worthy children of Kannapolis will be remembered with toys and the innumerable goodies that go to make the little ones' Xmas a happy one.

Monday night the Kannapolis Y. M. C. A. will render a concert along with the Y pictures. This special feature, also, will be without charge. The new auditorium is a model in every respect and will seat 15,000 people. Two new power projection machines have been installed, and this assures the patrons the best picture that can be shown. On the first floor are suitable rest rooms for ladies. Beautiful new scenery has been installed and is ready for the opening date. This new auditorium would be a credit to any town much larger than Kannapolis, and Kannapolis people should appreciate a feeling of pride in having such a splendid building for their use.

Dr. W. S. Rankin, of Raleigh, spent Sunday with his brother, Dr. R. B. Rankin.

Mrs. Lois Earnhardt and children will arrive Saturday to spend the holidays at home. Mrs. Earnhardt is teaching school at Lowell.

Mrs. R. L. Saunders and little son, of Salisbury, are expected to arrive today to be the guests of Mrs. Saunders' parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Walter, during the Christmas season.

Mrs. S. C. Simmons and children left Friday for West Point, Ga., where they will spend Christmas with Mrs. Simmons' home folks.

The friends of Mr. G. A. Bryant will leave with regret that he is indisposed at his home on Ridge Avenue.

Mrs. H. J. Peeler and daughter, Della Mae, who have been ill, are now improving.

The Lutherans will observe Christmas Friday night with appropriate exercises.

The young people who are attending school elsewhere are returning home for the holidays. These include Misses Lucile Cline, Mary Bell Umberger and Mary Brady Thompson, of Greensboro College; Misses Queen and Geneva Graeber, of Salem College; Misses Mary Floy and Phyllis Halstead of N. C. C. W.; Miss Pauline Walter, of Mt. Ansona Seminary; Misses Blanche Fumierbark and Neomi Tillman, of Wiggins; Misses James Floy and Wm. Cline, of Oak Ridge, and Misses Ruth Sherrill and Rosalyn Reed, of Sunderland.

The Woman's Club of Kannapolis held its regular monthly meeting on Monday night at the Lutheran Church. Some musical selections were rendered, followed by a most enthusiastic lecture on "Community Spirit" by Rev. Mr. Jenkins of Concord. A good bit of business was transacted, some of which was plan adopted for the sale of Red Cross seals, plans for work on the Red Cross Roll Call, Christmas boxes for nurses at Oteen, and other items.

The Literary Department of the Woman's Club met with Mrs. R. B. Rankin on Wednesday. Interesting current events were given at the roll call, followed by a musical selection. A paper on Joel Chandler Harris, by Mrs. H. A. Alford, was greatly enjoyed, and a poem read by Mrs. W. C. Jamison. "Go to Woman's Club." Refreshments were served.

Messrs. Clifford Scott, Leonard Umberger, Orin Burnhardt, and James and Roy Swearingen, of Trinity College, will be here for the holidays. Students of Winemoff High School will give a play entitled "The Hoodlum" tomorrow night.

Mt. Olivet Sunday school will have a Christmas tree and exercise Monday night.

Misses Elizabeth and Annie Mae Robbins will spend the holidays at Lake Junaluska with home folks.

The Presbyterian Sunday School will give their Christmas entertainment, including a musical selection. A paper on Joel Chandler Harris, by Mrs. H. A. Alford, was greatly enjoyed, and a poem read by Mrs. W. C. Jamison. "Go to Woman's Club." Refreshments were served.

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PARKS-BELK CO. FRIDAY & SATURDAY Last Days of Big CHRISTMAS SALE

For the Late Christmas Shoppers we are offering many Neat and Attractive Items for the last two big days of the sale. "A Few Specials":

TOWELS AND BATH MATS FOR CHRISTMAS GIFTS.

Good assortment of colors in Bath Mats 96 to \$2.98
Cotton made Towels in Turkish and Huck, pink, blue, yellow design, sale price 36c, 48c, 59c, 86c

BABY BLANKETS

Cotton and Wool
Pink and Blue Baby Blankets, plain and scalloped edge, 96c, 96c to \$1.25
All Wool Baby Blankets \$1.75 to \$3.98

BOX STATIONERY FOR CHRISTMAS GIFTS.

Prices to suit everybody. Correspondence Cards, all colors 20c, 48c, 59c
Box Paper, all colors 19c, 35c, 48c, 59c to \$2.98

We have all the newest Pound Paper and Fancy Box Paper and the new Plaidilly Sport Cloth and English Crushed Bond Paper.

JAPANESE WORK BASKETS

"A Gift That Will Last For Years."
All shapes and sizes, the best made at 96c to \$2.98

GLOVES FOR CHRISTMAS.

"A Few Prices."
Ladies' and Misses' Kid Walking Gloves in brown and tan 95c and \$1.39
Ladies' Kid Dress Gloves, brown and Black 95c, \$1.48, \$1.98, \$2.98
Chamoisette Gauntlets and Gloves, all shades 95c, \$1.25
16-Button Chamoisette Gloves in leading shades \$1.48

16-Button Best Kid Ladies' Gloves in black, white and Brown \$3.50 value at \$4.98



COLD WEATHER BLANKETS

At These Prices—See Window Display
Cotton Blankets 96c, \$1.48, \$1.98, \$2.98
Army Blankets \$2.98, \$3.45, \$5.95
Fiblin All-Wool Blankets in all plain and sizes \$6.50, \$7.95, \$8.95, \$14.95

SWEATERS FOR CHRISTMAS GIFTS.

Slipper Sweaters, Coat Sweaters, with or without collars, Tweeds style or just any style or collar you want—and any size. "Our prices can't be beat."

A NEW RUG FOR CHRISTMAS.

Everything in Rugs, all sizes and patterns in Grass, Velvet, Rug Rugs, Congo-lem. Any of these would brighten the home. Lowest prices guaranteed.

FOR THE CHRISTMAS GIFT

The question is easily decided at this store. Many new items to select from every day.
Neckties of the latest colors and style at 25c to \$1.98
Hand Bags or Suit Cases \$1.48, \$1.95
Bath Boxes \$5.95, \$6.95, \$7.95
Slippers to match. "The Hundreds of Things to Select For Gifts."

TOILET GOODS DEPARTMENT

In our Toilet Goods Department you can find just what you want for a great deal less. A Few Specials:
Three Flowers Face Powder 69c
Doraine Face Powder \$1.48
Woodbury's Face Powder 48c
Melba Face Powder 48c
Mary Grier Powder 48c
Three Flowers Toilet Water \$1.48
Cutex Sals 48c, \$1.39, \$2.79

PARKS-BELK CO. Concord's Christmas Store



spent an enjoyable hour yesterday at the South school building where a beautiful Christmas tree was in evidence and gifts were being distributed. Each room of the lower grades, also, had its tree and appropriate exercises.

Mr. and Mrs. John Rutledge and John Jr., and Mr. A. L. Brown spent Sunday in Concord at the home of Mr. and Mrs. A. M. Brown, where an elegant birthday dinner was given in honor of Mr. Brown who celebrated his seventy-fifth anniversary. Seventeen enjoyed the hospitality of the home.

The Service Grocery has a watermelon on display in the window, and we are wondering who is going to buy this rare fruit for Christmas. We challenge even Venus or anyone to get ahead of this.

A marriage of interest took place Friday at the Baptist parsonage when Miss Lillian Blackwelder became the bride of Mr. Cal Bentley, Rev. J. H. Brown officiating. Mrs. Bentley is a young woman of beauty and accomplishments. Her home is in Mt. Pleasant. Both these young people are very popular, and will be at home at the Mary Elia Hall.

Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Probst and Mr. and Mrs. Fred Lomax will attend a wedding dinner to be given Saturday in Concord at the home of Mr. and Mrs. J. N. Lomax.

Miss Mary Correll, who has been ill for some time, is improving.

Miss Texie Blanton will spend Christmas at her home near Shelby.

Mr. Ralph Kincaid, of Rutherford College, is at home for Christmas.

Mr. Sherrill, of Oak street, is ill.

The Baptists will have their Christmas tree Saturday night, and the children's treat will be given Sunday morning in the class rooms. A beautiful pageant will be given Sunday night.

An entertainment will be given Sunday night by the primary grades of the Methodist Sunday School. Monday night a good program also will be rendered.

WELTH OF SCIENCE WILL BE UNFOLDED
American Association for the Advancement of Science to Meet.
Boston, Mass., Dec. 20.—Workshops of the world which have recently come within the range of human understanding and control, representing the knowledge acquired by the thousands of men of science toiling in every field of human interest, will be announced in Boston next week. For five days, beginning next Tuesday, the members of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, a body which includes some ten thousand of the greatest scholars of the United

States, will hold their annual convention at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. The sessions will be open to all. The program provides for addresses by hundreds of specialists in various fields. Their subject matter will be the equivalent of a dozen university educations compressed into five days.

The American Association for the Advancement of Science might be called a clearing house of science, receiving reports and announcements from practically all branches of high learning and scientific discoveries. Affiliated with it are about seventy scientific organizations which meet with it, either as sections or as independent organizations with the understanding that two or three occasions during the convention they will all meet in general sessions. A large majority of the affiliated organizations are expected to participate in the coming convention.

Within the association there are eighteen scientific sections representing a wide diversity of sciences, and many of the meetings during the convention will be grouped under these sections. One section, for instance, covers mathematics; another covers physics and so on, the other subjects being chemistry, astronomy, anthropology, geology and geography, zoology and botany, the special subject of botany, psychology, the social and economic sciences, the history and philology, engineering, the medical sciences, agriculture, manufactures and commerce, and education.

This introduces such subjects as the metric measurements, engineering of all branches, which may spread out to the inclusion of radio, agronomy, which deals with the scientific management of productive soil, horticulture, floriculture, forestry and related subjects.

More in line with the usual trend of the conventions are the subjects of geology, of geological learning which deals with the causes and effects of earthquakes, paleontology, which has to do with the past geological periods as represented by the fossils; mineralogy, dealing with the crystallography and physical and chemical properties of the minerals; ornithology, the study of birds; metallurgy, heating, refrigeration, the medical service, public health, bibliography, microbiology, bacteriology, pomology, astronomy, sismatology, geology, though of in relation to botany as a branch of biology, calling for a study of the science of the origin, development, structure, function and distribution of living organisms; genetics, the science of the origin and evolution of living organisms; physiology, the science of

of plant disease.

Such is the range of subjects within which the leading scientists are expected to confine themselves during their stay in Boston. Their president, for the present year, is Professor J. Playfair McMurrich of the University of Michigan, and the general secretary of the association is D. T. MacDougal of the Carnegie Institution.

Carlessness of Some Hunters. Statesville Daily.
Hunting is fine sport and we can easily understand anyone's desire for a day's outing with the guns and dogs, but hunters are getting too much like auto drivers. They think only of themselves. A Concord man recently went to a rural school near this city to make a talk. While he was talking to the children in the school building he heard the reports from hunters' guns, and a second later he heard the shots rattle against the window panes of the schoolhouse.

Hunting that close to school buildings is too dangerous to be allowed. The hunters on this occasion probably did not know whether the children were in school or at recess. We doubt whether they even stopped to think. They saw possible prey and shot. Their action might easily have led to a tragedy.

Each year more farmers are posting their lands against the hunters, and judging from their reports of the hunters' actions, we don't mind blaming them. For hunters, or at least the majority of them, go out with one idea—to get birds or rabbits, as the case may be. They are too careless. They don't stop to consider the farmer's position or the position of anyone else. And if they keep this practice up it will not be long until all land will be posted against them.

The above observations from The Concord Tribune are true to most any locality. The Tribune will find that posting land will not altogether solve the problem. There are too many hunters who disregard such notices and trespass regardless. They do not go through the formality of securing permission, but take chances on slipping on and off without being caught. Unless they show more consideration the day is coming when they will find themselves without somewhere to hunt. The landowners will be provoked to the point of indicting trespassers and the hunters will be responsible.

Among Young parents, children born on Christmas Eve are supposed to be endowed with what is popularly termed "a good gift of the gab," while those born on Christmas Day are supposed to have less tongue and better reasoning powers.

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