left the skies, s are looking through. ups high, where the earth was

rrowful eyes grow bright, sage dear that all may hear, orne on the Christmas light. time of year for the cordial word And the grace of the lifted load. For brother to come to brother's help. On the rough and stormy road.

Tis time to bury the ancient hate, And to make the quarrels up; No grudge has room where the roses bloom Round the Christmas loving cup. 'Tis the time of year for children's joy,

And all in scarlet row The stockings hang in the ingle nook, And the dreaming faces glow, And the children turn and laugh in sleep, To-morrow will be so gay;

For there never is mirth in this queer old Like the mirth of Christmas Day,

Tis the time of year for the sweet surprise, For the blessing we did not see, Though straight from the infinite love of

'Twas coming to you and me. Tis the time for seeking once again The sheen of the Bethlehem star; And for kneeling fain, with the age-long

Where the Babe and Mary are.

'Tis the time of year for the loving cup, When the holly berries shine, And with shout and song of man and maid. The cedar and fir we twine.

Ah! pass the cup from the frozen North To the South where the robin sings, For a pulse of cheer to the waning year The Merry Christmas brings. -Margaret E. Sangster.

# THE DOCTOR'S GIFT.

A CHRISTMAS STORY.



OTHER, I wish we could have Christmas and Santa Claus, and was at Deacon Gooden's to-day, they had great piles of pies and cakes cooked, and

they have got a big turkey that they are going to roast, and the most nice red apples, and, oh! so many good things. I wish we could ever have things like

The mother laid down her sewing with a sigh, and tears came into her eyes. "I wish so, too, Bennie," she said, "and if it was possible, we would have them. But we are poor folks, and poor folks can't afford nice things. I amsorry that I can't give you more than I do. You know I work hard all day long and earn all I can, but people don't pay much for plain sewing, and it takes all the money I can get to buy food and clothing, and hire wood chopped. Poor little Sis has to have medicine and the doctor must be paid, and I'm afraid I won't have money to pay for it all. Poor children, I feel sorry for you, and wish l could earn more for your sakes," and poor Mrs. Benton buried her face in her hands, and was a long time silent.

"Don't, mother," Bennie said, coming and putting his arms about her neck. "Don't cry. You are the best mother that ever was, and when I am old enough to work, I'll earn money for you, and then we'll have nice things and grand Christmases, and be as happy as can be."



The mother pressed her boy to he breast and blessed him, and for his sake affected a cheerfulness she was far from feeling. While they remained thus, talking of what all Bennie was going, to do when he was older, the doctor came to see Sis, the little lame girl, as was his

"She is much better," he said, after his examination, "and will be able t walk again in a little while." Then he bustled out and was gone, for he was kept very busy visiting his patients.

Mrs. Benton and Bennie rejoiced at the doctor's announcement, and they felt that they had something to be thankful for, if they were poor, for they had long feared that Sis would always be cripple.

"It's a great consolation to know that little Sis will soon be well and strong again," the mother said.

"It's better than any Christmas present," Bennie assented.

After Bennie was in bed asleep, Mrs. | the country people. Benton sat till long in the night over her sewing, and, as she stitched up the tedious, tiresome seams, tears rolled from her eyes down her cheeks.

It was a bitterly cold night, and a deep great happiness, she completely lost sight snow lay on the ground, and as the shrill of the many long, weary months of north winds swept ruthlessly around the suffering and pain that she had passed house, rattling the loose doors and win- through dows, the poor woman remembered that the wood-pile was almost gone, and that wide open fireplace wherein the great

was nearly empty, and her logs cracked and blazed, throwing out within her. At last her task warmth and light, they presented a picnd going to the little bed in ture of perfect contentment, and it is she kissed the two undoubtful if there was a happier family eepers, and with a heavy anywhere on earth.

to her own poor couch.

ple all knew him and loved him,

30,00

an object in view, and the cold night

winds could not deter him from carrying

The next morning Mrs. Benton was up

early, for it was the day before Christ-

mas, and she had a great deal of sewing

to do for people who were going to the

Christmas ball down at the Cross Roads.

"After you feed the horse and the

calves, Bennie, you must run over to Jer-

ry Cobb's and see if he will haul us a

Bennie hastened out to feed the stock,

and in a short time returned out of

"Oh! mother, mother," he cried,

springing into the middle of the room.

"look out there in our woods at the men

and teams. They're going to haul wood

for us, for I heard one of 'em say so as

And Bennie was right, for they had

come, a dozen farmers, with their teams,

and sleds, and axes, to chop and haul

wood for the Widow Benton, and when

at noon time they went home, the wood

was piled high at her gate, and there was

plenty to do her all the winter. In the

afternoon the men came with their axes

and cut the wood all up into the proper

lengths for burning, and poor Mrs. Ben-

ton was so overcome with gratitude that

Late in the afternoon a farm-wagon

drove up to the gate, loaded with flour,

and meat, and potatoes, and apples-some

of those same red apples that Ben had

seen at Deacon Gooden's-and a big bas-

ket filled with cake, and pies, and chick-

"Who has done all this," Mrs. Benton

asked of Mrs. Gooden who came with the

wagon, and who had been busy giving

"Wal," Mrs. Gooden said, "they's sev

erul us hes hed a han' in it, but I reckon

Doctor Custer is mostly responsible fer it,

sense he rode about last night, putting

us up to it. Thet ere old doctor hes got

a monstrous big heart in 'im, if he is a

cross an' crabbed as a bear. Don't never

nobody want fer nothin' ef he knows of it

an' ef anybody is liable to be needy, he

generally finds it out, lemme tell you. It'

a perfect caution the amount of money

thet ole doctor hes given away, an' a body

who sees him the fust time 'ud never

'spect he'd give a hungry mortel a bite to

eat. But it's like I tell the deacon some

times. You can't tell what's in a person's

can not find language to express it."

an'll be able to git erbout."

despaired of her ever recovering."

bein' extry good, we're ready to len'

for poor little Sis, she felt that such a

time never did exist before, and, in her

That night, as they sat around the

orders to the men about unloading.

and one big turkey, all nicely

she cried. But that was not all.

baked.

breath with running and excitement.

When breakfast was over, she said:

load of wood."

he passed the stable."

Fr. Custer went on his

was a gruff old man, but

Then there camerthe sound of footstens runching the snow, and a moment later the doctor entered. Although he affected not to see what had taken place, and or he had a kind heart, and was always tried to retain his gruff manner, Mrs. ready to sympathize with the poor and Benton saw the smile of satisfaction that needy. He visited many patients that came to his face, and knew what was in night, and he stopped at many houses his heart.

where there were no patients, for he had "Doctor," she said, "I cannot than you enough for what you have done." "Hey! What's that? Come, come let's have no foolishness," he cried

> prescription the child will need. Good evening," and out he bustled. "More medicine, mother?" Benn

> Here, take this. That's the last

"Yes, one more prescription," and she opened the paper to see. "Bless my heart," she cried, "if it ain't his bill, al receipted and marked paid."

Girls Who Paint for a Pittance.

A comparatively new industry has prung into existence in New York city within the last few years. It is the manu facture and decoration of all kinds bric-a-brac and "novelties," and include such things as slipper-holders, handker chief cases, photograph cases, spectacles cases, portieres, sofa cushions, cravat holders, table covers, lambrequins, fans shawls, lamp-shadest-shaving-paper hold ers, screens and many other trifles. The materials used in the construction of thesworks of art, some of which cost several hundred dollars-and the simplest bit of celluloid painted, from \$1 to \$2-is silk plush, satin, celluloid, tin, pasteboard japanned and water-color paints, en broidering silk, leather and ivory.

There are several large establishments in the city where these articles are made and sold at wholesale. In one in Four teenth street, about forty girls are em ployed, whose wages range from \$3 to \$9 per week. The girls who embroider receive \$5 per week, while those who paint receive \$3, \$4, \$6 and \$9 per week, according to their skill. On the screens, stamped and the work is comparatively simple, but on the majority of things the artist paints her own design free-hand. It is the latter class who make the most money, and the work is generally on celluloid and ivory, with japanned paints.

The difference between prices paid the artist and the prices at which the novelties are sold is startling. For painting and lettering celluloid spectacles cases, for instance, the artist receives sixty cents per dozen, while the retail price is \$1.50 apiece. The girls who do this work mostly live at home and are willing to do it at any price for the sake of extra pocket money. Many of them, however, support themselves, and in some cases others, by their brush, and the competition of the amateurs seriously affects their livelihood, and night work with piece work is necessary to make both ends meet. The busy season in the art decorative trade is from September 1 to April 1, the latter part of the season being devoted to Easter offerings. None of the girls belong to any labor organiza ion and the majority have no idea of agitating for better pay. The hours of work are from 8 A. M. to 5:30 P. M .- New York Tribune.

Prunes.

heart by the way they talk. When he Prunes are said to have been introcome to our house last night, an' sed as duced into France by the Crusaders, and how he heard you an' Ben a telkin' erbout to have been first cultivated by the in-Christmas an' things, an' a savin' thet you mates of a convent near Clairac. The was outen o' wood an' hed been havin' a plum tree is profitably cultivated in sevpower o' sickness, an' all that, I felt right eral of the departments, and grows well down ashamed that I never thought of it in any situation that is favorable to afore, an' so did 'Zekiel, I know, an' grapes. The fruit when ripe is covered when the doctor went on to say es how with a "flower," which adds much to its we ort to help you a leetle over the rough value. It is usually gathered, after the places, I was determined to help him out night-damps have dried away, by shaking in his project. 'Twan't nothin' fer us to lightly from the tree, and only such as do when they wus so many uv us into it, falls readily are taken. It is then put in but all put together sort o' does some a building, where it matures completely. Prunes are subjected to three or four " I feel all the gratitude that any one cookings before they are ready for the could feel," Mrs. Benton said, "but 1 market-two for the evaporation of the contained water, and the others for dry-"Well, yer needn't mind erbout that ing and giving a peculiar brilliancy to now. I reckon nobody don't want no the product. In Provence the freshly thanks, an' if you feel as if you must gathered fruit is plunged into pots of thank somebody, jest wait till you see boiling water, where it remains till the Doctor Custer, an' give 'em to him. I'm water again comes to the boiling point. mouty glad the little one's a gittin' well. It is then shaken in baskets till cool, and dried in the sun on trays. At Digne the "It's a great comfort to me, for I had fruits are peeled with the nails and strung on sticks in such a way as not to touch, "I know it must be. But I must be s and then are stuck into straw frames and zom', fer I see 'Zekiel is ready to drive, exposed to the sun till the prunes easily an' it's gittin' late. I hope you'll be comdetach themselves from the stick. The fortable, an' of you need any assistance, pit is then removed, and the fruit is I hope you won't be backward about placed upon trays exposed to the sun. In axin' us, fer though we're plain sort o' some other districts the prunes are dried folks, an' don't make no pretenshuns to a in immense ovens. The first cooking of exceeding fifty degrees, the second sev-When the door closed after Mrs. enty degrees C., while the third may be Gooden, the poor widow sank down, completely prostrated with joy. Her performed at eighty degrees or ninety depleasure was not so much on account of grees, or occasionally one hundred dethe things received, though it was a great grees. A well-cooked prune is dark purboon, but because of the knowledge that ple, has a solid and brilliant surface, is the people among whom she lived were malleable and clastic to the touch, with the kernel well done and intact in the kind and generous. All her life she had lived in the city, and it was little she shell. When these conditions are not knew of the open-hearted generosity of fulfilled, the kernel ferments, and the prune becomes moldy and worthless. Bennie was wild with delight, and Bordeaux is the principal centre of the prune industry, and has a traffic that is danced about in a state of ecstasy. As

> Neil W. Price, author of several popular songs, including "Stick to Your Mother, Tom," and "A Boy's Best Friend is His Mother." has died at Chattanooga, Tenn., in the most abject poverty, from the opium habit.

increasing .- Popular Science Monthly.

# CHINA'S COURT.

TRAINING THE YOUNG RULER OF THE CHINESE NATION.

The Little Prince Taught Constantly-His Various Teachers-The Imperial Harem-A Yearly Court Banquet.

Kwang-Su, the Chinese Emperor who

ascended the throne March 4 last, was

just seventeen years old on July 23 Nevertheless, says the New York Sun, he probably has as much miscellaneous learning in his head as any three European princes, who, at his age, are usually digging deep after Greek and Latin roots or hammering away at elementary problems in Parliamentary Government and finance. The young Chinese Emperor's precociousness is due for the most part to the thoroughness and strictness of his very early training, for in China little princes are compelled to cram their small noddles full of all sorts of knowledge during the years which American boys always devote to marbles, scrub, and holey-bowley. They rise at 4 o'clock in the morning to take lessons in Chinese literature. The teacher who gives them this lesson bears the title "shifu," and is a very big man, so big in fact that the princes upon entering their recitation room must bow to him first. As soon as a prince has learned his lesson he places his book before the teacher, sets down before him, and repeats without interruption all he remembers of what he has been studying. If the teacher finds that the prince does not remember enough he sends a cunuch out for a whip and makes a great show of preparing to whip some one. The whip when it comes, however, falls not upon the shoulders of the prince but upon the shoulders of eight other little Chinamen called "ha-ha-tschu," who accompany the prince to his school daily and recite the same lessons as he. Through these ha-ha-tschu the prince is thrashed or praised according to his deserts. Should vicarious floggings not induce a prince to stow away the requisite amount of Chinese learning he would be taken before the Emperor, who would comtable-covers, cushions, etc., the design is | mand a eunuch to pinch the young lazybones's cheeks. The Chinese lesson lasts two hours. It is followed by other less important exercises, which are superintended by another teacher. Still another teacher instructs the princes in several Asiatic languages and Chinese dialects. After school hours the princes shoot with the bow, on foot and on horseback, fence, run and jump, under the superintendence of special teachers. In short, their whole day is taken up with the performance of prescribed mental and physical exercises. At fixed hours their food is portioned out to them. None of them is allowed to use his own judgment as to what and how much he may eat. They are always tucked away in bed with the hens, so that they may be ready

for the four o'clock dose of Chinese literature the next morning. At the beginning of his fourteenth year the heir apparent to the Chinese throne is put in training for-his marriage, which takes place in his fifteenth year. The young woman who teaches him all about the duties of married life is selected from the inner circle of the imperial official household, and must be just one year older than he. After the Prince has become Emperor this preliminary wife receives the honorable title of "Sli," which she alone of all mem bers of the barem is allowed to bear.

The daily leisure hour of his Imperial Chinese Majesty is from four to five o'clock in the afternoon. During this hour a eunuch brings the Emperor a box of little white tickets, each of which bears the name of a court lady. The Emperor draws a ticket, hit or miss, and gives it to the eunuch, who immediately orders the houri named on it to the Em

thither in a litter by four servants. Most men are not allowed to pass the most remote of the five doors which lead to the imperial chamber. Members of the Imperial Garde du Corps, who guard the fifth door, are under orders to oppose with drawn swords the entrance of all men, even the highest imperial officials, who cannot give the password. Not even eunuchs are allowed to pass the three inner doors. If a lady of the court wishes to buy anything or communicate in any way with the outside world, she tells a maid servant all about it. The maid servant then goes a safe distance away from all court ladies and summons to her the eunuch in chief by striking a gong or turning a "clapper." After learning what the court lady wishes, the eunuch in chief passes along the errand to an under eunuch, who secures the desired article or information.

Once a year, on New Year's Day, the Emperor and his real wife preside over a great court banquet. The Empress then sits at her husband's left. This is the only occasion in the whole year when the Emperor has all his quasi-wives together and under the eyes of his real wife. The Emperor himself hands the viands to the cunuchs, who receive them kneeling.

Most persons address the Emperor as "Kwang-Tschan," that is "Majesty." The members of the household, however, use merely the title, "Chu-tsz" that is "Dominus" or "Lord." The eunuchs usually address the Emperor, Empress, and court ladies as "Fo-Ye," that is, "Buddha," and a royal prince as "Ye"

or "Most Gracious Lord." The Cabinet Ministers at the Chinese Court don't have so much fun as their lord. They have to get up at two o'clock every morning to present themselves at court one hour later. They receive their

meals, free of charge, in the Emperor's dining room. They pass the whole day in the imperial palace up to four o'clock, and when military affairs are under discussion, up to six o'clock in the afternoon. Only when seriously ill can a Minister excuse himself from the laborious duties of his office.

### The Indians of Guatemala.

The Indians of Guatemala are a strong and hardy race, and although small in stature are capable of almost any amount of work. But they seem to have an antipathy to progress, and to wish to be neither producers nor consumers, except to the smallest possible extent. They are unwilling to go seriously to work, wages and money being no inducement to them. Many of them have their little plots of ground on which they keep a few sheep or pigs and fowls, and raise little corn. Some of this live stock they sell, but they have no sense of accumulation and never seek to do more than supply their present wants. To live costs them a mere trifle, and they are satisfied to spend their existence in this way. looking after a few domestic animals, harvesting a few handfuls of corn, and for the rest living upon the profusion of fruit which nature provides for them When they can be induced to engage themselves for farm work it is never for more than a month, and seldom for more than a week, at the end of which time they return to their villages. So a farmer no sooner gets enough hands to work his land than he has to begin looking about for others to take their places.

These Indians are often engaged at considerable distance. They will set out long before daylight in the morning for their place of labor. Men, women and children alike will walk perhaps twentyfive or thirty miles to the plantation where they have been engaged, carrying a week's provisions on their heads. They will arrive at the farm at about noon, and begin their duties at once, working all the remainder of the day in the hot sun without resting and without seeming to be in need of rest. Fatigue seems unknown to them, and their capacity to carry heavy burdens is probably not exceeded, if equaled, by that of any other people in the world. Their wages ordinarily range from twenty-five to thirty-five cents a day on the coffee plantations and farms, but a considerable proportion of the work is done by the piece, under which system they earn much more-for when an Indian does take it into his head to work he can accomplish an amazing amount between sunrise and sunset .- New York Tribune.

# Satisfied His Curiosity.

An Augusta (Me.) storekeeper was formerly-possessed with an overwhelming desire to examine the contents of every package which friends deposited in his store for safe-keeping. His propensities in this direction have been effectually stopped, and this is how it happened: man who suspected the weakness of the proprietor dropped into the store one morning and left a bag, asking that no one disturb it. The proprietor walke round awhile restlessly and then stopped near the bag. He nervously fingered the string that tied the top together. There was no one looking and he carefully un tied it. He was hardly prepared for the result. A thousand of about as mad hornets as were ever let loose lit on all the exposed portions of the man's anato my, permeated his clothing quite thor oughly, and the way he shot out of tha door and home would have done cre to the prince of sprinters.

The German colonial papers now admit that the German Colonial Company for Southwest Africa are going to sell a great part of their possessions to an English company. It is added that the negotiations are still going on with the knowledge of the German Government. peror's apartments. She is conveyed The territory in question, it is said, will remain under German protectorship, and only private rights are to be trans-

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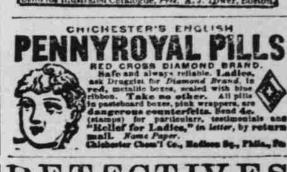
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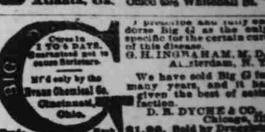
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