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HOW JOY AND GLADNESS CAME TO MRS. MAILLORY

It was Christmas Eve. The snow, which had been falling all day now turned to rain. The dreary drizzle lent a chill to the air.

Mrs. Maillory stood at her drawing room window, held back the dark velvet curtains and looked out on the silent avenue. There were few pedestrians in sight. Now and then a carriage came under the electric light, and the watcher at the window caught glimpses of the dainty raiment of the occupants as they whirled gayly past on their way to some Christmas festivity.

"Christmas festivity!" she repeated aloud, and her voice was low and tense and expressed her pent up scorn and weariness of the whole Christmas season.

She stood thus for a few moments, staring out into the night. The damask portiere was pushed aside with a quick, light motion, and a slim, neatly attired maid appeared in the doorway. Her eyes fairly danced with delight, and though she spoke with a demure dignity it was evident that something highly pleasing to her fancy was afoot.

"Does it please you that I come in now, madam?" she asked, with a quaint little accent that would at once mark her Parisienne—had her trim appearance not already done so. Mrs. Maillory turned slowly from the window.

"Yes, Janette, you may bring in—my Christmas gifts." There was a trace of irony in the last two words, but her manner was entirely haughty and indifferent. She crossed the room and sat in a large armchair of rare Italian hand-carved wood. The pale violet lamp screen on the table beside her shed a soft light, and the rose light from the great open fire caught a gleam now and then from the jewels on her fingers. It was a curious light, the combination of the rose and violet, but it was almost weirdly lovely. Mrs. Maillory was a beautiful woman—a stern, classic beauty. The folds of her black velvet gown fell about her in simple stately grace; her bare neck and shoulders gleamed white against the dark chair. Her hair was gray about the temples, and her deep dark eyes were at times inexpressibly sad. She was lonely, but she was proud, and none knew of her sad Christmas Eve. She had refused scores of invitations, and was keeping her Christmas Eve as was her custom, having her gifts brought to her there in the dimly-lighted drawing-room.

Her husband was keeping his Christmas Eve, as was his custom, in the great dense forest. Mr. Maillory was what the world calls an upright man—honored on the street, of a flint-like integrity in his business. His word was as good as a bond. He surrounded his wife with every possible luxury, excepting the one priceless luxury for which a woman would sacrifice all others—friendship and comradeship. These he reserved for a few old friends, men who had been through financial battles with him, who had shared his college frolics and studies.

That afternoon he had hurried in, gathered up his hunting traps and started off. He had given his wife a check—a princely sum—and said: "Just buy yourself a little trinket, Victoria, my dear, and have a nice time at the Van Arden's tonight."

"If he had only bought me a little something himself," she thought, sadly. "If it were only a few flowers!"

Janette came in, followed by a footman in gorgeous livery carrying a large number of little packages of all shapes and sizes. He came several times and arranged the packages as Janette directed. The maid was all little flutterings and happiness and flitted from this box to that

of duty, she knew that. Climbers on the social ladder wished to be her friends, that they might through her influence open the closed doors of society. Those in her own set liked her as well as women who live for fashion and society are capable of liking one another. Charity organizations courted her favor, for she was always ready to respond to their calls. Unlike many of the women of her acquaintance, she went personally to the poorer quarters, and aided the wretched poverty there.

The maid placed the trinkets on the table for her mistress' inspection of her jewels that should have the power to give joy to any woman, but Mrs. Maillory looked at them indifferently, and toyed with them with her slender white fingers.

She frowned with displeasure as the maid laid before her a wrap of costly fur.

"My nephew should not have sent me this," she said sharply. "He can-

written in the same childish hand, was pinned to the curious pink cambric square. The note ran:

"Dear Misses Malry: You don't know me but you can to our house a mile ago and brot things when Jonnie the baby had mesles. You wuz good to us, and we like you. We wish you a mery Christmas. The thing I made you is for your hankerchuf.

"MAMIE O'DONNELL."

"What does the child mean?" thought Mrs. Maillory in great surprise.

The she remembered. The O'Donnells were on her charity list. She looked at the gift. It was a pink cambric square, the four corners turned back and tied with a ribbon. The stitches were large and uneven, the cambric was soiled and the ribbon old. She looked closely at the ribbon. It had been used, evidently as a hair ribbon. Suddenly a thought came to the woman—she remembered the day perfectly when she had brought ease and comfort to little Johnnie. The mother was away at work, and the little sister kept house and cared for the baby brother. The child had showed this pink ribbon proudly to the visitor; her "Sunday ribbon," she told her.

The great lady fingered the soiled, gaudy piece of pink cambric and ribbon gently, almost reverently, and

MADONNA IN CONTEMPLATION.



not afford it. It was only because I gave them their wedding silver."

The maid did not hear this, for she was lost in raptures over a firmly matinee of real lace and hand-painted chiffon.

"Oh, the exquisite 'mouse,'" she cried, with more enthusiasm than knowledge of correct English.

Mrs. Maillory smiled little at the maid's quaint happiness in the gifts. She was rather fond of Janette and was often amused at the girl's extravagant expressions. Janette was a happy, care-free soul and always ready to cater to her every mood.

She ran to her mistress with a veritable little squeal of pleasure as she untied one box. It was a fine gold necklace with a butterfly pendant, frail, jewelled, delicate as a breeze. Mrs. Maillory read the card and her face turned pale.

"Cat!" she whispered.

The gift was from a woman whom Mrs. Maillory thoroughly disliked, and she had not tried to hide her feelings. The woman, through ambitions of her own, had persistently clung to Mrs. Maillory, and had used her name as the entree into many fashionable gatherings. As she looked at the jewel, Mrs. Maillory could have crushed its delicate beauty in her hand.

The stately footman came into the room, the picture of shocked dignity. Janette was about to take the brown paper parcel which the irate man held out stiffly before him, then started back with a little scream.

"The impertinence!" she cried.

"What does this mean?" asked Mrs. Maillory, haughtily.

"A very ragged little girl left this awful package, madam. She insisted on its being given to you."

"Bring it to me."

The footman gave the crumpled bundle to his mistress.

"Misses Malry," was written in a round, childish scrawl. A strange feeling came over the woman.

"You may go," she said to Janette and the man, and the maid withdrew reluctantly.

When the hard knots of the string were finally taken off, Mrs. Maillory exclaimed in surprise. A little note,

there were tears in her voice as she said softly:

"Her one treasure, her bit of a ribbon—she gave it to me—she gave it to me because it is Christmas."

With a sob that was half joy, half sorrow, she laid her head over on the queer, shabby little offering and wept away all the grief and lonely heart-ache, for in the gift of a little child she had found her real Christmas.—Boston Globe.



CHRISTMAS MENU

- Olive Celery
- Oyster Soup Cranberry Jelly
- Roast Turkey
- Flashed Potatoes
- Baked Macaroni and Cheese
- Stuffed Peppers with Rice
- Boiled Onions
- Tomato and Lettuce Salad
- French Dressing
- Christmas Meringues
- Fruit Pudding
- Hard Sauce
- Coffee
- Nuts
- Raisins

Christmas Eve (Children)
(Before Christmas Tree)

- Chicken Broth with Rice
- Bread Sticks
- Bread-and-Butter Sandwiches or Bread-and-Orange
- Marmalade
- Jelly Sandwiches
- Lady Fingers
- Springerle
- Ice Cream
- Cocoa

T FT'S MESSAGE SUMMARIZED.

Washington, Special.—Having assembled and received the President's annual message, Congress Tuesday found itself literally "out of work" and in consequence both houses adjourned until Friday when if some of the various committees fail to provide something to do, adjournment will be taken until Monday next.

Opposition to the proposed immediate congressional investigation of the sugar import scandals in the New York custom house, and likewise to any further revision of the tariff at present, absence of any specific recommendation regarding the crisis in Nicaragua, and actual recommendations of judicial injunctions in labor without notice in labor controversies and for the establishment of a system of postal savings banks, may be considered the most striking features of the first annual message of President Taft to Congress.

The Nicaraguan question, conservation of the nation's natural resources, needed amendments to the anti-trust and interstate commerce acts, and the contemplated revision of the Federal statutes governing the organization of the armed forces of the nation in times of war are all reserved for possible treatment later in special messages.

In his message, which bulks some 17,000 words, Mr. Taft reports the country to be "in a high state of prosperity" and he adds that "there is every reason to believe that we are on the eve of a substantial business expansion, and we have just garnered a harvest unexampled in the market value of our agricultural products."

The President expresses entire confidence that the duty imposed upon the Executive, of enforcing the maximum rates of the new tariff law against nations unduly discriminating against the United States will not provoke any tariff war, and he favors no further tariff tinkering at least until the new tariff commission shall have completed its work of gathering information as to the relative cost of producing dutiable articles in this country and abroad. This task he expects will occupy two or three years.

Projects Recommended.

Projects recommended by the President, in addition to those mentioned above, include:

A ship subsidy to encourage American shipping.

Publicity of political contributions in elections of members of Congress, Civil pensions.

A higher rate of postage on periodicals and magazines.

A fund of \$50,000 to aid in suppressing the "white slave" trade.

A commission to evolve a plan to expedite legal procedure and mitigate the "law's delays."

Construction of an artificial island and fortification in the entrance to Chesapeake bay, two battleships and one repair ship for the navy and the establishment of an extensive naval base at Pear island, Hawaii.

A national bureau of health.

Statehood for New Mexico and Arizona, and an appointive Governor and executive council for Alaska.

Civil control of the light house board and separation of the national astronomical observatory from naval control.

Celebration in 1913 of the semi-centennial of negro emancipation, and reimbursement of the depositors of the defunct Freedman's Trust and Savings Company.

Consolidation of the bureaus of manufactures and statistics in the Department of Commerce and Labor.

Appropriation for the remodeling of the District of Columbia jail.

Central American Affairs.

Calling attention to the crisis in Central American affairs brought about by the summary execution in Nicaragua of two Americans, the President announces that this government has terminated diplomatic relations with the Zelayan administration in Nicaragua and intends to take such further steps as may be found most "consistent with its dignity, its duty to American interests and its moral obligations to Central America and to civilization."

In opposing any immediate investigation of the New York custom house scandal the President takes the ground that such investigation "might, by giving immunity and otherwise, prove an embarrassment in securing conviction of the guilty parties."

A proposal submitted by the Secretary of the Treasury that the executive department's deficit for the current fiscal year—estimated at \$73,075,020—be met by the issuance of Panama bonds authorized by Congress, is approved by the President. He explains that in order to avoid a deficit for the ensuing fiscal year ending June 30, 1911, estimates have been cut to the bone and instead of a deficit there will be a surplus of \$35,931,000, excluding payments on the Panama canal which are expected to be taken care of by bonds.

The President records with pleasure the satisfactory arrangement made for the arbitration of the important North American fisheries issue with Canada and the successful

prosecution of the work of the commissions adjusting other boundary issues and the lake fisheries. He urges an international conference to devise measures for the protection of fur seals. He is hopeful of a happy adjustment of the Congo question and expresses his desire to afford a larger measure of protection to the little negro State of Liberia. Satisfaction is expressed with the declaration by Japan and Russia in favor of the "open door" and appropriations are asked for the expenses of the Pan-American Congress to be held in Buenos Ayres and for participation in the Belgian exposition, both scheduled for next year.

"The total deficit for the last fiscal year in the Postoffice Department amounted to \$17,500,000. The branches of its business which it did at a loss were the second-class mail service, in which the loss as already said was \$63,900,000, and the free rural delivery in which the loss was \$28,000,000. These losses were in part offset by the profits of the letter postage and other sources of income. It would seem wise to reduce the loss upon second-class mail matters, at least to the extent of preventing a deficit in the total operations of the postoffice."

"I urgently recommend to Congress that a law be passed requiring that candidates in elections of members of the House of Representatives and committees in charge of their candidacy and campaign, file in a proper office of the United States government a statement of the contributions received and of the expenditures incurred in the campaign for such elections, and that similar legislation be enacted in respect to all other elections which are constitutionally within the control of Congress."

Ice Trust is Convicted.

New York, Special.—The American Ice Company was found guilty Friday in the State Supreme Court of restricting competition in and attempting to create a monopoly of the sale of ice. The jury was out one hour and forty minutes and when the foreman announced the verdict the court immediately imposed the maximum sentence of \$5,000 fine, under the provisions of the so-called Donnelly anti-monopoly law of this State.

Many Bills Introduced.

Washington, Special.—As an indication of activity in the interest of legislation, Senators Friday introduced more than 350 bills and resolutions covering a great variety of subjects. Many of these measures failed of passage during the last Congress and 80 per cent of them will receive scant consideration this session. Many are for pensions that could not be granted under the law.

Two Battleships Collide.

Washington, Special.—The battleships Georgia and Nebraska collided Thursday afternoon while engaged in tactical exercises off the Virginia capes. The effects of the collision were not serious and the two ships were able to return to Hampton Roads Friday with the entire fleet. Rivets in the two vessels were strained. This information came to the Navy Department Friday afternoon.

NEWSY GLEANINGS.

Congress opened with the "regulars" in supreme control.

Frederic C. Selous, the African hunter who practically criticized the Roosevelt party, arrived in New York City.

Mayor-elect Gurnor of New York City will start his administration with a debt incurring limit of about \$150,000,000.

Fear that heavy borrowing by the Treasury will occur in England prevents a reduction of the bank rate from five per cent.

Antonio Fernandez was killed at Nice by falling from a high altitude with his aeroplane, which capsized making a sharp turn.

The Suffragettes in London resumed militant tactics and attempted to interrupt meetings addressed by Winston Churchill and Sir Edward Grey.

Joseph Corrado shot his wife, fired fusillades through her mother's door and escaped a crowd after a family disturbance at No. 1833 Second avenue, New York City.

Alfred Summers Melnyk, a founding now fifty-one years of age, filed a bill in chamber in Trenton, N. J., in an effort to ascertain his parentage and possible heritage.

Herbert Knox Smith, Commissioner of Corporations at Washington, D. C., criticizes conditions in the New York Cotton Exchange as responsible for real injury to producers and merchants.

The cruiser Pacific, with marines and munitions of war on board, remained fast in the mud of the Delaware River, despite all efforts to free her, while the Dixie took the marines and her cargo and proceeded to Nicaragua.

A CLEANING HINT

Porcelain lined bath tubs and wash bowls are quickly and effectively cleaned with a soft cloth dipped in gasoline. Have a bottle, tightly corked, in the bathroom closet, where it is always at hand, but avoid accident by keeping this dangerous fluid away from lights and fire.—Philadelphia Public Ledger.

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In a perfect whirlwind of joy. This was a rare treat, opening Madame's Christmas gifts.

"Oh, they are so many!" she cried. "I do not know which one to open first."

Gift after gift was held out to Mrs. Maillory, but she looked at each differently and sometimes impatiently. They were all given from a sense