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Dallas Fair Race Track Gambling.

The Ft. Worth pastors recently took up the Dallas Fair question and pledged themselves to set apart certain Sundays to preach against it, to line up their congregations in petitions to the governor and legislature for laws forbidding gambling and Sunday opening at the Dallas fair, and to use every effort to bring about this end.

Dr. H. D. Knickerbocker, pastor of the First Methodist church, introduced the subject at the conference of Methodist pastors by saying:

"The Dallas fair is the most demoralizing institution in Texas. When the city of Dallas voted to maintain this institution, it voted to give its support to an open air gambling hall. It is a city entirely sold to the fair, for it is in for anything on earth to keep the fair as big as it is. The fair is the biggest thing in Dallas, and the racing is the biggest thing at the fair. It is terrifically demoralizing in its effects, for while the present anti-gambling law made a loophole for the sake of Dallas, it is Dallas only that reaps any financial reward. It is a loss to every other town, for while the races carry some money into the towns, there is enough half-way robbery accompanying them to make their advent a final loss. The army of thugs now operating in Dallas and Ft. Worth are the aftermath of the race meets held in these cities.

"And the evil is not confined to them. The race track forces, driven out of the other states, have flocked into Texas until every town as big as a hen coop has its race meet. I would rather see the present anti-gambling law repealed and see every gambling hall in Texas turned loose for two weeks than to see the law continue as it is with its favoritism for the race track. Respectable people will not go to the regular gambling dens, but they do go to the races, and they think it nothing wrong to carry their children with them and allow them to bet on the races. As a result, these race tracks are the biggest kindergartens of gambling in the world. The state of Louisiana, with its large foreign population and the big city of New Orleans, has driven racing and gambling out of its borders, and it will be a lasting shame if we do not do likewise. We thus mark Texas as the lowest moral level in this country. There is enough moral sentiment in the state to sweep it out if we only had this sentiment aroused.

"This notion that the fair could not be run without gambling is false. The profits from gambling this year were \$38,000, while those from other sources were \$60,000 or more."

Rev. Sam R. Hay, the new presiding elder, who comes from Beaumont, in discussing the resolution, said: "South Texas cannot be saved from gambling hell unless North Texas comes to her aid. When the race meet in Beaumont was over one of the promoters was heard to remark on leaving that they had robbed Beaumont of \$48,000. These promoters or book makers are only a clan of thieves traveling from one place to another on the pretense of a race meet. This evil is overshadowed at Dallas by the fair; at other places we have it in the open."

The stand taken by the Baptist pastors was firm, as every one of them pledged themselves to do their best to bring about the elimination of the gambling and Sunday openings of the fair, though the arrangements for the revival in January following discussion of it.

Resolved, That the Fort Worth Baptist Pastors' conference does hereby with all emphasis approve the effort being made to secure in the coming legislature such enactments as will prohibit gambling on races.

That we pledge ourselves to use our best endeavor by personal appeal, and as occasion may arise, by public address, to secure the closing of the Dallas fair on Sunday.

That we commend the Baptist Standard for its agitation of these matters and express our warmest approval of the fearless stand taken by its editor.

Two German Towns Defy Gov. Campbell.

Austin, Dec. 21.—Gov. Campbell expressed chagrin today over the fact that New Braunfels and Fredericksburg failed to close the lid Sunday and openly defied him.

The governor so far has issued no instructions to send rangers to Comal or Gillespie counties, and intimates that he will not act hastily, adopting extreme measures as a last resort.

He says he will wait a week or so in order to see if Comal county officials will perform their duties.

Campbell realizes that sentiment in Comal county is almost universally against him, but through San Antonio's action in upholding the law would have a good effect at New Braunfels. State officials say that they believe New Braunfels will close its saloons next Sunday.

It is understood the governor has reached an agreement with Texas brewers, who will assist in exacting obedience to the Baskin-McGregor law.

New Braunfels, Dec. 21.—Whether the saloons will open next Sunday in defiance of the governor again no one apparently knows.

Some saloon keepers say they will open according to the prevailing custom.

Local officers refuse to say definitely what they will do, but declare that Comal county is as law abiding as any in the state, and that its officers are under no obligation to Gov. Campbell, who, they say, is exceeding his power.

The officers fear they have no right to apply for requisition papers and arrest, because they are denied commissions, and resentment is keen. Citizens believe the governor will make an unwise move if rangers are sent, but do not think he will send them.

Country Life Commission to Make a Report.

Roosevelt's commission to investigate the condition of country life has completed its examination and is now preparing a report which will be submitted January first. It will recommend various ways in which the government can aid the farmers. It is expected that Roosevelt will recommend several laws based on the report.

When the people themselves sympathize with and assist the officers in discharging their duties, it is better for the people, for the officers and for the town. Every honest officer will do much to advance the interests of his constituency, realizing that the success which attends his efforts in their behalf will be the scales upon which he will be weighed. It is to his interest to give the people good service and it is to their interest to have him succeed.—Teague Tribune.

Whenever a man gets sour on the world, suspects everybody else of dishonesty, and cannot keep his mouth from unfavorable criticism, his usefulness in this world is ended, and he ought to commit suicide. Tribune.

Labor Leaders Sentenced.

Washington, Dec. 23.—The famous contempt case of the Bucks Stove & Range company against President Gompers, Vice President Mitchell and Secretary Morrison of the American Federation of Labor, was decided today by Justice Wright of the supreme court of the District of Columbia, adversely to the federation officials.

Gompers was sentenced to twelve months imprisonment, Mitchell was sentenced to nine months and Morrison six months.

The case grew out of an alleged boycott of the company's products and the putting of that company on the unfair list and the federation's alleged violation of Judge Gould's recent mandamus has attracted wide attention.

The Buck company's prosecution of officials of the Federation began in August, 1907. The original action was a test case, wherein it was sought to enjoin the labor unions from using "Unfair" and "We don't patronize" lists in their fight against firms and individuals.

Justice Gould, of the supreme court of the District of Columbia, issued an injunction, which he later made permanent, forbidding the publication of the company's name in these lists.

Mr. Gompers, in an editorial in the Federationist of January, last, made known his intention not to obey the court order, contending that it was against the rights of labor and abuse of power by the courts.

Pending appeal to the United States court of appeals for the District of Columbia all the defendants were released on bail, Gompers' being \$5,000, Mitchell's \$4,000 and Morrison's \$3,000.

SAY THEY WILL NEVER SERVE.

Detroit, Dec. 23.—"I think you will find that Gompers, Mitchell and Morrison will never serve the sentences," was the only comment of Immigration Inspector Daniel J. Keefe, former vice president of the American Federation of Labor and head of the Longhormesmen's union, when told of the decision in the Buck case.

"I am not prepared to discuss the matter further than this prediction," he said, "and I won't say why they never will serve their sentences."

"It is outrageous, absolutely outrageous," declared William D. Mahon, president of the Amalgamated Association of Street Railway employees when told of the decision. "This is the end of free speech. It will be resented, not only by workingmen, but by all other liberty loving people.

"They can't destroy trades unions this way. That was their object.

"If they put these leaders in jail for contempt of court there will be fresh leaders to take their places tomorrow and again fresh leaders after that, and indefinitely."

Sages tell us not to worry; fret, they say will only hurry us into a grave untimely—thus they argue most sublimely. But the man who never worries; he whom nothing ever flurries; he who sees without emotion trouble raging like an ocean, standing heedless as a door post, when things travel hind and foremost—"he is neither man nor woman, he is neither brute nor human." And the man is better buried who has never fumed nor worried. Since the weary world's beginning, nothing great was done by grinning men who dodged the face of trouble, holding life a gaudy bubble; they who keep the wheels moving, always building, still improving, do not prance along so lightly, but sit up with worry nightly.—Ex.

Don't forget the cut in jewelry at Stocking's store.

Governor Says They Shall Obey the Law.

Austin, Dec. 22.—At the close of a conference here today between Governor Campbell and Adjutant General Newton it was announced that if necessary the state rangers will be sent to New Braunfels next Sunday to see that the laws are enforced and that the saloons remain closed.

Governor Campbell proposes to see that the lid is clamped on in Comal county as well as in other counties of the state and he will not hesitate to use the rangers if this action is necessary.

It is believed here that the Comal county officers will come to terms with the chief executive during the week, as their commissions have not yet been signed and it will be impossible for them to draw any fees until the commissions are signed by Governor Campbell.

Stevens to Take Trumbull's Place.

Private advices were received this week in Houston from New York that John F. Stevens has been selected to succeed Frank Trumbull as president of the Colorado & Southern and its Texas lines. Stevens is now president of the Hartford, New Haven & New York Railroad company. Stevens had just returned east after an extensive tour of Texas railroads, traveling incognito. Only a few officials knew he was in the state.

It was upon his report that Hill bought the system for the Burlington. Stevens' headquarters will be in Denver. Formerly the president's headquarters were in New York.

An Oklahoma Sign Item.

"Muskrats are building bigger houses than usual on the Deep fork lakes," writes Graham Burnham. "Woodrats' storehouses show unusual stores of supplies along Bird creek. Squirrels are out all day gathering nuts and leaves. Deer are bedding in the bottoms and moving down from the Arkansas river ridges. Shunks are throwing new dirt out of deeper burrows. These are a few of the signs given by a Keystone houseboat trapper for a hard winter. On the other hand, Jim Cregg, down on the Canadian, writes me that he will wear summer underwear all winter because wood ducks are keeping to the drift haunts; woodrats are covering stores lightly; 'possums are denning with skunks; pecans are holding faster to the trees; walnuts are thinner hulled. Take your choice."

The Night Riders' Oath.

During the trial of the night riders at Union City, Tenn., the following oath to be taken by its members was divulged:

"You do solemnly swear in the presence of Almighty God, and these witnesses, that you desire to become a night rider; that you will not write, talk or tell to anyone the secrets of this order of night riders; that if you do talk, write or tell to any person of the secrets of the order, we are permitted to do with you as we see fit; you know death, hell and destruction will be your portion and that your body will not be buried in a graveyard. Do you willingly and freely submit to all this, so help God?"

Priest Charged With Abduction.

Cleburne, Texas, Dec. 22.—A charge of abduction has been filed here against Rev. Father McKeogh. The priest and the girl arrived there today from Gainesville in custody of an officer. The county attorney declares that he will dismiss the case. Miss Rosa Backman, aged 19 of Cleburne, was keeping house here for the priest. The girl accompanied the sheriff and Father McKeogh to Cleburne.

The World Better than When Jesus Was Here, But—

The Rev. Dr. Charles M. Sheldon, author of "In His Steps," was the chief speaker at the annual meeting of the Society for the Friendless in Kansas City Thursday night, and among other things, said:

"It sometimes looks as if the world was getting worse. In a store this afternoon I saw a man buy a 6-shooter as a Christmas present for his boy. A woman bought a warship with real guns for her children. Half the presents we buy have no Christmas meaning in them. Such things may make one feel despondent for a moment. But the truth is the world is a far better place than when Jesus was here. There were no churches, Sunday schools, Y. M. C. As., lunatic asylums or Societies for the Friendless then.

"The world is mending, though slowly. One of the happiest signs of progress is our treatment of crime and our regard for criminals. But we have still a great way to travel before we get a true viewpoint of the problem. It always makes me feel restless when I read in the papers and magazines that the church is not doing her duty in looking after children and keeping them from evil influences. I maintain that the prime responsibility rests on the parents.

"For the ultimate prevention of crime, Dr. Sheldon concluded, "we must look to home influences."

The Chief Uses of Christmas.

Henry Drummond wrote of love as the greatest thing in the world. Saint Paul, in a golden chapter, said that love thinketh no evil, vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, suffereth long and is kind. The little town of Bethlehem witnessed the incarnation of Love Divine when Mary cradled in her arms the Babe of Heaven. The chief use of Christmas is that it lifts us out of the region of low desires and mean motives to a higher level of serenity and unselfishness. It is the culmination of each swiftly passing year, and it fitsly occurs when the year is near its close.

If it did nothing beyond awakening us to the privilege of making others happy it would be to us as an angel singing in our ears the melodies of heaven. Does it not give us a chance to make children happy, to sympathize with young people who have the road before them, and with old people who have earned the right to sit still and rest with folded hands after their long activity? Give what we may to the little ones at Christmas, its beautiful opportunity for us is to surround them with wholesome and natural pleasures, that all their days shall be happy and Christmas be only the shining clasp of each blith year. No one can rob any human life of the precious gift of a happy childhood. Its afterglow will fall on the maturer life with a benediction.—Cor. Woman's Home Companion.

Trouble With His Printers.

With our foreman at home shot three times, a printer in the Blountville jail half-shot, another in the office not worth shooting, the Comet is issued under great difficulties this week.—Johnson City (Tenn.) Comet.

The Methodist Episcopal church, South, publishing house will build a four-story building with a basement in Dallas. Arrangements have been made with an architect to draw the plans for the new building. The lower floor will be used as the retail department, and the upper floors for storage rooms and offices.

Have you seen the display at Stocking's store? Call in.

SANTA'S BIOGRAPHY

PLACE OF HIS BIRTH AND HIS PARENTS ARE UNKNOWN.

Is Best Known and Most Popular Individual on Earth—Gives Presents Worth Many Millions Yearly But is Not Classed as Rich.

Santa Claus, the most widely known and popular individual on earth, was born so long ago that it would not be ladylike for him to acknowledge it, so nobody knows his exact age. Neither is it known just where he was born, nor who his parents were, but they must have been eminently respectable people, for everybody nowadays claims kin with him. He is the only untitled person whom nobody calls "Mister," and he is a bachelor of excellent repute. Although he gives away more at Christmas than Mr. Carnegie and Mr. Rockefeller ever thought of giving, he is not classed with the millionaires. Still he shows a preference for that class and he puts more in their stockings than he puts in the stockings of the poor. Perhaps he has a taste for fine hosiery. Some bachelors do. In any event, the fact remains that the rich get more out of him than the poor do. Maybe he is not altogether to blame for that. Anyway he doesn't ride around in an automobile. This may be because he wants to save more to give away. At the same time he doesn't ride in the street cars. So there you are.

Santa Claus is the only truly religious person, for he never asks anybody what church he belongs to before taking up his stocking to fill it. Neither does he care a continental about politics, and he never votes. He is especially fond of children, and the children are so dead stuck on him that they want him to come around every day in the year. Their parents, however, don't feel so much that way about it, and Santa Claus kindly considers their feelings in the matter. He knows enough not to be anxious to work a good thing to a frazzle.

Nobody knows where Santa Claus lives in the summer, also the spring and fall and most of the winter, but wherever it is it must be a healthy place, because he always shows up at Christmas looking so fat and jolly that really he ought to advertise the location and take in boarders. There is one thing certain, if he did there wouldn't be any "No-Children-Taken" signs around the establishment.

Santa Claus confines his attention almost exclusively to mankind, the lower animals, except the reindeer, having no pull with him whatever. This is a well-known fact in natural history, which may be proved by pictures of Santa Claus and his holiday turn-out coming in over the snowy roofs.

When Santa Claus dies there will be the biggest funeral ever heard of, but there is not much likelihood of that event ever happening as long as there are any children alive. When they are all gone Santa Claus will go too, for what's the use of his monkeying with grown-ups?

WHY HE SPANKED THE CHILDREN

How the Settler Prepared the Young Ones for Christmas.

On the morning of the day before Christmas I dismounted at the door of a North Dakota cabin to inquire the whereabouts of a man living in that neighborhood, and the sounds from within told me that one of the children was being spanked. When the spanking had been concluded the settler opened the door and invited me in. I saw nine children standing up in a row, and the tenth one sitting down on the other side of the room. The man thought some explanation should be made, and he said:

"It's the way I do every Christmas time, and I had just begun when you rode up. Can you wait till I have spanked the other nine?"

"Of course, but may I ask why you do it? They look to me to be nice, well-behaved children."

"They are as good children as you will find in the state, sir; but the spanking must go on."

"Yes, the spanking must go on," added the wife.

I couldn't say any more, of course, and I went out to the gate and waited. The nine were called up one after another and put through the machine, and then the man, who was breathing hard from his exertions, joined me at the gate and said:

"There, the last one of 'em has been licked, and now I'll show you where Brown lives."

"Thanks, but would you take it amiss if I asked what your ten children had done to deserve punishment?"

"You may ask, sir, and I will explain," he replied. "They hadn't done nothing. I was licking 'em so they wouldn't expect any Christmas presents in their stockings to-night!"

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CLARENDON, TEX., DEC. 26, 1908.

There is something in the funny pictures—to some men. The salary of John T. McCutcheon, probably the greatest cartoonist, is \$20,000 a year.

Christmas was most fittingly observed in Clarendon, there being no distracting and useless noise nor carousing, and the day was like a Sunday properly observed.

Cincinnati fashionables are going to give their cats and dogs elaborate Christmas trees on which will be hung engraved manure sets, silver back brushes and motor goggles. These are no doubt persons who turn up their noses at all worthy objects of charity and their hearts would be unmoved at the appeals of a hungry orphan.

Bury the croaker out in the wood in a beautiful hole in the ground, where the woodpecker pecks and the bumble-bee bums and the straddle bug straddles around. He is no good to the city push; too impractical, stingy and dead, but he wants the whole earth, and all of its crust and the stars that shine overhead. Then hustle him off to the bumble-bee's roost and bury him deep in the ground; he's of no use here, get him out of the way, and make room for the man that is sound.

The entire country will watch with interest the proceedings of the Oregon legislature when it meets next month to select a successor to United States Senator Fulton. The legislature is almost unanimously republican. Of the ninety members, fifty-one voluntarily signed a pledge before election to elect as United States senator the popular choice. The choice proved to be Governor Chamberlain, a democrat. The question now is will the legislators stand by their pledge.

The supreme court of appeals of Virginia declares that while common carriers must receive shipments for delivery to parties in no-license territory, wholesalers, brewers, distillers and manufacturers cannot avail themselves of that right. "If they did so," concludes the decision, "it would be possible for violators of the law to compel common carriers to aid and abet violations owing to the consignees receiving the liquor when shipped in large quantities and then selling it contrary to the law."

Long credit is the bane of any country and should be put a stop to. Business men have it in their power not to exercise it. Many a man has been induced to purchase articles when he could do very well without, on promise of long payment. He probably saw no sure way of paying it when the time came "unless something turned up." The something did not come to hand and consequently he went to the wall. Long credit has been the ruin of many a man and is bound to ruin many more if it is persisted in.

A Washington item says that Senator Bailey will make a carefully prepared speech in opposition to the bill to establish postal savings banks. This measure is the unfinished business of the Senate, but there is some doubt as to whether it can be brought to a vote at this session.

Last Christmas day the stork visited a Kansas City, Kas., home in which there already were four children. The other day the four older children were writing letters to Santa Claus and one little girl added this postscript to her letter: "And please, dear Santa, don't bring us any more babies. We have enough."—Star.

Ed. and Ab. Asher are home from Ft. Worth for the holidays.

Watches, clocks, jewelry, fancy umbrellas and the finest china and cut glass for Christmas presents at Stocking's store.

Oil Companies Fined \$100,000 in Missouri and Ousted.

St. Louis, Dec. 26.—The state supreme court today handed down a decision ousting the Standard Oil company of Indiana and also the Republic Oil company and dissolving the Waters-Pierce Oil company, each corporation being fined \$50,000. The order dissolving the Waters-Pierce company is effective January 15. All seven judges of the court concurred.

By this decision the Standard Oil of Indiana and the Republic Oil companies are forbidden to ever do business in Missouri again, and the Waters-Pierce of St. Louis is dissolved, in addition to the fines.

The order dissolving the Waters-Pierce is effective January 15, unless that company before that date furnishes the supreme court satisfactory evidence that it intends to operate as an independent concern.

The suit to oust the three companies was instituted by Attorney General Hadley in 1905, and the evidence was taken by a special commissioner in St. Louis and New York. The case has been before the supreme court of Missouri for more than a year.

Man-Catching Mania Leads to Divorces.

"Man catching" by frivolous women was deplored Sunday in Philadelphia in a sermon by Rabbi Joseph Krauskopf. This, he declared, was responsible for a good portion of American divorces. The rabbi said:

"From the day the daughter enters young womanhood the sole thought of many homes is man catching. No artifice is shunned that shall enable the gorgeously decked out huntress quickest to entrap her victim."

"There probably is no thought which occupies a young society woman more than that of being married; there is probably no thought which occupies her less than that of being happy when married or making a husband happy."

New Tests For Soldiers.

An executive order has been signed by the president prescribing a physical test for the officers and men of the Marine Corps. They will be required to walk fifty miles in three days or in twenty hours actual marching time and must do this at least once in two years.

A feature of the walk is that during the marching periods the officers will be required to double quick at intervals as follows: 200 yards with a half minute's rest; then 300 yards with one minute's rest; and then complete the test in a 200 yards dash, making in all 700 yards on the double quick with one and one-half minute's rest. This is what comes of having a president who can out walk, out-run, out-box, out-ride and do many other outre physical things that fat and phlegmatic officers, whether in the naval, military, or marine services, have long ceased to do.

Contests and Contests.

These certainly be the days of "contests." Contests to "get rich quick;" contests for show and high flying; contests to live without work; contests to get something for nothing; contests, even by professed Christians, which border on to gambling. It would be well to teach the rising generation strict honesty, value for value in gain getting.—Van Zandt Enterprise.

Memphis.

Rev. H. M. Frank and wife are rejoicing over the arrival of a bouncing baby boy at their home Sunday.

The ladies of the Baptist Church on Tuesday of last week shipped three boxes to Buckner's Orphan Home. They were valued at \$60, and had some very substantial goods for the children.

Sunday afternoon T. L. Moreman Jr., and Miss Gladis Bishop, accompanied by several other couples drove to the Methodist parsonage where they called the services of Bro. R. R. Bonner, who performed the marriage ceremony.

Hedley Happengins.

Miss Annie Brown, one of Clarendon's popular young ladies is visiting Miss Era Johnson.

Mrs. A. L. Miller, who has been real sick this and last week, we are pleased to report is very much better.

Mrs. S. N. Bond left Tuesday to spend the holidays with a sister at San Antonio and a brother at Uvalde. She will be absent about a month.

Col. W. E. Reeves, President of the Bank of this city spent several days this week in Ft. Worth on business and visiting his brother of that city.

Miss Ethel White, who has been attending the Conservatory of Music, at Dallas, came in Wednesday to spend the holidays.

Chas. R. Myers, one of our hustling and enterprising farmers reports having just finished selling his surplus corn crop of 2000 bushels which brought 50 cents per bushel.

The Hedley Telephone Exchange has changed hands. N. R. Darnell sold out Monday to Mr. Savage of Oklahoma, who will move his family here and take charge about the 5th of January.

E. R. Clark, who lives about 2 miles southeast of town, has just finished threshing his milo maize, kafir and millet crops. He reports having threshed out about 3000 bushels of maize and kafir, and about 800 bushels of millet. And besides this Mr. Clark has sold about six car loads of Indian corn. Great is the Panhandle, and especially Donley, the banner county.

On last Sunday evening Esquire K. W. Howell, spoke the solemn words that bound together for life Mr. W. T. King and Miss Grimsley. These young people are very popular in this community and we join their many friends in wishing for them a life of unalloyed happiness. Also, Mr. Jesse Guill and Miss Lillie Dixon two popular young people of this community were happily united in marriage on last Sunday evening. May they live a long, happy and useful life.

STATE NEWS.

Arlington has voted a \$25,000 sewer bond issue.

Christmas fireworks was responsible for a big fire at Gilmer Tuesday, some seven or eight firms being heavy losers.

A gasoline stove was responsible for the loss of three residences in Oak Cliff Wednesday valued at \$5,000.

Mrs. Ida Hale, whose husband was killed two years ago by lightning, suicided at Gatesville Tuesday by taking strychnine.

With a revolver in each hand one man pointed the weapons at the head of W. F. Sheets in Dallas while another individual relieved him of \$19.85.

Ed Wattenbarger is expected to die at Greenville as a result of injuries received in a runaway. He was thrown from a buggy and is suffering from concussion of the brain.

Newcastle, in Young county, the terminus of the Wichita Falls & Southern railway and the site of the new rich coal fields of that section, has been made a postoffice by the removal of the office from Belknap to that point.

B. F. Duncan of Parker county fell from his loaded wagon, which passed over him and death may result. Wm. Paden of the same county, was caught under a tree he cut down and was badly crushed. He lay for two hours before relieved.

Mrs. Mary McGuire, aged 65, was beaten and robbed late Tuesday night in North Fort Worth by highwaymen. The woman was attacked on the street. Her assailants failing to find her purse threw her violently to the ground and took off her shoes where they found 50 cents. They threatened her life if she screamed. No clew to the identity of the robbers.

Samuel Butterworth of Houston was trampled to death by a team of mules he was driving twelve miles out from Fort Worth Tuesday. The body was horribly mutilated, and upon the corpse was discovered \$3,000 in cash and checks. He was en route north and relatives at Bloomington, Ill., have been notified of the death. The dead man is about 65 years of age. It is supposed from the finding of a bottle of medicine, that he undertook to doctor a mule's sore shoulder and was knocked down by the mule.

Dressmakers say that skirts will be much narrower next spring. "If they are," says the Topeka Capital, "every woman will need two."

No trouble to show goods and help you make selections at Stocking's store.

WASHINGTON LETTER.

CHRONICLE CORRESPONDENCE.
DON'T WANT NEGRO SUFFRAGE IN WASHINGTON.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 22.—The last message of the president is one recommending a change of government for the District of Columbia. The elective franchise is unknown in the District. The government is by three commissioners appointed by the president. The three-headed concern has proved very unsatisfactory to many substantial burghers doing business or living here. They do not want representative government with an unrestricted ballot to every male resident of twenty-one years of age. That would let in the colored population of ninety thousand (the largest colored population, by the way, of any city in the world). Negro suffrage was tried here more than thirty years ago when the District had a governor, a legislature and a representative in congress. But all the same Washington is not satisfied with its triumvirate government. The president knew it and he has recommended to congress a change in the form of government for the District of Columbia and should this recommendation be adopted, Washington will have a single governor.

The president first calls attention to the rapid increase of population in the National Capital, which he says has recently greatly altered social conditions necessitating changes in the machinery of its administration. He suggests that a single executive head would increase efficiency, fix responsibility and eliminate delays and uncertainties such as exist under the present system. Whether congress will pay any closer attention to the president's recommendations with reference to the District of Columbia than it has to his many other recent recommendations, is a problematical question.

TWO SHIPS FOR TAFT'S TRIP.

The president elect made a hasty and unexpected visit to the capital last week, but left the same evening for his temporary southern home at Augusta, Ga. It is said that he came in answer to a request of President Roosevelt, who wished to consult him particularly with reference to his proposed trip to the Isthmus of Panama for purposes of canal inspection. At the White House it was decided that the trip should be made in two, cruisers of the navy and that Mr. Taft will set sail from Charleston on January 25th. It will be remembered that when President Roosevelt went to the Panama Canal, another ship conveyed the one which bore him and the same precautions for the safety of the president elect will be taken. It has been found that there is no provision in law for a successor to a president-elect should he die before his inauguration. The distinguished civil engineers Alfred Nobel of the Pennsylvania Railroad and Fredrick P. Sterans of Boston, will accompany Judge Taft, and consult and advise with him with reference to the condition of the canal especially as relates to the foundations of the Gatun dam.

MR. KNOX.

It is known that Senator Knox of Pennsylvania has been offered the premiership of the Taft cabinet and has signified his willingness to accept. Mr. Knox, it will be remembered, was Attorney General during President McKinley's administration and also for a short time under President Roosevelt. He has been for four years senator from Pennsylvania. He is looked upon as a great lawyer—not brilliant, but well-read—and safe. He is a man of considerable wealth, supposed to be in the millionaire class, and owns one of the finest residences in Washington, adjoining the home of Senator Hale of Maine.

"A man may be engaged to a woman ten years, but he will never bear that she has duties she owes to her relatives until after he has married her," wails Henpeck. He doubtless hears many other things after he marries that are different from the usual talk beforehand.

Reduction SALE!

Owing to having to move, we are making

A 10 Per Cent Cut
on Shoes, Hats, Hosiery, Etc. Call and see the Good Quality and Low price of these goods.

We still carry in stock the Celebrated

White Falcon Flour
The BEST FLOUR on the MARKET.
GIVE IT A TRIAL.

Grocery stock is Fresh and Complete.

BRYAN & LAND CO.

Millinery and Dry Goods

I have put on a CLOSING OUT Sale on Dry Goods, Ladies Furnishings, Notions, etc.; also making very Low prices on some millinery. Come see what you can do before buying. Leave your orders for the New Boston Hygienic Corset, which will please you.

Miss Porter has some furnished rooms to let.

MISS SARAH PORTER hon 18

Dorothy Dodd

Smart Boots \$4 - \$3.50 - \$3

EVERYWHERE "Dorothy Dodd" Boots are noted for their smart style. But that is not all. The new "Dorothy Dodd" styles are the best money's worth of shoes we have ever seen at their prices. We only ask you to see them. For to see them is to want a pair. Many smart new styles now on sale.

RATHJEN'S SHOE STORE

FIRE WORKS PROHIBITED

The City Council desires that all shall know that it is unlawful and punishable by a Fine of One Hundred Dollars to explode any fire works within the City limits of Clarendon. We have had enough fires in this City, having had seven in as many months.

Therefore all citizens are requested to report any violations of the fire works Ordinance so the guilty parties may be punished. This law will be Rigidly enforced.

A. L. JOURNE

Business locals five cents per line for first insertion and 3 cents for subsequent insertions. All locals run and are charged for until ordered out. Transient notices and job work are cash, other bills on first of month.

Phone for 150 and 11 us all of the local news you can think of that will interest our readers. This will be but little trouble to you, and greatly help us to make a more newsy paper.

LOCAL AND PERSONAL.

Miss Lula Hill, of Portales, N. M., spent Saturday and Sunday with Pearl Hodges.

Rev. J. J. Stanton is out on the street performing his duties after being laid up for a month.

J. B. Summerour, left yesterday for Hollis, Ok., to spend the holidays with friends and relatives.

Uncle George Smith left Wednesday night for Fort Worth to spend the holidays with old-time friends.

D. C. Sullivan left last night for Whitesboro, Tex., to spend the holidays with relatives and friends.

E. G. Foster of Lockney, Floyd county, is over here this week visiting his sister, Mrs. J. B. Anthony.

Harwood Beville, who is now a local reporter on the Houston Post, is here this week with his parents.

Mrs. F. E. Harrington and daughters are spending the holidays with friends in Silver City, N. M.

Miss Lila McClelland came in from St. Mary's college, Dallas, Wednesday to spend ten days at home.

John Pope, who has been attending school in Ft. Worth came up to spend the holidays with Stuart Condron.

Geo. Harding, a mail clerk on the Denver, is visiting his parents this week, Mr. and Mrs. James Harding.

Mrs. D. P. Ross, who has some serious ailment, was sent to Oklahoma City last night for a surgical operation.

Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Bowlin and others were in from the Lelia vicinity Thursday buying supplies for their Christmas tree.

Sheriff C. A. Carlton, of Loveland, Cal., spent Saturday in Clarendon, the guest of Mrs. L. C. Updike, who is an old acquaintance and friend.

The holiday season has put considerable extra work on the express agents and the number of packages of all sizes and shapes both coming and going, almost swamps them.

D. C. Sullivan reports the sale of a block of the Asher property, on which there are four small houses, to T. B. Starkey, of Collingsworth county, Mr. Asher taking in exchange, land in Collingsworth.

It would pay farmers with large farms with land to rent to build more tenant houses. We have heard of a number of men wanting to rent small tracts of land, but could not get it with a house to live in.

R. C. Dial, formerly of the Greenville Banner, and who has been in the Panhandle for several months, spent a few days here this week. He seems well pleased with this part of the state and will likely re-enter the newspaper business.

The Baptist Pastor will preach Sunday, 11 a. m. on the theme; "The Transfiguration." At the evening service he will preach a Xmas sermon from John 3:16—"God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believed in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."

We note in the Amarillo Daily Panhandle that John Young, formerly of Clarendon, now of a grocery firm in Amarillo, and Miss Fletcher of that city were down in New Mexico, Clarendon, Tex., to see their relatives.

Charley Sachse Killed in a Clin at Brice.

A phone message Thursday morning from Brice asking for a doctor in all haste, that Charley Sachse had been badly mangled in the Sachse gin, was received here. Drs. Carroll and Ellis started there, but met parties coming in for a coffin, he having died in a very short time and was never able to speak after the mishap. A belt run off the pulley and in trying to put it on he was caught and wound up in it around the shaft, his arms broken and lower limbs torn to pieces. His remains were brought to town yesterday and interred in the Odd Fellows cemetery under the auspices of that order, and a short service by Rev. Dubbs. Mr. Sachse was 31 year old, unmarried and son of Mr. and Mrs. D. B. Sachse and an industrious, upright citizen. We extend our sympathy to the bereaved relatives.

Married—Wednesday afternoon at the residence of the bride's parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Condron, Mr. Frank Bourland and Miss Edna Condron, Rev. Furguson performing the ceremony. Mr. Bourland is an exemplary young business man and manager of the Clarendon Lumber Co.'s business, while the bride is a refined, modest young lady of one of Clarendon's best and most respected families. We extend congratulations and best wishes.

Bob Roberts and Miss Belle Batson and Arther Batson and a Miss Woodall of Memphis were married Sunday at the residence of Rev. E. Dubbs, he performing the ceremony. All are deserving, industrious young people to whom we wish happiness and prosperity.

An Open Letter by President Slover to The Patrons of Clarendon College, and the Citizenship of Clarendon.

I want to thank everyone who has patronized or assisted the school in any way. It has been largely through the loyal support of Clarendon citizenship that the school has been able to attain its present standard of merit. The enrollment for this year is already considerably beyond that for the whole of last year.

The second term, which begins next Tuesday, will find us in better condition by far than ever before to do first-class work. Several classes will be divided, and every effort will be made to have by far the best term the school has ever had. I want to say to everyone who may have been kept away during the first term on account of the incompleteness of the building that they need not hesitate longer, as we are nearing completion of what is to be done before summer, and we are not only comfortably housed, but we have one of the best equipped buildings in the country.

We think we can not only give you your money's worth in the first class training at your own door, but by patronizing us you will assist an institution that stands for the development of Clarendon in every way. It is my purpose as far as practical to let every interest of the town reap in the store from the proceeds of the school, regardless of denominational line, as I feel that the school is broader in its scope of work and sympathy. I want to express my appreciation of the confidence of the business men of the town, and in their loyal support in all things material.

If you will continue to give us your patronage, your financial support, your confidence, and your prayers, few of us have yet realized what it is possible for us to do.

A state bank has been organized at Groom with Jno. C. Knorpp of Kansas City president; Jno. W. Knorpp, vice president; Jno. L. Knorpp, Cashier, and Nick Britten, D. A. Harrell, Jno. Frazier and W. S. Boydston, directors.

Twenty per cent off on gold and gold filled watches and jewelry at Stocking's store.

Did you ever set the hands of your watch and some hours later discover that you had failed to wind the timepiece? Well, that's what happens to the man who starts up in business and neglects to advertise.—Waco Times-Herald.

Bryan-Land Co. guarantee their shoes.

Christmas With The Pickwickians

NO chronicler of Christmas doings has done it so imitatively as Dickens, and nowhere has Dickens described them better than in the "Pickwick Papers." One might read the paragraph relating to the observance of the holiday half a hundred times and not become weary. The Christmas spirit is everywhere evident in the chapters devoted to the holiday making. From the beginning, when the hero, his three friends and his faithful servant start for Dingley Dell, to the hour of their return there is Christmas in every sentence:

As brisk as bees, if not altogether as light as fairies, did the four Pickwickians assemble on the morning of the 22d day of December in the year of grace in which these their faithfully recorded adventures were undertaken and accomplished. Christmas was close at hand in all his bluff and hearty honesty. It was the season of hospitality, merriment and open heartedness. The old year was preparing, like an ancient philosopher, to call his friends around him and amid the sound of feasting and revelry to pass gently and calmly away. Gay and merry was the time, and right gay and merry were at least four of the numerous hearts that were gladdened by its coming.

After tramping through a wide and open country, the wheels skimming over the level ground, "slowing up" in the country town, and "starting" on the open road, they were following to their respective homes and their very

the airs of a man who could "skalt" and having shown his ignorance thereof, was smartly reproved by Mr. Pickwick. Meanwhile, "Mr. Weller and the fat boy having by their joint efforts cut out a slide," all hands participated. Says the chronicler of the day's sport:

It was the most intensely interesting thing to observe the manner in which Mr. Pickwick performed his share in the ceremony—to watch the torture of anxiety with which he viewed the person behind gaining upon him at the imminent hazard of tripping him up, to see him gradually expend the painful force which he had put on at first and turn slowly around on the slide, with his face toward the point from which he had started, to contemplate the playful smile which mantled on his face when he had accomplished the distance and the eagerness with which he turned around when he had done so and ran after his predecessor, his black gaiters tripping pleasantly through the snow and his eyes beaming cheerfulness and gladness through his spectacles, and when he was knocked down, which happened upon the average every third round, it was the most invigorating sight that can possibly be imagined to behold him gather up his hat, gloves and handkerchief with a glowing countenance and resume his station in the rank with an ardor and enthusiasm which nothing could abate.

Mr. Pickwick unfortunately breaks through the ice and gets a good wetting, but, being taken on a smart run to the house, put to bed and given unlimited quantities of hot punch, finds himself none the worse next morning, when the party departs from Dingley Dell.

Thus does Dickens tell us of one of the merriest Christmases that a reader could desire. There is no touch of sadness in the chronicle, and all that one could wish for is that the story were longer. Long live the tale, and long may we enjoy Christmas with the Pickwickians!



MR. PICKWICK WENT SLOWLY AND GRAVELY DOWN THE SLIDE WITH HIS FEET ABOUT A YARD APART.

35-
103-
412-30

BUSINESS LOCALS.

Santa Claus goods at Stocking's store.

Our school shoes are guaranteed. Rathjen's Shoe Store.

If it isn't an "Eastman" It isn't a Kodak.

The only place to get the East man Kodak is at Stocking's store.

"Star brand shoes are better." Sold by Bryan-Land Co.

You will find the latest samples of 1908 wall paper at Stocking's store.

Our fall stock of Dorothy Dodd shoes are on display. See them. Rathjen's Shoe Store.

Now is the time to buy a good watch and save 20 per cent in the deal at Stocking's store.

All the latest designs in jewelry may be found at Fleming & Bromley's. Also have a nice line of beautiful diamonds.

Souvenir post cards, pretty views in colors, of every town of importance in Texas. I have them; 2 cents each, postpaid. Henry Law, Goodnight, Tex. 9 tf

Desirable Cottages for Sale.

Enquire at this office. Also cottage or two to rent.

OVERSTOCKED.

The jewelry department at Stocking's store on account of overstock will from now till January 31, 09, give 1-5 off on all solid gold or gold filled watches or jewelry.

Finest cut glass at Fleming & Bromley's, the nicest in town. See the window display.

Everything for Christmas presents at Stocking's store. Call in and see.

Bryan-Land Co. carry a full line of the best shoes, hats, etc.

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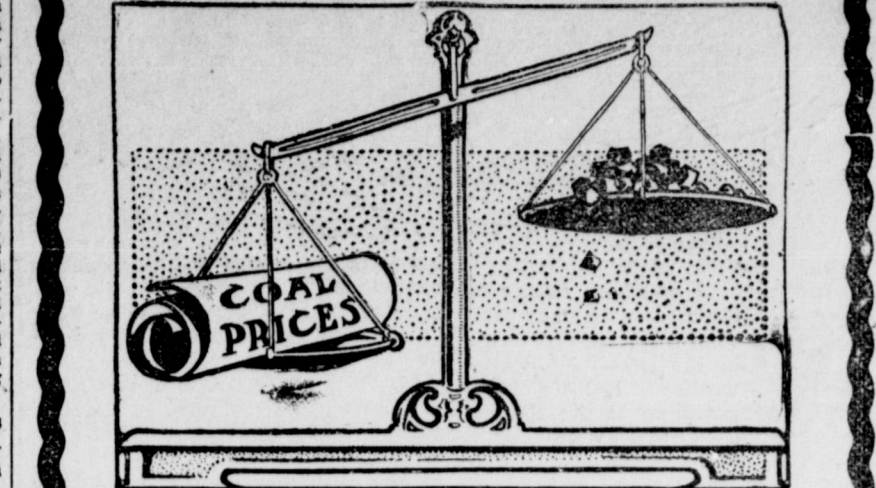
First-class Shop Work.

I have bought the Dick Allen carpenter shop, and I invite all classes of carpenter and cabinet work, furniture repairing, etc. Window and door frames, mouldings, baseboards, mantles and scroll work put up in the best of shape and all work guaranteed.

L. D. Clark, Mgr., Clarendon Tripling Mill Co.

COAL COAL

Genuine Sunshine Maitland Lump. The Best Coal handled in this market, and we have the exclusive sales agency for it in this territory. Why not buy the BEST when it costs no more than the inferior grades?



LUMBER

Don't forget that we carry a complete line of Building Material at all times, and that our prices are in line. When in the market for LUMBER or COAL it will pay you to see us before placing your orders.

KIMBERLIN LUMBER & COAL COMPANY

J. L. SCARBOROUGH, Mgr., Clarendon, Texas

Western Real Estate Exchange

H. G. SHAW, Manager
LAND AND IMMIGRATION AGENTS
Clarendon, Texas

We are locating more Homeseekers and Investors than any firm in this section of the country. List your property with us for QUICK SALE

REFERENCES—Any bank or reliable business firm in Clarendon, Tex.

DR. T. E. STANDIFER

Physician & Surgeon. Special attention given to disease of women and children and electro therapy. Office phone No. 66. Residence phone No. 55-3 rings.

J. D. STOCKING, M. D.

PHYSICIAN AND SURGEON. Special attention given to obstetrics and diseases of women and children. Office Phone 42 Residence Phone 80

A. L. JOURNEYAY,

LAWYER. Clarendon, Texas.

DR. P. F. GOULD

DENTIST. CLARENDON, TEX. Office in front room over Fleming & Bromley's drug store. Office phone, 245; residence, 188.

DR. R. L. HEARNE

DENTIST. CLARENDON, TEXAS. Office in Davis building. Office phone 45. Residence phone 12

A. M. Beville

Fire, Life and Accident Insurance Agent. Land and Collecting Agency and Notary Public. Prompt attention to all business Clarendon, Texas.

H. TYREE

Practical Painter and Paper Hanger. Special attention given to Staining, Varnishing, Interior Finishing and Decorating. None but Experienced Workmen Employed.

John Beverly

DRAYMAN. Baggage handled day or night. Phone 53. Clarendon, - Texas

W. C. Stewart

Plumbing and Electric Supplies. Windmill and Repair Work. Phone 132 Clarendon, Texas

Pythian Sisters—Panhandle Temple, No. 58.

Meets 1st and 3rd Monday nights at Pythian Hall. Mrs. H. B. WHITE, M. E. C. Mrs. JOHN M. CLOWER, M. of R. & C. Modern Woodmen of America—Clarendon Camp No. 12,423. Meets every Saturday night at Woodman Hall. R. T. JOHNSON, Clerk. Royal Neighbors—Auxiliary to Modern Woodmen—Meet 1st and 3rd Thursday in each month in Woodman Hall. Mrs. R. T. JOHNSON, Orator. Mrs. H. W. KELLY, Recorder.

Clarendon LAUNDRY

Good work. Careful Delivery, Reasonable prices. Your patronage solicited. CHAS. McCRAE, Prop'r.

Ora Liesberg DRAYMAN Coal Dealer

Careful hauling and transferring. Best Maitland coal and correct weights. Your patronage invited. Phone 23-3r

McCrae & Hodges, Livery, Feed and Sale Stable

J. H. Hodges' Transfer and Bus line meets all trains and calls day and night. WE KNOW THE ROAD. Phone 62. Clarendon, Texas

JAMES HARDING Merchant Tailor

Fashion, Neatness and durability are special points in all work.

DR. J. F. MCGHEE

Veterinary Surgeon and Dentist. Graduate Western Veterinary College, Kansas City, Mo., can be found at all times at Drev's wagon yard or at McKillop & Goodman's drug store, Clarendon. Calls answered day or night. Phones: Res. 118; office 1.

Wanted—Success Magazine requires the services of a man in Clarendon to look after expiring subscriptions and to secure new business by means of special methods, unusually effective, position permanent; prefer one with experience, but would consider any applicant with good natural qualifications; salary \$1.50 per day, with commission option. Address, with references R. C. Peacock, room 102, Success Magazine Bld'g New York.

W. P. BLAKE, NOTARY PUBLIC

Acknowledgements Taken. NOTARY PUBLIC CLARENDON, TEX.

YOUR DOLLAR

Will come back to you if you spend it at home. It is gone forever if you send it to the Mail-Order House. A glance through our advertising columns will give you an idea where it will buy the most.

100 Envelopes 40c

printed and postpaid this at office

When you want help of any kind, to sell a business, or to exchange something, tell your wants in The Chronicle, the paper that hits the spot twice-a-week.

MOUNTAIN CHRISTMAS

BY FRANCES MARGARET FOX

S NOW had been falling in the mountains many days before Christmas. Down in the sunbright valley mother and little Nina gazed up at the shining peaks and were homesick. They would gladly have forgotten snow, but father was in a mountain cabin all alone.

"Will he hang his stockings by the stone fireplace?" asked Nina, "and don't you s'pose he'll be 'vited somewhere to dinner?"

"I wish we had stayed with him," said mother. "If he can live through the winter in the mountains, so could we."

"But he told us 'no, don't you remember?' He said he brought us to southern California on purpose so we could live always in a summer land."

Mother sighed. The little family had been west only a few weeks when father was offered a position as bookkeeper for a lumber company away up in the Sierras. Living in the mountains had been delightful through the summer, but at the first hint of cold weather the tent home was packed, father bought a cabin and sent mother and the little daughter to the valley.

Father was an artist and he declared that he should like nothing better than to paint pictures of snowy peaks with no one to interrupt him and nothing else to do but to guard the company's property.

"It is a wonderful chance," he had insisted.

Mother and Nina had tried to believe he was right; but the little bungalow which they rented already furnished, seemed but a poor excuse for a house.

"I wish I could see him hang up his stocking," continued Nina. "Oh, I wish I could put this penwiper I'm making in the very toe of it!"

Mother made no reply. She wished so much that she, too, might fill that lonely stocking in the mountain cabin.

"Oh, mother, mother!" exclaimed Nina, dropping her spool and scissors and springing to her feet. "I have a beautiful idea! You always have to keep your Christmas presents, don't you? You never can send them back, can you?"

"Surely not," was the answer.

"But, mother, s'pose you wish your Christmas present hadn't come. Would it be very polite to tell the ones that gave it to you that you were getting along nicely without their Christmas present and that you really didn't want it?"

"Why, of course not, Nina. We must think of the loving thought behind the gift, even if Uncle John should send no skates this very winter!"

Two arms flew swiftly around mother's neck.

"Oh, I have such a beautiful idea," repeated Nina. "We'll ride on the stage with the Christmas box and give ourselves to father for a Christmas present. He wouldn't return his Christmas present, now, would he?"

"Would you be contented, Nina, to live up there all winter?" asked mother. "You must remember that you will be four miles from Fredalba. You will have no little girls to play with, no school, no Sunday school, no—"

"But, mother, can't we have a school with you for the teacher, and a Sunday school? Can't I have a whole row of snow men to play with? And, mother! we'll have a real Christmas!"

Thus it happened that two passengers went up the trail on the last stage of the old year.

"Anybody going to meet you in Fredalba?" asked the stage driver. "The weather is pretty severe up here a few thousand feet higher. Had lots of rain in the valley and that means snow storms in the mountains."

"No one will meet us," said mother, "but we know the trail from Fredalba and our burros are there, although we didn't expect to see them again until next summer."

"You can telephone from Fredalba," suggested the stage driver. "They tell me your husband has a telephone out at camp."

"But we're Christmas presents," explained Nina; "so we must surprise him. Don't you know that to-night will be Christmas eve?"

"If the wind doesn't come up, you'll be all right," the man replied, but unless I'm mistaken, there's a heavy snow falling in the mountains this minute."

At Fredalba every one advised mother and Nina not to attempt the trail until morning. This time it was mother who would push on. "We know the trail so well," said she, "and the burros know it better. In two hours we can reach camp."

"It seems to me," said the stage driver as he watched the two disappear around the curve, "it seems to me that some folks haven't any sense," and shutting his lips in a determined fashion he went to the telephone and called for Nina's father. "I'll tell him

his folks are coming and to go out to meet them," he explained to the men standing near. "Otherwise the poor fellow may have a surprise he won't like on Christmas day."

To the stage driver's dismay there was no answer to his call. Father's cabin in the Sierras was evidently deserted.

"See here," said he to a friend, "you call Brown up in half an hour and tell him that his wife and daughter are on the trail."

"The wires are down," declared a big man who came in at that moment from outside. "No use trying to telephone."

With fear for the safety of his passengers, the stage driver drove down the trail to the valley.

In the meantime the two plodded along on the sure footed burros, calling merrily to each other as they passed the well-known landmarks.

On and on, up and up they toiled, the snow falling faster and faster, the wind more furious every minute. One mile, two miles. By that time the snow blinded them and but for the faithful burros they could not have kept the trail. It grew colder and colder, and the short afternoon was ended. That meant sudden darkness among those solemn, snow-clad peaks. It meant too, that mother and Nina



But for the Faithful Burros They Could Not Have Kept the Trail.

were thoroughly frightened. They couldn't talk except to urge the burros on. The wind took their breath.

"We won't be Christmas presents, I'm afraid," sobbed Nina, through chattering teeth.

"Say your prayers," suggested mother, "it is all we can do now."

They had long since dropped the reins and trusted the burros to choose their own way. Mother recalled story after story of men who had perished on those mountain trails and she blamed herself for ever attempting such a journey. Suddenly a welcome sight appeared before the struggling travelers.

"The lights of Mr. Dean's cabin!" exclaimed Nina. "Oh, mother! We have reached Mr. Dean's ranch and we're still alive! To-morrow we'll see father!"

A funny thing then happened. Both burros began to bray. Mother and Nina laughed and cried at the sound. Instantly the signal was answered. Robert Dean flung open the cabin door and in a flood of light beheld his visitors.

"Well, well, well!" he exclaimed. "Who told you that we're having a Christmas dinner here this evening, turkey and all? Why, Miss Nina, your father is or was at the table!"

The next thing Nina knew she was in her father's arms and mother was removing her wraps.

"Are we frozen or anything, mother?" asked the child.

"No we're all right and so are the burros," was the reply.

"Oh, how glad everybody is!" the little girl exclaimed. "And I'm hungry—and—and father, we're your Christmas presents!"

Father, for some reason couldn't say "thank you," but didn't speak of returning the precious gifts and it is doubtful if anywhere in the valley below there was such happiness as filled the mountain cabin that Christmas eve.

Why She Stood There.

"Don't you think," suggested a young man to his partner at a dance, "that we should move farther up the room out of the draught?"

"Oh, well, if you like!" replied the girl, snappishly.

It was only when they moved away that the youth noticed that they had been beneath a large bunch of mistletoe.

A Useless Present.

Aunt—Yes, Johnny, Santa Claus brought you a baby brother.

Johnny—Great Scott! Another present that ain't any use!

SPOILED BY A COOK

CHRISTMAS EXPERIENCE IN A WOMEN'S BOARDING HOUSE.

How a Famished Tableful Had to Wait for Their Turkey Until the Belligerent Female Could Be Coaxed from the Room.

"My most unpleasant and yet most comical experience of Christmas-keeping," said the concert singer, "dates back to the time when I lived for economy's sake in a home for working women. The cook we had was a good one, and so, when Christmas day came, we all felt assured that at one o'clock we should have our orthodox turkey-and-plum-pudding dinner.

"But one bottle of whisky, smuggled into a Christian kitchen, will upset the expectations of 30 hungry boarders. Just how many drinks the cook had that morning, I cannot say, but when dinner time came she was belligerently drunk. The turkey was as well roasted as though she had been sober, but what was that to the boarders in general, when she stood over it, carving-knife in hand, declaring that not a soul in that dining-room should have a mouthful of it but mamma and myself?"

"Vainly did the matron threaten and entreat. The determined cook was not to be disarmed. Mamma and I were bountifully helped, but the others sat and waited, wondering what would be the outcome of the trouble. Finally, the defeated matron came out of the kitchen, and with tears in her voice, said to me:

"I can do nothing with her. Will you go in and see what you can do?"

"And so I went in, and in my most affable manner invited intoxicated Bridget to sit down and have a friendly cup of tea with myself. She complied, though with an eye still on the turkey. After we had had our tea, by exerting all of my arts and wiles I persuaded her to go up stairs and to bed. It was not until she was safely out of the kitchen that dinner was served to the other boarders.

"Of course the next day there was a bad quarter of an hour for that cook, one that ended with her 'getting her duds together and skipping.' Many, in fact, all of us, were ready to plead for her, knowing that she could not easily be replaced; but the matron was adamant, protesting that in her experience with the creature she had already forgiven her until seventy times seven, and she wasn't going to forgive her again. And I heard afterward that it was really a year or more before the woman was taken back again into that kitchen.

"Naturally, it was easier for the other boarders, who, you may be sure, resented that 'invasion of their wittles,' to forgive the cook than to make friends with mamma and me, and from that time on we were the most unpopular persons in the house. We had been ruined by a cook's favor. It would not have mattered so much about the boarders, but the defection of her kitchen head was too much for the matron's magnanimity, and as she managed the lady managers of that institution, it was not very long before we too, in our culinary friend's language, had to 'get our duds together and skip.'"

HOW ST. NICK FOOLED JOHNNY.

The Boy's Parent Bought Useful Presents When Santa Passed Him By

"I'll lay for St. Nicholas," Johnny said to his little sister, Sue.

"Why?" she asked.

"If he wants to leave useful presents I'll just stop him!" was his boastful answer.

"You'd best not!" Sue said—girls have these premonitions.

He said: "Pshaw, I'm as foxy as St. Nicholas!" and while his little sister lay asleep he watched.

Time passed. The clock struck midnight. Then he saw his papa and his mamma entering silently with certain bundles.

"What's up?" he called to them.

"Where's St. Nicholas? I've been laying for him so's to head him off from leaving clothes and things as he did last year!"

"Rash boy!" said his father, after a moment of reflection. "Your mamma overheard your audacious plan—just almost kept St. Nicholas from the house! I assure you I would not have intervened but for the sake of your sister."

"How? What?" asked John.

"Hush! Yes, St. Nicholas was very angry you should dare to criticise his gifts. He would have passed us altogether had I not gone to the roof and said: 'St. Nicholas, don't go off like that. I have a little daughter who is innocent. Give me her presents!'"

"Did he give them, papa?" asked the boy.

"For sure."

"Then what are those store bundles?"

"They are your gifts!" answered papa, spreading out the useful objects—I think that it was a new hat, overshoes and an umbrella. As St. Nicholas left nothing for you, your mamma and I went out and bought them!"

A Perpetual Christmas Present.

Mrs. Caller—You surely don't give your husband a necktie every Christmas?

Mrs. Athome—Oh, yes, I do! And the poor dear never seems to know what to do with it!

Chamberlain's Cough Remedy

WILL CURE Your Cold. Try It

The uniform success that has attended the use of this remedy in the cure of bad colds has made it one of the most popular medicines in use. It can always be depended upon to effect a quick cure and is pleasant to take.

It contains no opium or other narcotic, and may be given as confidently to a child as to an adult. Price 25 cents. Large size 50 cents.

HIS CHRISTMAS SCHEME.

Deep-Laid Plot That Resulted in a Fine Dinner.

"Mrs. Skinnem," he timidly began as the landlady of the boarding house came to her door in answer to his knock, "I—I called to see you just a moment regarding the Christmas dinner."

"Well," she asked with a scowl that made him wish he was a thousand miles away.

"You see," he went on, "we—we were talking it over just now, and we decided that it would be best not to have turkey or plum pudding or ice cream on Christmas, as—"

"Stop right where you are, sir—stop right where you are!" cut in the landlady, angrily. "Who do you think is running this boarding house, anyway?"

"Why, you, of course, ma'am."

"Who provides the meals here at great trouble and expense?"

"You do, my dear Mrs. Skinnem."

"Who sees that the people of this house always get what's best for them to eat?"

"You—you do, Mrs. Skinnem."

"Am I a woman, do you think, who is capable of running a first-class boarding house as one should be run?" she demanded to know as she looked him up and down in a way to make his hair curl with fear.

"You—you certainly are," he promptly replied.

"Well, then," she said, "you may go down and tell the other boarders that, just as long as I am at the head of this place and pay the rent and buy the provisions I propose to do as I see fit, and I will take no orders, sir, regarding the meals."

And instead of the beef stew and bread pudding that Mrs. Skinnem had planned for the Christmas dinner she provided a 20-pound turkey and a mammoth plum pudding and a gallon of ice cream, and she went around all day with a chip on her shoulder, just wishing that some one would make a complaint about it.

But there were no complaints. There were only chuckles and smiles and whispers over the little game that had been played so neatly on Mrs. Skinnem, and sometimes a shiver as some of the more timid thought of what would happen if the husky landlady ever learned of it.

LEGEND OF SANTA CLAUS.

Stockings Hung on Door of Mother Abbess in French Convents.

There grew up a custom in Christian countries of giving presents in secret on the Vigil of St. Nicholas.

In Italy it was called the Zopasta, which means in Spanish a shoe, because the gifts were put into shoes to surprise people when they should put them on in the morning.

In many French convents the boarders used to place each her silk stocking at the door of the room of the Mother Abbess, recommending themselves at the same time to St. Nicholas. And in Germany a boy dressed as a bishop would go round in vestments and mitre and fill the stockings hung up.

This solemnity of the boy bishop came to be kept here with much care and ceremony on the feast of St. Nicholas to commemorate his youth and his patronage of children. In Salisbury cathedral there is, or was, a monument to one of these boy bishops who died during his term of office. The same custom was observed in Spain, and in Switzerland until the end of the eighteenth century. At one place in England, the convent of Godstowe, in Oxfordshire, public prayers were said by a little girl dressed as an abbess.

The custom, stopped here first by Henry VIII. and afterward by Queen Elizabeth, was in a different form carried on by the Dutch in America and became in the end the secularized ceremony we still use here of Santa Claus, a person dressed in Dutch or German winter clothes of the sixteenth century.

Our "Good for Bad Boys" school shoes are the ones for boys. Rath Jen's Shoe Store.

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