

the parish, and the adjective was well applied, so aweet was her smile, and so tender and gentle were the soft tones of her roice. And she was not really old, nothing like the conventional old maid of story-book fame. She was simply "Miss Enid"-no longer very young but with a past that had brought to her gladness and then sor row, and that had taught her a lifelong lesson of the tenderest, purest sympathy in and with the smiles and the feers of others. No one came to Enid for help and

is the Revival of Nature, which astronomically signifies 'the return of the un. Hung with lights and offerings, the tree has for centuries been one of the principal characteristic fof Christtradition connected with it, however, mastide. and thus loses its sentimental value. Assyrians Watching the Morning Star.

the leaves curl and crackle in the heat

The eve green tree is a symbol used

and flame.

But to the decorator, the artist, the The Assyrian Christians, Who live florist and the dealer it is one of tuo almost isolated from the Western best, most ornate, and suggestive world and the eastern regions of plants for use. at home or in public

From Charleston to Laurens. It is understood a that President Childs, of the Columbia, Newberry and Laurens Bailrond has obtaineed the

next year's cotton.

comforticss; no one ever told her some heartfelt story of grief and weariness, and did not receive sweet consolation in return. Miss Enid's great heart was ever open, ever ready to condole with the bereaved, to smile hopefully upon the young and the ardent toiler, to bring a message of patience to the sick and the sorrowing. -ip. fact, to minister to each and every one as they needed her sweet helpfulness. And yet-and yet-Miss Enid had known sorrow, the greatest and the deepcat sorrow that can come into a woman's life and blot out forever the sunshine from the pathway And she was thinking of the past to night, this Uhristmas time, when every one was happy in the society of their dear ones, and when love and joy were the theme of every hymn and authem that was sung in the great church yonder, the church she had so recently left. She had been twining beautiful wreaths for pillar and pulpit

-wreaths of holly and ivy and box, and the vicarage children had helped her, pricking their small fingers with the sharp holly leaves, and tying her string into innumerable tangled knots. Yet she loved them to much, the darlings, that she was only too happy to have them near her. to hear their

ditflo bright voices, to see their rosy faces, and to feel the soft touch of their soft hands as they hung about dwelt safely shrined forever in the her trying so hard to help "dear Miss Enid."

"We love you so much, you know, gray-eyed Angela had said, "that we want to do all we can, And it isn't very much, but we does gar best."

and Bobby had broken in with an account of the Christmas card that he meant to stad Miss Enid- s very gorshop, in fue purchase of which and similar treasures the children's morn. ing had been happily spent. And Miss Enid thanked him before and, stooping down to kiss the bonny litthe face, and assuring him that she would like it very much, and would keep it slways in memory of him. "That's right," the little boy said, heartily. ""Fis quite the proper thing to say, isn't it, Marjorie?"

And Marjorie and Angels nodded assent as the nurse came to carry them of home to the vicarage tes.

Miss Enid had declined their enthusiastic invitation to accompany them something had sent mer thoughts back to the past with a sudden rush of memory, and the scene around seemed strangely dreamlike and unreat. She instened up the long or how near the tears were to the ends of her wreath and put on her pretty eyes that strove so bravely to ends of her wreath and put on her pretty eyes that strove so bravely to ends, and then, before her flight was smile on him for the last time. And elesk, and then, before her flight was notified, she elipped away, dut into the darkness and the stillness of the winter's evening. She wanted to be alone, to think intely, there was always to much to do; and then she had been and fortune to lay at her feet. And the stars alone down on them as they went up the quiet lane, as if to bles in plat of it before, for the mesoaries of the rympethy of her own thoughts and al the areas of that bitter awen ind the past that dud so presention. The bit due past that bitter awen ind the past that dud so presents, we have been presents brynget, And there in the past that dud so presents of the thoughts of the placed. The past that dud so presents of the mesoaries brynget, And there is plan.



WHAT KRIS 'KRINGLE. SENT. We walted to yoo what his face would be,

On the knobs at the foot of the bel. We shall find them crammed with beautiful things

When we wake in the morning," we We tried very hard to keep awake To see Santa Claus when he came, But I dropped asleep very quickly indeed, And Eveline did the same.

depths of Miss Enid's heart-the face

of one who had surely, surely loved her once, in the long ago! And she faucied sometimes that he meant to tell her so, that the words had trombled on his lips, the words that would have changed her life and his so greatly! She had read part of. his story in his eyes-clear, grave

self-and yet he had never uttered what his heart surely knew woll, and she had never listened to the sweetest words that the human car can hear. For the old, old reason. He was poor and proud, and he wanted, oh! so much to win honor and fame for

his ove-and he had gone on, mean-ing perhaps to tell her if the opportunity offered before the end. And suddenly their parting had come, and sae had known that he must go away from her. He had told her so him-self, walking home from the old church

at Christmas, time, under the stars. "Wish me God-speed, will you not?" he had asked her, and her gentie voice just the things that she knew they fice skating club, which takes the lead had bidden him farewell quietly and wanted. As the door burst open, the evenly, so that he never knew how four children crashed in, in even deep was the pain in the loving heart, wilder spirit than Christmas Day

We hung up our slockings on Christmas Evo But when the morning began to break I suddenly woke up quite, And booked to see if dear Santa Claus Had thought of Ms in the night. When, oh! how frightened I was! I heard

A noise by the foot of the bed. I whispered, "It must be Santa Claus." "Yes, it must be," Eveline said.

face-a beautiful, brave face that You must picture for yourselves a suggested Rouald, and Marjorie said, deeply, truly, passionately, one to

whom little children turned as to a mother's protecting care, to slumber peacefully on her touder bosom or to them. Picture that to yourselves, and then tell me for what it was that my dear Miss Enid longed so much sometimes. She was very good and sweet geous production from the village eyes that were truth and honesty it- and patient, but she was very human, after all-but a woman at heart-and

> every woman yearns at some time or other of her life for love. Christmas Day broke white and fallen in the night and the whole world was shining. And Miss Enid, as she sat at her solitary breakfast table, hearing a number of voices without, smiled expectantly. Were not the children coming to give her Obristmay presents, and would they not be de-

lighted with the purchases that she had made for them? And she glanced towards a pile of neatly wrapped par-cels with some pleasure...they were usually called forth.

"Merry Kis'mas, Merry Kis'mas," shouted Bobby, holding up his resy month for a kiss. "We've got a big

And father says, "Well, it was Santa Claus." And Eveline says so too. 100 lonely woman-one who could love "And the money-box would do for a

And my heart went pit-a-pat-pat

(And Eveline said hers did the same),

For Christmas, I think, don't you?

There were two little kitties. A lovely pres-

Till we hard the miau of a cat.

ont

wedding present, you know, Bobby. Mother says 'tis to be soon.' And then she added, what every one said that happy day when they heard smile up into the sweet face above of the wanderer's return, "Dear Miss Enid."

Christmas in Sweden,

At Christmas the royal family of Sweden assemble, as many as are in Stockholm at the time, exchanging

presents on Christmas Eve, according to the Swedish custom. The King and Queen give sums of money for charicalm and beautiful, for snow had ties, which are remembered every year.

The grand New Year's ball given in the beautiful "White Hall" in the royal palace is the next great public occasion. The absence of the Queen and Crown Princes from the court assemblies detracts much from its former brilliancy and life. The young Princes are much courted and are invited to innumerable balls during the season. Being fond of sports they have a roya among clubs of that kind.

Every Monday, beginning in January, the court is seen gliding on ice

under the glare of lanterns, and dang. ing on skales to the tones of an orchas: ten.

Sleighing parties, balls and the opera occupy gay society in Stockholm during the winter season.

"I might say that I feel drawn to ou," as the turkey remarked to the man who had won him in a raffie. -Baffalo Courier.

Cobtile - "Well, I suppose I'll have to est my Christmas turkey in a board-ing house this year," Woos - "Thei's tough." - Life.

Asiatic Turkey, have a lovely custom sourt . on the early morning of Christmas. They all gepair from their dwellings to the open hir and wait for the morn-

ing star to fise, hailing its advent with deep devotion. In that land of cloudless skies the heavens present a spectaclo difficult to imagine in the foggy North, and the scene, as these simple and faithful believers stand or kneel outside their homes, looking toward the blue, star spangled vault above, is well fitted to inspire devotion. It is only of late years that these poor Assyrians have had any freedom in their religious rites, but now they enjoy comparative liberty. Christmas, who find among these people, is the great day for match-making. It is the only day As night

in the year when the various families mingle in common festivity, and the young folks, of both sexes, have an rule. These are participated in mostly opportunity to meet each other. The daughter of marriagcable ago looks Music of guitars, clattering castanets forward with longing for Christmas, when she may clasp the hand of the youth whose good looks and winning ways have won her heart; and none

the less ardently does the boy lover long for the sacred morning to dawn. when he can freely avow his feelings to the choice of his affections. Hence Christmas among the Assyrians is a day of rejoicings, spart from its holy character. Soon after Christmas the engagements are announced ; but weddings usually do not take place until after Easter. Owing to the barbarity of the Turks, Christmas has not infrequently been a day of mourning among the Eastern Christians, compelled to see their daughters borne into hopoless captivity ; but, except in Armenia, affairs are improving, and the Christian population enjoys comparative immunity.

The Bird of Dawning.

A popular superstition is that on the eve of Christmas the bird of dawning singeth all night long to frighten offany evil thin ;. It was from this belief that Shake-

speare wrote:

Some say that ever 'gainst that season

comes. Wherein our Saviour's birthtis eliebrated, The birt of dawning singeth an hight long; And then, they say, no spirit dares stir abroad; abroad: The nights are wholesome, then no planets

strike No fairy takes, nor witch hath power t

charm So hallowed and so gratiouris the time.

JOKERS' CHRISTMAS BOX

MoSwatters - "What are you going

Hobbles-"My wife's got me a box of eights for a Christmas present. But I'll get aven with her." Pomes -"What will you do?" Hobbles-"I'm going to select har next hat my self."-Chicago Record.

places that can be selected at this sca-Allen -

Christmas in Peru.

A MISTLETOE BALLOON.

A Christmas celebration in Peru has peculiar features. In the cities, and more especially in Lima, there are be-wildering scenes of activity on Christ-mas Eve. The streets and square are crowded with a gayly dressed people. Droves of asses are to be seen in every direction, laden with fruits, boughs from the mountains, liquors and other

merchandise. Ice stalls, provided with chairs and benches, are crowded by the perspiring pleasure seekers, who find ice necessary on sultry

As night approaches the streets are. packed with a noisy people, and joke and jest and merry prank become the by strangely attired persons in mask. and pebbles rattling in gourds fill tho air with mingled discordant sounds. No door is closed. There is music and dancing and the distribution of

gifts in every house. All are welcome to enter. Strangers are sure of a hearty welcome, and to be a foreigner is to have a double claim on hospitality and to receive a double welcome. All ceremony and restraint aro absent. In many houses the love of the Christmas drama is shown by theatrical representations of the Nativity, with the same characters as are seen the world. over. Suddenly the scene chauges. The

curtain falls on the play, the music and dancing cease, and the people go from their homes. The midnight boll at the cathedral has summoned all to mass. The houses and streets are nearly deserted, while the churches, with their decorations and blazing tapers, are thronged. Worshipers are kneeling before the many shrines that line their walls, and wherever they can find a place where one of the many

waxen images of the saints are dis-played. With the organ's peal, and the entering of the richly vested priests and plainly attired monks, begins the celebration of the mass.

Again, on Christmas morning, the streets are crowded and the markets are thronged, but at 9 o'clock the churches are sigsin filled. After the services come the feast and the games and the sports. When night comes there is a grand procession headed by the priests and monks, who are fol-lowed by the soldiers and people. All are gayly dressed, and many in fan-tastic costumes and masks. Banners, McSwatters -- "What are you going to hang up for Christmas?" McSwit-ters -- "My watch, prohably."--Syra-cuse Post. Jobson-- "Bill Ricketts took his new girl out sleighing on Christmas Eve," Hixon-- "What I that one-armed failer? How in the world did he manage it?" Jobson-- "She drove."---Puck.

0.

- "I suppose they will roast me and then pull my les for a disser," re-marked the turkey on the serves deep hid him trom view, -- Falladelphis line

right from ReceiverA. C. Haskell to run trains over the track of the Newberry and Laurens Railroad between Clinton and Laurens. It is expected that through trains between Charleston. Columbia and Laurens will be run. The effect of this will be to put Laurens in touch with the Seaboard Air Line and Coast Line system, and give competitive rates as against the Port Royal and Western Caroling system.

ing the officers reported that the

initial amount had been oversubscribed

and that the directors unanimously ad-

vised an increase to \$50,000, which

was accordingly done. As soon as the cold weather is over the active work

of constructing the mill will begin, and, the Carolina Mills Confpany will spin

The Colportage Work.

At the recent meeting of the Methodist Conference of South Carolins, at Rock Hill, Rev. T. J. Gattis, of Darham, N. C., was elected superintendent of the colportage work for this State. The Conference asked the pri-vilege of uniting its colportage work with the two Conferences of North Car olina and by a unanimous vote he wa elected. The same Conference 1 ycar asked Mr, Gattis to take charge of the work in this. State but he roture ed. He will accept the offer and onter upon his work at once.

The Charleston Election.

The complete but unofficial returns from the municipal election in Chaneston, show that Smyth, the Demoors tic candidate, was elected mayor of Chuleston for the next four years by a majority of 278 votes. /I'he regular Democrats elected twelve out of 24 al-dermen, the other twelve being chosen by the A. P. A. Mr. Smyth will have

the casting vote.

-Engineer Curles Killed.

Thursday a fatal collision occurred on the Air Line. The freight train running as third 42, raw into another freight, second 42, at Thickety, S. C., killing Engineer D. M. Curlee, of Charlotte, and nearly demoliang the engine and 11 cars. The crew of second 42 claim that proper signals were out for protection of their train.

> The Globe Phosphate company, of Columbia, have leased their entire plant to a party of Bichmond (Va.) ferilizer manufacturers, who will soon take there of the property and oper, ate it. The lease it is understood is for five years and the terms on which it was consummated will prove very advantageous to all those holding stock in the company.

Senator Tillman has introd bill to provide a district attorney marshal for the western district South Carolina. Every district in United States except that has district attorney and march

Antus of the man account of Review Statutes, account of the second state of the second killing one mulo, nucher and been The driver, a youn severely but als licidge warmade m ago.

