

VOLUME, VII.



Now the Christmas time is near, And the stores are bright, but dear Little voices may we hear...

MISS ENID'S PRESENT.

BY AUGUSTA HANCOCK.



MISS ENID sat by the fire in the oak parlor, and gazed into the bright flames as if she saw there some very lovely picture of the past.

the adjective was well applied, so sweet was her smile, and so tender and gentle were the soft tones of her voice.

face a beautiful, brave face that dwelt safely shrouded forever in the depths of Miss Enid's heart.

And when the morning began to break Suddenly woke up quite, And looked to see if dear Santa Claus Had thought of her in the night.

And once in her cosy oak parlor, in her own chair by the bright fireside, she lay back with half closed eyes and gave herself up, for a brief time at any rate, to the memory of the past.



WHAT KRIS KRINGLE SENT.

We hung up our stockings on Christmas Eve On the knobs at the foot of the bed.

When we woke in the morning, we found We tried very hard to keep awake.

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had only been time for "Good-by" at the gate, for he would not come in, he said--only "Good-by" and a tremulous hand shake--and--he was gone.



CHRISTMAS EVERGREENS.

How They Were First Used in Olden Times.

Among the votaries of the early Druids there was a superstition that the houses should be decorated with evergreens in December, in order that the evil spirits might enter them and thus be kept free from the blast of the cold North wind.

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Assyrians Watching the Morning Star. The Assyrian Christians, who live almost isolated from the Western world and the eastern regions of Asiatic Turkey, have a lovely custom on the early morning of Christmas.

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 grand New Year's ball given in the beautiful "White Hall" in the royal palace is the next great public occasion.

Every Monday, beginning in January, the court is seen gliding on ice under the glare of lanterns, and dancing on skates to the tones of an orchestra.

"I might say that I feel drawn to you," as the turkey remarked to the man who had won him in a raffle.

HOLLY IN DECORATIONS.

Its Red Berries a Beautiful Feature in Christmas Adornment.

A picturesque shrub especially useful at this time of the year is the holly, with its tough and shining spinous leaves and its pretty little full, round berries.

The favorite manner of arranging holly for sale is to make it up into some one of the numerous designs appropriate to the day and the season.

Among the ancient Britons the mistletoe that grows on the oak tree was of the kind held in favor.

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PALMETTO POINTERS.

INTERESTING ITEMS FROM ALL OVER THE STATE.

The Laurada Guilty of an Offense on the High Seas. Judge W. H. Brawley, of the United States District Court, has handed down his decision in the case against Capt. Samuel Hughes, the master of the steamship Laurada, which was charged with violating the neutrality laws of the United States.

Beautiful Taxpayers in a Fix. Laurens County is undergoing particularly hard times, owing not only to the closing down of the pine-stump mines and throwing out of employment hundreds of employes and laborers, but this year the people are called upon to pay two taxes.

The Co-Operative Mill. The stockholders of the Carolina Mills Company of Columbia, had a special meeting Friday evening to vote on an increase of capital stock.

From Charleston to Laurens. It is understood that President Childs, of the Columbia, Newberry and Laurens Railroad has obtained the right from Receiver A. C. Haskell to run trains over the track of the Newberry and Laurens Railroad between Clinton and Laurens.

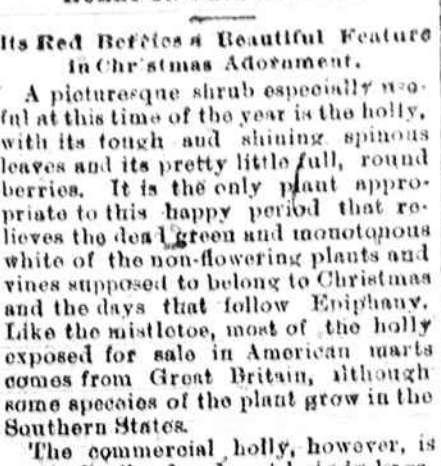
The Colportage Work. At the recent meeting of the Methodist Conference of North Carolina, at Rock Hill, Rev. T. J. Gattis, of Durham, N. C., was elected superintendent of the colportage work for this State.

Engineer Curles Killed. Thursday a fatal collision occurred on the Air Line. The freight train running as third 42, ran into another freight, second 42, at Thickety, S. C., killing Engineer D. M. Curles, of Charlotte, and nearly demolishing the engine and 11 cars.

The Globe Phosphate Company, of Columbia, have leased their entire plant to a party of Richmond (Va.) fertilizer manufacturers, who will soon take charge of the property and operate it.

Senator Tillman has introduced a bill to provide a district attorney and marshal for the western district of South Carolina. Every district in the United States except that has its own district attorney and marshal.

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A MISLETOE BALLOON.

tradition connected with it, however, and thus loses its sentimental value. But to the decorator, the artist, the florist and the dealer it is one of the best, most ornate, and suggestive plants for use at home or in public places that can be selected at this season.

A Christmas celebration in Peru has peculiar features. In the cities, and more especially in Lima, there are bewildering scenes of activity on Christmas Eve. The streets and square are crowded with a gayly dressed people.

Suddenly the scene changes. The curtain falls on the play, the music and dancing cease, and the people go from their homes. The midnight ball at the cathedral has summoned all to mass.

A popular superstition is that on the eve of Christmas the bird of dawn singeth all night long to frighten away evil folk.

Wherein our saviour's birth is celebrated, The bird of dawn singeth all night long; And then, they say, no spirit dares stir abroad: The nights are wholesome, then no planets strike; No fairy takes, nor witch hath power to charm; So hallowed and so gracious is the time.

McSwatters--"What are you going to hang up for Christmas?" McWatters--"My watch, probably."--Syracuse Post.

Jobson--"Bill Ricketts took his new girl out sleighing on Christmas Eve." Hixon--"What! that one-eyed fellow? How is the world did he manage it?" Jobson--"She drove."--Puck.

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