HOW JOY AND GLADNESS CAME TO MRS. MANLLORY

which had been falling all day now table for her mistress' inspection of lent a chill to the air.

vet curtains and looked out on the white fingers. silent avenue. There were few pedestrians in sight. Now and then a carclage came under the electric light, costly fur. and the watcher at the window caught glimpses of the dainty raiment of the occupants as they whirled gayly past on their way to some Christmas festivity.

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

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

"Does it please you that I come in quaint little accent that would at once mark her Parisienne—had her trim appearance not already done so. Mrs. Maillory turned slowly from the win-

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

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

That afternoon he had hurried in, gathered up his hunting traps and started off. He had given his wife a check-a princely sum-and said:

"Just buy yourself a little trinket, Victoria, my dear, and have a nice time at the Van Arden's tonight." "If he had only bought me a little something himself." she thought, sadly. "If it were only a few flowers!"

Janette came in, followed by a footman in gorgeous livery carrying a large number of little packages of all shapes and sizes. He came several times and arranged the packwas all little flutterings and happiness and flitted from this box to that back with a little scream.



in a perfect whirlwind of joy. This was a rare treat, opening Madame's

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

Maillory, but she looked at each indifferently and sometimes impatiently. They were all given from a sense of duty, she knew that. Climbers on the social ladder wished to be her

It was Christmas Eve. The snow, The maid placed the trinkets on the turned to rain. The dreary drizzle her jewels that should have the power nt a chill to the air.

Mrs. Maillory stood at her drawing Maillory looked at them indifferently, room window, held back the dark vel- and toyed with them with her slender

> She frowned with displeasure as the maid laid before her a wrap of Boston Globe.

"My nephew should not have sent me this," she said sharply. "He cannot afford it. It was only because I gave them their wedding silver."

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

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

Mrs. Maillory smiled little at the maid's quaint happiness in the gifts. with a quick, light motion, and a slim, She was rather fond of Janette and was often amused at the girl's extravdoorway. Her eyes fairly danced agant expressions. Janette was a happy, care-free soul and always ready to cater to her every mood.

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

"Cat!" she whispered. The gift was from a woman whom

Mrs. Maillory thoroughly disliked, my Christmas gifts." There was a and she had not tried to hide her feelher name as the entree into many looked at the fewel, Mrs. Maillory could have crushed-its delicate beauty in her hand.

the baby brother. The child had showed this pink ribbon proudly to the visitor; her "Sunday ribbon," she

The great lady fingered the soiled, gaudy piece of pink cambric and ribbon gently, almost reverently, and there were tears in her voice as she

"Her one treasure, her bit of a ribbon—she gave it to me—she gave it to me because it is Christmas." With a sob that was half joy, half sorrow, she laid her head over on the queer, shabby little offering and wept away all the grief and lonely heart-

ache, for in the gift of a little child

she had found her real Chrismas .--



A TOY TRACEDY

The came to please some pirlie,
From far across the sea.

Her locks were dark and curly;
A pretty doll was she

Her hair was like the raven's wind with tendrils prone to curl and cling.

They put her in a stocking \ And coldly left her there Between -oh, it was shocking! -1 A tiggr and a bear. Of course, the spent a dreadful night And Christman morn her hair why white:

MADONNA IN CONTEMPLATION.



The stately footman came into the room, the picture of shocked dignity Janette was about to take the brown ages as Janette directed. The maid paper parcel which the irate man held out stiffly before him, then started "The impertinence!" she cried.

> "What does this mean?" asked Mrs. Maillory, haughtily. "A very ragged little girl left this awful package, madam. She insisted

on its being given to you." "Bring it to me." The footman gave the crumpled bundle to his mistress. "Misses Malry," was written in a

round, childish scrawl. A strange feeling came over the woman. "You may go," she said to Janette

and the man, and the maid withdrew reluctantly. When the hard knots of the string were finally taken off, Mrs. Maillory exclaimed in surprise. A little note, written in the same childish hand, was pinned to the curious pink cam-

bric square. The note ran: "Dear Misses Malry; You don't know me but you cam to our house a wile ago and brot things when Jointe the baby had mesles. You wuz good to us, and we like you. We wish you

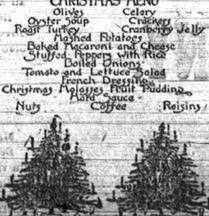
"What does the child mean?" thought Mrs. Maillory in great sur-

The she remembered. The O'Donnells were on her charity list. She looked at the gift. It was a pink cambric square, the four corners turned ds, that they might through her ence open the closed doors of the

Twas the night before Caristmus, when all through the house

Not a creature was stirring not even a The stockings were hung by the chimney In hopes that St. Nicholas soon would be there.





Christmas Eve (Children)

Christmas 'Way Down South.

You hear dat fiddle's music-de clappin' of

de han's?
Dey beats de jubilation of de hallelula
ban's!
You hear dat flo' a-creakin'? En don' you
hear de call:
"Balance ter yo' partners, en swing yo'
ladies all!"

Chris'mus times, good people!

Heel en toe you lif!!

Yander come de white folks—
Ketch' em "Chris'mus Gif'!"

Who dat 'way off yander, rackin' down de road?

De ole-time, gray-head deacon, wid a congregation load!

De meetin'-house is empty—can't miss de Chris'mus chance—

Dey muster heerd de music, en dey comin' ter de dance!

Come in dar, you people. En swing aroun' de hall! Heel en toe, en roun' you go. En "Chris'mus Gif" ter all!

De very backlog's dancin', en up de red sparks go, En pelt de hants wid fire, whar dey moan-Dey better take de road home, en hunt de holler tree. Fer dis here time is Chris'mus, en de fiddle's flyin' free!

Watch out fer dat mistletoe! Ketch you, 4 be boun'! Kiss her fer dat "Chris'mus Gif'."— Swing yo' sweetheart roun'!

Come in-de whole plantation-en jine de dancin' feet,
En glimpse dat peaceful 'possum—dat turkey, brown en sweet!
De table piled wid plenty!—come in, en
take yo' place,
En see de deacon smack his mouf en say amazin' grace

Aain't dis halleluia Ter de soul er you? 'Pears like Heaven come down ter airth En tell you, "Howdy do!"

Chris'mus times, good people! Der let de De snow done hide de medders, but de Summer's in you' soul!

Han's roun'—de ole Ferginny Reel! en let
de shadders creep
Like ghosts acrost de snowfiel's—but we'll
dance de stars ter sleep!

Chris'mus times, good people—Bes' time sence de fall!
Glory halleluia,
En "Chris'mus Gif'" ter all!
Frank L. Stanton, in the Saturday Even

De LPP Tin Horn.

Sho' ez you bo'n, Dey gwina ter be fun wid de li'l' tin ho'n! En some foll:s'il growl, in de ol'-fashion' Kase it rouse 'em fum res' at de breakin'

Sho' ez you bo'n, Dar's de life er de worl' in dat li'l' tin En de fines er sights—en de purtiest, too, Is dem rosy-red regiments marchin' ter you! Some folks, dey may growl, but de chillun don't keer—"Cris'mus des conté once a year!"

Christmas Eve. For fear one waif, this winter night, Should lick a garment's fold,

Bridg forth fair vesture, warm and bright Lest the dear Christ-child go cold! Nor let one hungry from your door
Fare sofrowing unfed;
The whitest loaf bring from your store,
Lest the Christ-child faint for bread!

Hush mirth, to hark, this blessed eye,

The wanderer's weakest ery—
The homeless at your hearth receive,
Lest the Christ-child pass you by!

—Edith Hope Kinney, in Youth's Com-

panion. Plum Pudding.

This is a good recipe: Crumble a small loaf of milk-bread and pour over it one pint of milk. Soak until soft, then add three well-beaten eggs, one cupful of dark brown sugar, one cupful of chopped and creamed suet with all the stringy substance removed, one pound of seeded and chopped raisins, one pound of currants, one-fourth of a pound of finely chopped citron, one-fourth of a teaspoonful each of cloves, allspice and grated nutmeg, and one-half teaspoonful each of cinnamon and ginger and one-fourth of a teaspoonful of salt. Boil four hours in a wellbuttered moid. This recipe may be made in double the quantity, as it will keep for a long time. When ready to use, steam well until heated through. Decorate with holly sprigs. Serve with hard sauce, made by creaming one-third of a cupful of butter with one capful of light brown sugar, and adding drop by drop. creaming it in, one teaspoonful of vanilla. Pile on a dish in a pyramid and dot with candied cherries and blanched almonds.

The Christmas Plant. The poinsettla, or Christmas plant, as it is better known, is one of the most useful for Christmas decoraand green of the foliage giving the true Christmas colors. This season the plants appear lower than former ly, and consequently are better suited table ornamentation. As a rule, from six to twelve of the plants



NATIONAL CONGRESS

FIRST DAY LARGEY A SOCIAL AFFAIR-

PRES. TAFT WAITED UPON

Deaths of Representatives Lassiter of Virginia and DeArmond, of Missouri, Reported and House Adjourns Through Respect to the Dead.

Washington, Special. - The two houses of Congress convened Monday for the first regular sssion of the Sixty-first Congress, but the day's proceedings were in great part of a social nature and practicaly, no business was transacted.

Brief as was the Senate's 13-minute sssion, it was enlivened by an unsuccessful effort on the part of Senator Bailey to defeat the passage of the usual resolution that the daily sessions begin at noon, suggesting that the Senate should convene instead at 2 o'clock. Mr. Bailey said ie would like to see the Senate hold night sessions in order that Senators night devote the day to individual ousiness. No objection was offered when a similar resolution was introduced in the House.

A joint committee was named by both houses to wait upon the President and to inform him that Congress was in session and ready for any business he might wish to lay before it The President's response constituted his annual message, the redaing of which will consume practically all of Tuesday's session of the two

The House session continued forty minutes, during which W. W. Me-Credie, the new representative from the scond Washington district, who succeeds the late Francis W. Cushman, was sworn in. The greater part of the session was taken up by the roll call.

Although only 341 members responded to their names, almost a full membership appeared on the But de li'l' folks say dat dey never shill House floor and there were few among them that did not have one or more bills to offer. These included one by Representative Garner of Pennsylvania for an investigation by Congress of the entire customs service particularly in regard to sugar frauds recently brought to light; one by Represntative Hitchcock of Nebraska, for the establishment of postal savings banks; one by Representative Mann of Illinois for Federal regulation of the "white slave trade," and another by Mr. Mann for the free admission of wood pulp, and one by Representative Hamilton of Michigan to grant Statehood

to New Mexico and Arizona. The leaders of the majority and the minority were there and con-versed amiably, all of the bitterness engendered by the tariff fight of last summer apparently having been forgotten for the time being at least.

Resolutions of respect for memory of Senator Johnson of North Dakota and Representatives DeArmond and Lassiter who died during the recess, were adopted, and as a further mark of respect the two houses adjourned until noon Tuesday, the Senate at 12:13 and the House at 12:40 p. m.

A round of applause greeted the Speaker when he entered the chamber with his customary red carnation For a moment he stood in his place nervously fingering the gavel. While the applause was subsiding the gavel descended with a resounding lefthanded whack.

The blind chaplain of the House the Rev. Henry N. Calhoun, then offerde the prayer, in which he implored the divine blessing upon the members of Congress, especially the Speaker and for the President and his adversers. He prayed for the protection of the President and his Cabinet "from all personal violence and

from the machinations of designing The chaplain in alluding to the tragic death of the late Represetnative DeArmond of Missouri, who was burned to death in his home, prayed for consolation for his colleagues, friends and especially the stricken wife and children. For the next ten minutes or more

the chamber was again filled with chatter, while the roll was being call ed. The Speaker announced that as 341 members had responded to their names, a quorum was present and the House was ready for business.

Representatives Jones of Virginia informed the House of the death of his colleague, Francis R. Lassiter and offered a suitable resolution, which was agreed to. A similar resolution offered by Representative Clark of Missouri autounced the death of A. DeArmond. It was also

W. W. McCredle, the new Representative from Washington, elected to succeed the late Francis W. Cushman, presented his credentials and was sworn in

The House, as a further mark of respect to the two members who had died during the recess of Congress, at 12:40 p. m. adjourned antil Tree-

SOUTH CAROLINA AFFAIRS

The Cream of News Items Gathered From All Over South Carolina and Boiled Down.

Commissión Pays Sums Due.

Columbia, Special.—Chairman Murray of the dispensary commission Thursday supervised the paying out of the last of the liquor claims allowed by the commission's recent judgments. The amount paid out Thursday was \$147,874.47, the largest amounts being \$65,000 to Clark Bros., \$45,000 to Fleischmann and \$18,000 to the Schlitz beer people. The only claim allowed remaining unpaid is that to the Big Springs Distilling Company, which is suspended pending appeal. This was the only concern allowed anything which has appealed. The commission has left about \$450.000, which includes about \$50,000 "coscience money," half of which goes to the lawyers. Chairman Murray said that after all attorney's fees are paid and all other expenses met the commission would turn in to the State about \$320,000.

Most of the firms "nid off Thurslay were represented by ex-Speaker of the Kentucky House of Representatives A. J. Carroll, whose fees will be large and juicy. Mr. Carroll gave the commission much valuable assistance in the way of evidence.

Big Blow to Liquor People. Charleston Special.—In sending his nonthly report to the State Governneut in Columbia concerning the umount of seizures made in Charles, ton, city and county, during the last thirty days, Chief Constable Bateman had the distinction of having been able to forward the best monthy report of any raiding constable in this city since the beginning of the dispensary law in this State. . The eport showed that an even 1,000 gallons of whiskey, of all grades and qualities, had been seized by the aiding squad during the month of November, together with a total of 3,500 bottles of beer. This immense mount of contraband liquor is valacd at between \$2,400 and \$2,500 to the county dispensary. It is stated that these figures do not represent the actual loss to the blind tigers and illicit liquor dealers entailed by the seizure of the liquor. Had the amount seized by the constables been sold in blind tigers, it would in all probability have netted about \$3,200.

Hend-On Collision at Park's Station. Laurens, Special .-- A head-on collision between trains 52 and 53 on the Columbia, Newberry & Laurens railroad occurred at Park's station Wednesday afternoon at about 2:30 'clock, resulting in considerable damage to the two engines, severe bruises to Engineer Dan McCraney of Columbia and a thorough shaking up for all the passengers. It is learned that every passenger was

thrown from his seat. The collision was the result of Engineer Joe Gate's confusion of Tuesday's and Wednesday's pass orders, so it is reported. He had both orders in his pocket and read the wrong

Orangeburg Stables Burned.

Orangeburg, Special.—At 3 o'clock in the morning, fire was discovered by Policeman Fickling in the West End stables on South Broughton St., owned by J. H. Albrecht, and burned so rapidly that notwithstanding this the fireman arrived in good time and did heroic work, the flames spread in two directions, consuming three small buildings and their contents. The stables and barns were totally destroyed with cleven head of horses, eighteen buggies, three carriages and twenty-five sets of harness, besides about \$2,000 worth of feed. Ten of the eleven horses were the property of Mr. Albrecht, and one was that of a stranger who left the animal with Mr. Albrecht on Saturday night. Dies of Injuries Caused by Prema-

ture Explosion. Gaffney, Special.—A young white man named Lanier was injured last Wednesday night at the works at the Ninety-nine Islands by a premature explosion of dynamite. young fellow lingered until Sunday morning when he died. His rela-tives believed that it was the result of carclessness and have employed counsel to investigate the facts in connection with the accident.

Five Firms File Appeals. Columbia, Special. Only five no

tices of appeal to the Supreme Court have been filed from the findings of the dispensary commission. The time is out, and therefore, only about \$60,000 of the scalings of \$226,000 will be contested. Among the most notable appeals is that of the Carolina Glass Company, of this city, whose claim of over \$23,000 was wiped out and an over-judgment of nearly \$30,000 found. The other companies who have appealed are the King County Big Springs Distilling Company, Jack Cranston Company and William Lanahan & Sons

Traction Line Changes Hands. Greenville, Special.—The Ander raction Company's holdings w ransferred to E W. Robertson M

UNGRATEFUL OFFICIAL.

George P. Sheldon, the President, is Charged With Overdrawing His Salary, Unloading Doubtful Securities on the Company and Using the Company's Assets to Secure His Personal Speculative Accounts.

New York, Special.-The Phoenix Insurance Company of Brooklyn is under investigation for fregularities which it is believed have impaired its surplus at least \$1,000,000 and to have rsulted in conditions which Superintendent Hotchkiss of the State insurance department, laid be-fore the district attorney Monday for possible criminal, action. It is charged that the president has over-drawn his salary, that he has anloaded doubtful scurities on the company and that he has used the company's assets as collateral to scure his own

personal speculative accounts. In a formal statement issued Monday night Mr. Hotchkiss admits that the present investigation is still uncompleted:

George P. Shelden, a member of many clubs, and, as chairman of the laws and legal committee of the national board of fire underwriters, is one of tht best known insurance men in the country, has been president of the Phoenix since 1887, and it is charged that under his administration the annual reports of the company made to the insurance department during at least the last ten years, and probably longer, are false

in more than one particular. The insurance department alleges that it finds that questionable securities originally sold to the company by Mr. Sheldon have, year after year, passed through "Wash sales" by this method have been concealed in the annual report.

Speculative accounts have been maintained by President Shelden, according to Mr. Hotchkiss, in at least one brokerage house, and the assets of the Phoenix have been put up as collateral to cover his operations. It is charged also that for several years the president's salary account has been overdrawn and now is paid up in full to October 1, 1910.

NATIONAL EXPENSES CUT.

Grand Total of Estimates For 1911 is \$103,370,303 Less Than the Appropriations For the Current Fiscal Year-New Work Authorized Only Where Regarded as Absolutely Necessary—Salisbury Will Get \$50,000 For Public Building.

Washington, Special.-That there has been a careful scrunity of the estimates of appropriations for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1911, is shown by the figures submitted to the onse ntatives Monda Secretary of the Treasury MacVea The grand total of estimates for 1911 is \$732,323,075, which is \$103,370,303 less than the appropriations for the current fiscale year, and \$123,066,493 under the estimates submitted a year ago for 1910. A general cut has been made wherever pessible, the new work authorized only where regarded is absolutely necessary.

Large reductions in the estimates as compared with the appropriations for the current year are: In the Treasury Department a decrease of \$12,000,000 for public works, in the War Department about \$6,000,000 in the military establishment, made up of decreases in the estimates for regdar supplies, construction works for the army, mounted equipment, transportation, ordinance and manufacture of arms, and \$2,500,000 for public works, exclusive of the Panama canal; in the Navy Department \$26,-000,000, due partly to the fact that Secretary Meyer has not asked for any money for new ships and that only \$4,000,000 is required for armor and armament as against an appro-priation of \$12,452,000 for this year; in the Pestoffice Department a reduc-tion of \$5,000,000 in the estimated dedeiency in the postal revnues, and in the Department of Commerce and abor a decrase from \$10,000,000 to \$2,000,000 on account of the thir-

Gale Over British Isles.

teenth census.

Lendon, By Cable.—In a terrific gale that raged over the British Isles, the steamer Thistlemor went to her doom off Appledere, in Barnstable Bay. It is believed that her entire erew of thirty men perished. Four bodies from the steamer already have been washed ashore. The Thistlemor was in command of Captain Yeo and was bound from Laverpool for an American port

Canal Work Suspended.

Baltimore, Special. Mr. Frank A.
Furst, of the Furst-Clark Dredging Company, which has the contract for the Cape Cod Canal, said Saturday that all work on the water end of this that all work on the water end of this undertaking will be suspended until spring. This decision was reached after the fearful experience of the dredge Grenral McKenzie, which was caught in a gale blowing 72 miles an hour and which narrowly escaped total loss. As the dredge is valued at more than \$200,000. Mr. Furst said he was unwilling to take any further he was unwilling to take any furth risks on this bleak coast during to