

Catherine Gray's Christmas Present.

Little Mabel thrust her tiny hand into the great china jar of roses water, and let out a gust of steamy exclamation...

They were all alone, these two and Catherine was fighting the battle for both. But though her heart was brave...

She had tried and had to forget, but never they had dreamed since that awful night when he left her that she had not awakened from mocking dreams...

His voice ceased abruptly, his hand dropped, and he sat in a daze, as if spell-bound. He sat at the dazzling light in white gauze of "car de nille" satin which had just passed them...

"Who is she, Catherine?" Richard inquired, in a voice hoarse with passionate feeling. She did not know, and so she told him.

How Catherine lived through that awful night, without losing her reason, she never knew. The rose that he had trodden under his feet, and which he had trodden to the floor, and now lay crushed beneath the dancers' feet...

Willie Catherine wept on her father's hands. Mabel, ever intent on childish mischief, came and leaned against her knee, slipped the tiny thimble from her finger and trotted back to dabble in the old rose leaves...

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Bronchitis

"I have kept Ayer's Cherry Pectoral in my house for a great many years. It is the best medicine for the cough, cold, and croup, and I have given it to many of my children..."

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Consult your doctor. If he says take it, then take it. It will do you good. Ayer's Cherry Pectoral is sold everywhere.

their simple breakfast of toast and tea and sat down to mend a snag in Mabel's apron. She looked carefully in her workbasket for her thimble, but could not find it.

"How strange I cannot find it," she said. "I know I had it late last night." Then a sudden memory came over her, and she added quickly, "Mabel, you had sister's thimble last night; tell me where did you put it?"

Mabel ran around the room, with a grave brow of deep perplexity, and even old Mammy looked in the search. But all in vain, the thimble could be found nowhere.

Suddenly, with a cry of joy, Mabel ran over to the rose jar, which she held up. "All my day-sings in here," she cried.

Catherine grasped the jar and turned the contents out on the floor. She rolled the thimble first, then dozens of buttons and spoons of thread, and a shoe button, a toothbrush and a bun-dred other things. And there, from a drawer at the bottom, Mammy's old black and gold hat fell out, and a dainty white envelope, sealed with red wax, and on the back Catherine's own name, in a man's firm hand.

"What is this?" she cried. "It is a letter from your father, written to me last night. He says he is sorry he cannot come to see you, but he will be home in a few days. He says he loves you very much, and he says he is proud of you." Catherine read the letter with a trembling hand, and her eyes were filled with tears.

Richard had written in a passion of remorse and tenderness. "Dearest Catherine: I have been so unhappy ever since we parted. I want you to forgive me, darling, and take me back into your heart once more. My heart aches for you in your great sorrow, and if you will let me, I will love you so much that you will forget all the unhappy past. Send me one little word of forgiveness, and let me come to you, darling, for I am so miserable without you."

The snow dashed in a blinding sheet of white against the window panes, and as the old negro woman opened the door and went out, the pitiless wind rushed in, whirling the snow into the room. All day long Catherine sat motionless, with her pale cheeks pressed close against the withered roses, and Richard's letter clasped tightly in her hand. Her eyes were fixed on the letter, and she looked absent into the white outside world, where the passers to and fro were only fitfully and dimly visible through the swirling snow flakes.

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CHRISTMAS EVE IN CAMP. BY CURTIS GUILD, JR. Late Lieutenant-Colonel and Inspector-General 7th Army Corps.

Not the sort of Christmas the American boy knows was this one. There were no presents. There was no fragrant cone of winter-green tufted with cotton-wool and unmel in cheer-ful mimicry of the snow and ice outside. There was neither snow nor ice nor cold.

The Seventh Army Corps, on the evening of December 24, 1898, was encamped on the long lines of hills at Quemados, Cuba, a bare half-score of miles from Havana. The men were American volunteers, neither the demagogues drawn by the newspaper correspondents nor the demons depicted by those ignorant persons who from their imaginations create a kingdom and Gomorrah in every army post.

It was a beautiful tropical night, with the clear, starry sky and soft air of a New England June. From great garden by "the scent roses was wafted abroad," and above our heads another Sharon waved.

Her silent groves of palm. We talked on and on in the starlight long past taps, talked of the things a fellow does talk about when he's hundreds of miles away from home, and it's Christmas Eve.

It was Christmas morning. Scarcely had the cry of the sentinel died away, when from the bandmen's tents of that same regiment there rose the music of an old, familiar hymn, and one clear baritone voice led the chorus that quickly ran along those moonlit fields:

"How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord!" Another voice joined in, and another and another, and in a moment the whole regiment was singing, and then the Sixth Missouri joined in, with the Fourth Virginia and all the rest, till there, on the long ridges above the great city whence Spanish tyranny once went forth to enslave the New World, a whole American army corps was singing:

"Fear not, I am with thee; oh, be not dismayed, For I am thy God, I will still give thee aid; I'll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand, Upheld by my gracious, omnipotent hand." Then they sang "Nearer, my God, to thee," and "Coronation," and, of course, "America."

They were those who think that it was by accident that the first hymn happened to be what it was. There are those who believe that all things happen by accident. Yet there are some of us who do not shout our creed from the house-tops, some of us who believe that even likelihood is at times necessary, if awful, evil, yet who do not believe that this is altogether a world of chance and accident.

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THE COURSE OF COTTON. The cotton market has been in rather an uncertain state since the publication of the government report with its sensationally low estimate of the crop, says the Augusta Chronicle.

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LIBERTY BELL AT CHARLESTON. The Chicago American says that America's most valued relic, the old Liberty Bell, will be sent to Charleston on January 3 next, to be exhibited in the Pennsylvania building, at the exposition there.

This will make the bell's fourth trip out of Philadelphia within little more than a quarter of a century. Preparations for its removal have already begun. The work will be attended with all the dignity that national and civic pride demands, and the bell, dear to the heart of millions, will go out of Philadelphia to the music of bands and the march of men.

The parade will not be imposing for its size, but it will be important on account of those who will have the honor of participating in it. An escort of councilmen has already been appointed. A local safe building company will have the contract for removing the bell to Charleston. The truck on which it will be hauled from the State house to the Pennsylvania railroad yards will be decorated with the national colors. Six or eight horses will be attached to the truck, on each side of which will stand a coroll of police. A dozen reserves, all more than six feet in height, will take their places beside the bell when it is secured on the truck, and the procession will move up Chestnut to Broad street.

The flat car on which it will be placed will have a railing built around it. At one end of the car there will be a cabin to be used as a shelter by the guards. Cabin and railing will be decorated with gay colors and an inscription on the side of the car will read "Philadelphia to Charleston." A long line of police will form a guard when the bell is being loaded on the car.

The car will then be attached to a special train containing the councilmen, city officials and other prominent persons who will accompany the bell on its journey. In the cities and at their intermediate towns and villages along the route of the journey of the bell will be marked by patriotic demonstrations. Appeals are already being received by Chief Pierce of the city property bureau, asking that the bell be sent through certain towns on the way to its destination, so that the people may voice their reverence in public festivities. The bell was sent to Chicago in 1893 and to Atlanta in 1895.

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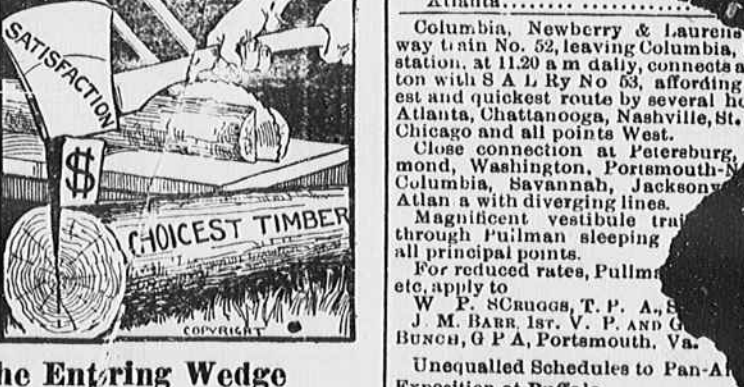
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