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Following are the Christmas stories | make it

that won the prizes in The Advertis er's contest:

PRYING POLLY. (By Ruth Bagwell.)

Polly did so want to know all about everything. She not only asked questions on all subjects and of all people, but she tried hard to find out things for herself. This would have been very well if she had asked questions only about things proper for her to know, or if she had tried to find out only those things her friends wished her to know.

The more she ought not to know and the more folks tred to keep anyto her she must know and the harder she tried to find out. Her papa looked very sober whenever he found her prying into other people's affairs. Her mother often talked to her about her fault. Brother Jack made fun of her because of it, and Jack's teasing was harder to bear than her mother's words or her father's sober looks.

It was very vexing indeed when Jack sent her a valentine with a very big eye at a very little key hole, inside a queer border of interrogation marks. She knew only too well what it meant and she really did feel sorry over itfor perhaps half an hour. Yet only the next day she tore a hole in a paper bag of rice to see what was inside; and when her mother saw the grains slipping and sliding in a white stream over the floor, she made her count them, even that did not prevent her from taking all the things out of a visitor's trunk to see what was at the bottom.

One day she reached up and pulled off the pantry shelf a large pan of maple syrup, which poured down her head and clothes. And her mother made her sit for an hour or two on a stool in the middle of the kitchen with the sticky syrup running over her face and through her long hair and even down her back.

And now it was nearly Christmas and the one thing Polly most wished at Chistmas was that her gift, whatever it should be, would be a surprise. "O, Mamma," she cried, "don't let it be anything I ever heard of, and do be sure not to drop a hint of in my hands and not then either. I shouldn't care for the very best pres- coat, was standing in the store, watchent if I guessed what it was before I opened the package." Her mother promised it should be just that way; and Polly went off singing:

'Happy as a bird am I, Happy as a bee,

Happy as a butterfly, Happy as can be!"

But the week before Christmas Polly's mother saw that she was unhappy, other than "The man in a fur coat," Pirst she stopped singing; then she He had a conversation with Mrs stopped laughing; finally she did not Burns, and an hour later a dozen bun-

Her mother had talked with her eask of evening time, she came into nothing, but when she got up to build everybody seemed in too great a hurry while ago, with wood, provisions it little daughter-" asked her mother and toys. tenderly as she folded Polly close in In a little while Gleen's father her arms.

O, mamma, not to have the Christmas surprise after all!" "Why, Polly!" will I'm sure; I've got something you never dreamed of, and I've dropped no hint and it's been hidden away safely for a week".

"It would have been new." cried Polly, "but now it isn't; for mamma, O. mamma, I-I have seen it!" and Folly sobbed afresh. "But how could you have seen it, Polly? I put it away so carefully in"-- "O, yes, I knowin the bottom drawer of the spareroom dressing-case", sobbed Polly. "I saw you come out of there laughing softly to yourself, and I wanted to know why, and I went in and the key was in the drawer, and I opened it. and saw-the-present!"

"O.Polly, said her mother sadly, "how could you" "I don't know-I did but, mamma," cried Polly starting up, a brave light breaking over her face, "I-will-not pry into things ever again any more."

She kept her word and ever since her Christmases have been happy. Ruth Bagwell,

Laurens, S. C.

SWEET CHARITY. (By Mary Hill).

In a lonely lane in London was a miserable street inhabited mostly by poverty stricken people. At the end of this narrow lane, was an old house, which perhaps belonged formerly to

make it.

In this house Mrs. Burns lived, and son; and now we decorate our homes, rented rooms to persons who felt like at Christmas with mistletoe. Not to they were not able to afford a whole house. At the top of this "mansion", pose especially designed for us boys.

The exact date of Christ's birth is ever; books of the County Treasurer pretting open for the collection of State, my ow and Commutation Road Taxes "Persal year, 1909, at the Treasurer's ther."

The exact date of Christ's birth is we will leave them and go with the power.

years younger.

them. She always had her rent ready doubt Christmas was at first chiefly and they being very quiet children, Mrs. Burns had no cause to complain,

At the time my story begins it was Christmas eve, and the snow was fallthing from her, the more it seemed ing thick and fast. Louise wrapped up in her thin cloak, as best as she could, started out to see if she could On Christmas Eve the Yule log was procure a few shillings from her matches and flowers. She kissed her little sisters good-night, (for she told the nummers or maskers held high them she would not be back before dark, and by that time they must be in bed.) and started out.

asked to buy her articles. The man appeared to be very wealthy, judging paused and looked at her, but shook his head and went into a store. One By this time it had ceased to snow,

Presently a nurse came along, rolling a little lame boy. The little boy old English; and the negroes introsaid something to her, and when they reached Louise she stopped and priced the fun. So you see, we Southern boys the flowers, among them were lilies owe something to many influencesof the valleys, and carnations.

the basket and drew out two bunches, year. and handed them to him. When he extended the money to her, she refused to take it, and ran around the corner, leaving the little boy very much school. amazed to think that such a ragged it before the very minute you put it girl should refuse money. Had Louise known that the man in the fur ing her, she would have turned very pale, for it was the lame child's fa-

Gleen, (for that was the child's name) returned home, and had nurse to put his flowers in a vase, that he may look at them. That night after even smile, and at last the very men- dles were sent to the "mansion," and tion of Christmas brought a pained received by Mrs. Burns, who quietly look into her face and made her eyes put them inside the attic, on the floor at the foot of the bed

several times, but Polly "wouldn't ringing out, "Peace on earth, good tell" and she didn't till the Christmas will toward men," Louise felt that eve twilight had fallen, she came into altho' she had given, she received her mother's room and threw herself the fire, what a sight greeted her heart eyes! Hastily calling Ellen and Nell I can't bear it another minute—but I there was a dress and whole out at deserve it Al," she cried. "What is for each, a doll, fruits, nuts, candles

came and they put on their new clothes and went for a sleigh ride after which he took them to his home for exclaimed her mother, "you have, you dinner, one such as they had never seen before.

Truly Louise could say, "Give and ye shall receive."

Mary Hill.

Cross Hill.

THE BISTORY OF CHRISTMAS.

(By Herbert Sullivan.) Centures before the birth of Christ nearly all nations of the earth celebrated the winter solstice (Dec. 21) today." with religious ceremony and merrymaking. Their hearts were glad because the sun had overcome the darkness and cold of winter, and the asked her mother. "No Sarah" re-

of spring. urnalia, and the Northern nations (Scandanavians, Goths, Saxons etc.) called it Yule.

A century or more after the birth of Christ, when many of these heathens had become converts to the Christian religion, this season was chosen twenty cents worth, but I think I will to commemorate the birth of the Christ-Child, and many of the old Yule-tide customs were adopted and given a Christian meaning. The and put the children to bed; after Christmas tree, Yule log, mistletoe and even Santa Claus himself were handed down to us from these old her father started out the door. converted heathens. For example; the Druids thought mistletoe sacred said, but received no answer. when gathered from oak trees; they some wealthier person than now in- gathered it at Yule, and sprays of it

teen years, with her two little sis- not known. During the fourth some ters, Ellen and Nell; the former being of the old saints reckoned it to be Deten years of age, and the other, two cember 25th though no mention of the day or season of His birth can be Louise the older sister of thirteen found anywhere in the Gospels, and summers earned a few pence, by sell- that day, December 25th, has been acing matches and flowers to support cepted by all Christian nations. No a religious festival; the name Christ as the years went by it grew more and more to be a season of merrymaking.

The Christmas gayety reached its height in Queen Elizabeth's roign. dragged in, the houses decorated with at his wife, he said: "I will never mistletoe and holly, the fir tree lit and First she met a man, whom she mince pie and plum pudding were among the rich dishes served at these The feasting and revelling lasted for days. Some of these old father and said, "Do not leave the were transplanted to American soil by the early settlers of Virginia. The after another passed by, but no one Pilgrim fathers thought it a sin to enfor they revived the legend of St. he said: "where do you live, little children to love the old saint.

celebrated Christma of the hospitality and gayety of the trying to get some money for Christduced the use of fire-works to add to any wood nor anything to eat and I from the Druids to the Southern ne-She replied, "If he wants one, why tro-for making our Christmas what he's welcome to it," and reached into it is, the happiest, jolliest time of the

Herbert Sullivan. 13 years old. In sixth grade of Laurens Graded

SARAH'S CHRISTMAS. (By Azile Wofford.)

On the street stood a small girl shivering and blue with cold. A very thin shawl was drawn tightly around her shoulders. Large tears stood in her eyes as she gazed at the crowd passing by her with their arms full of bundles.

It was the day before Christmas cents worth."

the money which she held very tight- "Do you suppose Santa Claus will ly and closely in her hand. Then come to night?" "I expect so," replied she turned and started down the the father, "the man that brought the street, turning the corner she soon wood said he would send him. But came to an old house. She opened you had better be in bed." the door and stood looking around the room. Sitting before the fireplace was in dreamland. In the morning the her mother, mending stockings. In children were up early to see if Santa one corner were three small children. Claus had come. And sure enough while in the other corner, sat her their stockings were crammed full. father who looked very much like a "Oh!" said Tom "do look, here is a drunkard. "Come in" said her mo- horse, a wagon and all kind of goodther, "don't stand there and hold the les." "And I've got a doll" said Loudoor open for the wind blows cold ise, "and candy and things."

Sarah-for that was the girl's name went in and sat down before the fireplace. "Is there no wood," Sarah all their father had resolved to do betlengthening days told of the approach plied her mother"there are about four of spring.

Sticks and that is all". "Tom," said
Sarah," run out and get a stick of wood." Tom brought the wood which after he had put it on, began to crackle and he went back to his play.

"Did you have good luck today, Sarah?" asked her mother. "No mother" answered Sarah "I only sold sell some more tomorrow."

"Go now" said her mother"and put the children to bed." Sarah rose she had told them good night, she went back to her mother. Just then, "Where are you going, Father" she

"Mama" she said "I do, so much, want to get a present for the children, habited it. But inside it was clean and were hung with much ceremony ov especially the doll for Louise." Maas comfortable as it was possible to their doors to offer shelter for the ma, it is the prettiest doll you most

father. After he had left the house, way. He was thinking: he wanted to quit drinking but could not do it. He thought of his wife and children, at home, suffering while he was giving himself up to drink, Suddenly, he stopped; he was near the saloon; he could hear loud voices; already he could smell the whiskey, "What must I do," he said, "I will never touch and turning walked back down the

and daughter soon following. Sarah

.... Something third house from the corner and I am presents" said the girl. "I will give you one dollar for the rest of your oranges," said the man. He took the oranges and gave her the money. She counted her money and found that she had three dollars. She went to the store and bought a doll and carriage for Louise, a leather horse for Tom. a rattler for baby, a present for mama and papa and fruits for all. When she started home it was almost dark; the streets were brilliantly lighted and everyone was loaded with bunshe reached home, all the children were in bed and papa and mama were fire, The room was all decorated year with holly and everything looked like

more times, to sell her oranges. But mother "a wagon came just a little A who seemed very kind. Stepping up said the girl, "I just know the man "It's just dreadful and ie, and they untied the packages, and to him, she said, "Do you want to buy that bought the oranges from me sent. Todo some oranges, four for a nickel" them. He seemed to be a very kind "Yes" he replied "let me have fifteen man," "I den't know who sent them but he must have been a kind man? She gave him the oranges and took said the mother, "Papa" said Sarah,

Sarah went to bed and was soon

It was a happy sight in this home. Everybody was happy; they had plenty of wood, a good dinner and best of

> Azile Wofford. Madden, S. C.

Age 13.

For That Dull Feeling After Eating. I have used Chamberlain's Stomach and Liver Tablets for some time, and can testify that they have done me more good than any tablets I have ever used. My trouble was a heavy dull feeling after eating-David Freeman. Kempt, Nova Scotia. These tablets strengthen the stomach and improve the digestion. They also regulate the liver and bowels. They are far superior to pills but cost no more. Get a free sample at Laurens Drug Co's. drug store and see what a splendid medicine it is.

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