

THE STAR IN THE EAST.

From hoary kingdoms of all ancientness, Led by a star they came— A star that dimmed the luster of the heavens, Shaking their fleece of flame!

The Giant's Gift.

A CHRISTMAS STORY.

BY FRANK R. STOCKTON.

Mitchkin, of whom this story is told, was a good little boy, but as poor as a church-mouse. In fact, he was a great deal poorer, for a church-mouse always has a good suit of clothes, if nothing else, and little Mitchkin had not even that.

Mitchkin came opposite to him, he gave the little fellow a cut on his bare legs, just to see him jump. Mitchkin did jump and howl too, and came very near letting the little milk white steed go, but he didn't.

"Never mind, little fellow! Bring me your stocking on Christmas and I'll fill it."

When Mitchkin heard this he was so delighted that he immediately forgot the pain in his leg. When he went home that night, he asked his mother for a stocking, but she had none to give him, for none of the family could afford to wear them.

"Well, it's a hard thing," said the father; "but I'm rather glad you had no stocking to give him, for it would have been of no use unless it was filled, and that we could never do."

And then he had his supper and went to bed too; for it's very tiresome work leading fiery chargers to water when you have to do it all day long.

A little while, Mitchkin woke up. He couldn't tell what was the matter with him. The full moon was shining in at the window, and he felt somehow as if the moonlight tickled him and kept him awake.

"Hello!" said he, "old Mother Cavourt up yet. She must have lots of knitting to do. Perhaps she might lend me a stocking. I'll go and ask her right off."

So instead of hanging his clothes in front of the window, Mitchkin put them on, and slipping down to the ground without any trouble, for the cottage was a very low one, he started briskly for Mother Cavourt's.

"Come in!" cried Mother Cavourt; and he walked in and shut the door behind him.

There she was, knitting away, and she had a basket by her side nearly full of stockings that she was going to sell at the castle. But the old woman was not willing to lend even one of them; so, in answer to Mitchkin, she said:

"I'll lend you a stocking, Mitchkin, if you will find me a few lobscouse-shells to sharpen my knitting needles with."

She did not tell him that lobscouse-shells are only found on one lonely island in the middle of the Tartaric Ocean, and that the only one she ever saw was the one she was using, which had been handed down to her from past generations.

"Now we will have six bags of coffee, a barrel of white sugar, two of brown sugar, one box of tea, four kegs of butter, a barrel of molasses, twelve bushels of corn-meal, a bag of salt, a box of candles—nines; a dozen hams, a barrel of corned beef, twelve papers of corn starch, twenty bushels of potatoes, one bushel of onions, three bushels of turnips, six bushels of carrots, six pounds of spices, assorted; seven large cheeses, one keg of vinegar, and four-dozen boxes of sardines."

Amid many groans from the baron, these things were all placed in the stocking.

"Now," said the giant, "we will take six pieces coarse muslin, one piece stout woolen cloth, seven hanks of yarn, one piece red flannel, one piece calico, fast colors, and one piece of black ribbon—wide."

The baron groaned himself almost to death while these things were being put in; but in they went.

"Now," cried the giant, "one single feather-bed, three pillows, six pair of blankets, and a dozen brooms."

All these went in.

"Now," said Myvor to the still groaning baron, "the stocking is nearly full. Just put on top six well-filled purses, one kite, one top, one marble, one hoop, one pocket-knife, one box of candy, one bushel of apples, two bushels of ginger-cakes, and we'll call it square."

When all these things had been put on top, the baron gave a final groan that frightened all the horses.

"Now," said the giant to Mitchkin's father and mother, whom he saw among the crowd, "take your little boy and go home. I will bring the stocking, and I think you will have enough to keep you comfortable until next Christmas."

And so they had.

moonlight, and held up his leg and showed Myvor that the mark was very visible. The giant then nodded his head, rubbed his chin, and stood for a moment in deep thought.

"Little boy," said he then, "I'll tell you what to do. Come with me to my castle, and I'll give you a present that is worth something. These people are all fooling you, one way or other—especially old Mother Cavourt with her lobscouse-shells. She knows there are none nearer than a thousand miles."

After stipulating that he was positively to be brought back the next day, Mitchkin gladly accepted this offer, and the giant put him in his coat-pocket and started toward home. It was nice and warm in the pocket, and Mitchkin was glad to have so good a place to take a nap. But before he went to sleep he climbed up to the pocket-hole and called out:

"You won't take any more jumps to-night, will you, good giant?"

To which Myvor replied:

"No more jumps to-night," and Mitchkin slipped down again to the bottom of the pocket, and was soon fast asleep.

The next day his father and mother missed him, but they thought he might have got up early and gone out after nuts. But about the middle of the forenoon his mother grew very uneasy about him, and went to the castle to see if he was there.

"Hold up!" said he to the baron. "I have something to say to you."

The baron, much disturbed and frightened, for he thought that the giant had heard of some of his wicked deeds, and was coming to punish him, desired Myvor to "say on," and all the guests and servants crowded around to listen.

The giant put his hand in his pocket and pulled out Mitchkin and placed him on the top step of the castle porch, where everybody could see him.

"I understand," said the giant to the baron, "that you promised to fill this little boy's stocking if he brought it to you to-day?"

"Certainly I did," cried the baron, much relieved at finding the matter was so slight. "Let me have it now, and my steward shall fill it for him instantly."

"All right," said the giant, "here it is," and he hauled it out of his pocket. Such a stocking!

It had belonged to Myvor's grandfather, who was an enormously fat giant, and who wore his stockings up over his knees. It was nearly wide enough for an under-jacket for an elephant, and much too long for that purpose.

"Hello!" cried the baron, "that's not his stocking. I can never fill that!"

"Yes, it is his stocking!" roared the giant, "for I gave it to him myself, and if you don't fill it, I will!"

The last two words were just like a clap of thunder, and although the baron did not know exactly how the giant would fill it, he thought it a great deal better to do it himself, and so he asked the giant what he would have in it.

"Well," said Myvor, "we will begin with a barrel of flour, to go in at the toe."

The baron groaned, and ordered his servants to put in the flour; then the giant shook it well down and said:

"Now we will have six bags of coffee, a barrel of white sugar, two of brown sugar, one box of tea, four kegs of butter, a barrel of molasses, twelve bushels of corn-meal, a bag of salt, a box of candles—nines; a dozen hams, a barrel of corned beef, twelve papers of corn starch, twenty bushels of potatoes, one bushel of onions, three bushels of turnips, six bushels of carrots, six pounds of spices, assorted; seven large cheeses, one keg of vinegar, and four-dozen boxes of sardines."

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THE COCAINE HABIT.

The Worst Slavery Known—New Revelations of Power.

Chinatown Times-Star.

When cocaine was discovered the medical world exclaimed "thank heaven!" But useful as it is, it is also dangerous, especially when its use is perverted from the deadening of pain for surgical operations to the stimulation and destruction of the human body.

J. L. Stephens, M. D., of Lebanon, O., was interviewed by our reporter yesterday at the Grand Hotel, and during the conversation the doctor said: "The cocaine habit is a thousand times more than the morphine and opium habits, and you would be astonished," he said, "if you knew how frightfully the habit is increasing."

"What are its effects?"

"It is the worst constitution wrecker ever known. It ruins the liver and kidneys in half a year, and when this work is done the strongest constitution soon succumbs."

"Do you know of Dr. Underhill's case here in Cincinnati?"

"That leading physician who became a victim of the cocaine habit? Yes. His case was a very sad one, but the habit can be cured. I have rescued many a man from a worse condition."

"What, worse than Dr. Underhill's?"

"Indeed, far so. Justin M. Hall, A. M., M. D., president of the State Board of Health of Iowa, and a famed practitioner, and Alexander Neil, M. D., professor of surgery in the Columbus Medical College, and president of the Academy of Medicine, of Indianapolis, Ind., from personal experience in opium eating, etc., can tell you of the kind of success our form of treatment wins, and so can H. C. Wilson, formerly of Cincinnati, who is now associated with me."

"Would you mind letting our readers into the secret of your methods?"

"Well, young man, you surely have a good bit of assurance to ask a man to give his business away to the public; but I won't wholly disappoint you. I have treated over 20,000 patients. In common with many eminent physicians, I for years made a close study of the effects of the habits on the system and the organs which they most severely attack. Dr. Hall, Dr. Neil and Mr. Wilson, whom I have mentioned, and hundreds of others equally as expert, made many similar experiments on their own behalf. We each found that these drugs worked most destructively in the kidneys and liver; in fact, finally destroyed them. It was then apparent that no cure could be effected until those organs could be restored to health. We recently exhausted the entire range of medical science, experimenting with all known remedies for these organs, and as the result of these close investigations we all substantially agreed, through following different lines of inquiry, that the most reliable scientific preparation was Warner's safe cure. This was the second point in the discovery. The third was our own private form of treatment, which, of course, we do not divulge to the public. Every case that we have treated first with Warner's safe cure, then with our own private treatment, and followed up again with Warner's safe cure for a few weeks, has been successful. These habits can't be cured without using it, because the habit is nourished sustained and in the liver and kidneys. The habit can be kept up in moderation, however, if free use be also made, at the same time, of that great remedy."

"Yes, it is a world famed and justly celebrated specific. Like many other physicians, I used to deride the claims made for it, but I know now for a fact that it is the world's greatest blessing, having sovereign power over hitherto incurable diseases of the kidneys and liver, and when I have said that, young man, I have said nearly everything, for most diseases originate in, or are aggravated by, a depraved condition of the kidneys."

"People do not realize this, because, singular as it may seem, the kidneys may be in a very advanced stage of decomposition, and yet, owing to the fact that there are but a few nerves of sensation in them, the subject will not experience much pain therein. On this account thousands of people die every year of kidney disease unknowingly. They have so-called disorders of the head, of the heart and lungs and stomach, and treat them in vain, for the real cause of their misery is deranged kidneys, and if they were restored to health the other disorders would soon disappear."

Dr. Stephens' experience, that can be confirmed by many thousands whom he has treated, adds only more emphasis to the experience of many hundreds of thousands all over the world, that the remedy he refers to is without any doubt the most beneficent discovery ever given to humanity.

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