

A Christmas Deal

By FRIDERIC TREAT.

It was Christmas eve at the Eyrle, the country seat of the Martins, set on a pinnacle in the hills. The place had been opened for the holidays, and the family, with a number of guests, formed a delightful "house party." To-night general merrymaking was in order. In the hall before the great open fireplace, in which logs were blazing, sat Edith Martin with Ralph Arnold, a recent arrival from the west who had been devoted to her since they had first met, a week before.

"You are not in harmony with the occasion," he said to her. "Instead of a happy Christmas look on your face there is a troubled one."

She drew back for a moment as if withholding a confidence, then suddenly let it all out.

"I must tell you," she said, "but you are not to breathe a word to any one. He is coming by the train that arrives at 11:40 and will be here at 12. He must go back to the city early tomorrow on important business, and—here she lowered her voice to a whisper—"

"I am to accept him before this night is over."

"Who is he?"

"John Trotter, dealer in foreign lace, a thorough business man and rich. Papa has lost a great deal of money by



THE DOOR OPENED AND MR. TROTTER ENTERED.

the shrinkage in stocks, and Mr. Trotter is going to help him ever so much to enable him to hold what he has till the market rises again."

"And the bonus is your hand?"

"That's very near the truth."

"The contract is to be signed at 12 midnight?"

"I have promised that if Mr. Trotter will come up this evening I will give him my answer."

"It will be yes?"

"That is, if he arrives."

"If he doesn't I shall have to nerve myself anew on another occasion."

"How much money is he to loan your father?"

"Papa said it was something like half a million."

"I think they might have left you to spend this Christmas happily. How miserable it is to be poor! If I were rich I might save you this sacrifice, and—"

"You wouldn't charge any bonus?"

"She was looking very steadily at the leaping flames."

"Oh, the bonus! It wouldn't be any kindness to you to take you out of the frying pan and put you into the fire."

"There is no fire to jump into."

"There was another pause. The logs were crackling; the fire was sending a genial warmth and light through the paneled hall. From the rooms adjoining came shouts of laughter as some one was caught and kissed under the mistletoe."

"I am a promoter," said Arnold presently. "It is my business to secure funds for carrying out enterprises. Suppose I could get this loan for your father?"

"They were speaking very deliberately—so deliberately that one might have thought they were two people of business making a bargain."

"At the same interest he will pay Mr. Trotter?" she asked.

"How much is that?"

"Now I think of it, I heard papa say 4 per cent."

"That would be satisfactory."

"Miss Martin may have been considering the matter of interest. At any rate, it was some time before she reached the next step."

"The bonus?" she asked under her breath.

"That would depend upon whether you would rather 'burn' than 'fry,' or, rather, whether you prefer neither to burn nor fry."

"It would not be fair to withhold the bonus. Nevertheless if it were a burden instead of a blessing—"

"He did not help her out. Instead he took out his watch and noted the hour. It was five minutes to 12."

"It is understood and agreed," he said, "that if the party of the first part doesn't show up when the clock strikes 12 the party of the second part shall consider herself released from signing the contract and will make the same arrangement with the party of the third part—that in lieu of the sum of half a million dollars at 4 per cent interest—"

"The bonus?" She was losing her business equanimity, tapping her foot on the lion skin beneath it. There re-

mained only a few minutes to 12, and the party of the first part might walk in at any moment.

"The bonus shall be optional."

"With whom?"

"The party of the second part?"

"But the party of the third part?"

"Will only accept it entire. The heart must go with the hand."

"It's a bargain," she said, extending her hand, which he grasped. At the same moment the clock at the other end of the hall began to strike the hour. It was an old-fashioned time-keeper with enormous weights and wheezed out its arithmetic strokes with provoking slowness. The pair sat motionless, their clasped hands concealed under a fold of the lady's dress, their eyes turned upon the front door, each stroke brought them nearer to a consummation of their bargain. At the fourth there was a tinkle of the electric doorbell. At the eighth a servant passed the couple on his way to open the front door. Arnold put out his foot, and the man went sprawling on the floor. At the eleventh stroke the servant was on his feet and rubbing his shins. At the twelfth he proceeded on his way. There was a pressure between the two concealed hands. In another moment the door opened and Mr. Trotter entered.

But what entered with him? Christmas morning. Twenty such mornings had come in the lifetime of Edith Martin, but none that brought her such relief and at the same time such happiness as this one. Instead of being obliged to sacrifice herself to save her father she had accepted a man whom the first moment she saw him she knew to be the man she could love.

Ralph Arnold was indeed a promoter and had made a fortune in organizing gold mines. The day after Christmas he telegraphed his acceptance of an offer he had had for his principal mine and loaned the proceeds to Mr. Martin, who in six months regained all he had lost.

Mrs. Ralph Arnold on last Christmas eve, sitting before a blazing fire beside her eldest daughter, now sixteen, told her the story of her Christmas deal.

Christmas Service in Stable.
At Santa Cruz, Cal., there is an old Spanish church in which the people worship only on Christmas eve. Externally it looks like a stable and has no chandelier. The floor and walls are of stone, and on the eastern side there is a manger, looking through the bars of which one sees the scenes of the Nativity, with the towers of castles and palaces in the distance. In the foreground the Virgin sits with the manger, holding the infant Saviour, with St. Joseph leaning over her and the wise men offering sheep, oxen and various precious gifts. Outside this exterior stable there are figures of men carrying sheep and oxen on their shoulders, hastening to the sacred scene. In this chapel worshippers remain all night on their knees. This manger scene of the church is against the east wall, high upon which is the only window in the edifice, so that the first rays of the morning sun irradiate the scenes of the Nativity. The rays lend a rosy glow, and as soon as this reaches the worshippers they leave the church, light cigarettes and begin their festivities.

The Day of Hope.
The day of the Nativity is the day of hope—the day of hope to the struggling conscience of man; to the human nature which is uplifted in Christ and made partaker of God; to the families of men who believe that sacred human love is not given to perish with the earth, but in Christ is destined to some eternal purpose; to all who labor and pray for the coming of a kingdom where God shall reign in men, and men shall live in peace and good will, where the war drum shall fall no longer and the buttrifuges be shut'd in the parliament of man, the federation of the world.

—The Right Rev. Davis Sessum, Bishop of Louisiana.

Friendship Christmas.
Eustacia—What shall we do this Christmas?
Edmonda—You give me back all the things I've given you that you didn't like, and I'll give you all the things you gave me that I didn't like.—Detroit Free Press.

The Foresighted Shopper.
With Christmas near I'm not distressed With thoughts of what to buy; No gifts to seek, my soul's at rest—I bought them last July.

Dearable Home For Sale.
Two acres of land, good six-room house, young orchard, plenty of fruit of all kinds, ground all fenced, picket fence in front, three minutes walk from post-office, fine well, small barn and chicken coops. Very desirable for a home. Situation on Main street, Hillsboro. Terms reasonable. Inquire at this office.

Buy "Our Best!" It's a Valley Flour. For sale by J. W. Hartrampf.

Christmas.
A chandelier.
A mistletoe.
A lover near.
A maid below.
A scuffle dear.
A kiss or so.
And that is Christmas, don't you know?
—Eliot Kay's Stone in Lippincott's.

At Cate's you will find a splendid lot of groceries, fresh and clean; also all kinds of vegetables and garden truck, including crisp lettuce and celery. All orders promptly delivered.

Messengers, 12 in a nice neat box, at Messings.

New dates at Messings.
Mrs. Vroman, the milliner, wishes to announce to the ladies of this city that all her millinery goods will be sold at greatly reduced prices. She now has a good line of children and misses caps, and ladies' and children's trimmed hats, all of which will be sold at reduced rates. Call and see her before you buy.

Facinators, pillow tops, dollies, Fido and Royal silk floss, handkerchiefs, linen, in fact everything needed to make up your Christmas presents.
H. Wehrung & Sons.

Plum Pudding.
One pound of grated bread, one and a quarter pounds of grated suet, one pound of raisins, one pound of brown sugar, twelve eggs, well beaten; two wineglassfuls of brandy, one-quarter pound of citron, cut fine. Mix all these the night before. In the morning before putting it in the cloth stir two tablespoonfuls of wheat flour, beat the cloth and sprinkle with flour. Tie tightly and boil four hours. Put a plate turned on the under part in a pot under the pudding, add cinnamon and nutmeg if liked.

All goods bought of Cate will be delivered promptly at any hour during the day. This includes meats as well as groceries.

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CHRISTMAS CHILDREN.
Some Famous Men Who Were Born on Christ's Birthday.
Even were it not for their celebration as the birthday of the Saviour, Dec. 25 would rank as quite a notable date in the year for the number of eminent persons whose natal day it is. Curiously enough, however, we seldom think of the day as the beginning of the career of any one on earth other than life to whom custom has assigned it.

We know that historical events of all sorts—battles, sieges, and so forth—have occurred on Christmas, for articles almost without end dealing with this interesting side of the history of the day have been written, but of its biographical side little has been said, the more odd this because the fact that many notable have been born on the day cannot fail to prove of interest.

The biographical index of Christmas is comparatively long and includes such names as Sir Isaac Newton, William Collins, the lyric poet; P. S. Glimore, the musician and bandmaster; Richard Fordon, the greatest classical scholar; England ever produced; Johann Jacob Reiske, the celebrated German orientalist; Clara Barton, Admiral S. C. Rowan and a number of others. Unhappy little shavers they must have been in their childhood with their birthday and their Christmas rejoicings all merged in one.—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

CHRISTMAS IN WEST INDIES
How the Darlings of the Antilles Celebrate the Holiday.

Christmas in the West Indies is a very jovial, rollicking affair—at least in the estimation of the darlings. The great feature of the season is the series of masquerades or mystery plays enacted by strolling negro performers.

These are of two sorts. Representations of such mythical stories as that of David and Goliath—when you may see the dramatic personae clad in such historically accurate garments as "bed-tick" trousers and cretonne coats of flaming pattern—and those of a purely local character. Of these last is the mongoose play, which is peculiar to St. Kitts, and the object of which is to wage mimic war against the destructive pest which is the curse of the island. These strolling players are the chief feature of Christmas celebrations.

They are quite an imposing lot of men, with a good ear for music, and as you watch their antics you might easily imagine that, instead of being in a civilized British colony, you were back in the heart of Africa, assisting at some savage dance or other heathen rite.

Christmas in Tibet.
Tibet, the home of the strange and least known people on the face of the earth, is also the home of the strangest of Christmas customs. The feast of Queen Winter in Tibet corresponds with our own Christmas festival. The figure of this queen, or goddess, is painted blue and mounted on a camel, surrounded by a string of human skulls. The dance celebrated at this feast is called tsam, and the masked figures which take part in it would be comic if they were not so horrible. One represents a horned bull, another a deer, but this deer, peculiarly enough, has a horse's head, an ancient symbol among the Tibetans of the messenger of death. There are evil spirits in hordes, demons and other bad spirits to shock the ignorant people into blind obedience to the lama. One god curses another, and every town has its local protecting divinity. There are serpent gods representing the spirit of evil, but they are fought by such protecting divinities as Garuda, who is always represented in lametism with a stout body, human arms, wings and the head of a bird.—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Christmas Cards.
The Christmas card as we know it has an origin as traceable, and it is doubtless at least sixty years since the first was designed. The artist who claimed to be its originator and who was, any rate, the first to see its possibilities was W. C. T. Dobson, R. A., who, when quite a young man, in 1844, was prompted at Christmas to make a little sketch symbolic of the season's joys and festivities and to send it to a friend. It seemed to give great pleasure, and the next year Mr. Dobson determined to follow up the idea on a larger scale, and by having his card photographs was enabled to send copies in twenty-five or thirty friends. The delight with which they were received was so great that Mr. Dobson was quick to perceive that he had found out a new pleasure for Christmas.—New York Mail and Express.

The Dawn of Christmas.
Christmas day begins in the middle of the Pacific ocean, and there is where Santa Claus starts and ends his great and only journey of the year.

A Prayer for the Poor.
Col' w'n a-try'n
Ter break down de do—
Lard sen' de Chris'mas
Of peace ter de po'!

Lean wof a-howlin'
Out dar in de snow—
Lard sen' de Chris'mas
Of peace ter de po'!

Sweet I'll chillun
Wid nowhar ter go—
Lard sen' de Chris'mas
Of love ter de po'!

—Atlanta Constitution.

Fresh Corn Meal made out of Eastern corn at Climax Mill.

During the months of August, September and October the Northern Pacific carried east 4,100 cars of wheat. This business was not anticipated by the railway officials and is an innovation in the traffic movements from this coast.

Great Raiser Flour is the Best Hard Wheat Flour. Ask your Grocer for it. Climax Milling Co.

WIVES ON CHRISTMAS TREES
Strange Christmas Customs That Prevail in Parts of Russia.

Of all Christmas tree customs, one of the strangest prevails in parts of Russia. A gift tree is set up in the village, on the branches of which roost young unmarried women, clothed and hooded and veiled so that their identity is concealed. The swains are admitted on by one, just as they are in our spat-out American game of "apart in, apart out." Each as he enters lifts a veil—of course at random—and the face thus disclosed belongs to his future wife. The act of lifting the veil betrays the couple, the penalty for breaking the engagement being a heavy fine to be paid into the village treasury.

Another Russian custom is a procession of children dressed in fantastic animal costumes. One boy holds aloft

A RUSSIAN CHRISTMAS TREE.
A star shaped paper lantern to represent the "star of the east"; another carries on his back a miniature theater, on the stage of which puppet performances like "Punch and Judy" shows are given at every farmhouse where the motley pageant halts.

The modern Christmas tree comes to us from Germany, the Yule log from Scandinavia, the Santa Claus from Holland and the Christmas stocking from France, but the Christmas turkey—oh, that is America's contribution to the world's stock of Christmas cheer! But there is one part of the world where the people are afraid to eat turkey. In Armenia it would be too much like treason to their cruel ruler, the Turk. If they do venture to eat the fowl they call it "Egyptian hen." Down in Egypt they name it "Indian hen." Thus both Armenians and Egyptians save themselves from Moslem vengeance.—Pittsburg Dispatch.

Christmas Table Decorations.
The dinner table itself should proclaim the season by its decoration. A snowy cloth patterned with holly leaves or mistletoe, a centerpiece of glossy holly leaves and brilliant berries, silver candelabra and silver boubon dishes are appropriate and dignified. Flat wreaths of holly tied with bows of "berry" red ribbon are very effective on the table, one in the center and one encircling each candelabrum. A silver or a cut glass bowl of holly and meteor roses or holly and mistletoe may be set in the wreath to complete the centerpiece. The outline of the Christmas star may be used instead of the wreaths. In this case the bows of ribbon are omitted. And for the guest the cards either bells, stars, plum puddings, holly or ivy leaves, cut out and painted and ornamented with Christmas verse or greetings, are appropriate, and a little silk stocking of bonbons may be laid by each card as a souvenir.

Christ's Birthday.
There is something akin to sadness in the fact that in tracing the origin of many of our church festivals we find it in pagan celebrations antedating the Christian era. There is nothing certain even about the birthday of Christ. Some authorities assert that December was in the dry season, when shepherds were on duty day and night. In the controversy over the date, extending from December to May, Pope Julius (337-352) had an investigation made by St. Cyril and was satisfied that the 25th of December was correct. It was so established in the Roman church, and before the end of the fourth century the dictum was universally accepted.—Boston Herald.

Mrs. Leader's Liberality.
Struggling Pastor—Nearly all the congregation has subscribed liberally for the Christmas tree fund, and I feel sure that I can also have your hearty co-operation. How much will you—
Mrs. Leader—Let me see. Oh, I am the only member who has a carriage and coachman, I think.
"Yes, the rest are poor."
"Well, I will drive around and collect the subscriptions."

Christmas Day.
Oh, blessed day which styes the eternal
To self and sense and all the brute within—
Oh, come to us amid this war of life;
T'is hall and heaven come; to all who toil
In senate, shop or study and to those
Who, hushed by the waives of half a world,
Ill natured and sorely tempted, ever face
Nature's brute powers and men unman-
ned to brutes—
Come to them, blest and blessing, Christmas day,
Tell them once more the tale of Bethlehem.
The kneeling shepherds and the Babe divine,
And keep them men indeed, fair Christmas day.
—Charles Kingsley.

Catarh can be cured. Cubeena will do it. Ask for the remedy at the Delta Drug Store. Guaranteed to do all that is claimed for it.

Call at Cate's for your hop-wire and fertilizer. Prices right.

Children and Misses cotton fleeced vest and pants 25c each while they last at H. Wehrung & Son.

CHRISTMAS IS COMING

Don't be foolish and spend your money for presents that will not be useful. Look through our stock and select something for your home, your husband, wife or friend. We have a new and stylish line of reed rockers, chairs and reading chairs; also the finest line of waxy and polished rockers ever displayed in this city.

Come, just to look. Select your goods early as we predict a rush from now until Xmas. Below are articles which make suitable presents.

Rockers
Oak polished rockers in all of the latest styles.



Rugs
Mats and Art Squares, useful as well as well as ornamental, make beautiful presents.

We have them in Axminster, Smyrna, Moquette, Phoenix, Jute, etc.

China Closets
Buffets and Sideboards. Our stock is always complete in this line of goods.

Reed and Rattan Goods



What more acceptable Christmas present could be imagined than one of our beautiful reed rockers or reading chairs. They are the cheapest ever seen, considering quality.

Ladies Desks

We are showing several new styles of Ladies' Desks in quartered oak, plain oak, mahogany, maple, etc.

Matting

Our new and exclusive line of Matting has arrived, and are priced moderately—as low as 10 cents per yard. Let us frame your pictures, as we have the only complete line of up-to-date mouldings in the city. Come and see our line of framed pictures. They are rich.

We are giving 25 per cent discount on Wall Paper.

You don't necessarily have to bring your pocket book, Your credit is good.

Morris Chairs

Very comfortable and handsome. Something a home is never complete without.



Indian Seats

Tabourets, Foot Rests, Jardinieres stands are here in great numbers, with small prices.

Hall Trees

And Hall Racks, in weathered oak and quartered golden oak. Something you have always needed, but was unable to buy at home.

G. W. PATTERSON & SON

The Housefurnishers, Undertakers and Embalmers

IMPORTANT.

Any person presenting the above advertisement, appearing in The Independent December 23, 1904, on or before December 24, 1904, will be entitled to a discount of 15 per cent on all cash purchases.

Will not allow the discount on collections or credit sales. G. W. PATTERSON & SON.

It is acknowledged by lovers of fine perfumery that Hilbert's leads in excellence and lasting quality. The Delta Drug Store has just received a new consignment which contains a number of new and delicate odors. Call at the Delta when you want the best.

Oyster Cock-tails at Heide's Candy Kitchen, Biggest and best for 10 cents.

Greer has all kinds of games.

Turkeys wanted at Cate's market.

Feed, barley and bran for sale at Cate's market.

Did you see that big doll in Greer's window? Say, isn't it a dandy?

Go to Greer's for Christmas candies and nuts. He has the best and cheapest.

Don't fail to see Greer's store before Christmas. He has the finest display in Hillsboro.

John W. Gates will deliver fresh milk in Hillsboro each morning after January 1st. Leave orders at Messings grocery or Phone 318.

Olympic Flour has been tested by lovers of good bread and has been found superior to all other brands. Try a sack at \$1.25 and you will use no other. At Cate's Meat Market and Grocery.

Our Holiday Sale is now on. Your choice of our entire stock of street or dress hats for just one-half the original price. L. M. Hoyt, Millinery Dept.

The sweetest line of Lemonade sets that has ever been shown in Hillsboro is at Greer's Grocery and Crockery store.

The Delta Drug Store has just received a splendid new stock of razors, every one guaranteed, and the prices range from \$1 upward. If you want a good, keen razor, with the necessary attachments call at the Delta.

Delta Pink Liver Pills are sold on merit—best pill for general use on the market. A bottle of them will prove this assertion. Sold at Delta Drug Store and guaranteed to give satisfaction.

Cranberries at Greer's.

I have just received several disc and cylinder graphophones and about 200 of the latest records, for both the disc and cylinder machines, from the Columbia company. Be sure and select some of these records for your machine.

F. R. DAILEY.

Probate Court.

Estate of John W. Luther, deceased; estate admitted to probate; J. W. Corey appointed administrator with bond at \$100; bond filed and approved; ordered that the letter of administration be issued and that W. W. Williams, John S. Northrop and W. E. Wells be appointed for Washington county and J. A. Davis, W. S. Payn and George Avery be appointed appraisers for Clackamas county.

Estate of William L. Curtis, deceased; estate admitted to probate and W. K. Curtis be appointed administrator with bond at \$700; bond filed and approved and letters of administration be issued to W. K. Curtis and H. T. Buxton, C. W. O'Dell and S. T. Shaeb be appointed appraisers.

Estate of J. W. Luther, deceased; inventory and appraisements filed, examined and approved; total valuation of property in Washington county, \$1,829, ordered that all the personal property, exempt from execution be set aside to the widow of said deceased.

Get your Christmas Turkey at Cate's market.

A splendid lot of—Turkeys, Chickens, Geese, Ducks,

Everything for a Christmas Dinner, and enough for all.

Coos county, Oregon, will have a pavilion of its own at the Lewis and Clark centennial. The building will be constructed entirely of Coos county woods, and will be itself an exhibit of interest.

The building which will house Russia's exhibit of paintings by modern Russian artists at the Lewis and Clark centennial will be a replica of an old Moscow palace used by the Romanoff kings of the early times.

Prof. R. F. Robinson, superintendent of the Portland public schools, has been chosen superintendent of Oregon's educational exhibit in place of Prof. H. S. Lyman who resigned on the account of ill health.