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A CHRISTMAS CONCLUSION.

'Twas the day before Christmas, and all through the land, Rang the cry of the children that none can withstand, "Old Santa is coming, rare treasures he brings, A pack loaded down with most wonderful things!"

But, old Santa, alas, like a mere mortal man, To fret and to fume at his duties began— For he had been roaming about in disguise, And the state of affairs had caused him surprise. For what do you think was the first thing he learned? Why all the bad children to good ones had turned! Gone all the ill tempers and cross, and angry looks, Devoted each child to his work and his books.

And he groaned as he said, "I plainly can see, On this Christmas Eve there's no shirking for me. Not one naughty child in the whole merry flock, 'Tis plain I must work until five by the clock."

"But, my dear," said his wife, "you ought to be glad That at last there's not left a child who is bad." Said the saint, with a smile and a look that was queer, "They ought to expect me each day in the year."

—Waverley Magazine.

HOW HOPE WAS BORN

THE night was a wild one. Such a night and such weather as only New England can inflict on suffering humanity. The dispensary was in darkness, save a light which gleamed from the windows of the resident physician's room.

Dr. Brown, the resident physician, had made a bad day of it, tramping through the snow, making his regular calls on the sick poor of his district. Now he found small comfort in his pipe as he sat by his little stove in the dispensary room.

Just now the young doctor suffered from an attack of the blues. He had worked hard, this last year, for his degree, and after graduation had been chosen from among 50 applicants for the position of resident at the dispensary. The position paid in experience and gave a wide field for work among the poor of the district, both at their homes and at the dispensary. The salary was chiefly salary in name, \$100 a year and room rent free, not enough to cover expenses; but it was the experience to be gained that paid.

He had been a young man with expectations and had had matrimonial designs on a certain dainty young lady, and what hope was there for a poor dispensary doctor? Only that morning the wealthy Mr. Peabody, her pompous papa, had passed Dr. Brown on the street and had returned his polite "good morning" with a cold look, which seemed to say: "I do not wish to know you, sir." And that, too, when but a few years before the student Brown, with great expectations, had been a welcome guest at the Peabody mansion. Society had gossiped that Dolly Peabody and Harvey Brown would make a match.

He had written once since that to Miss Dorothy and his letter had been returned to him unopened. The Peabodys had gone abroad and he had heard no more of them until to-day, when Mr. Peabody had given him the cut direct.

Dr. Brown had worked hard all day, had had a case at a slum tenement house that afternoon and had missed his supper at the boarding house. As he brooded over these things small wonder that the "blue devils" tormented him. "Devil of a night out," mused the doctor. "Christmas eve, too! Hope I won't have a call out to-night. What an old duffer that Peabody is, anyway. Wonder if Dolly—Miss Peabody would cut me like that? Hang it all! A man don't feel good to be frozen out like that just because he has lost his expectations. I thought I knew Dolly—dash it, I do know her! She wouldn't throw a fellow over like that. But why—hang it all, but I do feel empty; pity that boarding house couldn't keep open of a night once in awhile, and I'm broke, too. Well, there's no hope for me with her pater, that's sure!"

The electric bell over his head rang violently and Dr. Brown, stepping to the speaking tube, shouted: "Well, what's wanted?"

"Say, be youse de doctor? Deys a swell bloke up de street wots all smashed up. Deys wants de doctor to get a wiggle on, see?"

A few minutes later Dr. Brown was stumbling through the storm in the wake of the small gamin who had summoned him. At the corner two men were holding a frightened horse, to which was hanging the remains of a broken harness. A little further on was an overturned cab, surrounded by a number of residents who had turned out in spite of the storm. They had just pulled from under the wheels an elderly gentleman, whose dress had stamped him as a "swell" with the gamin.

Dr. Brown was all professional in an instant, and superintended the carrying of the injured man to the dispensary, where he was placed on the doctor's own cot. Dr. Brown did not need to be told that this victim of a runaway cab was the same Mr. Peabody who had cut him on the street the morning of that same day.

In the doctor's room patient and physician had passed the night in silence, the doctor doing all in his power to soothe his patient, his personal feelings buried deeply under professional zeal.

In the morning Mr. Peabody had made an attempt at conversation, but the doctor would not permit it. The bell was ringing again and Dr. Brown hurried to open the door to Miss Peabody and her father's valet.

"You, Harvey, you?" Then, blushing like a rose: "Harvey, take me to papa." In another moment she was at her father's side.

But Dr. Brown was happy. She had said "Harvey!" Her eyes—well, only Dr. Brown knew what her eyes said. As the patient was assisted to his carriage he said: "Dr. Brown, this is your case; I shall expect you to finish it, sir. Please call this evening."—Rocky Mountain News.

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Such Dear Friends, Grace (during storm)—I'm awfully afraid of lightning. Lola—I don't see why you should be. Grace—Why not? Lola—Because there has to be something attractive even for lightning.

Vain Regret. "But, Bertie," said his mother, "you asked for two cakes and I gave them to you. Aren't you satisfied?" "No, I ain't," growled Bertie. "You was so easy I'm kickin' meself 'cause I didn't ask for four."—Philadelphia Ledger.

Fifteenth Century Manners.

The antiquary took down a small, fat volume, vellum-bound, with a brass clasp. "This is a 'Book of Manners,'" he said. "It was printed in 1476. Here are a few extracts."

And he read: "Do not gnaw a bone, like a dog, nor suck the marrow out of a bone. 'In peeling a pear, begin at the stalk; but with an apple, begin at the top. 'Do not wipe the hands on the clothes, nor suck them, but use the cloth."

"When you drink, lift the cup in both hands; you must not drink with one hand like a wagoner when he is greasing his cart wheels."

"Wipe your nose and mouth when you have drunk, and do not cough into the cup."

"Do not eat an apple all alone, but cut it in two and give a neighbor a piece."

"Do not use your own knife to cut your meat if the host has set a knife of his own at your place."

"Do not spread butter on bread with your thumb."

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There are two classes of purchasers: those who are informed as to the quality of what they buy and the reasons for the excellence of articles of exceptional merit, and who do not lack courage to go elsewhere when a dealer offers an imitation of any well known article; but, unfortunately, there are some people who do not know, and who allow themselves to be imposed upon. They cannot expect its beneficial effects if they do not get the genuine remedy.

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SKIN DISEASES HUMORS IN THE BLOOD

When the blood is pure, fresh and healthy, the skin will be soft, smooth and free from blemishes, but when some acid humor takes root in the circulation its presence is manifested by a skin eruption or disease. These humors get into the blood, generally because of an inactive or sluggish condition of the members of the body whose duty it is to collect and carry off the waste and refuse matter of the system. This unhealthy matter is left to sour and ferment and soon the circulation becomes charged with the acid poison. The blood begins to throw off the humors and acids through the pores and glands of the skin, producing Eczema, Acne, Tetter, Psoriasis, Salt Rheum and skin eruptions of various kinds. Eczema appears, usually with a slight redness of the skin followed by pustules from which there flows a sticky fluid that dries and forms a crust, and the itching is intense. It is generally on the back, breast, face, arms and legs, though other parts of the body may be affected. In Tetter the skin dries, cracks and bleeds; the acid in the blood dries up the natural oils of the skin, which are intended to keep it soft and pliant, causing a dry, feverish condition and giving it a hard, leathery appearance. Acne makes its appearance on the face in the form of pimples and black heads, while Psoriasis comes in scaly patches on different parts of the body. One of the worst forms of skin trouble is Salt Rheum; its favorite point of attack is the scalp, sometimes causing baldness. Poison Oak and Ivy are also disagreeable types of skin disease. The humor producing the trouble lies dormant in the blood through the winter to break out and torment the sufferer with the return of Spring. The best treatment for all skin diseases is S. S. S. It neutralizes the acids and removes the humors so that the skin instead of being irritated and diseased, is nourished by a supply of fresh, healthy blood. External applications of salves, washes, lotions, etc., while they soothe the itching caused by skin affections, can never cure the trouble because they do not reach the blood. S. S. S. goes down into the circulation and forces out every particle of foreign matter and restores the blood to its normal, pure condition, thereby permanently curing every form of skin affection. Book on Skin Diseases and any medical advice desired sent free to all who write. S. S. S. is for sale at all first class drug stores.

I suffered with Eczema for forty years and could find nothing to cure me until I tried S. S. S. I suffered intensely with the itching and burning; pustules would form from which there flowed a sticky fluid; crusts would come on the skin and when scratched, the skin was left as raw as a piece of beef. I suffered agony in the long years I was afflicted, but when I used S. S. S. I found a perfect cure. There has never been any return of the trouble. C. H. EVANS, Stockman, Neb.

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