

# Merry Christmas

— and —

# Happy New Year

## Gloverdale Mercantile Co.

### A CHRISTMAS DESK

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If I would say, "Mabel, why do you permit that cad to be dancing attendance upon you?" she would reply: "Why, I think he's very nice. Do you know any reason why I shouldn't?"

"Marry him? Certainly I do. He is not the man for you at all."

Then she would walk away apparently miffed, and there would be no trouble between us till the next fellow came buzzing about her.

Occasionally Mabel would say to me, "Have you purchased my gloves yet?" and I would reply, "No; there is plenty of time for that," whereupon she would tell me what color she preferred, impressing upon me the exact shades and showing me certain articles of dress she wished to be matched. I was rather amused than interested, for I could see that, despite her apparent confidence, she suffered some trepidation for fear I might in some unforeseen way succeed.

A piece of good or bad luck, as the case may be, gave me an advantage. Mabel and I rode horseback together, and one day when we were passing through a wood I jumped my horse over a log that was rather higher than those we had been accustomed to take. I cleared it, and Mabel tried to do so too. She raised her animal too soon, and he came down with his belly on the log. Mabel fell on the other side, and I picked her up.

I noticed that the chain to which her desk key was attached had parted and lay on the ground beside her, but I was too much concerned about her

to do more than pick it up, unseen by her, and put it in my pocket.

She insisted that she was not hurt and mounted her horse. Fortunately we were not far from home and had no difficulty in reaching it. She did not miss her chain and key, and I said nothing about them. The chain I returned the next day, but insisted on keeping the key till after Christmas. Mabel declared that it was unfair to take advantage of an accident, but this did not move me.

I determined, now that I had the key, to effect an entrance to Mabel's room when no one was there and possess myself of her secret. But I must use strategy. I was invited to spend Christmas, as the year before, at my aunt's and on Christmas eve went to the house provided with the glove forfeit and admitted to Mabel that having no hope of winning I had provided them. This threw her completely off her guard.

The next morning I remained in my room till I heard her go downstairs, then slipped into her room, opened the desk and applied the key to the little drawer.

And what did I find there? The surprise of my life. There was a small card photograph of myself taken when I was twelve years old, a tiny china doll I had given her one Christmas when she was but six, a misspelled letter I had written her and several articles of no more intrinsic value than those, but evidences of how dear they were to her. Replacing them, I locked the drawer, closed the desk and went downstairs.

When it came my turn to give my Christmas presents I handed the gloves

to Mabel and a ten pound box of candy besides. On opening the box she saw the key to her desk drawer.

"I knew you would not succeed in that matter," she said, and I did not tell her that I had succeeded. But on Christmas night, when the others had gone to bed, I sat with her before an open fire, and after certain skirmishing I told her something else, to which she responded in a manner that was to my heart's content.

To this day she doesn't know that I found her treasures.

Nevertheless the Christmas desk is an object of interest with me. My wife has given it up for a receptacle of household matter, and I have several pigeonholes and drawers in which I keep receipts and other such papers. I never sit down before the desk to write a letter, draw a check or file a receipted bill that I do not think of the Christmas morning when I discovered that which has given me such delight.

### Where Dollars Originated.

Joachimsthal, near Carlsbad, is historic as the birthplace of the original dollar. This was the silver gulden groschen, coined in 1519 by order of Count Schlick from the metal of a recently opened mine, and it became known as the joachimsthaler, or "thaler" alone for short. Before 1600 the nimble English language had already made "dollar" of this. Thereafter this name was loosely used of all manner of coins, varying in value from 75 cents to \$1.25 and belonging to all manner of countries, from Sweden to Japan. It was from the prevalence of

the Spanish "dollar" in the British-American colonies at the time of their revolt that the modern "almighty dollar" was derived, while in modern English very recent slang has given the name to the crown piece.

### Star Sight.

By all the rules of the game of nature we should not be able to see a star at all, for it appears from the earth as a geometrical point, a thing without dimensions, and cannot be measured even in the most powerful telescope. A star appears in a telescope just as it does to the naked eye. Now the question naturally comes up as to why we can perceive a star, a thing with no dimensions. We certainly cannot see so small a thing under the microscope. The whole answer is a peculiarity of the human eye and, in fact, of all optical instruments, called diffraction. A lens does not focus parallel rays of light to a geometrical point, even though they come from a point, and so a small disk is printed on the retina by a star, and the star is perceived. Remember, though, that only the star's effect is perceived with the eye. A planet of course is different, as it is comparatively close to us, and its actual disk may be seen and measured in the telescope, just as that of the moon can be seen with the naked eyes—Chicago Herald.

### Other Men's Eyes.

We can only see a very little bit at a time; and we must, I think, learn to believe that other men see bits of truth as well as ourselves. Drummond.