

A Blessing in Disguise



Katherine Edelman

CHRISTMAS shoppers were milling through Main street—happy, good-natured folks who smiled and exchanged cheery wishes with each other.

Jack Weber, standing near the entrance of the Anchor store, grew angry at himself. Why couldn't he enter into the spirit of the Christmas season, as these people were doing—why was he bitter and peevish at the whole world because Ethel Porter had rudely refused to go to the Waring Christmas party with him? She had turned him down at the last minute for Bob Fuller. His pride was hurt; and his heart ached a bit, too, for he had grown very fond of Ethel in the last few weeks. And he was pretty sure, until this evening, that she had cared.

Well, that was all over now! Bob Fuller would be dancing with her tonight, and showing her all the little attentions that he had hoped to lavish upon her. He scowled deeply as he thought of this.

Two small children looked curiously at Jack. He drew back into the shadow, growing more irritated, more conscious of the fact that he was so utterly out of tune with the spirit of Christmas. He felt like an alien in a strange land.

Suddenly his shoulders straightened, and a smile chased the shadows from his face. "I can't be the only one with a grievance," he muttered to himself—"among all these people. There must be others who have had disappointments. And look how they are out to make others happy! Why can't I do that, too?"

To think was to act with Jack Weber. Soon he was inside the store, rushing from counter to counter, making purchases. His dark eyes glowed with eagerness. It was a shame the way he had neglected his sister Betty and her family lately. He had given all his time to Ethel Porter. He had even allowed himself to get mad at Betty for hinting that Ethel was not exactly suited to him. He must try and make amends. He would see that Betty's children were supplied with toys for a long time to come.

The lights from a big Christmas tree shone out into the starlit night as he carried his packages to the door of the bungalow. Betty showed her surprise and pleasure.

"Why, Jack," she cried, "how—how lovely of you; this makes Christmas just perfect. And you can't think who has just come to spend Christmas with us—Gladys Dare, who used to live next door to us in Melvin! Gladys, come and meet someone. Surely you haven't forgotten Jack?"

A pretty, dark-haired girl jumped up from where she had been playing with Billy and Sue by the Christmas tree. Her eager brown eyes were alight with pleasure. "Remember Jack?" she echoed, as she held out her hand; "as if I ever could forget the big boy who teased me so much, and who was so good to me, too."

"Uncle Jack teases Sue and me, too," Billy broke in, "but we like him a lot. He's the most fun. Don't you like him?"—looking up at Gladys. A quick flush covered her face. "Why, of course I like him, Billy," she stammered.

Jack Weber enjoyed Christmas more than he had ever done before. He found that disappointment can be changed into a thing of joy. For the comradeship with Gladys, with its background of memories of childhood years, filled him with a strange new happiness. He thought now of Ethel's behavior with a feeling of relief; it had really been a blessing in disguise, for it had led him to Gladys.

But it was several days later before he awakened to the true state of his feelings, and found that he loved Gladys more than all the world. She seemed to fit into his life as if she had always been there. He wondered how he had gotten along before she came.

And when Gladys answered a shy "yes" to a question he asked a few days later, he knew he was fully in tune with the joy and gladness of the Christmas season.

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Foods of Ancient Peoples
The inhabitants of Germany in the Iron age, about 800 B. C., ate ground grains, milk, and butter made of hazelnuts, according to Dr. Johannes Gruss of Berlin-Rahnsdorf, who examined recent archeological finds discovered near Muhlbach, Germany. The relics consisted chiefly of the remains of a man and food urns that had been buried with him. The body had been cremated before burial, and an urn containing hazelnut butter was in the fire. This sterilized the contents, and Doctor Gruss found the butter still in good condition, though 2,700 years old.—Literary Digest.

Money Market Terms

The term "cables" is a money market term for cable orders or cable transfers, also a money market report term under which the rates of exchange for such orders or transfers are quoted. According to "Escher's Foreign Exchange Explained," the prices of sight drafts and long bills are fundamentally based on the price of cables. The first thing in the morning the foreign exchange banker, say in New York, receives a cablegram from his correspondent in London, telling him just what the rate on New York is over there. With this information on hand, he is in a position to commence buying and selling. The rate for cables having been established, it is easy enough to fix the price of demand drafts, the latter being cheaper by an amount corresponding to ten days' interest. When a banker sends a cable he makes immediate payment out of his balance abroad. When, however, he sells a sight draft, his balance abroad remains undisturbed for eight or nine or ten days, which is the quickest time in which the draft he has sold can be presented for encashment. Naturally he will charge less than when he sells a cable and loses the use of his money at once.

Kilt Society Issues Style Rules

Another problem of many years' standing has been settled in Glasgow, Scotland, and all loyal Scotsmen are breathing sighs of relief. The Kilt society of Scotland, harassed by letters and complaints from all parts of the world, has issued a treatise on how to wear the kilt. The rules stipulate that the kilt is to touch the center of the knee cap in front, and that the lower part of the belted plaid or of the shoulder plaid should not hang below the lowest edge of the kilt. For ordinary dress the Highlander's jacket must be of tweed, and his kilt in the clan or family tartan. His stockings must be knitted hose, his shoes black brogues without buckles, and his sporan may be of hogskin, leather or fur, "without undue ornamentation." Rules for evening dress and costumes for social functions also are given.

Earth Faster Than Plane

Compared with the earth, the fastest airplane travels at only a snail's pace, says Popular Mechanics Magazine. An astronomer at the Carnegie Institution's Mount Wilson observatory, says he has found the earth is whirling about the center of the galaxy, its star system, at a rate of 9,000 miles a minute. It also is revolving about the sun at 1,100 miles a minute, besides turning about on its axis once a day. The astronomer has also obtained evidence that the galaxy is like the far-away spiral nebulae, other star system, photographs of which reveal them to resemble great, spinning pinwheels. They are unlike pinwheels, however, in that the stars near the center are turning about at greater speed than those at the outer edges.

Woodpecker Easy to Recognize

The woodpecker is the easiest of all birds to recognize. His habits are peculiar and distinctive. He clings to the side of a tree or pole as if thrown there and stuck. True, other birds—chickadees, crested titmice, nut hatches and brown creepers, to name a few—climb up and down tree-trunks, but these do it with a pleasing grace wholly unlike the woodpecker's clumsy and awkward movements. And, as most of them are much smaller than the woodpecker, there is little danger of making mistakes in recognition. The nuthatches are possibly the only birds likely to be confused with him; but their peculiar habit of traveling down a tree-trunk head foremost distinguishes them from the woodpecker, who always backs up when moving downward.—Our Dumb Animals.

Typewritten Postage Stamp

The first issue of postage stamps made by Uganda, a British protectorate in Africa, were produced on a typewriter. This was in 1895 and while not old as stamps go they enjoy the distinction of being rather scarce. The letters U G stand for Uganda government and the value is expressed in cowrie shells, which passed as currency in Uganda at the rate of about 12 shells for one penny.

Problem Solved

Uncle John had sent father a pipe for Christmas. But father never smoked a pipe. As it came from a long distance it could not be exchanged. The family was discussing the problem of what to do with it when five-year-old Bobby spoke up: "I know! Give it to Santa Claus. He's been good to us."



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Drinks For The Holidays

IT is practically certain that next month we shall be legally drinking anything alcoholics that we want and can afford, but merely because we are going to regain that privilege there is no reason why we should plunge up to our necks in alcoholic drinks. In fact there is every reason why we should not abuse the privilege, especially since there are so many good drinks we can enjoy without any alcoholic content.

For the benefit of hostesses who expect to give parties for young people during the coming holidays, and of those who prefer not to drink alcohol themselves, however they voted about the Eighteenth Amendment, here are some royal, throat-quenching drinks which look and taste as good as any drinks can. There are, for instance, these delicious

Pineapple Drinks

Eastern Punch: Chop one-half cup raisins and one-quarter tablespoon preserved ginger, add two cups water and boil ten minutes, then strain. Add one-half cup sugar, and cool. Add one-half cup lemon juice, the contents of a No. 2 can of Hawaiian pineapple juice and one pint bottle of charged water, and pour over a block of ice. This makes one and a half quarts, or fills twelve punch glasses.

Fruit Flip: Boil seven-eighths cup sugar, one cup orange juice and one orange rind cut in thin

strips for five minutes, then cool. Add one and one-half cups strong cold tea, two tablespoons lemon juice and the contents of a No. 2 can of Hawaiian pineapple juice. Serve over cubes of frozen ginger ale or ice. This makes one quart, or fills eight punch glasses.

Pink Lady: Boil one-fourth cup sugar in one-half cup water for about three minutes, and cool. Add one-half cup bottled raspberry syrup, two tablespoons lemon juice, the contents of a No. 2 can of Hawaiian pineapple juice and one pint bottle charged water.

Holiday Punches

Hot Rum Punch: Combine six cups cider, one-half cup honey, one cup canned pineapple syrup, one teaspoon cinnamon, one teaspoon nutmeg, one-fourth teaspoon ginger and the rind of one lemon. The last ingredient should be thinly pared, using only the yellow part. Simmer fifteen minutes, strain into a punch bowl and add six tablespoons rum extract. Float several small pickled crabapples in the punch. This makes twelve small cups.

The New Year Egg-Nog: Beat four egg yolks until thick, add one-half cup sugar and one-third cup brandy extract. Add two cups evaporated milk and two cups water, combined, and then fold in four stiffly-beaten egg whites. Sprinkle nutmeg on top. Have cold. Makes twelve small cups.

New Year's Eve Punch: Mash two bananas and add two cups canned pineapple syrup, one cup evaporated milk, two tablespoons fresh lime juice, one-half cup orange juice, and one-half cup crushed pineapple. Shake well with crushed ice. This makes five tall glasses or ten cups.

Hot Christmas Punches

Holiday Stein: Mix one gallon sweet cider, one and one-half pounds brown sugar, a six-inch stick cinnamon, one tablespoon whole cloves, one juice whole mace, one-half teaspoon salt and two tablespoons crystallized ginger, and simmer ten minutes. Strain. Add the contents of two 19-ounce cans grapefruit juice and one-half cup orange juice, and reheat but do not boil. Serve steaming hot in earthenware steins or mugs. Makes four quarts.

Spiced Hot Punch: Boil for five minutes one quart water, a three-inch piece cinnamon, one teaspoon whole cloves and one teaspoon allspice, and then strain. Add honey to taste. Add two cups syrup from canned pineapple, and reheat. Beat eggs well, allowing one-half egg to each glass to be served. Divide the eggs among the glasses, and pour the hot punch in, stirring well. Serve at once. This makes approximately one and a quarter to one and a half quarts.*

Merry Christmas with banquet or hoe-cake!
Happy New Year, in wealth or slight thrift!
May your troubles be light as the snowflakes
Your Happiness deep as the drift!

holiday greetings

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