It has become our time honored custom to close our shop on Christmas Day, give our employes a rest, cease dinning the public ear, in short to print no paper.

We had thought to write an article showing how a newspaper is made up, from the gathering of the news to the carrying of the papers, in all involving employm at of some twenty people and he!ping to support some twenty familes.

We had thought to mention our advertisers, Who have had their places of business crowded and in whose success we take a vital interest.

We had thought to mention our public officials who contribute so much to make an interesting newspaper.

And our ministers of the Gospel, educators, heads of charitable organizations, etc., etc. But lack of space

forbids, and we simply wish all a merry Christmas. May the warmth of Christian love

in our hearts drive out all bitterness toward others, and may our love ex tend to all human beings and all living creatures. May at least once a year, no neighbor be left in want or suffering. We are not sure but that if we laid aside all pride, vanity, seifishness like a shanghal over a bantam and ambition, and emptied ourselves of ourselves, and in place thereof, filled Will) toward all men, this earth would be quite a heaven the year around.

May we learn at this time to look are not as we would have them be. a vigorous shake. They are still God's children and we cannot help them a whit, or lift them away from him. up, or improve them by despising, denouncing and condemning them. It in His day, the Great Master could associate with publicans and sinners, cannot we of smaller hearts, lesser faith and least goodness, be patient suall need so much grace ourselves?

Don't fail to see the ladies'

Beautiful slippers for presents at Krausse Bros.

Eastern Oysters-At Doty's Market.

CHICKENS-At Doty's Market.



'u·u He's promissed, en you mu-' help me to hoi' him to it," Abs said,

Whistling Rastus.

"Law! de honey-"

heah?" Abe said.

ufficient meat-"

"Got dem rabbits yet?"

"Not yet," Rastus said. "I's

"Ma, If you don't help me dis time

"We's got 'nough fo' de dinnah. De

shoat what you's gwine to kill is

"I demands two rabbits from dat

"None o' yo' untrufs 'bout dis yere

affair. De moon's nuthin' to do wid

rabbits," Abe said, bringing his fist

"'Deed, en dat's so,"the mother said,

"De rabits hab great 'miration fo' de

"You long-year'd rascal, you fetch

dem rabbits or I'll-"Abe said, but his

"Let Rastus 'lone, Abe. Hain't s

"Ma," he whispered, "do you think

"Naw, honey; you jes keep out o'

"Neber you min', heney. I'll fix

It was painful for Raston to keep

from whistling from behind the fire-

night before Christmas was a trial too

sight en hearin' till Chris'mus comes,

de rabbits," his mother told him.

to bed," his mother, said.

home he inquired for Rastus.

lin'," his mother would say.

Ace is dead earnesst 'bout de raba?"

moon, so if de moon don't shine I can't

down on the table with a bang.

trying to shield Rastus.

whistling.

ketch 'um," Rastus insisted.

mother interrupted his threat.

A Christmas Story by Charlotte Curtis Smith in Christmas Harper's.

"I say, Rastus, what you gwine to stablish tow'ds de Chris'mus dinnah?" Abe asked his brother one morning, a week before Chri-tmas.

Abe was sitting at the breakfast table. Rastus had risen, and was show ing his chair under the table.

"Nothin' 's I knew on, 'cept my own 'spectable presunce," Rastus answered, walking toward the door.

fo' de full o' de moon. Can't ketch "You's a downright lary rascal; en if I had de management o' you I'd make 'um whan dar's clouds in de sky; de clouds skeer 'um-" you wuk fo' a libin', 'stead o' whistlin' roun' all summer in the woods, en when de col' weedder comes, a-settin' 'hind de stove whistlin' ----"

"G' 'long, you," Rastus sald, rolling his his eyes at his brother.

"Hol' on dar ! Don't you go out dis house till you say what you get fo' de dinnah," Abe said, starting out of bis chair.

Rastus had his hand on the knob of the door. Abe took him by the shoulders and turned him around. Abe was head and shoulders taller than Rastus.

"Say, Ras, what you gwine to do?" his brother said, towering over him in?"

Rastus said, looking down at the hole the vacuum with Good Will or (God's to his shoe where his foot shone through.;

"No feelin', boy, You ketch a couple e' rabbits what you bin whistlin' to all with kinduess on all-even those who summer-heab?" Abe said, giving him

> "Let 'lone dat!" Rastus said, pulling Abe caught him by the shoulders

gain and held him. "Promise," he said, g"or I'll shake

y u clean out o' yo' shoes." Rastus besitated, till Abe began to

execute his threat, that he promised to and tolerant towards others when we get two rabbits for the Christmas chimbley. You come home fore Abe dinner,

Reatus went out of the door, whistling a cadenza of thrills and arpeggios. bicyle prize at somemann's Abe went back to the table to finish his breakfast.

"Dat boy's done forgot all 'bout dem rabbits already,' Abe said to himself. In a few minutes his mother entered from a rear door. She had been in the yard hanging out clothes.

"Col' mawin', honeys. Whar's Rastus?" she saked, holding her benumbed endured it several nights but the last hands over the cook stove.

"Gone off whistlin'," Abe answered, vithout looking up from his plate "Did no hab 'nough brakus?" his shoat, which took place that afternoon.

wel canned plate. "I's dun know. But what I knows for the dumplings. The brothers were nah."

he's got to git two rabbits fo' de Chris'mus dinnah, en dat's what I io know." Abe said, rising from the with the uproar, so she laughed long "I'se gwine to spen' the rest o' d's table and cor fronting his mother. "De honey 'll neber git 'um. He's and loud, hoping to drow endah-hearted to kill um." but Abe heard it—be had it mey or no honey, I say be'll hit ling for it all the week.

'That's dat lazy rascal Rustus. heard him whistle," Abe said, going to the window to look out. snaking his head at his mother.

explained.

Abe opened the door. It was snowing bard, but there was no wind astir. "Ma, whar's dat boy ? You know You've got him hid," Abe said.

"Hid Abe? I don't see where I'd bide him in this leetle house," his air. mother innocently answered.

Whar's he bin all dis week ?" Abe isked.

"Whistlin' -"

"He's bin somewhar in dis house, en "He's bin somewhar in dis house, en County and State aforesaid, and that said firm I.s gwine to est up all night en watch will pay the sum of ONE HUNDRED DOLfo' him to crawl ou -"

"You don gone erszy, Abe his mother old him. You go 'long to bed. I'll eit up."

"I seed the fire-board a jigglin' a minute ago," Mose said, pointing be hind the stove. "Mebbe be's in dar." Abe made a dash for the chimney and pulled down the fire board. His mother screamed and caught him by the tail of his coat, but she was too late; the fire board was down, and La Sold by Druggists, 75c. there sat Rastus crossed-legged in the soot and ashes. He gave a long shrill whistle like the yent from a safety vaive and then grinned at Abe.

dun blibim," his mother screamed. boited it,

"D: honey'll freezs! de honey'll freeze !" his mother cried.

"He won't freeze. He's too lazy," Abe hissed at his mother. Rastus picked bimself up and looked

at the closed door. "I's do b'lieve Abe's in mad earnest dis yere time," he said, brushing off the snow. I'll hab to stay in de hen coop till arter Chris'mus, en lose my dinnah. But ma'il slide me out a

dumplin', I guess." He went to the hen coop and lay dowe on some clean straw.

His mother listened, and for an hour she heard him whistling. But Abe was sound asleep.

About miduight Ristu + was awakened by stealthy voices. He peeked through a knot hole into the pig pen, and saw his neighbors, the Tompkins boys, taking down the shoat from the celling, where Abe had bung it to

"We'il play de same joke on Abe wid dat rascal, I won't fetch one thing what he played on us las' year," Lee in dis nouse fo' de Chris'mus dinnah -Tompkins chuckled.

"Dat we will," Jake echoed. "Dis'il go fine wid de rabbits," Jake said, putting the shoat into a basket.

While the boys were there, Rastus buried his face in the straw to keep lazy rascal, shoat or no shoat," Abe from whistling. A thought had come salled back, as he went out of the door. to him. He saw the way to his That evening, when the family met | Christmas dinner.

at the supper table, Abe said to Rastus, Just after daybreak Rastus rapped for Jake and Lee

o' rabbits to pay fo' de sho t you stole off Abe las' night," he said to the boys. "You an' Lee did," Rastus said.

"Yaw-yaw-yaw!" laugned Jake. 'Dat halu't steallu'. Dat's a Chris'mus, amount of coupons may be torn out. joke. Abe played one on us las' year, en I jes played it on him dis year-

"All right," said Rastus. "I'll lay two rabbits. I'll neber tell. Abe en tree blowing over onto it Sunday

went whistling down the road. Abe were before Judge Hubbard tody and week time 'nough to ketch two rabbits heard him coming. The family was he will order it rebuilt, as it is on a at the breakfast table when he entered. road that has a great deal of travel. "Thar's yo' rabbits, Mr. Abe.

After supper Abe went out to the "I'se got nothin' to purchase wid," pig-pen to see if the shoat was safe for could jes as well had fou', but yo' the night. Sam and Mose, the younger didn't ask but fo' two, so I jes got two," brothers, went to bed. Rastus sat be-Rastus said, handing the rabbits to hind the stove whittling a stick and Abe.

Abe grinned when he saw the plump little animals. "Them's fine. Whar did you ketck 'um?" he asked. "I don't tell all I knows," Rustus

said, sitting down to the table. en he'll dun forgit clean 'bout you and "My! honey, dey am straordinary fine fo' a pie. You's a brave man," "But, ma, it's kinder col' settin' on fences whistlin' desc nights," Rastus his game. his mother said, admiring Rastus and

After breakfast Abe went out to bring in the shoat.

you a place 'hind the fireboard in de He came hurrying back, screaming: "Help! help! Bome one dun stole de en git your supper, en hide till he goes shoat! some one done stole the shoat!" Rastus turned on him.

After that Rastus kept out of his "Yo' long-yeared rascal, I don't brother's way. Every time Abe come b'lieve you had a shoat. Yo' dun fool us all de time." "Law, de honey's somewhar whist-

" 'Pon my honor, I had one, en he's gone." Abe pleaded. "Nemmine 'bout the shoat," Rastus

consolingly said; "de rabbits is good board. He kept his hand over his 'nough fo' ma en me. Yo' en Sam en mouth for fear he would forget, He Mose can go widout de shoac." Rastus and his mother enjoyed the

rabbit pie and apple dumplings, but great for his endurance. He heard Abe, Sam and Mose missed the roast Abe telling about the killing of the shoat "Dese rabbits is powerful good," Abe

mother inquired, looking at Rastus's Sam and Mose had a thrilling tale said; "but my jaws do watch fo' de about the apples which they furnished shoat what I fattened fo' dis yere din-

"I'se gwine to spen' the rest o' d's and loud, hoping to drown the whistle; day lookin' fo' de one what stole de but Abe heard it-be had been listen shoat. I guess I'll call on Jake and Lee Tompkins, to see how dey is apendin' de day."

He went up the road towards the , yo

"It's de win,' Abe," his mother Tompkins house. Ristus sat on the door-yard fence, whistling like a thros' when the trees are blossoming. He mother, watching him from the win dow, wondered if it were Christmas o spring time, so merry and dulcet were the tones that vibrated in the frost

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From a letter written by Rev. J. Gunder-man, of Di non late, Mich., we are permitted "You tormented villian, you," Abe yelled, snaking him out of the chimney.
"Let him hone, Abe I did it. I down hill him," his mother screamed. But Abe walked Rastus turkey fash-lou scross the room and put him out if-she could not survive them. A friend reco of the door. "Don't you darst come mended Dr. King's New discovery; it was quick in its work and highly satisfactory in back till you fetch dem two rabbits," result." Trial bottles free at Fred A. Legg's Abe said and slammed the door and Drug Store. Regular size 50 cents, and \$1.00

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BRIDGE BROKEN.-A bridge one low on the subject if you'll give me mile east of Brooks is crippled by a me has had a triflin' disapprehension." night, breaking down the approach Rastus obtained the rabbits, and end one bent. A number of citizens

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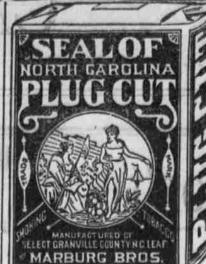
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