

THE BLACK FLAG

A NEW YEAR'S STORY.

By Opie Read.

PHYSICIAN ordered Crandall to go south. "What for?" the young fellow spoke up, rather testily. "You forget that I was the successful center rush of..."

"Who is she?" he asked of the man who stood beside him; and thus was he enlightened: "She is the granddaughter of an old fellow who lives in that queer-looking house yonder..."

"I believe I'll row over and have a talk with her," said Crandall. "You may do as you like, but the old man is dead set against any attentions that strangers pay her..."

"Yes, I have skimmed the most important events, and I can dip up a happening all right, but dates run through my skimmer. What are you trying to catch here?"

"Oh, you are the crazy man," she said, looking at him closer. He looked back at her in astonishment, and she explained: "That's what some of the folks believe. What else could they think of a man who hangs up a leather bag and hits it nearly all night?"

"I'm not acquainted with you," said Crandall. "Rivers, in all my experience I have never known you to smoke as vile cigars as those you are indulging in now..."

ping inside and shutting the door; and as Crandall was about to turn away he thought he heard the music of a mischievous laugh. During all that day, and during nearly all the night he worried over the truth that the picture had been taken by his heart instead of his mind.

He sat down beside her and she made no objection. And they talked with a freedom that cut an hour short. At last a voice called her and she started up, declaring that she did not know it was so late.

"When may I see you again?" he called after her, and back came the words: "Oh, you mustn't think of that. Perhaps not at all."

He returned to the place the next afternoon and waited until after the sun had set. The girl did not take notice of his approach—she paid not the slightest heed to him until he spoke, and then, turning toward him, she said: "I'm not acquainted with you."

"By George, Miss Pirate, you are as sharp as your old ancestor," and when she had looked at him and laughed, for the remark did not displease her, he added: "It may be small concern to you, but we are neighbors. I live up yonder among the pines."

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THE CENTURY'S NEW YEAR. Opening wide to all the nations now the laureled gates of peace. And bringing to the captive soul the long looked for release.

In the splendor of the dawning of the Twentieth Century we may see the floating shadows of the great events to be.

From the snowy crests of north-land to the land of endless sun. Let the people greet the New Year with a sense of duty done.

And our Past is grand and glorious as our Future must be bright. Greet the New Year crowned with luster, hail the morning bright and fair!

Thus to us shall come the New Year with an anthem and a smile. And the people shall be happy as the bells ring out the while.

We rejoice that on the threshold of a cycle still unknown. We are mighty and restless, stretching far from zone to zone.

Let the New Year enter boldly in his majesty and pride; God is with us as a Nation and He gives the Century.

One that will take a lot of "ringing." The Man Who Swears Off. Don't go around and boast about your swearing off on New Year's day.

A DAY OF GOOD WILL

Needy Thousands Enjoy Cheer and Plenty of Christmas.

PRISONERS AND POOR REMEMBERED.

Salvation Army in New York and Other Cities Gives Holiday Dinners to All Who Apply—A Glad Occasion to Many.

NEW YORK, Dec. 26.—All over the city Christmas reigned supreme. Rich and poor held high revel, and there were smiles in prisons and happiness in hospitals.

Society entertained in its usual way with house parties and dances, but in the homes of the poor there were many happy families. There the shrubs cheerily decorated brought as much joy as the large tree loaded with expensive gifts.

Many out of town parties were given by society leaders. Mrs. Howard Gould gave an entertainment to 700 village children at Fort Washington, on Long Island.

Commander and Mrs. Booth-Tucker were at the Garden as early as half past 8 o'clock preparing for the coming of the crowd.

Arranged on the main floor of the Garden were 54 long tables. On these the dinner was served. One immense table extending from the entrance on Madison avenue to the exit on Fourth avenue was piled with baskets.

Seven hundred homeless and hungry men were treated to a Christmas dinner at the McAuley mission, 316 Water street, this being the fifteenth annual dinner given by the mission.

Christmas in Paris.

PARIS, Dec. 26.—Christmas was favored in France with bright, cheerful weather, and Parisians celebrated it in characteristic fashion.

No HEART TOO BAD TO BE CURED.—Testimony could be piled high in commendation of the wonderful cures wrought by Dr. Agnew's Cure for the Heart.

Do not think for a single moment that consumption will ever strike you a sudden blow. It does not come that way.

It creeps its way along. First you think it is a little cold, nothing but a little hacking cough; then a little loss in weight; then a harder cough; then the fever and the night sweats.

Better stop the disease while it is yet creeping. Better cure your cough today. You can do it with

Ayer's Cherry Pectoral. The pressure on the chest is lifted, that feeling of suffocation is removed, and you are cured. You can stop that little cold with a 25 cent bottle; harder coughs will need a 50 cent size; if it's on the lungs the one dollar size will be most economical.

Convicts Entertained.

SING SING, Dec. 26.—The convicts in the state prison had as merry a Christmas as the accommodations would permit, thanks to the kindness of George Thatcher's minstrels and Warden Johnson.

Fifteen Hundred Christmas Dinners. CLEVELAND, Dec. 26.—The Salvation Army fed 1,500 poor people in the Grays' armory. Twenty-five long tables were used, covered with paper and furnished with tin dishes.

Christmas Dinners For the Poor. SCHENECTADY, N. Y., Dec. 26.—The local corps of the Salvation Army fed every poor person who could be found in the city, 518 Christmas dinners being given away.

Poor Remembered in St. Louis. ST. LOUIS, Dec. 26.—The inmates of the various eleemosynary and corrective institutions of the city enjoyed Christmas along with the rest of the world.

Christmas Gift For Employees. CHICAGO, Dec. 22.—The 3,000 employees of the Crane company, manufacturers, will receive substantial and acceptable Christmas presents from their employers this year.

Natural Bridge Sold. LEXINGTON, Va., Dec. 21.—The Natural bridge property, including over 400 acres of land, has been sold for \$50,000, of which \$20,000 was paid in cash.

SNEEZE AND BLOW.—That is what you must do when you have catarrh in the head. The way to cure this disease is to purify the blood with Hood's Sarsaparilla.

WANTED—ACTIVE MAN, OF GOOD character, to deliver and collect in Pennsylvania for old established manufacturing wholesale house, \$900 a year, sure pay.

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ALEXANDER BROTHERS & CO. DEALERS IN Cigars, Tobacco Candies, Fruits and Nuts

SOLE AGENTS FOR Henry Maillard's Fine Candies. Fresh Every Week. PENNY GOODS A SPECIALTY.

SOLE AGENTS FOR F. F. Adams & Co's Fine Cut Chewing Tobacco. Sole agents for the following brands of Cigars: Henry Clay, Londres, Normal, Indian Princess, Samson, Silver Ash



Pain in Head, Side and Back.

For years I suffered with pain in the head, pain in the side, and in the small of the back. I was nervous and constipated and could not sleep.

HUMPHREYS' VETERINARY SPECIFICS. A. A. FEVERS, Congestions, Inflammations, Coughs, Croup, Milk Fever, Milk Scurf, B. B. SPRAINS, Lameness, Injuries, Bruises, Rheumatism.

NERVOUS DEBILITY, VITAL WEAKNESS and Prostration from Overwork or other causes. Humphreys' Homeopathic Specific No. 225, in use over 40 years, the only successful remedy.

THE MARKETS. BLOOMSBURG MARKETS. CORRECTED WEEKLY. RETAIL PRICES. Butter per lb. . . . . \$ .26 Eggs per dozen . . . . . .28

Butter per lb. . . . . \$ .26 Eggs per dozen . . . . . .28 Lard per lb. . . . . .21

Wheat per bushel . . . . . .90 Oats " " . . . . . .35 Rye " " . . . . . .50

Wheat flour per bbl. . . . . 4.00 to 4.40 Hay per ton . . . . . \$16.00 Potatoes per bushel . . . . . .70

Turnips " " . . . . . .30 Onions " " . . . . . .80 Sweet potatoes per peck . . . . . .25

Shoulder " " . . . . . .11 Side meat " " . . . . . .09 Vinegar, per qt. . . . . .05

Dried apples per lb. . . . . .05 Dried cherries, pitted . . . . . .12 Raspberries . . . . . .12

Cow Hides per lb. . . . . .34 Steer " " . . . . . .80 Calf Skin " " . . . . . .05

Sheep pelts . . . . . .75 Shelled corn per bus. . . . . .65 Corn meal, cwt. . . . . 1.75

Bran, " " . . . . . 1.10 Chop " " . . . . . 1.15 Middlings " " . . . . . 1.10

Chickens per lb new . . . . . .08 " " old . . . . . .08 Turkeys " " . . . . . .10

Geese " " . . . . . .12 Ducks " " . . . . . .08

COAL. No. 6, delivered . . . . . 2.60 " 4 and 5 " . . . . . 3.85