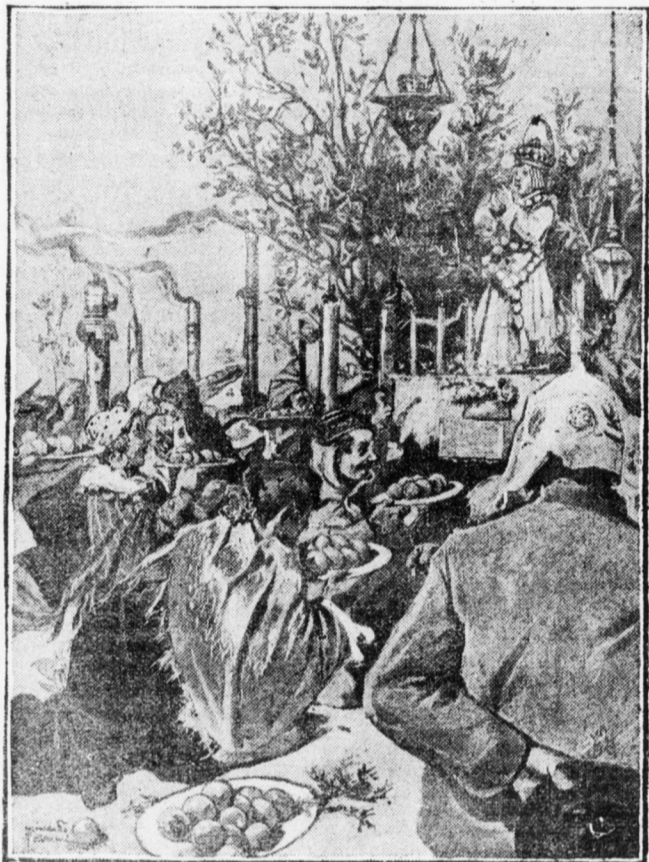


# CHRISTMAS IN THE VAL DI ROSE

By WALTON WILLIAMS

In medieval times, when learning was rare and confined mostly to the regular clergy living in monastic communities, it became the fashion to illustrate the gospel narratives by means of more or less realistic dramatic representation. This method of instructing the unlettered was borrowed from the old heathen mysteries, and the monks and nuns who devised the pious scheme made every effort to impart a reverential un-

upon it, and finally they prohibited all forms of Biblical representation in the churches. In time most of the Easter mystery pictures disappeared from the churches, but many of the Christmas illustrations had acquired such a firm hold upon the popular heart that they remained and have been brought down to the present day in a somewhat modified form. Such is the "Bambino," which is seen today in all parts of the Christian world and which has come to possess almost a ritualistic significance. Another Christmas mystery which still survives, although its perpetuation is confined to a limited region, is the quaint and decidedly impressive Christmas ceremonial known as "the offering." This custom has been repeated for centuries on Christmas day in the churches of the Italian highlands. It is illustrative of the visit of the magi



THE OFFERING IN THE VAL DI ROSE.

derstanding of the subject illustrated. This is the origin of the mystery or miracle plays and also of the sacred tableaux vivants which in time were enacted in the rural churches. These living pictures always illustrated some Biblical subject and were probably of great spiritual benefit to those who could not read. It was thus that the great features of the Christian religion were made intelligible to the public. The practice began early in the tenth century and grew in favor for at least 200 years. In the thirteenth century, however, the custom had become so subject to abuse that the clergy began to frown

to the infant Jesus at Bethlehem. A little boy is chosen to represent the Saviour. Dressed in a white robe, wearing a gilded crown and holding a globe in his hands, he stands upon an altar surrounded by olive branches and a multitude of lighted candles. Votive lamps hang above him, and abundant offerings of fruit and flowers are at his feet. A crowd of peasants, both men and women, clad in festival attire and wearing the picturesque head coverings of the Tuscan mountaineers, bring oranges and pomegranates from their tiny gardens and offer them devoutly to the weary little representative of the Lord of the harvest.

# O MISTLETOE

By NINA PICTON

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What could I do?  
She neither screamed nor smiled nor chid me then,  
But brushed her cheek like thistle-down,  
And then a tiny, childish frown came 'twixt her brows. "At last!" cried she. "Oh, Ben, slowest of men!"  
No ear but mine heard that imperious blame,  
The crowd had passed, we twain stood there  
In perfect bliss, without a care,  
And o'er and o'er I breathed her perfumed name—  
O Rose a flame!  
The joy bells rang. The old year crept away,  
Lusty and young the new year stood,  
Aglow with promise, life and blood,  
Ah, never was such night or holiday—  
For all they say!

THREE times she passed beneath the mistletoe,  
With face so arch and eye of blue,  
And I, distraught, what could I do?  
Rank toward—I turned round and let her go.  
O mistletoe!  
From every nook and corner blazed the light;  
Eyes gleamed like stars in matchless ray,  
Yet ne'er an eye of black or gray shone full and soft as hers that old year night.  
O wondrous light!  
Each one waxed bold as forth she came again,  
And o'er her golden hair the bough  
Of witchery hung. My hour came now,  
I caught and kissed her like a man insane.  
O happy swain!



I caught and kissed her.

### A Lack of Competition.

The old squire was narrating his experiences with county fairs. "You never had much to do with managing them, perhaps," he said. "Well, I have had a great deal. It takes a lot of head work, I can tell you, to think up popular features outside of the big steers, the fat hogs, the mammoth squashes, the poultry, the preserves, the lace tidies and the agricultural horse trots to draw the crowd. "I remember one year," he proceeded, "when we got everybody's interest excited by announcing a prize of a gold headed cane for the homeliest man in the county and a silk dress pattern for the homeliest woman. After a spirited competition the cane was awarded to Colonel Van Jessup, the landlord of the Van Jessup hotel. "Yes, I know him," interrupted one of the listeners, "and I've seen the cane. Who got the silk dress for being the homeliest woman?" "Nobody. There weren't any entries."

### Salt Water Falls.

There are a good many salt cataracts in existence. They may be found in Norway, southern Chile and British Columbia, where narrow fiords, or arms of the sea, are obstructed by barriers of rock. The rising tide flows over and filters through such reefs into the great natural reservoirs beyond, but the water is held back at the ebb until it breaks over the obstruction in an irresistible torrent. Most curious of all is the waterfall at Canoe passage, where the island of Vancouver approaches the British Columbia mainland. Here the flood tide from the gulf of Georgia, to the southward, is dammed back at a narrow cleft between two islands until it pours over in a boiling cascade eight or ten feet high, with perhaps double the volume of the Rhine. At the turn of the tide, however, the waters from the north rush back into the gulf, producing a cascade of equal height and volume. This salt water fall actually flows both ways.

### The Cattle Shooting Habit.

The irate farmer who orders the city sportsman off his "lands" is always incomprehensible to the man with the gun. His stories of damage to his cattle are unbelievable, but there seems to be some reason for the rural objection to city gunners. "To know how wide-spread the cattle shooting habit is," said a government meat inspector, "one should take up a position beside an inspector at a packing house and note how many cattle are flayed revealing a charge of bird shot in their bodies. Some are peppered on one side only, others on both sides. I don't know whether the cases are all accidental or whether the hunters shoot the cattle full of bird shot just for fun, but mightily few, either native or range cattle, reach the packing houses without carrying souvenirs of some glorious hunting trip."

### A Malleous Will.

Persons wishing to register in their last wills and testaments their feelings regarding their natural heirs may take as a model the following crisp effort of an Englishman, William Hall: "I give to that vile wretch, Samuel Hall, who I admitted of the temple many years since, but he sold his gown, and in seven years I could never get him to church but once, and twice he assaulted me, and at the time he had certainly killed me if by God's providence I had not by a maidservant been thrown against a great fire, the sum of 10 shillings, to be paid him every Monday upon request, and I wish that the first food he takes after my death will choke him."

### Lincoln's Integrity.

No man ever believed in his calling more thoroughly than Lincoln, and he had no patience with the much mouthed charge that honesty was not compatible with its practice. "Let no young man choosing the law for a calling yield to that popular belief," he wrote. "Resolve to be honest, at all events. If, in your judgment, you cannot be an honest lawyer, resolve to be honest without being a lawyer. Choose some other occupation rather than one in the choosing of which you do, in advance, consent to be a knave."—Frederick Trevor Hill in Century.

### Penning on Zinc.

An ordinary pencil mark on zinc is in a measure indelible. The writer saw recently a zinc label on which a name had been written with an ordinary lead pencil thirty years ago, and after a little of the oxide had been rubbed off the name was as legible as if it was just written. For permanency, where no illegibility is desired, nothing can be more durable.—Exchange.

### Logically Demonstrated.

She—I can prove logically and mathematically that women are worth more than men. He—I'd like to see you do it, my dear. She—Isn't a miss as good as a mile? He—So they say. She—And doesn't it take a whole lot of men to make a league?—Baltimore American.

### Little Difference.

"Really," said the X ray operator to the surgeon, "there is only a grammatical distinction between our professions." "Do you think so?" said the surgeon. "Certainly. I see bones, and you saw bones."—Bystander.

### The Modern Way.

Villain—If I should kiss you, I suppose you'd go and tell your mother. Modern Shepherdess—No; I should go and tell my lawyer.—New Yorker.

### Prescription by a Rival.

Florence—I should like to do something that would make him miserable for life. Mabel—Then why don't you marry him?

## Lucas Paints

For inside and out  
Better for every use.  
Lucas Paints spread easier and go farther. They look better and wear longer.  
For these reasons they are more economical and far more satisfactory than any other paint you can buy.  
Ask your dealer.  
John Lucas & Co  
Philadelphia

## SPECIAL CASH PRICES

—AT—  
**O. B. Barnes'**  
POPULAR FAMILY GROCERY STORE.  
(One day only or until stock is sold.)  
**FRIDAY, DEC. 8, '05**  
20 cases Daisy Telephone Peas 3 for 25c  
5 cases Mothers' Oats 3 for 25c  
5 cases Arbuckles Coffee 14c lb  
Special prices on our Bargain Day in all departments. Choice line of goods to select from.  
**WE KEEP ONLY THE BEST**  
O. B. BARNES.  
Allegany Avenue,  
Phone 81.

### SIZERVILLE.

Almost the entire town was at Emporium shopping on Saturday. Sizerville will not go dry next year. We understand this will cause the loss of some of our neighbors.  
Mr. and Mrs. Will McDowell left for Sterling Run Monday.  
Camelia Ridgway was in Emporium on Monday and Tuesday.  
Mr. Archie Freeman had the misfortune to severely injure his left foot last Friday. His team ran away causing a trail of logs to smash his foot. He is around again but swings himself between a pair of crutches.  
Mrs. Angelo Aglirado spent Wednesday in Olean shopping.  
Robert McDowell is now ready to receive laundry of all kinds, having started a patent washing machine.  
A. Market and wife visited in Port Allegany on Monday.  
Mrs. James Matall, of Brookville, was visiting in town the first of this week.  
**SENATOR.**  
**SINNAMAHONING.**  
Mrs. Wm. Piper, of Galeton, is visiting her parents and friends here this week.  
Mrs. T. E. Fulton is visiting friends at Sterling Run.  
Mrs. C. F. Snyder was down to Renovo Tuesday.  
J. D. Council went to Lock Haven on Tuesday on business.  
Jas. Mead attended court at Lock Haven this week.  
Barelay Bros. mill has shut down for the season.  
J. V. Hanson left for his home at Lock Haven on Tuesday.  
The remains of Joseph Fick, of Punxsutawney, formerly of this place, was brought here for burial on Saturday. He was buried under the Masonic rites, Mr. Fick being a charter member of Driewood Lodge, F. & A. M.  
The Powder Co. is taking advantage of this excellent weather and have a large crew of men at work, perfecting their plant. Most of their large buildings are well under way, and are composed of tile and stone which makes them very substantial.  
Barelay Bros. drew the water cut of their log ponds leaving millions of young fish stranded in the mud.  
S. A. Nelson, of Round Island, was in town Monday of last week and reports killing a wildcat on the back of a doe, a few days ago, the deer having been driven in from the woods by the cat. He now thinks the county on a wildcat ought to be \$5.00.  
DENSE.

### HUNTLEY.

Mrs. Patrick Farrel is visiting her parents at Cameron this week.  
Mr. B. J. Collins was a Driewood visitor Sunday.  
Mrs. John Carson and son George were Driewood callers Saturday.  
Frank Alger, while cutting logs for Wm. Nelson in Big Run, Saturday, got badly cut on the head with an axe—and though very weak from loss of blood he walked to the Station. Dr. Corbett dressed the wound.  
Rex, the family dog owned by Wm. Wylie, died Wednesday at the age of 16 years. He was a very intelligent and valuable animal and will be missed very much.  
Mrs. Augustus Nelson is on the sick list.  
Miss Ruth Sullivan, of the East Side visited Miss Bertha Wylie, Saturday.  
Dec. 19th, 1905.  
J. F. S.

### STERLING RUN ITEMS

James Furlong visited Renovo over Sunday.  
Frank Verbeck went to Driewood Friday on business.  
Fred Mason, of Renovo, is visiting his sister, Mrs. Ed. Brooks, this week.  
Miss Frances Summerson, who has been in Emporium the past few months, returned to her home in Sterling on Wednesday.  
Mrs. Mitchell, of New York City, visited her grand-mother, Mrs. M. Herick, last week.  
Mrs. Haines and daughter, of St. Marys, were the guests of Jos. Kissel and family this week.  
Miss Gladys O'Keefe, who is teaching on Grove Hill, visited her home over Sunday.  
Miss Edna Summerson, teacher at Cameron, visited her mother Sunday.  
Mrs. Elizabeth Mason, who broke her shoulder some time ago, is slowly improving.  
Miss Flora Ebersole, who is attending school at Buffalo, came home Saturday to spend Christmas with her parents.  
Mrs. Jane Devling, of this place, is visiting her daughter, Mrs. Carl Swartz, at Emporium.  
A number of our people attended the dance at Cameron Monday night.  
The Emporium visitors on Saturday were: Mrs. Della Lord, Mrs. Lawn Barr, Mrs. Owen Wade, James Lynch, C. C. Craven, and Joseph Furlong.  
J. F. S.

### A Wonderful Saving.

The largest Methodist Church in Georgia, used 32 gallons of L. & M., mixed with 24 gallons of oil, thus making paint cost about \$1.20 per gallon. They calculated to use 100 gallons of other paint. Saved about \$80.00 and also got a big donation of L. & M. Dealers gladly sell L. & M., because their customers call for it and say they used it 12, 14 and even 30 years ago.  
Don't pay \$1.50 a gallon for linseed oil, which you do in ready-for use paints. Buy oil fresh from the barrel at 60 cents per gallon, and mix it with L. & M. Paint.  
It makes paint cost about \$1.20 per gallon. Sold by Harry S. Lloyd.

### RICH VALLEY

Miss Gertie Lewis, of Elk Fork, visited Miss Hazel Lockwood on Sunday.  
Delbert Rockwell, of Turtle Point, was seen on our streets Sunday.  
Frank Sweesey and wife, visited Mr. and Mrs. Malcome McLeod, of Lewis Run, on Sunday.  
Mrs. W. R. Carter had business at town Wednesday.  
Mrs. Truman McCaslin visited Mrs. Randolph Lockwood, Tuesday.  
Earl Rifle seriously injured his hand Tuesday, by taking a "header" from his wheel.  
Mrs. Ella McLeod visited her sister Mrs. Frank Sweesey Wednesday.  
A Christmas party is to be held at the Sweesey school house, Friday night.  
M. A. P.

### CAMERON.

Saturday was pay day at the mines.  
J. W. Fauver moved his family to Johnsonburg, where he is employed at the paper mill.  
J. M. Olsen was a business caller at Emporium Tuesday.  
Born, Friday morning to Mr. and Mrs. Grant Haynes, a baby girl. Mother doing well.  
A. F. Walker visited Emporium between trains Monday.  
Thomas Gilmartin, who was injured some days ago, was very much worse Sunday. His children are all at his bedside.  
Mrs. Dan Sullivan left on Erie mail Monday to visit her daughter Annie at Hornesville, N. Y., over Christmas.  
J. F. S.  
Dec. 19, 1905.

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Between **THREE** per cent. and **FOUR** per cent. there is a difference of \$1.00 on every hundred dollars invested—proportionate on other amounts.

### WHO GETS IT?

You should receive for your funds the highest interest return consistent with absolute safety. No question about that. This bank, founded in 1862, has continuously paid interest on Savings and Time Deposits and Certificates of Deposit.

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and interest is compounded twice yearly. Its Careful, Capable, Conservative management combined with its great financial strength, having

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guarantees security. Non-residents of Pittsburgh can transact their business with convenience and safety by means of its system of

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## MRS. M. A. ROCKWELL'S DRUG STORE.

My Lable is a personal guarantee of the quality of my goods and my twenty years in this profession has taught me your wants.

Be sure to call at the up-to-date DRUG STORE for

### TOILET ARTICLES PERFUMES and STATIONERY

Prescriptions a speciality.

## MRS. M. A. ROCKWELL The Druggist.

# FIRE SALE!

## Sweeping Reduction

\$10,000 worth of Hardware of all kinds must be sold during the next Ten Days, regardless of cost in order to allow repairs to be made on building.

## Bargains For All.

### MURRY & COPPERSMITH CO.