A Vagrant Christmas

ALBERT EDWARD CONVERSE

(Copyright by Frank A. Munsey Co.) and Mrs. Jackson Smith understood each other perfectly on the Christmas present proposition. This satisfactory state of affairs did not come about the first year of their wedded life, nor even the second. The third Christmas was almost at hand before Mr. Smith discovered accidentally, but to his intense joy, that Mrs. Smith rel-

cravats, mufflers, et cetera. That their friends could not be taken in on the combination wa., however, a thorn in the flesh of each of them.

ished his selection of furs, gloves, cur-

"The worst has happened," said Mrs. Smith, interrupting Mr. Smith's perusal of the paper Christmas morn-

"A messenger just brought a present from the Snivelys, and I forgot to put them on my list. It's a book and

we've got to send them something." "Well, what are we going to do about the Snivelys?" growled Mr. Smith.

"Jack," said she in a moment, "I've had an inspiration. Why couldn't we send the Snivelys the book that Cousin Lucy sent us? Neither of them will ever know it."

"By George! We'll do it," said Mr. Smith, after considering the propo-"Where is Cousin Lucy's sition. book?"

"It's on the desk," said Mrs. Smith. "Just put our cards in the book and wrap it up neatly. I'll call a messeuger boy."

Half an hour later Mr. Smith handed a package, addressed to Mr. Snively, to a messenger boy and saw him depart with it. He was luxuriously stretched out on a davenport when Mrs. Smith came into the room a few minutes later.

"Jack," said Mrs. Smith, holding a book in her hand, "I thought you were going to wrap this book up." Mr. "Great Scott!" exclaimed Smith, jumping to his feet. 'I did

wrap up some book. The messenger has already been here and I gave it to him."

"How long has the boy been gone?" demanded Mrs. Smith. "About ten minutes."

"Get your things on. Be quick, and maybe you can reach the Snivelys' before the boy and get that dreadful Searching First Calmly and Then With book away from him! How could you have been so careless?"

Mrs. Smith was almost frantic. Down to the nearest street car tore

Mr. Smith, fairly consumed with rage. He had arrived at the down town district when, with a thrill of joy, he laughing uproariously. spied the messenger boy. Without walting for the car to stop, Mr. Smith jumped off and started on a run for the boy.

At the same moment the messenger boy saw him, and, without knowing why he was being pursued, he obeyed his first impulse and ran too.

In a moment a dozen had foined in the chase. Down the street came the poor messenger boy, frantically straining every muscle to get away from the mob pursuing him. Suddenly two men from a cross street ran in front of the boy. One threw his arms around the fugitive, holding his fast; the other man seized the package the boy was carrying.

"Why, Snively! This package is addressed to you!" he exclaimed. "Why, so it!" said the man who

had caught the boy. In a moment they were surrounded and took charge of the boy.

"Hold on there, officer, the boy's

as he recognized Mr. Smith. But Mr. Smith was standing as one

dazed. He had caught sight of Mr. that you sent to the Snivelys." Snively with the book under his arm. "Hello, Smith," said Mr. Snively. "I just now caught this boy, and found him carrying a package ad-

dressed to me, so took charge of it. Do you know anything about it?" "Why-why-er-yes," stammered Mr. Smith, trying to collect his wits.

'You see, I sent the package." "Well, why were you chasing the

boy?" asked the policeman, a little impatiently.

The perspiration stood out on poor Mr. Smith's forehead. "I-- I was afraid I hadn't given the

boy the right address, and was trying to stop him to find out," he blurted in desperation.

The policeman looked at Mr. Smith curiously. He was convinced that he was lying, though with what object he could not imagine.

"The package has come to the right tellow anyway," said Snively, laugh- in the morning." ing. "I'm going right home, so I'll take it along with me."

you to do that, old man!" cried Mr. settled himself in comfort, "Christ of great for Smith. "Just give it back to the boy: | mas comes but once a year!"

he'll take it to the nouse for you." "Nonsense!" said Mr. Snively. "It's light package and I don't mind

carrying it a particle." Mr. Smith ground his teeth with How was he to get that book away from Snively?

"Snively," said he, my office is only a few doors down the street. Come up and smoke a cigar with me. I've got some good ones."

A few minutes later Mr. Smith ushered Mr. Snively into his office.

"Sit down here, Snively," said he, offering his guest a chair. "Let me have your package; I'll put it over here on my desk.'

He took the book eagerly and put it on his desk out of sight. As he smoked and talked, he racked his brain for a scheme to get Snively out of the room without his book. "Good morning, gentlemen. Merry

Christmas." It was Smith's partner, Perkins, who thus addressed them as he came

out of his private office. Suddenly a brilliant scheme took shape in his mind. He proceeded im-

mediately to put it into execution. "By the way, Perkins, I have a Christmas present for you." As he spoke, he picked up Snively's package tains, rugs, and so on, no more than and, holding it so that Snively could did he her choice of smoking-jackets, not see it, walked over the Perkins and hapded it to him.

> "But-but-" Perkins protested. "Take it and keep your mouth shut, or I'll choke you!" whispered Smith flercely.

"Oh, thank you very much," said the astonished Perkins. "Well, I must be getting home. Good morning." After talking a few moments longer, Snively rose to go.

"Can I trouble you for my package, now?" he said. "Oh, yes," said Smith, going to his



Apparent Annoyance,

desk and searching first calmly and then with apparent annoyance. "By George! It isn't here," he announced in a surprised tone.

Suddenly he sat down and began "Do you know what I've done?" he

said as soon as he had his mirth somewhat under control. "I gave Perkins your package. I forgot that I took his ed present home last night, and my wife sent it over this morning with a present for Mrs. Perkins."

laughing. "It doesn't make a particle of difference." They parted, laughing good-natured-

ly over the blunder. Smith arrived home soon after, congratulating himself on his generalship. gift in the exchange to appear as

soon as he stepped into the house, "I thing ten times its value. hope you haven't had any trouble!" "Well, I've had just about the most strenuous time I've experienced in

many moons," said Smith. "I came out all right though." "I'm so sorry," said Mrs. Smith. "Now I hope you won't be angry, Jack, by a crowd. A policeman rushed up but you hadn't been gone but a few moments when I discovered that you hadn't sent Mrs. Snively's book, after all right!" cried Mr. Smith, who had all. I found her book lying on the arrived upon the scene by this time. floor by the center-table, where, in "What do you know about this af- some way, it had been knocked off. fair?" said the policeman respectfully, The only book that is missing is the one that Mr. and Mrs. Perkins sent us, so that must have been the one

Mr. Smith collapsed into the nearest chair. "Ping-a-ling-a-ling," went the tele-

Mr. Smith, still in a dazed condition, rose and answered it.

"Hello, is that you, Smith?" said s

voice. "This is Perkins." Smith braced himself for the worst. "I didn't quite understand about that present you gave me down at the office. When I got home I found that it had Snively's name on it."

"Oh." "I thought there must be some mis take about it, so I didn't open it." "You say you didn't open it?"

"No." "Thank Heaven!" "What do you say?"

"I said that you did right. It was just a little joke on Snively." "Is that so? Well, I'll bring the package down to the office with me

"Thank you. Good-by." "Thank heaven," said Smith as be "Oh, I couldn't think of allowing hung up the receiver and once more and every one of our gifts as tidings

Christmas Giving Should Be Prompted by the Heart.

Religion in the Orthodox Sense Not Necessary to Appreciate Finer Qualities of Great Christian Holiday.

By PRUDENCE STANDISH.

NCE more the Christmastide and its beautiful meaning is with the world. Again the shepherds, watching their flocks by night, are sore afraid at the glory which shines about them. Clothed in blinding light, the angel speaks; the heavenly host that crowds suddenly about him sing of glory in the highest and peace and good will. The wise men who have seen his star in the East, kneel and spread their gifts of gold and myrrh

and frankincense without question. The miracle of 2,000 years ago is still new and glad and lovely, for, lo! in all Christendom bells peal and sweet choirs sing the message given by the blinding angel and the crowding host:

"For behold I bring you tidings of great joy which shall be to all people. Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."

This is the message of the Christmastide, yet the bigger half of Christendom makes the period the pagan festival it once was at the time of the winter solstice. We give gifts, for sake of the gods of custom and merriment, forgetting entirely that they are for sake of the great piritual "which shall be to all people." The gold and myrrh and frankincense of the heart are withheld-we give gifts because we've got to, and keep our hearts as much closed to the Christmas child as was the inn. We have our own selfish ends to gain the rich patron to cater to, the friend to appease. We heap little children with dazzling toys, and light the starry lamps of their fir trees because it is the fashion, and we do our small Christmas charities because it would seem mean not to do them.

We have forgotten the joyous and sublime meaning of Christmas. One does not need to be religious in the orthodox sense to appreciate the finer quality of this great festival, for what is known as Christian feeling has come to be a moral obligation at this time-a point of etiquette, in truth, for the heart and mind.

In point of mere etiquette-what the social world thinks on the subject of Christmas gift giving-it is thought bad taste for a person of modest means to give presents of value to others of wealth and influence, for this savors too much like currying to continued favor if the giver is already under obligations. But some knowledge of the helpful friend's existence is necessary, and this may take the form of a pretty Christmas card with an appropriate greeting; or a knot of flowers or winter berries may be sent with a note expressing warm Christ-

mas wishes. That the servant who has given her bodily strength and heart's best interest to the home must not be forgotten, goes without saying; but it is certainly bad form to make the poor servitor's gift an inexpensive trifle when something better can be afford-

Then what a woeful want of taste it shows for us to defer buying a friend's or sister's present until we "Oh, that's all right," said Snively, have found out what she means to give us, and so make the exchange a quid pro quo. The gift that goes to friend or relative is above all one for love, and it is undoubtedly better taste for the recipient of the simpler "Oh, Jack," cried Mrs. Smith, as pleased as if she had received some-

> But, then, what matters the nature of the gift after all? The spirit is the thing-and does not this silly picture or cushion, so unbecoming to the parlor, mean that the friend or sister

> has thought of us? As for the little children, so much are their feelings painfully strained at this time that I would like to write a book on the subject. I beg every mother not to threaten the poor little heart that misbehaves sometimes with the eternal word that "Santa Claus won't come if you do that any more." The dear kiddle who forgets to be good knows better after a year or two of this harrowing threat, which makes you out a story teller. Meanwhile there is the little heart staying awake at night with its dreadful anxieties; there are the sudden storms of bitter tears, with all the glory of Christmas sunk in the bottomless pit of absolute sureness that Santy-dear, abused, good old fat gentleman-won't come. We remember the poor and drop a few pennies gladly for the blind chil-

But, why do we do it-why? It is because a wide, sweet star has stopped over a stable in the far East, because the church choirs are singing of peace on earth and good will toward

So let us never lose sight of that bol of the completed year. fact with our gifts, whether our hands tender or receive them; for the heart closed to the deeper significance of Christmas may truly be likened to the inn that held no room. Let us send with each gift some of the heart's true gold and frankincensebind it with the cord of some memory of Bethlehem. Let us receive each Now doth the Christmas shopper

Santa Claus Bays: | monnecan

A face wreathed in smiles is better than a mansion wreathed in holly.

9 Better broken toys than broken I Never look a gift object in the price tag.

¶ Santa Claus by any other name would cost as much—and be 4 Do not be satisfied with wishing

people a "Merry Christmas;" help

make It one. Q Lots of men put on long white whiskers and think they look like me when they look more like a goat-and perhaps they are. If Willie wants to see what is

inside the drum, for goodness sake let him. ¶ You are living in God's own country. What more do you want for Christmas.

It is a wise Santa who keeps his whiskers away from the candles. I Keep up the "Good will to man" part of it right through until next Christmas. It is more blessed to give than

to receive, except in the matter of offense. I Fortunately for most of us, we won't get what we deserve on

4 When Christmas giving becomes a necessity it ceases to be a virtue. ¶ There is more joy in heaven over a ton of coal given to the poor than a ton of diamonds given to

Song of the **Christmas**Tree By Gene Morgan

come from northern forest lands

Where men would tarry never, The seasons come, the seasons go, But I am green forever.

The flowers of spring bloom at my feet, The shadows always spreading. Near by there runs a forest path Where watchful deer are treading.

The summer passes all too soon And autumn winds are chilly. oor flowers, they wither, droop and die Amid the woodland hilly.



From every branch, sad tears I drip In rainstorm's flerce endeavor The Sowers may come, the flowers may

But I am green foreyer. Now hark! the woodman's ax is heard!

A sister tree he's felling. What can this cruel destruction mean? The winter wind is telling: "Do not bemoan thy mournful fate,

The axmen wield with madness. Sedecked in tinsel, bright and fine, You'll soon bring children gladness. Thou canst not die, although thy trunk

Harsh hatchet blows may sever Within the little children's hearts Thou wilt be green forever!



Origin of Christmas Tree.

The Christmas tree is supposed by great numbers of people to have originated in Germany, but from a reliable source we learn that the Christmas tree came in the first instance from Egypt, and its origin dates from a period much earlier than the Christian era. The palm tree is known to put forth a branch every month, and a spray of this tree with 12 shoots on it was used in Egypt at the time of the winter solstice as a sym-



SEASONABLE PRICES.

With happiness elate, Buy something that was forty-nina Marked up to ninety-eight

KEEP MORE FOWL THE NEWS TOLD HAVE CHEAPER EGGS

Tener Proud of Public Service Latest Happenings Gleaned Commission Act.

REVISED STATE TOTALS LIVE NOTES AND COMMENTS.

Senator Herbst Against Suffrage Local Option - Revised State Totals Made Up At Capitol-Speaker Of State House.

Must Keep More Fowl.

Soaring prices of eggs and the steady decrease in poultry products will continue indefinitely in this country unless there is an unprecedented increase in the number of fowls kept on farms, according to M. C. Kilpatrick, in charge of poultry husbandry at the Pennsylvania State College. He said the operation of the law of supply and demand, and not the cold storage warehouse or the foot and mouth disease, was the cause of the present market condition

"Market reports show," said Mr. Kilpatrick, "that the prices of poultry products have been steadily advancing for the last twenty years. These advances are due to three causes: The rapid increase in consuming population, an increase in the per capita consumption, due both to the increased price of beef and other meats, and a growing preference for poultry products, and a slow increase in the number of barn-yard fowls. From farms the great bulk of poultry products must, of necessity, come." He pointed out that Pennsylvania ranks fifteenth among the States in average farm income from poultry.

Public Service Commission Act.

Ninety-four men, representing the railroad brotherhoods in Pennsylvania called on Governor Tener and extended the thanks of their fellow-employes for his kindness to them during his term of office. The men met the Governor in the large reception room at the Capitol. Milton T. Robinson acted as spokesman. Governor Tener made tribute to the Public Service Commission. The Governor stated that of all the legislation that has been enacted during his administration, if he should be called upon to specify, he felt prouder of the law creating the Public Service Commission than any other. He characterized this law as one that was needed in Pennsylvania more than any other and one under which the poor man could get redress as well as the wealthy.

Revised State Totals.

Harrisburg .- Revised official figures from Allegheny county received at the Department of the Secretary of the Commonwealth show the correct vote of the State for Senator and Governor. According to these late official figures more votes were cast for Gover-

nor than for any other position, the

1,111,788 polled in the Senatorial contest. The revised totals are as follows: Senator - Palmer, D., 265,415; Palmer, scattering, 21: total, 266,436. Pinchot, W., 202 545; B. M., 48,875; R. P., 17,755; total, 269,175. Penrose, R., 499,336; P. L., 20,485; scattering,

9: total, 519,830. Governor-McCormick, D., 312.543; W., 140,329; total, 452.882. Brumbaugh, R., 534.898; K., 37,847; P. L., 17.956: total, 599.701.

Dr. Dixon Heads Academy Of Sciences. At the annual meeting of the Academy of Natural Sciences the following officers were elected:

President Dr. Samuel G. Dixon, reelected for his nineteenth consecutive term. Vice-presidents, Edward S. Conklin

and John Cadwalader. Secretary and librarian, Edwin J. Nolan. Corresponding, secretary, J. Percy

Moore. Treasurer, George Vaux, Jr. Curators, Dr. Samuel G. Dixon, Dr. Henry A. Pilsbury, Dr. Witmer Stone and Dr. Henry Tucker.

Against Suffrage-Local Option.

Expressing the opinion that neither Jefferson nor Jackson would have favored local option, Senator E. M. Herbst in an interview stated that he would vigorously oppose woman's suffrage and local option at the next session of the Legislature. Dr. Herbst said he thought it wrong for any faction to legislate or dictate what the other should eat or drink. On the subject of woman suffrage, the Senator said that the quarrel of most women seeking the franchise is not with men, but with the Almighty for not creating them men

State Free Of Federal War Tax.

Attorney General John C. Bell gave an opinion to heads of departments of the State government, in which he beld that State licenses and certificates do not need to contain Federal law stamps, saying, "The Federal Government can not by law impose any specific duties upon State officials with reference to the collection of the tax required by the act of Congress. It is no part of your official duty to require such certificates or licenses to

IN PARAGRAPHS

From All Over the State.

Scranton Merchant Dies From Assassin's Bullet - Falling Wires Start Fire In Coal Mine. Son Kills Father.

Fire of peculiar origin broke out in the rich coal measures of the No. 9 Mine of the Lehigh Coal & Navigation Company, Mahanoy City, Falling electric lines coming in contact with the timbering and then igniting the coal beds is the cause ascribed by the officiass who all day directed a fire-fighting force. The blaze, which is hundreds of feet underground, is being fought with difficulty owing to the overpowering fumes of smoke and noxious gases

Anthony Sylvester, a merchant of Nicholson, died from bullet wounds inflicted at his store Sunday evening. Last week the merchant received a letter threatening his life because he had caused the arrest of two boarders when they failed to pay their board bill. These boarders, Tony Justianna and J. Virginia, are now being sought by the police. Sylvester was at his store when two men came up behind him Sunday and shot him.

George Eby, miner at the Philadelphia & Reading Bear Valley Colliery. had a miraculous escape from death. With a number of men he was work ing on a timber chute when he lost his balance and plunged into the cavity which is almost perpendicular. He fell 180 feet and fellow workmen who expected to find his lifeless body at the bottom found he had escaped with slight bruises and lacerations about the head and body.

Because Mrs. Elizabeth McQuall, of New Philadelphia, bequeathed her \$30,-000 estate, to two neighbors, relatives. a response in which he paid a high led by her brother, Thomas McQuail, a Civil War veteran, are contesting the will maintaining that undue pressure was brought to bear upon the decedent, who it is alleged made the will the night she died. In a previous will she had made bequests to churches and charitable institutions and to relatives.

> The Board of Trustees of Lafayette College, Easton, unanimously elected Dr. John Henry MacCracken, Syndic (administrative officer) and professor of political philosophy of New York University, to be president of the local institution. Announcement of the choice was made immediately after the session of the board to the student body and faculty, who had been

Miss Ida Fruitigar, of Taylor, and revised total being 1,112,207, against Rev. Raymond M. Custer, of Pittsburgh, have been married in far-off Africa, where they are serving as missionaries. The bride and bridegroom are graduates of the Missionary School at Nyack and were sweethearts there before graduation. Miss Fruitigar went to Africa fourteen months ago and Mr. Custer followed four months

later.

ment.

called together for the purpose.

Running mad in a crowd of Christmas shoppers, a dog bit Minnie Horwing and Alexander Mack at Norristown. The animal was shot and its head sent to the University of Pennsylvania Veterinary Der rtment, where an examination showed that it was suffering from rabies. The patients will be given the Pasteur treat-

A pair of white squirrels were shot near McVeytown. Both squirrels were killed within a few hundred feet of each other and were in all probability mates. James Swigart was the first hunter to kill one of these beautiful animals and the other was killed by A. J. Jenkins. The squirrels were pure white without a blemish.

Two men were blown through a window when the waterback of a stove in the shop of a Scranton firm of picture dealers exploded. The men are William Rose, a member of the firm, and Julius Brown, a customer. The stove was blown to small pieces and the store partly wrecked. Rose and Brown were not seriously injured.

While being lowered by his son into a forty-five-foot well that they were digging, Benjamin Wenrich, aged sixty-three, of Allentown, fell to his death when his coat caught in a nail and loosened his grip on the rope. Wenrich fell nearly the entire depth and fractured his skull.

Dorothy, four years old, and Jerome two, children of Andrew Spleen, of Shelby Summit, were burned to death when fire destroyed their home. Other members of the family escaped by jumping from windows in their night

Introducing himself as a census taker, a well-dressed young man called at the home of Peter Price, Scranton. took the names of members of the family, walked around the block and be stamped or to affix or cancel such re-entered the house. This time he took valuables worth \$300.