The Christmas Tree While the winter snows are dressi All the trees in spotless white, and the twilight and the fire-light Bound my ingle Blend and mingle, And the night Creepeth on apace, there towers On my hearth a tree whose flowers Sure are born in elfin bowers

Tis the king of all the cedars, And its branches, green and fair, With their weight of golden fruitage Bend and glisten; And I listen, Seems with benisons replete, Which my lips and heart repeat, Borne on incense weird and sweet Incense sweet beyond compare.

Myriads of dainty baubles Myriads of dainty battories

Nestled in its branches are ;

Ranks of shining, tinted tapers,

Flashing, gleaming,

Each one seeming Like the star Which through all the toil and danger Led the magii to the manger Where was born the Royal Stranger From the heavenly court afar

As the tapers, slowly burning, Set in darkness, one by one, And the troops of rosy children Round my ingle Throng and mingle; While the fun And the look of glad surprise Fade from out their sated eyes 'Tell us now," my princess cries,
''Of the Blessed Virgin's Son."

Little Princess Golden-Locks, Throned upon my knee again, Waits to hear the old, old story, Which hath never

How the Eastern sages bring Treasures to the Peasant Ring, And the hosts of heaven sing ' Peace on earth, good-will to man

## Christmas in Anderson Court.

It was not a palace—it was only one dingy little room where Maggie Burton lived. It was one of the twenty or thirty very humble homes in Anderson court, not far from a busy, bright street

lived. It was one of the twenty or thirty very humble homes in Anderson court, not far from a busy, bright street in a great city.

It was the day before Christmas that Maggie sat in this forlorn room tending baby and trying to keep her two brothers still "so she could think," as she said.

Maggie was only ten years old, but she had to be mother to these boys and to the baby from morning till night, almost every day in the week, for very hard times had come to this family, and Mrs. Burton had, for several months, been obliged to leave her little ones and "go out washing." It had not always been quite so bad—but Maggie could never remember when they were not poor, though she remembered they used to have a neat room and plenty to eat and wear. Before the strike, Mr. Burton got very fair wages, and as Mrs. Burton was a very good manager, and they all had been well, they got along very comfortably. But now for four months the men had been on a strike at the mills, and Mr. Burton had earned nothing since, except what he would get now and then for little jobs of work, so that Mrs. Burton had to go out washing to get food for the children.

Maggie was singing to the worrying baby in her arms, and the boys were playing horse terrifically, when she exclaimed impatiently:

"Now, boys, I wish you would keep still, so I can think."

"What do you want to think about?" said Johnny, pushing his brother over, and coming to Maggie's side.

"I'm trying to think about Christmas and the handsome things in the store-windows, and I'm trying to think how nice it would be to be a lady, with lots of money of buy dresses and dolls, and topys and candy."

"Candy!" exclaimed Georgie, picking himself up from the floor and stopping his crying; "I wish I had some candy! Can't we get some, Maggie?"

"No, Georgie, we can't have one bit. Mother says if we can get bread we may

some candy! Can't we get some, Maggie?"

"No, Georgie, we can't have one bit. Mother says if we can get bread we may be glad. I do wish we could have something nice to-night; and I do wish mother would come, I'm so tired."

"Maggie, do you think we'll ever have money enough to buy nice things?" asked Johnny, his round eyes growing very large and thoughtful, and his chin resting on his dirty hand.

"I'm sure I don't know, Johnny; I guess not—unless the mills begin again, and I don't think then we could ever have a carpet, or good clothes, or a big looking-glass like they have one place where mother washes."

"Where do some men get so much money?" Johnny asked; "because I'm going to get a lot when I'm big.—if I can find out where it comes from."

"I'm sure I don't know," said Maggie; "I guess they find it."

When Mrs. Burton came home, weary and worn, Georgie ran to her, pulling her dress and teasing, "Mamma, did you bring me a horse for Christmas?"

"I've brought you some bread. That is all the Christmas gift you children will get this year," and she cut some large pieces from a loaf, which the little boys grasped with their dirty hands and ste voraciously."

"Now, Maggie," she said, "lay the

Maggie and here brothers looked in at the windows of a candy store, and talked about old snow-covered Santa Claus and his pretty raindeer, and the candy animals, and the pepped-corn baby, and the pretty things for Christmas-trees. Then they ran on to a toy store whose windows were a wonder-world of beauty.

"Oh, I wish I had that doll with the red silk dress on," said Maggie.

"I'd like that drum, and that funny man that keeps his head going, and that donkey, and them steam cars, and that fiddle," rattled Johnny.

"Oh, there's the fing I want—that wooden horse," said Georgie, "Maggie, can't I have that horse!—it won't cost more'n two cents."

made us poor, or else we wouldn't be so."

Just then a big boy with a sled in his hand and a great package on his shoulder passed. Swinging the sled carelessly, it hit George and threw him upon the walk. He screamed frightfully. Maggie and Johnny rushed to help him.

"Is he much hurt?" asked a lady who had a few moments before alighted from a carriage, and who had lingered to hear the curious talk of the children.

"Oh, I hope not," said Maggie, trying to lift her screaming brother, "for we're so poor. "Twould kill mother if his leg is broken, and we would all starve, I know."

She succeeded at last in getting him on his feet, and rubbed his leg and comforted him.

forted him forted him,

When Maggie found he could stand,
and was beginning to stop crying, she
turned to look at the lady, who still

turned to look at the lady, who still stood by them.
She saw a beautiful girl, so lovely and so richly dressed it seemed to Maggie it must be a fairy; for to tell the truth, Maggie had always been expecting to meet a fairy.

Her grandmother had told her about the wierd folk, till she believed something might happen to her as well as to Cinderella. The lady stood looking at the beautiful golden hair from which the faded shawl had slipped and scanning the ragged little boys, and trying to recall their strange words about being poor.

ing poor.
"Don't you have any nice Christmas at your house?" she asked,
"No, indeed; we're too poor," said

at your house?" she asked,
"No, indeed; we're too poor," said
Maggie.
"And you cams out to see the pretty
toys you cannot buy," said the lady.
And Maggie, still half believing it
might be a fairy or a magic god-mother,
or some such creature, told her all about
their hard times—about her sad father
and her weary mother, and the strike,
and how hungry they sometimes were,
and how she tended the haby all day,
and kept just a little bit of fire because
they couldn't afford to be very warm.
People passing turned to see the curious group, and many smiled because
the grand, proud young lady had so forgotten herself as to talk to a set of dirty
children in the open street, where everybody could see her.
But the proud young lady cared very
little for the opinion of the world just
then. She was not even conscious of
the people who were passing. After a
few moments she turned back to her
carriage and drove away.

Maggie thought how happy she must
be, she was so beautiful and so rich; but
if Maggie could have seen the toru and
tortured heart beneath the velvet robe,
she would have felt more pity than admiration.

The children lingered till they knew
everything in the window hy heart and

miration.

The children lingered till they knew everything in the window by heart, and then, helping on the limping Georgie, they went on to others, till they had seen, Maggie said, "all the pretty things in the world." "It's fun to look at them, if we can't have them," she said, as they turned down the dark street and into Anderson court to their desolate home.

into Anderson court to their desolate home.

And very desolate did it seem to Maggie that night. She wanted to cry, but would not, because it would make her father and mother feel badly. There was just a little fire in the grate, for the coal was almost gone. Her mother was walking with the crying baby and had not even a smile for the children when they came in; and when they told her of Georgie's accident she only said: "I'm glad it was not worse."

Mr. Burton was seated on a low bench, his elbows on his knees, and his face buried in his hands. Georgie went to his father's side and said, "Papa, a big boy hurt me, and a purty lady came and said she was sorry; and I saw the

in bench, his elbows on his knees, and his face buried in his hands. Georgie went to his father's side and said, "Papa, a big boy hurt me, and a purty lady came and taid she was sorry; and I saw the purtiest horse and everyfing; and can't I have the horse for Christmas !"

"Go away, boy," said Mr. Burton sorry in "Go away, boy," said Mr. Burton had no buy food for to-morrow."

"Tather, something good will turn up soon, I'm sure," ahe said tenderly, and then took her brothers by the hand and led them to a dusky corner of the room, where they talked low for a long in the bouse to-night," said Johnny.

Christmas morning the bells rang out on the frosty air, filling thousands of hearts with joy; but there was no gladines in the sound to this dejected family. The bells said to thousands of hearts with joy; but there was no gladines in the sound to this dejected family. The working in this house to-night," said Johnny. The working is great and excellent change in the sound to this dejected family. The bells said to thousands of hearts with joy; but there was no gladines in the sound to this dejected family. The bells said to thousands of hearts with joy; but there was no gladines in the sound to this dejected family. The bells said to thousands of hearts with joy; but there was no gladines in the sound to this dejected family. The bells said to thousands of hearts with joy; but were no "Merry Christmas" wishes exchanged in that dismal home.

Mr. Burton had no words for his child, and believing something beautiful to dear when they had hardly the development of the devel

ton, "there wasn't anything to come

"This is the place," said the man, with a smile, and he placed on the floor a box which Mrs. Burton began to exa box which Mrs. amine.
"Oh, there's my horsey!" scream
"Ohoggie," "I knowed I'd have the

the pretty things for Christmas-trees. Then they ran on to a toy store whose windows were a wonder-world of beauty.

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"Oh, there's the fing I want—that wooden horse," said Georgie. "Maggie, can't I have that horse!—it won't cost more'n two cents."

"No, Georgie, it costs awful much, I know, and we're so poor," groaned Maggie.

"What makes us poor? Is it because we're bad?" asked Georgie.

"No, I don't think father is bad; he doesn't drink a drop. I guess God made us poor, or else we wouldn't be so,"

Lust than a hig boy with a sled in his.

"I have some flour for him, and some

"Mr. Burton live here?"

"Yes."

"I have some flour for him, and some other articles."

In came a barrel of flour and a turkey, and half a dozen other things which taste good on Christmas.

This time they all began to laugh. Mrs. Burton laughed more than she had in four months, and Mr. Burton smiled and said "he'd like to know who had dared to send them these things," and somehow the words came into his mind, "Good-will to men," "Peace on earth."

"There's some good-will in the world after all."

When the third man knocked and said

after all."

When the third man knocked and said he brought a load of coal, there was such laughing, and talking, and hopping around of children it would have blessed your heart to have heard them.

"I knew that lady was a fairy, or a princess, or something," said Maggie. "She has sent these things, for she asked where we lived, and said, 'Dear heart,' when I told her about you all, and that we hadn't only enough coal to last a few days, and how hungry we got."

mat a few days, and how hungry we got."

Mr. Burton went to get the coal in, and said he never was so glad of work in his life; and Johnny filled the grate and made such a fire as they had not seen since the winter before.

"I wonder what'll come next," said Maggie, clapping her hands and jumping up and down in her gladness.

"My child, don't expect anything more. I'm afraid all this will prove only a dream," said Mrs. Burton.

But something more did come, and this time it was the princess herself. She shrank back a moment when she saw the dirty floor, the ragged bedstead, and thought of six people crowded in this one little room. Her daintiness and elegance had never before come face to this one little room. Her daintiness and elegance had never before come face to face with such squalor, but she had been passing through great experiences of late, and she was brave enough to et this

"And this is the little girl who told so touchingly her sad story last even-ing?" she said, stroking Maggie's golden locks.

so touchingly her sad story last evening?" she said, stroking Maggie's golden
locks.

"And this is your mother, and this
your father," she said, shaking their
hands and smiling so sweetly that Mr.
Burton said afterward it was just like an
angel right from heaven.

"It thought I would drop in and wish
you a merry Christmas," she said.

"Mr. Burton wiped the tears on his
sleeve and began thanking the lady.

"The good Lord has sent us help in
our distress," he said.

"If He has shown me how I can be
good for something, I am glad," she
said with a smile. "Your little girl
tells me you are in trouble and I have
come to see if I can help you out of it."

Now I need not tell you, my reader,
how they talked till Mr. Burton said
"all the trouble seemed lifted off their
hearts;" and how, after she went away,
they set the turkey roasting before the
fire; and how they were so hungry they
only waited for one side to get done, and
sliced it off and ate it while the other
side was cooking; and how the children
ate nuts and candy till they couldn't eat
any more, and carried some to all the
children in the court; and how Mr. Burton said he never saw such a blessed
day in all his life; and how he tended
the baby, and kissed Maggie half a
dozen times, when she put her arms
around his neck and hugged him so
hard, he couldn't help it; and how the
children in Anderson court came in to
see the beautiful doll in the red silk
drees; and how they squeezed the rubber doll till it burst; and how the boys
wanted to beat Johnny's drum "jest two
times;" and how they squeezed the rubber doll till it burst; and how the boys
wanted to beat Johnny's drum "jest two
times;" and how they squeezed the rubber doll till it burst; and how the
boys of the boys of the pool of the pool

unble sed little children instead of

unblessed little children instead of trinkets for herself.

And if you will believe it, this proud princess, who had scorned the humble and fancied herself better and more blessed than others, had a happier heart on that Christmas than ever in her life before. I think her heart was happier than even those which she blessed.

That Christmas night, when she lay upon her couch, she saw a new and better life opening before her; and with an exaltation of soul she had never known before, she said, "Dear Lord, it is indeed more blessed to give than to receive!"

## Hearts Overworked.

Hearts Overworked.

No organ in the body is so liable to be overworked as the heart. When every other part of the body sleeps, it keeps on its perpetual motion. Every increased effort or action demands from the heart more force. A man runs to catch a train, and his heart beats audibly. He drinks wine, and the blood rushes through its reservoir faster than ever was intended by nature. His pulse rises after each course at dinner. A telegram arrives, and his heart knocks at his side. And when any one of these "excitements" is over, he is conscious of a corresponding depression—a sinking or emptiness as it is called. The healthy action of all the members of our frame depends upon the supply of blood received from the central fountain. When the heart's action is arrested, the stomach, which requires from it a large supply of blood, becomes enfeebled. The brain, also waiting for the blood, is inactive. The heart is a very willing member, but if it be made to fetch and carry incessantly, if it be "put upon," as the unselfsh member of a family Supply of blood, becomes enteched, in inactive. The heart is a very willing member, but if it be made to fetch and carry incessantly, if it be "put upon," as the unselfish member of a family often is, it undergoes a disorganization which is equivalent to its rupture. And this disorganization begins too often nowadays in the hearts of very young children. Parents know that if their sons are to succeed at any of those competitive examinations which have now become so exigent, high pressure is employed. Hence young persons are stimulated to overwork by rewards and punishments. The sight of a clever boy who is being trained for competition is truly a sad one. The precocious, coached-up children are never well. Their mental excitement keeps up a flush, which, like the excitement caused by strong drink in older children, looks like health, but has no relation to it; in a word, the intemperance of education is overstraining and breaking their young hearts. If in the school-room some hearts are broken from mental strain, in the play-ground and in the gymnasium others succumb to physical strain. "It is no object of mine," says Dr. Richardson, "to underrate the advantages of physical exercise for the young; but I can scarcely overrate the danger of those fierce competitive exercises which the world in general seems determined to appland. I had the opportunity once in my life of living near a rower. He was a patient of mine, suffering from the very form of induced heart disease of which I am now speaking, and he gave me ample means of studying the conditions of many of those whom he trained both for running and rowing. I found occasion, certainly, to admire the physique to which his trained men were brought; the strength of muscle they attained; the force of their heart; but the admiration was qualified by the stern fact of the results." But, indeed, it is not by overwork so much as by worry and anxiety that our hearts are disorganized. "Laborious mental exercise is healthy, unless it be made anxious by necessary or unnec

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NECROLOGY.

Prominent Personages Who Have Died . During 1878.

United States minister to Eussia; Reading, Pa; 64...27. Sir George Gilbert Scott, distinguished English architect; London; 67.

APRIL.—2. Earl of Leitrim, county

APRIL.—2. Earl of Leitrim, county Derry, Ireland; 76....General Thomas C. Deven, United States army; New York...6. Cardinal Guiseppe Berardi; Rome; 68....Dr. Francis Gurney Smith, prominent physician and medical writer; Philadelphia; 61....10. Prince Napoleon Lucien Charles Marat, son of General Marat; London; 75.....11. William M. Tweed, head of the notorious New York "ring;" New York; 55....19. George W. Blunt, New York pilot commissioner; New York; 76.... Major-General John J. Peck, veteran of Mexican war; Syracuse, N. Y.; 58....22. William Orton, president Western Union Telegraph company, New York; 52.

lawyer; Philadelphia; 32.... Maria Christiana, former queen