THE RED LIGHT It was Christmas Eve Evot one of the ideal Christmas Eves of poets and romance writer
wherein the woon is always at the foll, the snow alwass a-sparkle lik ways still and cold and clear, but ing steadily frum the east, the wiu raw sudi biting

## But it was Christmas Eve, all

 were as red as the bitur-sweet berrie up, in the traia that was steaming mas with her Aunt Almira Higgius.Carstmas in the country! To Bor
tha, who had lived all her life in the

## vey somewhat of cheer and joyous ness. Aud Bertha, as she sat wit

## her eyes closed and her little gloved hands safely pestied itoto a gray squirrel muff, beheld is her mind

 eyes great firewide-throated black green tutts of mistletoe; and
she had hatif composed a puew on
Christmas and its cherished associa

## tions when the ruthless conductor came aloog for her ticket. "How far are we from Moutcourt

 station '', she inquired. asup the bit of pasteboard. "s he hurried one, Mi iss," said the man der his arm. Half an hour yet." New York in all her life before,
The driving rain in which she had left her home had changed a the.sy progressed northward into the steady
fall of snow, which fluttered around them like a white waving shroud.
But Bertha Hooper cared litule for this. Had not Aunt Almira prom-
ised to send Zebedee, her son, to the station with the pony to
meet her on the arrival of the six for-

## not Zebedee to bave a lantern with red glass dore to it, so she could iden

 tify him at onShe was very pretty as she sat in
litale black velvet toque, with its curl
ing plume of cardinal red aud the
prety with eighee. She was dark, with
of enge hazel eyes, almoud-shaped and
large hat,
either cheek, and wavy dark bai broad low forhead.
"Mont-Court-station!" bawled the brakeman, puting in a snow pow-
dered fur cap, and withdrawing i again as quickly asif he had been
magnified edition of the Jack-in-th box, which children much rejoice
in holiday time. And Bertha Hoop er knew that she had reched her des tination.
Stif and cramped from the length In one position, she arose np, with a littlesteel-clasped traveling bag in one hand and a dainty silk umbrella in the otber, and made her way to the door.
out upe could see when she stepped form was a blur of stippery platthrough which the lights of the solitary litde country depot gleamed fitflashed athwart her vision like flashed athwart ber vision like refector over the station door saw a tall fine-looking young man, in aet javntily on one side a seal-skin cap chestnut curls, and a red-lighted lantern swinging from his left hand he atood straining his eyes in the stormy darkness, as if to catch sight of some familiar face in the litule orowd.
"Cousin Zebedee!" cried Bertha aloud, and she made one spring into young giant. For bad not she and Zebedee played dominoes and fox and geese, together in the days when she
wore blue ribbon sushes, and his hair was a closely-mat of carroty-red ? to tee you; and I hadn', Im so glad had grown half so handsome? And shegave him a hug, at for a kiss.

But, to her intinite amazement, the is hut one wrquel to stories like this
hero of the sealskin cap seemed a lit-
when youth and bright hero of the sealskin cap seemed a lit- when youth and bright eyes and huhe backward in respouding to ber man bearts are concerned. The next "I-I beg your pardon," said he lightly reetding, "but I'm afral
here is some mistake. My name i
not $Z$ bedee and the lady for whom ot $Z$ bedee and the lady for whom Bertha Huoper started back color tat, confortable looking old lady came trundling along the platiorm in
andia shawl with a boa of Russia an Lhdia shawl with a boa of Russia
able worth its weight in greenbacks.
"Charlie!" she cried, "I thought I ere ?"
"All here and waiting, Aunt Effle,"
"spouded the young man ; but he sill
respouded the young man; bat he still
besitated a second as Bertha Houper
twod with avernd face aud motioulesb
figure in the shadow of the building.
"Can I be of any service to you?"

| " |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |

Bertha Hoo-ooper $\%$ shouted a sten
torian yoice, and a tall, raw-looking
lad with a lantera-al-o alighted with
red glass-rushed shultiog around
the corner.
Zobedee himself! red haired and
bambliog and awkward as be bad


## was

|  |
| :---: |

The tomb of an Indian warrior was
discovered near Perryville, W. Va.
the other day by two hunters. They
first wounded a pather, which disap:
first wounded a panther, which disap:
peared in some sort of a crevice in a
cliff. Following the best ther dis:
covered a cave of considerable siz:
upon exploring which they made a

## "Zebedee," said Bertha, with a cur ous little sound between a laugh an and a sob, "pat me into the cutter quick, snd drive me somewhere.

## don't cara whecre: Because-" "Eb!"'said Zebedee, staring hard at his consin, as he paiked the buffalo robe around ber before touching up the loggard old pony.


court for you ; and I hugged himand
kissed bima."
"Is that all". said philosophical
Zebede. "He wn't
"Nue". said Bertha, ane I shall."
"Nu!" said Bertha, "nut I shall."
"Yon ain's crying, be you" snid
Zebedee, noting the quiver in his

## "How can I hel, it?', wailed poor

"Twa
Zebedee, consolingly.
'Of sourse it wara't said Bettha impatiently. "How was I to kncw that every lantera in Mont sourt had
gor in it?" And poor little Bertha cried herse: to sleep that night.
The next morning-Christmas Day
all snowed up into glorious drifts ever all snowed up into glorious drifts ev to the Higgins farm-house. The young lady had dropped a fur glove on the platform, and Mr. Harcourt
felt it his duty to restore it to her. Harcuurt hesitated a litule. Charley Miss Hooper would excuse himed Miss Hooper would excuse bim for fancy him her cousio.
'I ought to have explained sooner,' said he.
"No, you ought not,"
"The fault was all mine.
"I don't recognize a fault anywhere,"
"Of course you are !" said Bertha "In that prettier than ever.
by my mother to ask commissioned mission to take you over to help per finish dressing the church in time for morning service. My horse is wait-
ing."
ing."
"May I go, Auut Almira ?" said
Bertha, with sparkling eyes.
"Of course you may go," said Aunt
Almira.
What was the end of it all? There

Christmas eve Beriha Hooper and
Charley Harcourt were married, But
Charley Harcourt were married, But
the bridegroom persists in declaring
hat Bertha did the fist of

HU nuruus.
All the rage- $\boldsymbol{A}$ mad d. g.
As a general thiug, what a man
sews he rips.
The thermometer gains notoriety by
degrees, so to speak.
The man is opposed to vaccination
is probably tobe petted.
Even the most inveterate toper ob.
jects to taking a horn with a bull.
A young lady asks. "How can I
remove supes flanus bair?" Comb the
butter
The man who snid, "There is a gar-
den in her face," was evidently using

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## A PRIZE



