It was Christmas Eve.

Not one of the ideal Christmas Eves of poets and romance writers, wherein the moon is always at the full, the snow always a-sparkle like pulverized diamonds, and the air always still and cold and clear, but stormy twilight, with the snow driving steadily from the east, the wind raw and biting and the sky-what you could see of it-black as ink.

But it was Christmas Eve, all the same and Bertha Hooper's cheeks were as red as the bitter-sweet berries in the woods as she sat all wrapped up, in the train that was steaming northward, on her way to spend Christ mas with her Aunt Aimira Higgins.

Christmas in the country! To Bertha, who had lived all her life in the brick walls and stone pavements of a city, the very words seemed to convey somewhat of cheer and joyousness. And Bertha, as she sat with her eyes closed and her little gloved hands safely pestled into a gray squirrel muff, beheld is her mind's eyes great fires of logs roaring up wide-throated chimneys, walls festooned with hemlock boughs and black green tutts of mistletoe; and she had haif composed a poem on Christmas and its cherished associations when the ruthless conductor came along for her ticket.

"How far are we from Montcourt. station?' she inquired. as she gave up the bit of pasteboard.

"Next but one, Miss," said the man as he hurried on, with his lantern under his arm. Half an hour yet."

She had never been so far from 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 little for this. Had not Aunt Almira promised to send Zebedee, her youngest son, to the station with the pony to meet her on the arrival of the six forty train from New York? And was not Zebedee to have a lantern with a red glass door to it, so she could identify him at once?

She was very pretty as she sat in little black velvet toque, with its curling plume of cardinal red and the Wine-red ribbon bow at her throatpretty with the bloom and freshness of eighteen. She was dark, with large hazel eyes, almoud-shaped and long lashed, a clear, rosy bloom on either cheek, and wavy dark bair hanging in silken fringe over her broad low forhead.

"Mont-Court-station!" bawled the brakeman, putting in a snow powdered fur cap, and withdrawing it again as quickly as if he had been a magnified edition of the Jack-in-thebox, which children much rejoice at in holiday time. And Bertha Hooper knew that she had reched her des-

Stiff and cramped from the length of time in which she had been sitting In one position, she arose up, with a little steel-clasped traveling bag in one hand and a dainty silk umbrella in the other, and made her way to the

All she could see when she stepped out upon the wet and slippery platform was a blur of driving snow, flashed athwart her vision like a set javntily on one side of a crop of fancy him her cousin. chestnut curls, and a red-lighted lantern swinging from his left hand, as he stood straining his eyes in the stormy darkness, as if to catch sight of some familiar face in the little crowd.

"Cousin Zebedee!" cried Bertha aloud, and she made one spring into the arms of this blonde-whiskered young giant. For had not she and Zebedee played dominoes and fox and geese, together in the days when she

was a closely-mat of carroty-red? "Oh Cousin Zebedee, I'm so glad ing." to see you; and I hadn't any idea you had grown half so handsome!"

And she gave him a hug, at the same time holding up her resebud lips for a kiss.

hero of the sealskin cap seemed a little backward in responding to her cousinly advances.

not Z-bedee and the lady for whom I making. am looking is some years older than

Bertha Hooper started back coloring and confused, and as she did so, a fat, comfortable-looking old lady came trundling along the platform in an India shawl with a boa of Russia sable worth its weight in greenbacks.

"Charlie!" she cried, "I thought I never should find you. Is the carriage

"All here and waiting, Aunt Effle," responded the young man; but he still hesitated a second as Bertha Hooper stood with averted face and motionless figure in the shadow of the building.

"Can I be of any service to you?" he asked. "If you are expecting friends who have failed to meet you

"Anybody here by the name of Bertha Hoo-ooper ?" shouted a stentorian voice, and a tall, raw-looking lad with a lantern-also alighted with red glass--rushed shuffling around

Zebedee himself! red haired and bambling and awkward as he bad been in the old fox-and geese days.

"Oh!" said he, catching up his lantern so that the scarlet bird's wings flashed on like a spit of flame-scarcely more scarlet, alas, than Bertha,s own face. "Here you be! I'm a little ate, for the roads is so all-fired bad, and I couldn't start the pony out of a walk. Come on. How de do? Be you very cold ?"

"Zebedee," said Bertha, clinging almost hysterically to her cousin's arm, "who's that young gentleman with-with the other lantern?"

"Eh!" said Zebedee. "That feller with the old lady in a patchwork shawl?"

"It's Charley Harcourt, the squire's on," said Zebedee. "Just come from first wounded a panther, which disap: forrin parts!"

ous little sound between a laugh and and a sob, "put me into the cutter, upon exploring which they made a quick, and drive me somewhere. don't care where! Because-"

"Eh!" said Zebedee, staring hard at his consin, as he packed the buffalo | work formed of flat oblong stones, robe around her before touching up laid with such nicety as to form a he laggard old pony.

"Because," added Berths, in a species of desperation, "I took Mr. Har. had been done by the hand of man. court for you; and I hugged him and kissed him."

Zebedee. "He won't care."

"No!" said Bertha, "out I shall." "You ain's crying, be you?" said Zebedce, noting the quiver in his cousin's voice.

"How can I help it?" wailed poor

"Twarn't no fault o'yourn," said Zebedee, consolingly.

'Of sourse it warn't said Be tha impatiently. "How was I to know that every lantern in Montsourt had a glass door in it?"

And poor little Bertha cried herse'f

to sleep that night. erywhere-Mr. Harcourt drove over through which the lights of the soli- to the Higgins farm house. The tary little country depot gleamed fit- young lady had dropped a fur glove fully; but the next instant something on the platform, and Mr. Harcourt felt it his duty to restore it to her. friendly red eye-and beneath the And moreover-here Mr. Charley bronze. In addition to these trophies reflector over the station door she Harcourt hesitated a little-he hoped saw a tall fine-looking young man, in Miss Hooper would excuse him for a fur trimed overcoat, a seal-skin cap being so stupid as to allow her to

"I ought to have explained sooner,"

"No, you ought not," said Bertha, 'The fault was all mine." "I don't recognize a fault any-

where," said he. "And if I am par-"Of course you are!" said Bertha,

rosier and prettier than ever.

by my mother to ask your aunt's perwore blue ribbon sashes, and his hair finish dressing the church in time for morning service. My horse is wait- of a Washington chemist, to whom becomes operative all persons accept:

Bertha, with sparkling eyes.

"Of course you may go," said Aunt

What was the end of it all? There Lakes.

But, to her infinite amazement, the is but one sequel to stories like this when youth and bright eyes and human hearts are concerned. The next Christmas eve Bertha Hooper and "I-I beg your pardon," said he, Charley Harcourt were married, But slightly receding, "but I'm afraid the bridegroom persists in declaring there is some mistake. My name is that Bertha did the first of the love

And Bertha only laughs .- Amy Randolph

UNTIMELY CUROSITY.

A traveler stopped at a toll-gate and asked the keeper it he had any good, cool water. "John," said the keeper, turning to his son, "fetch me the gun-the one loaded with buck-

"Hold on," said the traveler; "I meant no harm.

"Well, then, I'll let you off."

The traveler rode on wondering why the question had caused offense. He stopped at a house and asked a man if he could tell him why the gate- the building, and it together with the keeper became angry.

carry water about a mile and a half, tirely destroyed. The occupants of and it's always warm by the time he the buildings were fully judemaified gets home with it. Every one that by insurance. The uniosured loss is comes along asks if he's got good, cool \$15,000, all of which falls upon the water. He scarcely hears anything | Mann beire. else from morning until night. The man who kept the gate last year went crazy, but this fellow seems to stand it better. He is rather even tempered, and although he has kept the gate several months, he has only killed two drummers and crippled a boy. I kept that gate once."

"Did the people annoy you?" "Not much. I only had to knock down one man and stab another one but I only kept the gate a week."

"Why don't the fellow dig a well?" "Now, look here; a thousand men have asked me that question. Stranger, I reckon you'd better mosey."-Arkansaw Traveler.

WARRIORS TOMB.

The tomb of an Indian warrior was discovered near Perryville, W. Va.the other day by two hunters. They peared in some sort of a crevice in a "Zebedee," said Bertha, with a curi- cliff. Following the beast they dis: covered a cave of considerable size, most wonderful discovery, described as follows: At one end of the apart. ment they saw some curious stucco perfect wall. A careful examination led them at once to believe that it

After a quarter of an hours labor with an axe a huge rock in the center "Is that all?" said philosophical of the wall gave way, falling into the aterrior and cleaving an aperture perhaps two feet in diameter. A torch thrust through the newly:open: ed passage disclosed to vision that at once astonished and dismayed the men. Stretched upon a bed of skins was the life:sized figure of a colossal Indian warrior, attired in girdle and the mouth, and therefore its ventila: headdress of eagle's feathers and tion was a difficult problem. The beads, with his hands resting on knife and battle axe. The coloring and general appearance of the chieftain so extremely natural as to lead to the spectators to think him but asleep. For a moment this vision lingered, It was soon discovered that many had then wavered and disapered, leaving The next morning-Christmas Day no traces of the gorgeous picture of all snowed up into glorious drifts ev. the dead chieftain save a quantity of few a number of were flint arrow heads, together with a knife and the head of a hatchet composed of an alloy strongly resembling the cave contained a number of curi ously shaped flagons or cups of the same peculiar metal and several fragments of earthernware. Just beneath the spot where the body was lain was found a stone bearing a num ber of hieroglyphics. The knife blade and handle are of the same piece and are about nine inches in length. The knife is very broad, and was doubtless sharpened on both edges. The hatchet head consists of a broad blade several road Company for the benefit of its inches in width, with an aperture for employes will make provisions for "In that case I am commissioned the insertion of a handle. The wear their care in sickness and an appropri: pons are well finished, and appear to ation for their families after death. mission to take you over to help us have been hammered out of some malleable metal, according to the opinion ployes whether they join, but after it the weapons were shown. He made | ing service on any of the lines of the "May I go, Aunt Almira?" said only a brief examination of the alloy, company must become members. but thought it must be impure copper ore, secured probably by the abori-

OLO HEADQUARTERS EURNED IN BEDFORD.

BEDEORD, Pa., Dec. -16. - What is known as the King's House, afterwards as the Rising Sun, an I later as the Mann building, was the most arcient building in Bedford. A por tion of it was the Comman lant's head: quarters in old Fort Belford, when the whiskey insurrection broke out in Westers Pennsylvania. In 1794 Washington, with Hamilton, Secretary of the Treasury; Knox, Secretary of War, and other notables, accompanied the army as far as Bed: ford. The distinguished party rested for a few days in this old house be: fore returning to Philadelphia. It was lately used for business purposes, being occupied by J. M. Hoffer. jew: eler; R B. Metcalf, saddler; Harry Gilchrist, confectioner; Stoon Ling, saddler, and by two families. Mon: day night fire was discovered to be in building occupied by Dexter White "Yes, I can tell you. He has to as a saloon and restaurant, were en:

THE DAKOTA MUDDLE.

WASHINGTON, December >16 .--The fir t Legislature of the State of Dakota," according to dispatches received here, is in session at Huron As there is no such State in the Union as Dakota, the publication of the dispatch has created considerable comment, especially among members of Congress. Of course the action taken by the Territory in electing members of Congress, and other officers amounts to nothing except as an argument in support of their ability to organize a good State Government.

Mr. Harrison (Ind.) gave notice in the Senate last week that an early day he would introduce a bill providing for the division of Dakota Territory on the 40th standard parallel, and the admission of the southern half to Statehood. Under the provisions of the State Legislature now in session at Huron, the bill will confirm substantially the action of the Huron Legislature so far as it relates to Statehood. Mr. Harrison is sanguine of success in his effort to have the Territory divided, even if le fails n making the State out of half of

WILKESBARRE Pa., December 14 A frightful explosion of gas took place this morning in Mill Creek mine, cp. erated by the Delaware and Hudson Coal Company. At the time of the accident there were about one hun: dred miners, laborers and boys in the slope. The news spread rapidly, and the whole population seemed to have gathered about the colliery. The explosion occurred in what is known as No. 12 Lift, which is locat: ed at the extreme end of the openig of the slope, being 4,000 feet from gas ignited in the breast where a miner named Coffey was at work.

An exploring party of some twen y miners entered the slope as soon is the news had reached the surface. been burned, and they at once began removing them.

UNION CITY, Pa., Dec. 16 .- A young man having met a young viva: cious woman, both residents of this place, a few times, called at her residence several evenings since. She refused him admittance, and desired him to depart. Pressing his request, a shot was fired at him from a window, and he hastily retreated, carrying the bullet with him. At some dis tauce from the house he laid down to rest, and a friend assisted him to a surgeon, who extracted the ball, and thus the affair became public.

The plan of life insurance being prepared by the Pennsylvania Rail: It will be optional with present em:

-Fall an winter woolens just receiv gines in trade from the tribes who ed. Leave your order now and save once occupied the region of the Great | money.

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HUMOROUS.

All the rage-A mad deg. As a general thing, what a man ews he rips.

The thermometer gains notoriety by degrees, so to speak.

The man is opposed to vaccination is probably to be pitted.

Even the most inveterate toper objects to taking a horn with a bull.

A young lady asks. "How can I remove superfluous bair?" Comb the

The man who said, "There is a garden in her face," was evidently using flowery language.

The telephone is an arrangement by which two men can lie to each other without becoming confused. The king of sweden and Norway is

can do no wrong appears to be expor-"Round again?" he ssked, as the dun put his headin at the do r. "Yes

a poet. The dictum that the king

and I'll stay 'round until I recognate. "U-ing tob secon one form," sa a hater of the weed, "usually leads o the use of it in another." This is doubtless true, for when a man first

takes snuff he must es-chew! "Why Johnny," exclaimed mamma. "aren't you ashamed of yourself, going about with such a dirty face?" "No, I ain't," replied Johnny, with a conscious pride in the integrity of his intentions : "you'd like to have me taken for a dude, wouldn't you?"

-TO OUR PATR 'NS AND THE PUBLIC.-We wish it distinctly understood, that we have the largest and best assortment of stoves, ranges heaters, etc., as well as general hardware, in Centre county, and will not be undersold either for cash, or approved credit. Come and see for yourselves, and we will convince you. Those who have dealt with us in the past, know that our motto is, and always has been "as low as the lowest" for the same class of goods. Jas. Harris

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firectly to the Kidneys, Liver, Stomach, Spleen, or any part of the body. It can be worn at night of using the day by either Man, Woman or Child.

If your are Weak, Languid, Irritable, Fretful, Nercous, Forgetful. Unsocial, without any apparent Cause; that your Energies can no longer be Concentrated, Your Thoughts Clouded and Discounceted, that Home and Social Circle no longer Have any Charms for You, and that Hope is almost gone. The Howard Snield will overcome it effectually.

I hereby certify that the following testimonials are a true and exact copy as given by me by the parties whose names are attached thereto.

W. C. MCCLENAREN.

Sworn and subscribed before me this 5th day of

W. O. McClevanes.

Sworn and subscribed before me this 5th day of
June, 1885, Layfayette Webb; Prot onotary of the
Court of Common Pleas of Mifflin county, Pa.

PARALYSIS AND CONSTIPATION.

Milroy, Pa., May 30, 1885.

Gentlemen:—I deem it a pleasure as well as a duty to state that I have worn them for several months and have gradually improved from the effects of Paralysis of one side and Constipation. Since using the appliances have been free from the the truble, beside I have improved in my governal health. I therefore commend them to any who may be suffering from the same trouble. D. M. CONTNER. NERVOUS PROSTRATION AND SLEEPLESSNESS.

Milroy, Pa., June 3, 1885. Gentlemen-My wife has suffered for years with Nervous Prostration, so much so that life at tim seeme to her a burden. Her rest a 1 sleep was a much broken and disturbed that she could not withou much difficulty perform her daily household duties She was induced to try the Howard Shield, has wor the row as induced to the row sleep well at night, and even during the day, can work with comfort that was a birden before. She has improved in general health and complexion. I consider your appliances invaluable for narvousness, sleeplessnessand general debility.

JOHN COX

NO MEDICINE NEEDED NO MEDICINE NEEDED.

Belleville, Pa., May 30, 1885.

Geutlemen:—I have been greatly benefitted by the use of the Howard Shield, No 2, for constipation. I have worn it since May and would not like to do with out. I now feel thankful for your appliance and have advised others to give them a trial feeling sure that they would be benefitted as I have been.

C. B. PEACY.

WHAT A LEADING DOCTOR SAYS:

Milroy, Pa., June 2, 1885.

WHAT A LEADING DOCTOR SAYS:

Milroy, Pa., June 2, 1885.

Gentlement—I have suffered many vears with Cramps in my lower extremities, mostly at night, often having to rise and walk the room for relief. I procured a Howard Shield and have been wearing it for Lumbago or Rheumatism in my back and have had the most wonderful relief since wearing it over the small of my back and have gained strength of muscle to a most wonderful degree, I can therefore recommend the use of these appliances of all Rheumatic and nervous complaints particularly nervous debility. I have recommended them to my patients and in every case with benefit.

A. HARSHBERER, M. D.

WHAT THE PRESIDENT OF THE 1st NATIONAL BANK SAYS:

Ashland, Pa., March 9, 1885.

Gentlemen:—I know what your Appliances are room personal use and I therefore recommended your nield to Mrs. Hauburger some time ago for Sciatica and induced her to seal for one which she did and has used it for about four weeks and she is now able to be a search and feels entirely cured.

has used it for about four weeks and she is now able to be around and feels entirely cured. rours re fully, GEO. H. HELFRICH, President of the 1st National Bank.

Another Amdavit From a Prominent Citizen of thio NERVOUS DEBILITY IN ITS WORST

Another Amdavit From a Prominent Citizen of Ohio NERVOUS DEBILITY IN ITS WORST FORM.

Columbus, O., cor. Friend & Sand hysis, 5.5, 78, Gentlemant—I take pleasure in saying that I tried almostevery known remedy, as well as so-called Elevic appliances without any benefit. I was weak nervous, d. spirited, desponpent, almost without hope; almost entirely enervated, lacked power and will force, in a word was afflicted with the worst symptoms of Nervous Debility the effects of which are so well known to every sufferer. I can truthfolly eay that the Howard Spinal Appliance and the Howard Shield entirely cired me. I commenced their use in 1881 andwas restored to perfect health. I am now married and have tever had a recurrence of my former trouble. You can refer anyone to me as I shall ever feel grateful to you. Your treatment is a represented. You have proven yourselves worthy of the confidence of every sufferer.

AUG. F. ELLERMAN.

Personally appeared before me, Aug. F. Ellerman.

Personally appeared before me, Ang. F. Ellerman to me known deposes and swears that the above lette certifying as to the curative powers of the Howa Electric Shield and Spinal Appliances is true. Swo and subscribed before me this 6th day of May, A. THEO, H. SECK.

Deputy Clerk of Courts of Fra skiln Co., O

1103 Chestnut Str Phila Pa.

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