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THE CHRISTMAS D

BY LOIS BROOKE. All the year long the moon gives li,
And makes a sliver day of night;
But once a year
She seems more near,
Shows every night her steadfast th,
And fills tho sky with tranquil gir.
Tis hard to tell when day is dong

For day and night flow into one. So Heaven shines downward all v while, And lights us with its constant sale; But once a year It draws more near: Wide open stands the shining de, With gleams of light unseen befe; And all across flash glimpses fle Of upper joys and radiant feet.

Tis ever so since love broke thugh and down the widening spacesew That blessed year
Our Lord came near;
For Him swung back the star bound
Deepened far up the great pround;
All Heaven swept bottward adls birth
And naught was parrow butte carth!

Now evermore He stands anwalts
Some lifting of these lower des;
But once a year
Shall the blest door be three so wide,
And only we the entrance de?
Unbar all hearts, make rod within,
And let the holy Christman!

Stoner's for January.

A CHRISTAS STORY. "There go Jimmy av Richard !-Heigh o !" window pane, and wiching the last of his talked to Tom all breakfast time about the about his health, and what the doctor gave schoolmates depart othe Christmas vacation, with wild whoops an shouts of delight.

A dismal little figur that, at the window, the Doctor's pretty daughter. in a flannel dressingtown, with a large bandage muffled about is throat, and a hoarse cough. All the mor lonely did the figure with him, and said Tom was better. seem because of the contrast between the voices, and merry aces of romping mates. to go home day after to-morrow, though, if Did ever such ill ick overtake a small boy we are good, and take our medicine regularly. before ? But the something was always Think of that my boy !" happening to Tor

FOUND IN THE GARRET.

pupils in Thory Hill School, who went plums, if he might only go home so soon. skating two days efore the Christmas holidays and tumble through the thin ice into the young invalid got blue again.

"It's all very well to talk when you can

irenched rat? Why could ittot have been big Jerry himself who took theold plunge, with his firm, rosy cheeks, the nothing could blanch, and his tough, stron frame, which seemed made

of India rubber That was theyery worst of it!

rame to pay ir it.

He had bed stared at solemnly by wise medicine; hehad never been allowed to cat had, it is highly probable we should have no any thing ant he wanted to eat, because story to tell. such delicacts were sure not to be good for him. Eventhe great sea, rolling in, wave after wave, in the shore, had only crushed and stranged Tom, as he invariably shut his eyes tigit and opened his mouth wide to receive theialt water, which was never intended to btaken as an internal remedy.

Tom's prents were very much surprised him arl Uncle John had an aggravating way of taking, as if it was Tom's own fault, At last was decided to send him to Thorpe

Hill Schol, where he could live in the fresh country ir; so the feeble little fellow was roppediverboard from the family ship to sink or swim or himself, without mamma's watchful care. He did pretty well, for there was really a surprising amount of pluck in his mall bdy, considering that his head, or his teeth, whis right car generalty ached, that pebbleswere always tripping him up in running; that if there happened to be a stray ball flying about on the play ground, it always

Who he first arrived at the school, he felt ratherlonely and queer, to be sure, but then he locked with pride at his new trunk, and

Nov all the other schoolmates had gone none and the village doctor positively forbade Tom to step outside the door, for the esul of the skating was that the delicate little by was feverish, his head seemed to be bound up in an iron band, and his throat fillet with a large walnut. There was really no help for it, and mamma

coud not be summoned and reach the school untl after Christmas day. 'om's eyes grew dim with sudden, regretful teas, as he looked out upon the trees of the avenue, stripped of leaves, and listened to the

drp of the rain. "It's not a bit like Christmas," grumbled tle little man, and certainly it was enough to nake him cross. "It can't even snow, as it nost always does. I wonder what the boys vill have, and if I shall get the new gun papa romised."

If any person had been there, he would have een ashamed to have cried, but now he might sob dolefully without fear of being laughed at by some large boy.

So the afternoon wore away, and the housekeeper gave Tom a basin of gruel, which he flavored with tears, then crept away meekly Such a Christmas Eve!

Fancy Santa Claus dragging his sledge through muddy roads and over withered grass banks instead of gliding smoothly on the crisp snow surface!

now surface!

Even the wind could not have a so ridicular proceedings and cunic rushing from the lous a proceeding, and came rushing from the far North, chilling rain drops into sheets of rattling hail, and whirling the dancing snowflakes lightly down to spread a dazzling carpet for the good Santa Claus. In the early morning the sun shot a bright ray into the window, as if to wish Tom a merry Christmas, and then the little boy discovered that the outside world had turned gloriously white, delicate fringes clinging to every twig and ough, and feathery masses drooping over the sloping enves.

Even the house of Mr. Sharpeton, seen in the distance through the trees, had assumed quite a joval aspect, although it usually looked dull and sad enough; with the cheerful snow resting on every ledge, and penetrating every 100k, where small boys dared not to venture Mr. Sharpeton was a grim, stern, hot-tempered old man, who frightened every body away with a single wave of his cane, so that he led a lonely life enough, liked by no one, nd very possibly not liking himself even. All the boys knew that Mr. Sharpeton owned Thrope Hill, and rented the large building for a school, which had once been his father' stately residence. Yes, Mr. Sharpeton was very fond of money, and even the possession

shining gold did not seem to brighten his narrow, cramped life-so fond of money that he kept from his own father's children their lawful share of the property, because no paper had ever been made in their favor. That was the dark cloud resting on Mr.

Sharpeton's house, and little Tom, looking across the tree-tops in the pleasant Christmas | they long to the Fourth of July," said Tom sunshine, wondered if the crusty old gentle.

Just then the cat jumped on the window adga baside the lonely pupil in a friendly ashion, and said, as planniy as a cat can, by of brisk purrings : .

ou feel this morning? and what ened that all the doors look so As this cat is really an important character in our story, we must say a word in her favor. Puss was as black as the finest velvet, with great, emerald, green eyes, and Fom was very much pleased with the companionship, even of a dumb animal, especially when that animal was the Thorpe Hill cat, that was known to always jog about, minding her own business, while school was in session, and never permitted rude boys to take any liberties, such as pulling her tail, or sending her clattering down stairs with walnut shell

slippers fitted upon her feet. Kitty now seemed disposed to make herself agreeable to our little pupil, and Tom, tucking her under his arm, went down to reakfast, wearing quite a bright face.

The principal and his wife had gone away to spend Christmas, and no one but Mr Wilkins was left. Mr. Wilkins, the assistant teacher, was a

Tom noticed that Mr. Wilkins wore his best Sunday clothes, and a sky-blue necktie, which sighed Tom, pressinghis nose against the tor to dine on Christmas day. Mr. Wilkins and mamma was asking a thousand questions

> Presently the Doctor came bustling in cheer- on his face. fully, bringing a breath of fresh winter air

hurried tramp of ney feet, shouting of many time. "I should not wonder if we were able

Tom laughed; he was willing to drink up Why need it we been him, of all the all the medicine, and cat the pills like sugar

Jerry fished Ton out like a forlorn little lark off any where," he said, behind the goodnatured, jolly doctor's broad back, and then he leaned out the window, as if to punish

somebody by taking more cold. How Tom passed the long hours of th morning; the games of backgammon he played in the principal's parlor, beating himself the number of books he crumbled over hasti-Tom was always trying to keep up in the ly; the visits he paid to the housekeeper in search of raisins and kookies the pitched but search of raisins and kookies; the pitched bata twinge of pai in some portion of his slender ties between rival armies of canes and umbrellashe fought, with the cat commanding one Everybody and always tried to make him division and Tom, himself, another; the railwell and hard, ever since he was a tiny. | way trains, with the cat for the only passenlooking horses he drew on the schoolroom blackboard, with crooked legs, is none of our loctors, and preed to swallow much bitter affair. The cat did not desert him, and if she

The housekeeper, good soul, made him baby plum pudding for his dinner, just large enough for one boy, still under the doctor's

morsels daintily, it was good fun; but afterward Tom got dreadfully weary. run through the upper hall. Puss answered the question by springing ast him, and scampering up stairs, waiting

care, and a tiny mince pie.

on the top stair, with arched back, for Tom to follow. It seemed as if even kitty thought it time for a romp. Away rushed the cat, and away rushed Tom in eager pursuit, until, with a sudden whisk, puss disappeared. Where? Thrope

Hill was a quiant, rambling old place, with long corridors, and all manner of winding passages, arches, and little steps in unexpected The garret door was always locked, and the boys said there were ghosts kept there. It now swung half open, and kitty was playing

iide and seek somewhere up aloft. Of course Tom ran on also, and glanced curiously around the garret. The garret was wide and empty, with the sunlight shining faintly through a little dustcovered window, that only rendered the black shadows under the caves more obscure. What f a ghost or hobgoblin popped out suddenly? or, worse still, if some robber or crazy man was hidden there? Two trunks stood near

and a queer screen with moth-eaten embroi dery. Out of the dusky nook peered the cat, and soon the two were enjoying a wild romp through the deserted place darting around corners, trpiping over rafters, until kitty pushed down some dark object with a crfish. What was It? An old carved table resting on two legs; and in falling the back broke, and the drawer slid out. Tom was frightened. He did not know who owned the table, and he

spinning-wheel which once whirred merrily,

had broken it, or at least the cat had, which amounted to the same thing. The drawer seemed to hold all sorts of things Carrying it with him, for he began to feel a lttle chilly, he went down to the parlor fire The little boy ate his supper in a terrible old ivory picture of a stately lady and powhave died a great many years before Tom was born; perhaps she was Mr. Sharpeton's mother, Next he found a flat, tin box, with the key attached; but when he opened the box, which might certainly have held a sparkling diamond or emerald, like the fairy tales, he saw only a faded crumpled paper, and pushed i aside carelessly. Quite in the bottom of the drawer, among letters and withered flowers, was a pipe with a funny figure perched on the

bowl, and a bag of tobacco. Tom's eyes sparkled. He had often tried to be a man, smoking bits of paper or wood; now he could use a real pipe. How splendid!

A bright fire glowed in the bowl, and a blue mist was puffed from the boy's lips bravely. Ugh! it tasted queerly, but if tall, grown gentlemen did it, why might not Tom, who was already nearly twelve years old? Something strange happened. Tom's head suddenly grew as light as a feather, and he was lifted from the floor on a cloud of tobacco smoke. The cloud floated with the same undulating motion that a flag streams on the breeze, or like the rising and falling of a little boat rocking on the great waves of the sea. "Now we are to take a ride," said the little nan on the pipe bowl, making a droll grimace. "Where are we going ?" asked Tom. "I

wish we were steadier, and need not rock "Swing, swing," cried the little imp gally, cutting a caper over the pipe stem. "Tobacco he himself had so shoke makes a famous cradle sometimes. Now look at my fireworks."

" Who ever heard of fireworks at Christmas was fend of arguing with any body. m parlor fireworks, then, said the grov

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LATEST ISTYLES

The fireworks were lovely; sparkling stars hot in glittering sparks of flame, fountains of golden fire rose in slender sprays; rings of flery splendor circled around Tom like twisted snakes; the rockets hissed, the wheels fizzed and cracked until he was giddy. "Please stop, imp."

Then all the withered flowers began to

bloom with fresh beauty, unfolding the vel-

vet petals of crimson roses, and the snowy purity of lilles. "We were once like this, but we have slept in the drawer for years," they sighed and rustled softly.

Back fluttered the imp with a crowd of tiny mates. Each little figure seemed formed of rainbow tints, and flew on butterfly wings,

holding a cobweb band. "Bind him for learning to smoke," cried the imp, and the sprites wrapped the cobweb around Tom's head and mouth, so that he could not breathe. Tom struggled, gasped, and awoke! Mr. Wilkins was shaking Tom by the shoulder, and several persons stood in the doorway. Who were they? Tom rubbed his eyes, which still seemed full of smoke, and then discovered the smiling faces of papa,

mamma, and Uncle John. Yes, they had sale young man with spectacles, who asked come to Tom on Christmas night, after all, for the bread and butter in the same precise by means of hard traveling. They had found manner that he addressed the algebra class, as the young gentleman lying on the hearth rug if the words were snipped suddenly off with a with his head almost in the fire, grasping a half-smoked pipe, instead of sick in bed, as they had feared. While papa was telling Tom what the Christmeant that he would drive away with the Doc- mas presents were which awaited him at home,

Doctor, just as if Tom didn't know that the him, Mr. Wilkins was gathering up the blue cravat was worn for Miss Mary's sake, scattered contents of the drawer, and had opened the tin box, with a very strange look "Where did you find this, Thomas?" he

inquired. "Musn't go out to-day," and he shook his Tom jumped: he had intended to slip the stillness of the desded school, and the recent | head and his two double chins at the same | drawer back without telling any body, and now he was fairly caught. " I found it in the table in the garret," he

> faltered. Soon papa and Uncle John, with the teacher, were studying the paper folded inside the

"It is a will," said Mr. Wilkins. That was what little Tom found, in playing with the cat on a lonely Christmas day. The table had always stood by the old father's bedside, although no person had ever discovered the secret drawer since his death, until the top had broken in tumbling down, and in it was a paper written later than that made in favor of grasping, greedy Mr. Sharpeton, in which the poor grandchildren were remembered, and Thurpe Hill belonged to them .-Our Schoolday Visitor.

NEW STEEL PROCESSES.

The Philadelphia correspondent of the Iron Age gives some interesting statements in reweazened-ball, and nobody had ever suc- ger, while he was conductor; and the odd gard to new steel processes. He says :-"The excitement of the hour in metal circles is the question of cheap steel, and so much attention is being devoted to it that it will not be surprising if 1871 produce the desideratum. Within the past week not less than four new processes have been presented to your correspondent, all meritorious, and some of which are highly promising. The first is a process by which the inventor claims to manufacture steel directly from the iron in the cupola, at a While the pudding lasted, and the cat tacted cost not exceeding four cents per lb. The specimens presented were worked under my I don't know whether to go to bed, or have own eye i to chiscles, etc., cutting fron well, being what is technically termed firy and apt to fly. This can be avoided and the metal

made available by the use of the proper flux in working. Another and more valuable process, consists in a process for steel facing iron it is claimed, at a total cost of thirty per cent. less than Bessemer can be produced. The inventor, a gentleman of ability and experience, in the employ of the government for many years, claims to be able to steel face a rail to any desired thickness, and further, to steel the outside of any piece of finished work, sucl as bolts, valve stem, &c., &c., leaving the toughness of the iron intact. This party ha now specimens preparing which will submitted shortly to public inspection. Tw other specimens of low priced steel are before us, one offered at four, and another at si cents, both fair tool steels, and both said to b conversions in the cupola alone from pig. The Codorus ore is also used with great success and indeed, it is said, bears out its promi fully. At all events, we learn authoritativel that the York County Iron and Bteel Co. new engaged on a contract for 1000 tons stee rails, at \$90 per ton, and good authority says the stairs, and behind a beam rested a broken that they can be made at \$60 per ten, and

Codorus stock is in consequent reques

Another queer steel wrinkle we hear of, is

that a party here is engaged in steeling horse

ailroads, by giving the shoe a bath of this ore.

Here is progress! The fact is, that numerous

leposits of spathic or titaniferous orcs exist in

he country, which have ruined those who

ried to make iron of them, furnish the base

for the steel so much needed.

BUSINESS SUSPENSIONS IN PHILADELPHIA. -The Commercial List of last Saturday gives the following statement of the failures in the shoe trade in that city during the past two weeks: O. S. Classin & Co. with liab \$170,000; Goslin N. Vachtaluffeton, \$13,000; Keen, \$50,000; Mu; W. McKnight & Son, hurry, and returned to the parlor, where he C. , RW; C. Fay, \$25,000; P. Butman, \$40,had hidden the drawer under the sofa, AF | 000; T. P. & S. S. Smith, \$60,000; Langley & Vincent, \$2,000; Mason & Bowman, \$28,hair brushed up in a big Tom's mamma wore 000; Ambrose & McManke, \$40,000; Dordered white of in the drawer. This lady must man & Wiley, \$20,000; a firm, name suppressed, \$34,000. O. S. Claffin & Co. will pay bout 40 per cent; F. Keen, 50 per cent: W McKnight & Son, 40 per cent; P. Butman, 50 per cent; Langley & Vincent, 40 per cent; T. P. & S. S. Smith, 25 per cent, and Goslin & Vachtel, about 25 per cent. It is not heard what proposition has been made by the other houses, though it is not anticipated they will pay over 25 per cent. The firm whose name has been suppressed expresses its ability to pay dollar for dollar of the liabilities. total liabilities are \$755,000."

LINCOLN'S GETTYSBURG SPEECH .- One of Mr. Lincoln's private secretaries has the original-rough draft with all the interlineations and erasures of the touching Gettysburg oration. At that time the President was very anxious on account of the illness of his boy "Tad," and under these circumstances, in a little country hotel, in view of the battlefield, Mr. Lincoln wrote the greater part of the im mortal oration which has been read and admired wherever the English language is read or spoken. The first part of the oration which had been prepared before leaving Wa ington, was written with pen and ink, part composed after his arrival at G was on straggling sheets of paper breadtlr and length. Mr. Line pointed in Mr. Everett mac complained that it and nobody's hear

not willingly let der is l