

Bob Stillwell's Christmas

By ANNE CAREW

BOB STILLWELL sat down on his sled with his chin in his mittened hands and tried to plan what he could give folks for Christmas, for it was only three days away. "I can't give a thing!" he muttered at last, for he did not have a penny of his own, and he knew that money was very scarce on the farm that year.



He Saw the Grandest New Sled.

When he reached the pond he found all the skaters had gone home, for who wants to skate on Christmas eve when there are so many other delightful things to do? So Ned took a few turns around the pond, knowing all the time that he was disobeying his mother and feeling very unhappy all the while.

By and by he took off his skates and went to the woods to cut some laurel branches. It was snowing very hard now, and he had to work fast, because by this time it was growing dark in the woods.

At last his arms were full, and he staggered along through the snow trying to find the path, but the snow had covered it up completely. Ned was lost in the woods on Christmas eve! He began to cry, and the tears froze on his cheeks.

Santa in Disgrace. "It would never do for the children to hear about this."

The Hollow Tree A Christmas Story for Children by CLARISSA MACKIE

NED WAYNE kicked his toes against the door. "Say, mother, can't I go skating?" he asked.

"Not today, son," said Mrs. Wayne. "It is Christmas eve, and I want you to go into the woods and get some laurel and evergreens to trim the house. The servants are all busy with the housework."

"Aw, bother!" whined Ned. "Dear me, Neddy, that is not a nice spirit to show at Christmas time," sighed his mother, for she was much worried about her little boy's selfish spirit. Ned had a beautiful home and fond parents, but he seemed to love his own way above everything else.

So when finally Ned, sulkily enough, took a hatchet and went toward the woods his mother did not see that he had his skates hidden under his thick overcoat.

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When Ned woke up on Christmas morning and found all the beautiful gifts that Santa Claus had brought to him he registered a vow that when next Christmas came around he would be worthy of all the blessings that were showered on him.

To Make Christmas Wreaths. Good Christmas wreaths may be made by tying small branches of Douglas, or other spruce, firmly about a barrel hoop.

Christmas Seals

By CLARISSA MACKIE

IT was only a few days before Christmas, and little Amy Wells was so happy. The teacher had given her some Red Cross seals to sell, and when Miss Smith had distributed the red and white and green seals among her scholars she had explained to them all about the purpose of the Red Cross society and how the money earned would be used to help the wounded soldiers.

And she had not sold one single, solitary stamp of her twenty-five! How she had trudged around from door to door, only to meet the same kind smile and shake of the head! Amy told her mother, and when Mrs. Wells offered to buy all the stamps herself the little girl shook her head.

"I ought to be able to sell them outside my home, mother, dear," she said. "That would be real work." Mrs. Wells sighed and smiled. She couldn't very well afford to buy even the twenty-five stamps that Amy wanted to sell, for every penny was needed in that little household.

"Kiss me, little daughter," Mrs. Wells said, with a smile, "and then carry this dress up to Miss Granger on the hill." The Grangers lived in a big house at the top of the hill. It was quite the largest house in Little River, and the three ladies lived there alone with two servants.

"I Hope You Will Have a Happy Christmas," Miss Lucy Said. "Please, sir, we're from the home," said Bobby. "We knew you lived all alone—and we thought maybe you'd like to hire us three kids to spend Christmas with you."

By and by Mr. Bartley called a manservant, and together they took the three little boys up to bed. Then they hung their stockings on the corners of the big four-post bedstead, and in two minutes they were asleep.

Danger of Christmas Fires. The danger of fire at Christmas times from candle-lighted trees and other incidents of the season ought not to be forgotten, for a little forethought and prudence may prevent some shocking accidents.

A Resolution. "Wish you a Happy New Year!" "That's going to be my speech. I'm going to put the polities away back out o' reach. I'm going to be forgetful of problems gathering thick. An' wish you Happy New Year Down to Pollock on the Crick."

Optimistic Thought. A man becomes learned by asking questions.

Orphans to Rent—A Children's Christmas Story by George McKim

IT was Christmas eve at the Bayville Home for Orphans, and three little boys sat in the chilly dining room looking out at the flying flakes of snow. It was after supper, and there was a clatter of dishes in the kitchen.

"They say," said Jimmy, "there's going to be a big Christmas tree in the parlor tomorrow, and candy and presents and everything, but I'd rather hang up my stockings than have all the old Christmas trees. You betcha I would!"

"So would I!" echoed Bobby and George. "That trustee who was here to-day would make a dandy man for a father or an uncle," said Bobby. "He's awful rich."

"He patted my head," said Bobby. "He must be lonesome without any folks," began Bobby. Then he leaned over and whispered to his companions.

The Dog Lifted His Head and Barked. "Good gracious me! What are you doing out there?" he demanded.

LIQUOR AND LABOR. A department superintendent of one of the big tire factories in Akron, O., uses 60 men in each shift. They are making gas masks, miners' respirators, and other vital war material.

PASSING OF THE PENITENTIARY. Citizens of Colorado are inquiring what is to become of the state penitentiary a few years hence. Despite the increase in population the prison quota, Warden Tynan says, has been reduced since prohibition went into effect at the rate of ten a month.

WHY HER COW IS LIKE KENTUCKY. First Lady—Did you know I have the dearest little pig, and I call it Ink. Second Lady—And why do you call your pig Ink?

CONSUMER PAYS THE TAX. When congress was considering increasing the beer tax the National Liquor Dealers' Journal said, "The brewers will make no complaint over the war tax. The tax will not be one on them although they will act as the clearing house for the government in its collection."

Temperance Notes

(Conducted by the National Woman's Christian Temperance Union.)

TO THE MODERATE DRINKER. "Nations, as well as individuals, are accepting the unquestioned nervous damage of alcohol," says Dr. Robert S. Carroll in his book, "The Mastery of Nervousness."

THE WINNING ARGUMENT. "It is idle to argue from prophecy when we may argue from history," mused Sidney Lanier. What has really happened as the result of dry law is of more value as prohibition argument than all the prognostications of liquor advocates in and for territory now wet.

DRY BITS. Grammar in a prohibition: Dry: Comparative. Dryer: Superlative. Bone dry: In 1920 the United States will be in the superlative condition.

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INTERNATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

(By E. O. HILL, Editor, Acting Director of the Sunday School Course of the Moody Bible Institute, Chicago.)

LESSON FOR DECEMBER 16

NEHEMIAH ENFORCES THE LAW OF THE SABBATH.

LESSON TEXT—Nehemiah 13:15-22. GOLDEN TEXT—Remember the Sabbath Day to keep it holy.—Exod. 20:8. Nehemiah remained in Jerusalem twelve years, from B. C. 444 to B. C. 432. He was then recalled and was in Persia some years, perhaps five or seven, but returned about B. C. 425, the year Artaxerxes died, for we know that he returned by permission of that king.

In the section, vv. 10-14, we see that the gifts for the house of God and the Levites, who led in worship, had been neglected. Whenever the house of God and its service of worship is neglected, we may expect that the Sabbath day and the worship of God will also soon fall into contempt.

I. "Remember" (v. 14) the Neglect of God's House. (vv. 1-14). The neglect of God's house grew up out of the incursion of heathenism into Jewish life. Nehemiah realized that the purity of the race depended upon absolute separation from the mixed multitude.

II. "Remember" (v. 12) the Sabbath Day. (vv. 15-22). Nehemiah's next and most difficult reform was regarding the fourth commandment. He at once set about to learn the facts; then relates what he saw (v. 15). The record also tells how he testified against them in that they were selling merchandise on the Sabbath day.

III. "Remember" (v. 29) the Holy Priesthood. (vv. 23-31). In this section we see that the priesthood had even defiled themselves with women, and again this Nehemiah entered upon a cleansing process. (vv. 30-31). The use of this word "remember" in verses 14, 22 and 29 gives strong emphasis to the three cardinal sins against which Nehemiah was battling.

IV. Summary: As in Nehemiah's time, so now, Sabbath desecration is the surest road to national ruin, and a large proportion of our present calamity can be traced to growing irreverence for the Lord's day.

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Women Hard at Work. Four million dollars to be expended by women for women in a single year was never heard of. These are days of amazing things, but this is what the Young Woman's Christian Association has undertaken, says the New York Letter. Within two months after the declaration of war last spring, the association, with 50 years' experience behind it in work for girls, was in the field with its war work council to meet the needs of women and girls everywhere, both here and abroad, who are in moral or physical danger because of war-changed conditions.

KIDNEY TROUBLE NOT EASILY RECOGNIZED

Applicants for Insurance Often Rejected

An examining physician for one of the prominent life insurance companies, in an interview of the subject, made the astonishing statement that one reason why so many applicants for insurance are rejected is because kidney trouble is so common to the American people, and the large majority of those whose applications are declined do not even suspect that they have the disease.

True to Life. "I don't see how you can read that trashy novel," declared mother. "Do you see any merit in it at all?" "Why, yes," answered father. "It is intensely realistic."

She Had a Papa Once. The little girl's father had been away a long time in search of health. His memory must have grown dim in the child's mind. One afternoon, when being rolled out in her go-cart, she saw a little child run by to a man beyond and call, "Papa, Papa." The little girl turned to her mother and remarked in a sorrowful tone, "Once we had a papa."



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