

A NEW YEAR'S BARGAIN

Grandmother and Grandfather Smith sat in their cozy living room, grandmother knitting and grandfather looking steadily into the fire which burned so brightly in the grate. At length grandfather sighed and spoke.

"Mother," he said, "I was just recalling our past New Years—so many of them that I have lost count. And I was thinking how nice it was when our son Tom and our girl Stella were at home, for then we had some young life in the house, some one to plan for and to make merry over."

"Yes," said grandmother, her voice low; "yes, father, it is very sweet to have children about."

"Yes, we are an aged household, mother," said the old gentleman. "But there goes the bell. I'd better go to the door, mother."

"No, don't trouble to put down your pipe, father. I am already up and shall see who is ringing. Oh, it's our



WILL JOYCE

"A PERFECTLY FAIR BARGAIN." morning paper, I guess. I see a boy's cap over the lower part of the door-sash." And Grandmother Smith opened the big hall door. As she did so a young, happy face looked into hers. A boy perhaps ten years old stood there, holding a roll of papers under his arm. As grandmother looked down into his eyes the boy smiled brightly, saying, "Are you Mrs. Smith, mum?"

Grandmother returned the smile and replied: "Yes, I am Mrs. Smith, little man. What is wanting?"

"Why, I'm your paper boy, mum, an' I've got your paper here." And the lad held up a paper to grandmother. "An' since you are Mrs. Smith I want

to thank you for your patronage during the past year. An' I want to wish you and Mr. Smith a most prosperous an' happy New Year, mum."

After delivering himself of his speech the little paper vender was about to depart when grandmother suddenly thought of something. "Wait a minute, little man. Won't you come in and have a cup of hot chocolate and a slice of cake?"

The lad hesitated, then looked down at his poorly shod feet. "I'd hate to soil your floor, mum," he said. "My clothes ain't fit, you see."

"Come right in, child," said grandmother. "Never mind about your clothes. It is you we want."

The boy took off his ragged cap and followed grandmother into the cheerful living room. There he was greeted pleasantly by grandfather, to whom he was introduced. "Now sit there till I fix the chocolate," said grandmother, designating a comfortable chair beside the glowing grate.

Within a few minutes grandfather, grandmother and Dick, for he had told them his name, were chatting pleasantly. And to their many questions Dick told the story of his young life. He was an orphan, without a living relative in the world that he knew about. He lived at the Newsboys' home, over by the viaduct. He managed to get enough to pay his \$2 a week at the home and went to night school three nights of each week.

Grandmother looked at grandfather. Then she arose and beckoned the old man to follow her into another room, telling Dick to excuse them a minute. In the dining room the old folks had a whispered consultation. Then, with beaming faces, they returned to the living room. And they explained to Dick a new plan they had conceived. And the plan was for Dick Sunshine (for that was what the dear old grandmother called him) to take up his residence with them—make their home his home and to give up selling newspapers and go to day school.

Dick's face was radiant for a moment. Then he hung his head. "I can't do it, mum and sir," he said. "I'd be gittin' everything and givin' you nothin' for it. It wouldn't be a fair bargain."

"A perfectly fair bargain," declared both grandmother and grandfather. "You'll be giving us what we most need—a child in the house, sunshine, safety, the love of a grateful and considerate boy. Oh, please come!"

So it happened that Dick Sunshine became one of Grandfather Smith's family and in course of time was lawfully adopted as their son. And he fully repaid them for all they gave him, for he brought back to them the days of youth, the days when their own children were growing up about them, and their home once more rang with the laughter and shouts of a happy child.

Bagdad Using Typewriters.
A number of American typewriters have made their appearance in Bagdad.

DREADNOUGHT OF AIR FOR BRITAIN

Biggest Dirigible Planned to Sail 100 Miles an Hour.

COST OF BUILDING \$225,000.

Inventor Figures That 3,000 Horsepower Motors Would Send It 11,000 Miles at Twenty Mile Gait Carrying Quick Firing Guns, Wireless Outfit and Searchlights.

Plans for a dirigible which will travel at a hundred miles an hour and carry quick firing guns, searchlights, long range wireless equipment, telephotographic apparatus and other up-to-date accessories for use in war have been made by E. Neale, a young English aviator, who is about to appear for the sum of \$225,000 to build the airship.

Mr. Neale has made a few good aeroplane flights in England, but he is in the front rank of flying men.

Wants an Air Fleet.
His ambition is to have a fleet of these aerial cruisers, as he calls them so as to give Great Britain command of the air and "place her in the forefront of aerial navigation instead of tamely following the lead of nations who now sail to England what they do not themselves require."

In this caustic comment, of course he referred to the purchase of the French Lebaudy and Clement-Bayard airships.

The dirigible he contemplates would exceed in size and equipment anything that has yet been built. It would weigh 74,286 pounds, of which 36,000 pounds would be taken up with the petrol required. The motors would develop 3,000 horsepower, and there would be eleven eighteen-foot propellers. The gas would be warmed by passing cooling water through radiators inside the envelope.

Wide Travel Range.
At the maximum speed of 100 miles an hour the dirigible would have a travel range of 2,000 miles and at a cruising speed of twenty miles an hour 10,940 miles.

He has carried out a number of scientific experiments, and he is prepared to submit his design and data to a committee of experts. He is likely however, to wait a long time before he gets the necessary amount to build even one such dirigible.

The British war office is extending the balloon establishment at Farnborough, near Aldershot, with a view to a big development in aviation matters.

ships and aeroplane construction will be fixed. It is believed that the future, so far as the dirigible is concerned, lies with an airship in which high and sustained speed is combined with a small surface. Vessels of great bulk would be too conspicuous targets for artillery.

Speedy Scout the Ideal.
A fast aerial scout which can carry a machine gun and have a lifting capacity of about two tons is regarded as the ideal vessel for war purposes. To test this view a comparison will be made within the next few months of the small dirigibles Delta, Beta and Gamma with the two French airships recently acquired by the British war office.

Purchases are being made of samples of most types of aeroplanes by the British government in order to facilitate the experimental work which has been started at Durrington. Officers of the army, no matter to which branch they belong, are being invited to join the air corps which is to form the nucleus of the aeroplane instructional staff.

The factory will make all the aeroplanes required once a British army type has been evolved.

POWDER GOOD IN PLOWING.

New Mexicans Experiment With Breaking Tough Adobe Soil.

It doesn't take long to tear an acre to pieces with the powder system now being used in adobe lands. A demonstration a few days ago on the New Mexico college farm showed how thoroughly the ground was broken up. Whether the process is to be successful is still to be proved.

E. R. August has charge of the work now being done. In ground to be used for an orchard Mr. August had holes bored—196 to the acre—fifteen feet apart. The charges put into these were connected with wires. Three rows, about twelve or fifteen charges, were fired at one time.

The tough adobe was cracked from hole to hole. Large pieces rose twenty-five or thirty feet into the air. The ground was in fairly good condition to plow, but it will be even better after frost has laid its softening influence upon it.

It costs about \$15 an acre for the powder and possibly \$2.50 or \$2.75 for the labor.

CHINAMEN HAD OPIUM.

\$5,000 Worth Is Taken in Raids in Buffalo.

Buffalo, Dec. 22.—Eight Chinamen, who were arrested here in a series of opium raids by special agents of the United States internal revenue department, were arraigned before United States Commissioner Keating.

They all pleaded not guilty and were admitted to bail in the sum of \$1,500 each, furnished by Americans. About \$5,000 worth of opium was obtained in the raids.

NO WINE FOR SACRAMENT.

Prohibition in Minnesota Imposes Hardship in Churches.

St. Paul, Minn., Dec. 22.—Enforcement of federal liquor laws in northern Minnesota is interfering with religious rites in churches. To remedy conditions, which have prevented some Catholic churches in northern Minnesota from procuring wine for sacramental purposes, Bishop McGolrick of Duluth conferred in St. Paul with Archbishop Ireland.

Bishop McGolrick says the railroads have refused shipments of wine for church purposes under consignment to towns in the Indian Territory. Archbishop Ireland and Bishop McGolrick will take action looking toward having the prohibitive order modified formally that wine for church purposes may be shipped by railroad without fear of violation of the federal ruling.

HIS THIRD TRIAL IN 3 YEARS.

Protests He's Not the Mitchell That Committed Murder 24 Years Ago.

Rusk, Tex., Dec. 22.—For a third time within as many years William Mitchell is being tried for the murder of James Truitt, which he is alleged to have committed twenty-four years ago. On the two previous trials there were hung juries. Truitt was the husband of Mrs. Julia Truitt Bishop, a southern writer of short stories.

Mitchell escaped, and no trace of him was obtained until three years ago, when the man who is now alleged to be he was arrested in New Mexico. The names of the two men are the same, but the one who is now being tried says it is a case of mistaken identity; that he never was acquainted with Truitt and was not in Texas at the time the crime was committed.

CHEAPER BERTHS FEB. 1.

Upper From Chicago to New York Will Be Reduced From \$5 to \$4.

Washington, Dec. 22.—An upper Pullman berth between New York and Chicago, which now costs \$5, can be obtained for \$4 after Feb. 1. The interstate commerce commission has handed down its formal order requiring the Pullman company to differentiate in its charges between an upper and a lower berth.

The price of lower berths also is to be lower in many instances. For example, the rate from New York to Jacksonville, Fla., is now \$6.50. After Feb. 1 it will be \$6.

Gaston Will Not Run.

Boston, Dec. 22.—William A. Gaston has announced his withdrawal as a Democratic candidate for the United States senate.

Auto Service in Mesopotamia.

The question of establishing an automobile service between Bagdad and Aleppo, in Mesopotamia, is again being considered by the government.

Learning Honesty.

In a little town a few years ago there was a shiftless negro boy named Ransom Blake, who, after being caught in a number of petty delinquencies, was at last sentenced to a short term in the penitentiary, where he was sent to learn a trade. On the day of his return home he met a friendly white acquaintance, who asked:

"Well, what did they put you at in the prison, Ransome?"

"They started in to make an honest boy out'n me, sah."

"That's good, Ransome, and I hope they succeeded."

"They did, sah."

"And how did they teach you to be honest?"

"They done put me in the shoosah, sah, nallin' pasteboard outer shoes to' soles, sah."—Youth's Companion.

First Dining Car.

"Just forty years ago," said T. C. Newton, a Chicago railroad man, "the Chicago & Alton Railroad put on the first dining car ever operated on any railway train in the world. This was on the run between Chicago and St. Louis. If that car could be exhibited now it would create universal merriment. It had oilcloth table covers, the seats were screwed to the floor, and its illumination depended on candles. Think of the contrast between that primitive affair of 1868 and the modern dining car, finished in solid mahogany, with gorgeous furniture, and a menu as elaborate and cooking as dainty as that supplied by any of the foremost hotels of America. Verily, we have been 'going some' in the four decades that have gone by since the Alton's first crude experiment."—Baltimore American.

Paris Taxes.

Everything which enters the city of Paris is taxed. All of the market women bringing in fruit and the truck gardeners bringing in their loads of vegetables have to pay the city tax.

Immense Siberia.

Siberia contains one-ninth of all the land on the globe. Great Britain and all Europe except Russia, together with the whole of the United States, could be inclosed within its boundaries.

Fourteen Feet of the Sea.

Every year a layer of the entire sea, 14 feet thick, is taken up into the clouds, the winds bear their burden into the land and the water comes down in rain upon the fields, to flow back through rivers.

Trees Retain Salt.

An Austrian engineer has discovered that trunks of trees retain the salt of sea water that has filtered through in the direction of the flow.

75,000 BONUS VOTES

to be given every candidate in THE CITIZEN'S Great Tour of Bermuda and Prize Contest for every club of Ten Yearly Subscriptions to THE CITIZEN before Monday, January 2nd at 9 p. m. This offer includes both old and new subscribers whether same is paid for in advance or for back subscriptions. This is an opportunity for New Entries.

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