

A DISTANT CAROL.

Leaning from the casement dark,
How the keen-kindled light
Of the pulseless winter night
Glints upon the bosom white

A CHRISTMAS CAROL.

It is at once painful and perplexing
to be answered with a heavy sigh
where one expects an exclamation of pleasure
and admiration; so it was not wonderful
that Mrs. Austin, under the exact conditions,
looked into her husband's face.

Now papa was quite as devoted a parent
to Madge and two-year-old Harold as
mamma, and took deep interest in all
nursery matters. It may be that the
memory of two other curly heads
and baby faces that had brightened the nursery
for a few brief months and then
been hidden by coffin-lids deepened the
love for the children who came later
to comfort the aching hearts. But it is very
certain that the little Austin was as
much loved and petted as children could
be, and did not dream more hopefully
of Christmas treasures than their parents
did lovingly of supplying them.

So it was with some alarm, too, that
Mrs. Austin put aside her last triumph
of needle-work and threw her arm around
her husband's neck.
"What is it, Charlie?" she asked.
He drew her into a loving embrace
before he said, sadly:
"I met my father again to-day. Margaret
will kill me to have things go on so.
He was downright shabby, feeble
and broken; looking so old and so sick
that I could not keep the tears out of my
eyes. But he would not speak to me. I
said all I could say in the street, and
tried to follow him home; but he stopped
short and said: 'I do not know you, sir!
You will cease to annoy me!' And I
could not make a scene in the street."

There was a choking sound in Charles
Austin's voice as he ceased speaking,
but, being a man, he kept back the sob
that would have followed. Mrs. Austin's
tears were falling fast.
"Ah, Christmas time, too," she said.
"It is useless to send presents, Charlie;
he has sent them back every year."

The story this conversation referred to
was an old one, a true love marriage
made in the face of disinheritance and
paternal displeasure. Mrs. Austin had
been a poor girl, employed in the factory
of Simon Austin, then a man of great
wealth and good social position; a man
proud, arrogant and egotistical, but of
his own importance. When his only child,
his idolized, indulged son and heir, told
him of his love for pretty Margaret Hay,
a factory-girl, living in the factory
boarding-house, wearing calico dresses,
and earning a mere living, the old man
was a maniac in his fury.

aid sent to him, often perplexing his son
by sending what had not come from him,
though he always refused to believe this.
And being old and broken in health, he
sank lower and lower, unable to fill lucra-
tive positions, and taking the work that
gave him barely food and the poorest
clothing.

Very sadly the son and his wife talked
of the impossibility of helping one who
would not let any appeal touch him, until
suddenly Margaret cried:
"Charles! I have an idea! Let me
try to win your father over. I will send
him a Christmas card."

"My dear, he would not open the en-
velope."

It was a very mean room in a very
poor house where the sun of a bright
Christmas morning wakened Simon Aus-
tin. Everything in the shabby place told
of the lack of woman's care and love.
Dust hung upon everything, disorder
reigned. There were no dainty trifles of
needwork, the carpets were dirty and
crooked, the carpet torn and dirty.

Very wearily, and slowly the old man
dressed himself, lit a fire in the grate and
rang for the poor breakfast his landlady
provided. Dinner and tea he was sup-
posed to buy outside, but very often this
muddy coffee, stale bread and tough chop
or steak were the sole repast of the twen-
ty-four hours.

It was Christmas Day, and no business
took the old man abroad; so, after the
untempting tray was removed, he took a
newspaper and drew shiveringly to the
fire. But before he had read one column
there came a knock upon the door, and
then it opened wide and closed again be-
hind a child—a little girl in a quaint
Mother Hubbard cloak and hat, with
large blue eyes and clustering golden
curls, and holding a large flat basket full
of fresh, beautiful flowers. While the
old man gazed at her in silent amazement
she said, in a sweet, childish voice:
"If you please, dear grandpapa, I am
your Christmas card!"

"You—you are what?" he said, ut-
terly bewildered.
"If you please, dear grandpapa, I am
your Christmas card!"
"Who sent you here? What is your
name?"

"Mamma brought me here! I am
Madge Austin, dear grandpapa—"

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NOTES AND COMMENTS.

JACK KIRKUP.

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Border Sheriff.
There was only one policeman to en-
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Rhode Island. He was quite as remark-
able in his way as any other development
of that embryonic civilization. His
name was Jack Kirkup, and all who
knew him spoke of him as being phys-
ically the most superb example of man-
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three inches in height, with the chest
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metry of an Apollo. He was good-look-
ing, with the beauty of a round-faced,
good-natured boy, and his thick hair fell
in a cluster of fine green brush, but
had never tasted liquor in his life. In a
dozen years he had slept more frequently
in the open air, upon pebble beds or in
trenches of snow, than upon ordinary
bedding, and he exhibited, in his graceful
movements, his sparkling eyes and ruddy
cheeks, his massive frame and his imper-
ceptible good nature, a degree of health
and vigor that would seem insistent to
the average New-Yorker. Now that the
railroad was building, he kept ever on
the trail, along with what called "the
right of way"—going from camp to
camp to "jump" whiskey peddlers and
gamblers and to quell disorder—except
on pay-days, once a month, when he
staid at "Spot's Landing."

The echoes of his fearless behavior and
lively adventures rang in every gather-
ing. The general tenor of the stories
was to the effect that he usually gave
warning to evil-doers, and if they did not
heed that he cleaned them out." He car-
ried a revolver, but never had used it.
Even when the notorious gambler on our
border had crossed over into "Jack's"
territory, he depended upon his fists.
He had met the gambler and had "ad-
vised" him to take the cars next day.
The gambler, in reply, had suggested
that both would get along more quietly
if each minded his own affairs, where-
upon Kirkup had said, "You hear me;
take the cars out of here to-morrow."

The little community (it was Donald, B.
C.) a very rough place at the time) held
its breath for twenty-four hours, and
at the approach of train-time was on tip-
toe with strained anxiety. At twenty
minutes before the hour the policeman,
amiable and easy-going as ever in ap-
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"You must take the train," said he.
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There were no more words. In two
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cause he was armed like a pin-cushion,
and I didn't want to have to kill him."

Animal Stories.
There are said to be about fifty buffa-
loes left in Wyoming.
The London Zoological Society has re-
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when washed on the beach it melts and
disappears," says a noted scientist.

A Lawrence, Mass., man has a petri-
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inches high, which was found on the shores
of Lake Champlain.
A large snake was discovered milking
a cow at Hagerstown, Md. The cow's
owner had been at a loss for a long time
to account for the diminution in his milk
supply.

A Clinton, Me., man owns a bird dog
that has distinguished himself the past
summer by bringing home twenty-five
chickens from the yards of his owner's
neighbors.
A stork had a ring on his leg for iden-
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returned to Germany with the ring, with
second ring, bearing the inscription,
"India sends greetings to Germany."

The butterflies of Australia bathe. One
will alight close to the water, into which
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A Belfast, Me., man who went trout-
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petually on your little
boy's lips. And he is
it for?
no worse than the big-
ger, older, balder-head-
ed point. "Life is an inter-
rogation point." "What is it
for?" "What is it for?" we
continually cry from the cradle
to the grave. So with this little
introductory sermon we turn
and ask: "What is AUGUST
FLOWER FOR?" As easily
answered as asked: It is for Dys-
pepsia. It is a special remedy
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We have reasons for knowing it. Twenty
years ago it started in a small country
town. To-day it has an honored
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possesses one of the largest manu-
facturing plants in the country and
sells everywhere. Why is this? The
reason is as simple as a child's
thought. It is honest, does one
thing, and does it right along—it
cures Dyspepsia.

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Gentle—I would like to make known to those who
are almost penniless, that I use Kendall's Spavin Cure
the fact that I think it is a most excellent Liniment.
I have used it for three years, and it has cured me
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