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### BREVITIES.

### CHRISTMAS OLD AND NEW

For love is love the great world o'er;
God's love the Bethlehem story tells
From year to year, from shore to shore,
Wherever ring the Christmas bells,
—Boston Transcript.

# Saved bu A Christmas Dream

T WAS late Christmas eve when my ball dress was sent fingered French maid, had finished braiding my heavy black hair and adjusted my new headdress, an exquisite diamond bandeau. Nora brought up the dress nicely folded, and Marle sprang to take it from its wrappings and lay it out on the bed.

As Marie lifted the dress and shook its rich folds a slip of paper fell to the carpet. It was madam's bill, and I was a little startled as my eye ran over it—\$200! But then the trimmings, a rich lace and cord d'or, were perfect. It was an expensive dress, but I didn't think it would be quite that, and Mr. Gordon had said that money had been getting tight for some time back. I wouldn't show him the bill just yet, so I thrust it into a drawer of my dresser and turned to Marie, who stood waiting to dress me.

I was contemplating my reflection in the mirror with much complacency when the door opened and Mr. Gordon came in. For a moment I was half frightened at his pale face and grave air, but he said: "I only stopped for a moment, Mrs. Gordon, to say that I shall not be able to join you at madam's tonight. Business affairs will keep me down town late."

Before I could ask him what he thought of my dress he passed out of the room, and presently I heard the street door close. It was nothing new for me to attend parties without the escort of my husband, for somehow he was always immersed in business; neither was it new for Mr. Gordon to look grave or pale, for he had lost his fresh color these late years.

At length I was ready and was driven to the home of Mme. Stapleton.

One ball is so similar to another in the world of fashion that to recount how the hours passed in madam's drawing rooms would be to tax your patience. Sufficient to say that it was long after the midnight chimes had rung I was handed from my carriage to my own door by the most distinguished gentleman of my set.

The atmosphere in the drawing room was deliciously warm in contrast with the temperature of the sharp December night without. It was pleasant to sit t

ister soothed my senses to delicious calmness.
Suddenly, while I sat thinking, from the dim corners of the drawing room seemed to glide out a train of figures, each dressed in unfashionable garments of bygone days, and yet, strange to say, each garment was recognized by me as something that I had worn in those days, and in the face of each figure turned toward me I beheld my own. The figures glided around me, then seated themselves on the opposite side of the apartment, each looking at me steadily and with my own dark eyes. Gradually the figure nearest my



ed, wild, romping child whose great-est care was to please her parents and whose greatest grief the loss of some

ed, wild, rompting child whose greatest care was to please her parents and whose greatest grief the loss of some woodland pet?"

Even while I sat gazing the scene slowly faded, and out from the dim mists that had infolded the figure nearest the child rose fair and clear the second picture before me.

A slender, beautiful maiden stood in the moonlight beneath the rustic porch draped with honeysuckles that climbed over the farmhouse door. It was Dalsy, but a child no longer. She wore a neat but simple dress of pale pink muslin, and a single white rose plucked from the bush beside the doorstep adorned her halr. Suddenly a firm step came up the walk leading to the farmhouse, it was a young and frank faced man who joined her, and Dalsy blushed, and they went in and sat down together in the moonlight by the west room window. Eloquence was not necessary to love in those days, and Dalsy and Charles Gordon sat long in the moonlight and talked together. Charles always thought he must leave at 9, but he is in no haste tonight. Ten, half past 10, 11 goes by, and there they stand in the moonlight. When they part, a tender kiss burns on Datsy's cheeks and a slender gold ring gleams on her finger. She and Charles are betrothed, and she goes to her chamber to sleep the first dream of a happy plighted love.

For a moment I stretch out my hands toward the maiden in the farmhouse,

py plighted love.
or a moment I stretch out my hands
ard the maiden in the farmhouse,
the scene grows dim, the figures
e and another picture unfolds be-

fore my view.

It was a bridal scene. Charles had grown more grave looking, for he was a business man now, and three years



"WHAT IS IT, DAISY"
had added luster to Daisy's fuller figure. Both were trusting and beloved and saw none but clouds of gold in the long vista of their future.

I could only sit and gaze longingly and eagerly while the phantom faded away from my gaze. Another picture now rose before me.

I saw myself clad in a cheerful morning robe. Charles had prospered in business, gold poured into his coffers, and with gold came Fashion, with Ambition and Pride and a score of demons in her train. It whispered:

"You are young and you are beautiful. In the great world you would be an acknowledged queen. Put your husband's wealth to use. Let not your beauty fade out in the nursery. Your child will get on well enough in the nurser's care. Live in the world and shine like a queen."

And this was the beginning of the shadow which darkened the picture. I saw the glitter of the ball, the splendid furniture, the silver plate, the gay equipage and the stately apartments, and amid it all through the opened door of a neglected nursery I saw a pale, drugged 4-year-old child slowly dying. The end came. The tiny rosewood casket was closed over the features of the child who died of motherly neglect. I saw a strong man bend in convulsed grief over his dead boy and then go out silently and, growing graver day by day, turn to his business again. I heard frantie bursts of grief from the stricken mother's mouth and clasped my jeweled hands in anguish. A long pause fell between, and then another, the last, picture fell before me. I recognized its faithfulness at once. Ten years intervened between this picture and the preceding one. I had not changed save to fuller and perfected beauty. Everything was as plain as day—the magnificent furnishings of the home, with Persian carpets, costly tables, bronze and marble statues and china and silver wares, and through these walls I moved, a cold and beautiful woman of ice.

I shrank from the portraiture with dismay. But while I sat and gazed into the picture gilded a pale, careworn man wearing the same ex

"What has brought this about?" I asked.

In a moment my question was answered. Into the magic picture came a shadowy finger which pointed to the paper strewn table at which my hushand sat. I gazed and beheld a revelation, and mechanically my eye ran over every paper he opened. The catalogue was fearful—a long array of bills—plate, furniture, statues, jewels, silks, a long array of which I recognized distinctly my own agency, and balancing this catalogue stood a tangled trade, empty coffers, with the word "Panic" written as with a pen of fire. While he sat and unfolded each paper and laid it aside I stole nearer and gazed upon the one he had just taken. It was my latest bill, the bill for my ball dress. I made a movement to snatch it from him, and the spell was Proken.

"What is it, Dalsy? You asleep here

and dreaming?" I started and to find myseif seated in the great velvet chair and my husband standing beside me. "Did I fall asleep? I must. But you, Charles, you have not slept!" I said, for just then I noticed that he was in his cont and full dress.
"I have been up late, looking over some papers I brought from the store. But I was just going up stairs. You should be asleep before this," he added, half reprovingly, his eye wandering with a sort of pained look over my tollet.
"Why do you not speak to me, Charles? You are in some great trouble. Oh, Charles, I have had a dream this evening that has shown me myself in my true light. I am nothing more than nothing. I am a drag instead of a helpmeet. Speak to me, Charles, and tell me that you do not hate me."
"Can you bear the worst, Daisy?" he asked hoarsely, lifting his eyes to mine.
"Anything, anything, my dear hus-

nate me."

"Can you bear the worst, Dalsy?" he asked hoarsely, lifting his eyes to mine.

"Anything, anything, my dear husband. I have been blind, but the scales have fallen now. Tell me everything. Are we ruined?"

"We are," he whispered in a thick, unsteady tone. "The crisis has carried me down. I have dragged away the long hours of this night trying to devise some loophole of escape, but all in vain. I do not care for myself, but for you—you, Dalsy," and he groaned in bitterness of spirit.

I could not bear it without a burst of tears; he so thoughtful, I so selfish. I pressed my lips to his burning forehead and said, amid my sobs, "No, Charles, not ruined, for we have saved our love from the wreck."

Charles looked at me steadily, and a weight seemed to have been lifted off his head. His lips lost their grim expression and there was a ripple of tears in his voice.

"Dalsy, you have saved me!" he said. "Maddened by the thought of the morrow, I know not but the result might have been this—see!" and he drew forth a little vial labeled "laudanum" from his vest pocket. "But you have saved me, darling."

"Charles, we have both been mad!" I said, with pallid lips, and striving, for his sake, to subdue the terror that begirt my whole being when I realized how nigh my husband had stood to the wretched guilt of suicide. "And God forgive me for my want of sympathy in all your troubles and help me from this hour to be your faithful wife."

And sitting there late in the night, my husband kneeling beside me and with his head upon my lap, I bent my cheek to his, and the tears, baptizing our reunion, fell upon the folds of my last folly—my ball dress.—New Orleans Times-Democrat.

Table Decoration.

Times-Democrat.

Table Decoration.

For dinner table decorations as far as coloring is concerned it is best to keep to the warmer tints. Avoid the use of white by itself and keep to shades of crimson, old gold or even bronze tones, the latter especially where there is a large display of old silver. The vases may be filled with well berried holly points and mistetoe, with Christmas roses as a sort of undergrowth to the various stands. Frosted branches and sprays are always fashionable at this season and have a very charming effect. Their beauty may be much enhanced by a judicious use of bright ribbon bows. Lamps and candles must all have their shades to match the principal coloring used in the decoration. Tall tubes look very well on a large table, especially where space is a consideration—i. e., where the table is otherwise well laden with dessert or with silver bowls of bonbons.

Roast Turkey, Turkish Style.
Clean and truss the turkey. Wash and parboil one cup of rice in boiling salted water. When about half cooked, drain and mix with it one dozen French chestnuts peeled and cut into small pieces, one-fourth of a pound of well washed currants and two ounces of almonds blanched and chopped. Senson with a fourth of a teaspoonful each of salt, pepper and ground clunamon. Melt half a cup of butter over the fire and stir the mixture in it until well mixed with the butter. Stuff the turkey with this, sew up the openings and bake on a rack, basting every ten ninutes with butter or drippings melted in a little hot water. Turn the fewl often and dredge with flour after each basting. Serve with a rich, clear gravy.

gravy.

Turkey With Sausages.

A turkey garnished with sausage has a very festive not to say bacchanalian appearance. Three-quarters of an hour before the cooking is finished festoon it with strings of link sausage. These you must turn from time to time so that every part shall be as brown as the bird itself. The better the flavor of the sausage of course the finer the flavor of the turkey. With this you will want giblet sauce made by stewing and mincing the giblets and adding them to the gravy in the pan after the fat has been removed.

Under the blue laws of Connecticut for a man to have a sprig of holly in his house on Christmas day was a penal offense, for which the household-er was punished by a fine of a shilling and confinement in the town stocks.

Pilgrims Didn't Celebrate.

The pilgrim fathers forbade the celebration of Christmas as "a heathen nummery."

Good Wishes.
God bless the master of this hot
Likewise the mistress, too,
And all the little children
That round the table go.

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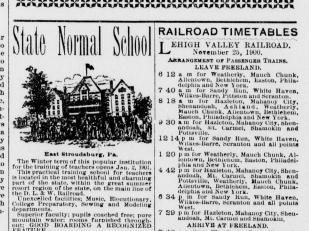
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12 14 pm from Fortsville, Shamokin, Mt. and Hazleton, Mahamoy City, Mahamoy, Mahamoy City, Mahamoy, Mahamoy