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THE CRICKET.

A Christmas Idyl.

BY CHARLES WETHERBEE.

I.

[illegible]

[illegible] Christmas [illegible] the [illegible] of childhood. [illegible] the coming of

[illegible] that gay

[illegible] Christmas [illegible]

[illegible] of a good, old scripture-[illegible] the wise men of the East [illegible] a mid-[illegible] days close, full of fairy stories.

[illegible]

[illegible] and I [illegible]

[illegible] the radiant sun [illegible] all [illegible] and [illegible]. In the universal joy with which the days [illegible] through the [illegible]

[illegible] CHRISTMAS.

[illegible] Christmas revels and feasts [illegible] plenty of turkey and [illegible] much turkey [illegible] plum cake as I could [illegible] as much [illegible] would [illegible]

[illegible] thought [illegible] I [illegible] homeward through the [illegible] (it was a pleasant [illegible] [illegible] followed upon [illegible] down a picturesque [illegible] [illegible] grapes and stream, which we [illegible] I leant my little flaxen head out of the carriage window and visions of Christmas [illegible]

[illegible] Christmas [illegible] the visions of childhood [illegible] the coming of

[illegible] that gay

[illegible] we celebrate

[illegible] a good, old scripture-[illegible] the wise men of the East [illegible] a mid-[illegible] days close, full of fairy stories.

[illegible]

[illegible] and I [illegible]

[illegible] the radiant sun [illegible] all [illegible] and [illegible]. In the universal joy with which the days [illegible] through the [illegible]

[illegible] Christmas revels and feasts [illegible] plenty of turkey and [illegible] much turkey [illegible]

[illegible] the [illegible] and [illegible] back his legions in their fire and [illegible] [illegible] chimney. But along the coast "where the [illegible] waves sack and forward house with [illegible] pebbles roar," or in the far, far West, among wolds of unhewn timber, and [illegible] prairie. Ah, yes, the soldier [illegible] from home, kindred and friends, [illegible] they are to see again. [illegible] of the near by is still the rise of the morrow morn, [illegible] full of the [illegible] in the cloud of smoke, [illegible] the next bride may be [illegible] them, as [illegible] the cradle I mingled [illegible] his [illegible] first thought. *There* comrades [illegible] next dead. A [illegible] to fling—our [illegible] cross. The poor soldier exile!

[illegible]

[illegible] Christmas [illegible]

[illegible] poured [illegible] low toned,

[illegible] more—

[illegible] gladly done.

[illegible]

[illegible] and thought—

[illegible]

[illegible] Ah, [illegible] good old [illegible] Terre, [illegible] mother earth? [illegible] wonder [illegible] many times [illegible]

[illegible] which [illegible]

[illegible] Christmas [illegible] Bennett [illegible] soldiers' wives.

[illegible] in the editor of the Rebel, [illegible] London, Nov. Eng., says that it is [illegible] good authority that Mr. Thackeray [illegible] among a several of the able Times' [illegible] American affairs.

[illegible] The Yankees [illegible] plenty of arms at Fredericksburg. [illegible] preferred, says old Hooks of the [illegible] use their legs.

[illegible] The Tom [illegible] is being revived at the Haymarket.

THE DYING YEAR.

BY [illegible]

I.

Yet another chief is carried—
From life's battle on his spears,
To the great Valhalla cloisters
Of the ever living years.

II.

Yet another year—the nothing
Of a warlike giant vast—
Is pitched within the pyramids
Of the ever growing past.

III.

Years roll through the pale of space
As the dropping rosy spands
Through the cold and passive fingers
Of a hermit at his beads.

IV.

One year falls, and ends its pedigree
One arises with its seeds—
And 'tis ever thus prays nature
Only telling years for beads.

V.

Years like acorns from the branches
Of the giant Oak of Time,
All the world with healthy seedlings
For a future more sublime.

WHAT A HORRIBLE MISTAKE!

BY JOHN HAPPY.

[illegible] strange adventures escape [illegible] with my inseparable friend [illegible] Esq., I occupy another [illegible] boarding house in [illegible] Richmond. [illegible] of my lodging, [illegible] of the [illegible] my arrival. I had just [illegible] a party of [illegible] through the [illegible] anathematize that drinking party. It was because I was so scared I forgot how to [illegible]. My breath was getting short and I was sinking beneath the mountain of bedclothes and I felt that my "situation" as the newspapers have it, was approaching a "crisis." I would dress [illegible] as well as I could, even so little and [illegible].

Mrs. B. was dressing.

My head was drawn back again, like a turtle to his shell. The new toilet, the curtain—the stairs—and the *coup ensemble* of [illegible] now no longer a mystery to me. I [illegible] there was no chance [illegible] for escape [illegible] to await the *denouement*. Suddenly the room was veiled in darkness and the unwieldy proportions of Mrs. B was crumbled among the feathers.

"Ole man!"

I made no answer, but turned towards the [illegible] as close against it as [illegible] country would [illegible] hermit."

I was too much alarmed to laugh. I was revolving in my mind some desperate mode of escape [illegible] when Mrs. B broke the [illegible]

"Ole man!"

I [illegible] and stood in response, for I saw that [illegible] for the large bed of that [illegible] she heightened the tone of her [illegible]

"Ole man!"

I replied [illegible] by a succession of snores [illegible] as nearly as possible, the probable [illegible] in his slumbers. [illegible] gathered herself up for an effort [illegible] kicked [illegible] in the small [illegible] to [illegible] through it accompanying [illegible] in a voice louder than a [illegible]

"[illegible] I SAY!"

[illegible] I broke out—"I don't [illegible]

[illegible] I sprang to the door, stopped [illegible] out of the room [illegible] like a sheet of lightning [illegible] the house.

[illegible] told me that Mrs. B [illegible] suddenly from her shock to [illegible] stood [illegible] was no [illegible] H. I grasped my trousers [illegible] door [illegible] the [illegible] and [illegible] of Rodgers were rallying [illegible] of Mrs. B., who in broken [illegible] an historical account [illegible] was [illegible] house was in an [illegible] raged against [illegible] direction. I ran to the other [illegible] and leaped a Ravelin of deep [illegible] in the *Red Gauntlet* [illegible] window and fell into a trench and filled [illegible] Rodgers, who immediately [illegible] and cry and joined in the [illegible] again and stood on a [illegible] and [illegible] and [illegible] Footsteps and [illegible] I found footsteps and [illegible] [illegible] window through which I [illegible] to a water spout [illegible] and low to an [illegible] through which I tumbled [illegible] of a warm cat. The [illegible] I had been effected, than I [illegible] unpeopled with a spirit of giant [illegible] cash. She dropped me [illegible] and myself at my chamber door [illegible] I [illegible] with [illegible] and [illegible] I [illegible] [illegible] adjoin [illegible] that old gen[illegible] for an hour.

[illegible] came home, ac[illegible] in writing from [illegible] letter keep [illegible] I didn't [illegible] waiting. He [illegible] grandfather [illegible] the na[illegible]

[illegible] the next day. And I never [illegible] again in a house that is [illegible] a whole block of the same sort [illegible] when you get home with[illegible] as pleasure.

J. HAPPY.

[illegible] sent us by "Dora" [illegible] for our columns.

[illegible] is the title of a burlesque [illegible] out in Paris.

— The Yankees crossed the Rappahannock with the avowed determination to free the negroes. If they make a few more moves like the recent Punch-like move, they will certainly succeed in troubling our negroes to run [illegible]

[illegible] is said to be getting well