

THE FIRST CHRISTMAS TREE IN NEW ENGLAND.

As soon as Mrs. Olcott was well rid of Mrs. Hawley, she called her boys and bade them go to the pine woods and get the finest, handsomest young hemlock tree that they could find.

"Get one that is straight and tall, well-boughed branches on it, and put where you can draw it under the wood shed, after dark," she added.

The boys went to Pine Hill, and there they picked out the finest young tree on all the hill, and said, "We will take this one." So, with their hatchets they hewed it down and brought it safely home the next night when all was dark. And when Roger was happily sleeping in the adjoining room they dragged the tree into the kitchen.

It was too tall, so they took it out again and cut off two or three feet at the base. Then they propped it up, and the curtains being down over the windows, and blankets being fastened over the curtains to prevent any one looking in, and the door being doubly locked to prevent any one coming in, they all went to bed.

Very early the next morning, while the stars shone on the snow covered hills,—the same stars that shone sixteen hundred years before,—the little Paritan mother in New England arose very softly. She went out and lit the kitchen fire anew from the well-covered embers. She then stepped upon the twigs of the tree the gifts she had bought in Boston for her boys and girl. Then she took as many as twenty pieces of candle and fixed them upon the branches. After that, she softly called Rupert, Robert and Lucy and told them to get up and dress and come into the kitchen.

Hurrying back, she began, with a bit of a burning stick, to light the candles just as the first star was set. Before they had time to say a word, they were silenced by their mother's warning.

"I wish to fetch Roger in and wake him up before it," she said. "Keep still until I come back."

The little lad, fast asleep, was lifted in a basket and gently brought to his mother into the natal presence.

"See! Roger, my boy, see!" she said, arousing him. "It is Christmas morning now! In England they only have Christmas bought, but here in New England we have a whole Christmas tree."

"O Mother!" he cried. "O Lucy! it is really, really true, and no dream at all! Yes, I see it, see! O Mother! it is so beautiful. Were all the trees on all the hills lighted up that way when Christ was born? And, when," he added, clapping his little hands with joy at the thought, "when, the stars did sing when Christ was born? They must be glad, then, and keep Christmas, too, in heaven. I know they must, and there will be good times there, Roger."

"Then," said the boy, "I shan't mind going, now that I've seen the Christmas bought. I—what is that, mother?"

"What was it that he heard? The little Olcott home had never before seemed to tremble so. There were raps at the window, there were knocks at the door—and it was as yet scarcely the break of day! There were voices also, shouting something to somebody."

"Shall I put out the candles, mother?" whispered Robert.

"What will they do to us for having the tree? I wish we hadn't it," regretted Rupert; while Lucy clung to her mother's gown and shrieked with all her strength, "It's Indians!"

Fate and white and still, to meet her fate stood Mrs. Olcott, until, out of the knocking and the tapping at her door, her heart caught a sound. It was a voice calling, "Rachel! Rachel!"

"Unbar the door!" she cried back to her boys. "It's your father calling." Down came the blankets; up went the curtains; open flew the door and in walked Captain Olcott, followed by every man and woman in Plymouth who had heard at break of day the glorious news that the expected ship had arrived at Boston, and with it the long-lost Captain Olcott. For an instant nothing was thought of except the joyous welcoming of the captain in his own home.

"What's this? What is it? What does this mean?" was asked again and again, when the first excitement was past, as the tall young pine stood aloft, its candles ablaze, its gifts still hanging.

"It's welcome home to father!" said Lucy, her only thought to screen her mother.

"No, child, no!" sternly spoke Mrs. Olcott. "Tell the truth!"

"It's—Christmas tree!" faltered poor Lucy.

One and another and another, Pilgrims and Paritans all, drew near with faces stern and forbidding, and gazed and gazed, until one and another and yet another softened slowly into a smile as little Roger's piping voice sang out:

"She made it for me, mother did. But you may have it now, and all the pretty things that are on it, too, because you've brought my father back again; if mother will let you," he added.

"Little Pilgrim nor Paritan frowned at the gift. One man, the sternest there, broke off a little twig and said: "I'll take it for the sake of the good old times at home."

The Curse or the Blessing of Riches. There will be a sermon on the tombstone of Sands W. Hopkins, the young Kansas City millionaire who ended his life with morphine Wednesday, if reckless spirits will only read it. The food and his money were completely matched in Hopkins and his patrimony. Beginning life in selfish indulgence and blighting what prospects he had by killing his wife, accidentally he claimed, he ran a short, mad race with sin and death. When he rode a horse into a restaurant a few weeks ago, declaring that he wished to treat his best friend, he got into company far above his deserts.

The week has presented a telling contrast in the death of one who accepted wealth as a trust. The New York woman, whose name is not recalled, an inmate to nurse the same day with Hopkins, leaves behind her a memory that all men honor. Her city and country are the better for her and her example. Happily, worthy stewardship like hers is not so rare in this age of good works.

The Age of Envy. New York Nation. We do not know the circumstances under which Solomon was led to declare, "Better is a dinner of herbs where love is than a stalled ox and hatred therewith." They were probably of a domestic nature, but how would find reason for his proverb in the relations of the different members

of our body politic to each other. It is beyond question that, so far as provision for their physical and mental wants is concerned, the poor people are a great deal better off than they ever were before. No one who has any acquaintance with the details of the life of the inhabitants of this country in the early part of the century will deny that the hardships of a middle-class family were greater than those of the family of a sober and well-behaved laborer now, or that the luxuries of the one have become the necessities of the other. But it is questionable whether our ancestors were not happier over their herbs than we with our stalled oxen. The poor are so much exercised with the fear, or enraged with the conviction, that they are not getting their fair share of the good things of this life that they cannot enjoy what they do get, while the well-to-do are anxious lest the tide of discontent may rise so high as to sweep away the banquet altogether. Few persons would deny that it would be a pleasanter working to live in less wealth, provided there were also less grumbling, envy, and contention.

Business Principles.

Dry Goods Chronicle.

A clothing dealer in an interior town had an occasion to visit the city to purchase goods. While he was gone, a young man entered his store to buy a coat. A salesman went upon the customer and showed him a coat, plainly marked seven dollars. The customer tried it on and said in a pleasant confiding way: "I want a good article and I can afford to pay a little more." The salesman showed him many coats, and finally, having removed the tag, again offered him the seven-dollar coat which had fitted him at first, and said: "Here is a coat, a fine article, just your fit, which I can sell you for twelve dollars." The coat was again tried on, the young man seemed pleased, paid his money, and went away. On the merchant's return the salesman, with a smile of triumph all over his countenance, rushed to him and boasted of what he had done. The merchant looked grave. He only said: "Does anyone know who the customer was?" The little boy had recognized him as a workman in a neighboring factory, and remembered his name. The merchant sent for the young man, told of his mortification, gave him back five dollars and the privilege of returning the coat if he chose, and then said to the salesman: "Now, sir, I will pay you your week's salary and I wish you to go. If you cheat my customers, you have not principle enough not to cheat me. If I can't have my people sell goods honestly I will go out of business. Good-day, sir."

The Horse Wore Goggles.

A horse with goggles was one of the attractions of the Clinton Square Market place Saturday afternoon. The Manlius farmer who owned him said he discovered recently that the animal was very near-sighted, and an accident to whom he took the nag said so, too. The eye man took the necessary dimensions and, sending to New York, had a pair of concave spectacles made expressly for Dobbin. When the farmer tried them for the first time the horse appeared to be startled, but, recovering from his surprise, manifested every symptom of pleasure. They are made so as to be firmly fastened in the head-stall and cannot be worn without that piece of harness.

"When I turn him out to pasture," said the farmer, "he feels uneasy and uncomfortable without his goggles, and last Sunday he hung around the barn and whinnied so plaintive like that I took out the bit and put the headstall and goggles on him, and he was so glad that he rubbed my shoulder with his nose. Then he kicked up his heels and danced down to the pasture. You ought to have seen him. I hate to let him wear spectacles all the time, though, for fear he will break them."—[Syracuse Standard.

Love's Garden.

Washington Letter.

Delegate Bean of Arizona is a jolly good fellow, and one who enjoys a good joke, even at his own expense, and he is willing to tell one, too. He said the other night, while talking at Willard's with a company of friends, "There is a great deal of fun to be gotten out of names, but I think my wife heads the list. I am her third husband. First, she married a Mr. Root, the second was a Mr. Flower, and the third, myself, a Mr. Bean. The Lord only knows what part of the vegetable kingdom she will go to for her fourth husband."

The Vermont Grange.

The 16th annual meeting of the Vermont state grange was held at Montpelier last week. The grangers have gained 200 in membership during the year, and the treasurer's report showed a prosperous state of affairs. A resolution was adopted instructing the executive committee to request the members of congress from Vermont to oppose the passage of any bill that has for its object the removal of duties from wool and raw material and endeavor to secure a legislative act which will protect the various interests of the farmers of Vermont, especially upon bark, lumber, wool and poultry.

With the Compliments of the Season

We submit

OUR HOLIDAY ANNOUNCEMENT

With our knowledge of value to buy right and to sell for the clearest margin of profit, and recognizing the fact that our success lies in the hands of our patrons, it is integrity and civility will command the best values there, we aim to attract the careful buyers.

Behold Some of Our Prices

Ladies' and Gents' Fine Fancy Slippers

From \$2.00 to \$2.00. Long (28 inch) Knit Stockings for Lumbering, \$1.00. Rose Footies of Knit Legging, Red, Gray and Black, \$1.25. Gentlest Plush Knit Stockings, Red, Gray and Black, \$1.50. Lumberman's overs, \$2.00 to \$2.50. Men's Anvils, \$1.00, \$1.50, \$2.00, \$2.50, \$3.00. Ladies' Nubbers, 10 different kinds, 35, 40, 50, 75c. Warranted.

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Ever shown in Eastern Vermont. Our styles are the latest.

OUR NOVELTIES THE NEWEST.

Our PRICES THE LOWEST.

To be seen and heard to be appreciated. Please Call at the

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BOOT AND SHOE EMPORIUM,

66 and 68 Railroad Street, ST. JOHNSBURY, VT.

E. & T. FAIRBANKS & CO.

Christmas Goods Now Ready!

Fancy Goods in Plush and Leather.

Illustrated Gift Books and Calendars.

Choice Assortment Handkerchiefs

In Silk and Linen from 10c up.

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Staple and Fancy Goods.

Making the Largest

Collection of Goods in Northern Vt.

to select from.

We have marked down all our Winter Garments. Now is the time to buy. They make excellent Christmas Presents.

E. & T. FAIRBANKS & CO.

HOLIDAY GOODS,

At FLINT BROTHERS.

WE HAVE A FULL LINE OF CHRISTMAS NOVELTIES.

Fine Gold and Silver Watches, For Ladies and Gents.

Rings, Chains, Charms, Pins, Cuff Buttons, Gold Pens, etc.

A splendid assortment of SILVER PLATED WARE. A large line of PLUSH GOODS, ALBUMS, BOOKS, GAMES, TOYS, Etc. A complete line

1888 DIARIES 1888

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Willow and Reed Chairs, Carpet Rocks and Foot Rests, Ottomans, etc., etc.

In large numbers and lower prices than was ever seen in St. Johnsbury.

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All Traveling Expenses Included.

A WINTER IN CALIFORNIA.

Four Parties will leave Boston in January in Magnificent Trains of Pullman Palace Cars (with Pullman Palace Dining-Car or Hotel Cars on every train) for all the Principal Cities and Health Resorts of the Pacific Coast. The dates and routes are as follows:— Monday, January 2. Via Cincinnati, Mammoth Cave, New Orleans, Galveston, San Antonio, etc. Monday, January 12. Via Cincinnati, Santa Fe, Albuquerque, Barstow, San Bernardino, etc. Monday, January 16. Via Cincinnati, Mammoth Cave, New Orleans, Galveston, San Antonio, etc. Monday, January 23. Via Council Bluffs, Denver, Ogden, Salt Lake City, etc. Sixteen Returning Parties, under special escort, over five different routes. Return tickets also good on all Trains. Independent Tickets, covering every expense both ways, and giving entire freedom to the passenger while in California, and in making the journey homeward. Hotel company supplied for long or short sojourn at all the Leading Pacific Coast Resorts. Dates of Mexico Excursions, January 16 and March 12.

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This vegetable compound has been successfully used in private practice by its discoverer for several years. It is an infallible cure for the most aggravated forms of Rheumatism and gives permanent relief to the worst cases of Catarrh.

Other testimonials might be added. If these do not suffice, call on your druggist for circular containing others which will more fully convince you.

Price, \$1 per bottle. Sold by Flint Brothers, St. Johnsbury, and all Druggists.

Dr. J. Q. A. PACKER, Proprietor, Marshfield, Vermont.

Presentation of Account.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Estate of Joseph J. Johnson late of Barret, in said District deceased, is in the hands of the Probate Office in St. Johnsbury, in said district, on the 6th day of December, A. D. 1887.

Henry A. Smith administrator, "do bonis non," with will annexed upon the Estate of Joseph J. Johnson late of Barret, in said District deceased, presents his administration account for examination and allowance, and makes application for a final distribution and partition of the estate of said deceased.

Whereupon, it is ordered by said Court, that said account and said application be referred to a session thereof, to be held at the Probate Office in St. Johnsbury, on the 11th day of Jan., A. D. 1888 for hearing and decision thereon; and it is further ordered that notice hereof be given to all persons interested, by publication of the same three weeks successively in the Caledonian, published at St. Johnsbury, previous to said time appointed for hearing; that they may appear at said time and place, and show cause, if any they may have why said account should not be allowed and said decree made.

By the Court, Attest. WALTER P. SMITH, Judge.

THE TENTH ANNUAL HOLIDAY SALE.

Fine Gold and Silver Watches

Chains, Rings, Diamonds, Crepe Lace Pins, Rings, Studs and Scarf Pins, Gold Spectacles, Eye-glasses,

Gold Pens, Pencils and Tooth-picks, French Clocks and Bronzes, Albums, Bibles, Gift Books.

Large line Solid Silver Goods

An immense assortment Silver Plated Ware.

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And they are FINE GOODS AT LOW PRICES.

Cheviot Suits, Boys' and Children's Suits, Overcoats, Ulsters and Reefers. Medium weight Overcoats, four-button Cutaway Frock Suits for Dress; Young Men are wearing them. Genteel Pantaloon in Striped and Plaid are the fashion. Dog, Coon, Buffalo, Lamb and Jap. Wolf Overcoats. Hats and Winter Caps. All kinds of Furnishing Goods. Our Goods are now open and on our counters and

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You know our way of doing business. Reliable Clothing at reasonable Prices. That is what we have done for 20 years past, and we hope to do so for years to come.

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Passumpsic Clothing Store, New Masonic Block, Main St. ST. JOHNSBURY.

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The Largest Dealer, The Oldest Firm.

Special discount on Musical instruments during Holidays.

One that has stood the test Because it keeps the best

PIANOS AND ORGANS

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First Class Tuner and Teacher at both Stores.

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THE GREAT ENGLISH REMEDY For Liver, Bile, Indigestion, etc. Free from Mercury, contains only Pure Vegetable Ingredients. Agent: C. N. CRITTENDON, New York.

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I will deliver FREIGHT PAID, at St. Johnsbury, Lyndon, or Lyndonville.

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at the rate of \$24 per ton, in any quantity, of 100 pounds upward, can ship immediately.

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1888 DIARIES 1888.

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A good assortment of Napkin Rings, Pickle Jars, Silver Mugs, Bar Pins, Cuff Buttons, Bracelets, etc.

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