MISS MARIA'S SANTA CLAUS.

-BY-

RUTH HALL.

"WELL, I must say!" Mr. Joseph Bascom stood in the kitchen door and looked about him with much disgust. "Ironing, too! I thought it was regularly understood, Maria, that you were a boarder here!"

"Well, I am, brother," Miss Maria rejoined, in all good faith. "I pay my $6 every Saturday night of my life."

"Yes; I guess that's about what there is of it." Mr. Bascom hid a smile in his handkerchief. "Don't these Conways ever do any work, Maria? I suppose you took a hand in the washing, Monday, didn't you?"

To his astonishment his sister began a voluble excuse:

"It was the first time, Joseph; upon my word. Of course I've hung them out, ye know—mild weather, an' like that; just to get th' things out o' th' way. But, this week Miss Conway had company comin'—an' I'd just as lieve. There really weren't no reason——"

"Maria Bascom ain't overly smart," the neighbors used to say, in cruel, country bluntness; but that any human being could impose upon such docile trust and child-like innocence, had never entered her brother's brain to believe.

He stood staring at her in grieved surprise for a moment, and then, with the air of a man used to his own way and to much management, announced his decision:

"I'll tell you this, Maria: You go upstairs and pack your trunk, and to-night we go back to New York together. I guess our house is big enough to hold my sister, and you won't have to do any washing there. Go on!" He waved her to the door. "I'll settle with the Conways, and they'll learn a little wisdom before they're many days older, I reckon."

Poor Miss Maria, used always to obedience to some stronger will, scarcely knew how it came about—this sudden transplanting from her old home, and its dear associations, to Joseph's awe-inspiring city house.

He Stood Staring at Her in Grieved Surprise.

Probably Mrs. Bascom, who was somewhat her husband's superior, and the Misses Bascom, who went a little farther up the social ladder, did not welcome this addition to the family with a great enthusiasm, But, being the best-hearted folks in the world, they made Aunt Maria as comfortable as possible; gave her a pretty room, and, perhaps—as busy people, and only human, too—did not very much regret that she stayed a good deal in the room they gave her.

Indeed, the newcomer found herself sadly at a loss in an establishment where everything went by clockwork, where her own service was in no way needed, and where there were no children—the little Conways had been many. She was most at ease with the servants, and soon made great friends with Molly, the second girl, who was from what Miss Maria called "over our way," and whose Yankee acuteness had not been long in gauging the little old woman's capacity aright.

"Th' folks upstairs," she said to the cook, "act like they thought their aunt was same as them. What she wants is to be treated childish; and it only flustrates 'er, their makin' out she's grown-up as anybody. 'Tain't right; they ought to understand."

The cook assented to this.

"What d'ye s'pose she's frettin' about now?" Molly queried, flourishing a dish-cloth. "She says t' me this mornin'—'Why,' says she, 'here 'tis th' middle o' November, an' I ain't heard a word o' Chris'muss yet! Don't they make much o' Chris'muss in New York, Molly?'"

"What did ye tell 'er?" asked the cook.

"O, I sez, th' Bascoms wa'n't in th' way o' doin' much; jus' plum puddin' fer dinner, an' a turkey, an' a couple o' dollars apiece t' you an' me, 'n' th' rest. They don't make no presents, sez I; an' she looked all took back. I declare I was sorry fer th' ole lady. Says she: 'Why, t' th' Conways there was always a great time; all them children a-talkin' about Senty Claus, an' hangin' up their stockin's. We all hung up our stockin's t' th' Conways,' sez she, 'it was reel pleasant, too. Things seem diff'runt some way, that come out o' a stockin' o' course'—an' then she drawed 'erself up, and tried to look very dignified. 'Of course,' sez she, 'all sech talk ez Senty Claus is foolish, an' I don't know ez children ought t' be encouraged in it; but it sounds kind o' good, too, t' have 'em goin' on about th' reindeers. I like t' hear it.'"

"Poor ole soul!" mused the cook. "I got a soft spot in my heart for Miss Maria since she made that mustard plaster for me, as if I was her own flesh 'n' blood. She's worth all the rest of 'em put together."

"O' course she is." Molly thought there were no two opinions as to that. "Do ye mind how she dusted th' parlors, that time I had the run around? I say, she'd ought to have a Chris'mus if she wants one; an' it's my opinion Senty Claus is ez much t' her ez ever he was t' them Conway children."

But Miss Maria came up from breakfast, a few mornings later, with a very troubled face, she found the chambermaid making her bed, and, sitting down by the open fire, began dolefully enough:

"Why, Molly," and there was a suspicion of tears in her voice; "do ye know Joseph's folks ain't plottin' t' do a single thing fer Chris'muss—not a thing! Why, I tell 'em, t' th' Conways, we uset t' give half our winter clo'es, that way; tippets, an' rubbers, an' all. Last year him' n' me put together 'n' got her a blanket shawl—a reel nice one. O' course"—with a foolish smile—"that couldn't go in no stocking 't ever was made; we jus' put it on th' hearth, underneath. We often put things on th' hearth. It seemed just as nice."

"An' what'd they say to that, Miss Maria?" asked Molly, in a fashion she had of recalling the simple soul from her long, rambling reminiscences.

"O, the girls they didn't say nothin', nor yet Celia. Joseph he jik' laughed, and sez he: 'We got all out o' th' way o' makin' presents 't this house; there don't seem no cause fer it,' sez he. 'Wife, 'n' th' girls, an' you all has your allowances, an' can buy jus' wot ye want, ez ye want it. I don't b'lieve in a man keepin' all his money t' himself, 'n' makin' a great show in th' fam'ly at Chris'mus time,' sez he. It sounds kind o' reasonable, too, don't it?"

She looked over wistfully at Molly shaking up the pillows.

"I don' know." The second girl thought for a minute, "ev'ry body has a chance t' be his own Senty Claus, then, of they all git their due, I suppose he means. Yes, that does sound good. Ef we was meant t' be independent o' each other, that is."

Miss Maria heard only part of this speech, and that part haunted her long after she was left alone.

Everybody his own Santa Claus, Molly had said. It would not out her mind. Born of the despair which had seized upon her weak spirit when she found they were

Molly Had a Long, Plump Stocking in Her Hand.

to know, here, no Christmas, and no good fairy—a despair which in turn was part of the great wave of homesickness sweeping up to her heart—she began to build up a crazy plan, and formed it on the servant's careless speech.

"What did you buy, Aunt Maria?" asked Sarah, the pretty daughter, with an attempt at small talk, one afternoon when the two older women had paused in the parlor to rest before going upstairs with their wraps: "Your lap is piled with bundles; are you going to have a new dress?

Miss Maria looked disconcerted.

"Mebbe," she replied briefly, gathering her parcels together, "I got some stun colored cashmere, 'n'—'n' some little things." She rose to her feet, hugging up her load. One twist of paper fell to the ground. Mary, the plain daughter with the nice eyes, ran to pick it up.

"It feels like gloves," she said, for want of a happier thought, handing it to her aunt.

Miss Maria seized the parcel almost rudely. "I don't remember;" color rose to her cheeks; her eyes fell. "I got a lot o' little things. Mebbe I didn't buy no gloves. I—I ain't sure!"

The door closed upon her suddenly, in what seemed very like guilty flight.

"Why, mother!" cried all three girls together. "What has gone wrong? Aunt Maria is always as voluble as a child over every paper of pins!"

"I do believe," added Bella, "that 'goin' down street, and doin' a little tradin', is all that reconciles her to New York."

Meanwhile, upstairs, Miss Maria was hurriedly thrusting her purchases into a deep drawer she had emptied for the purpose.

"I don't believe," she thought, with a prick from her tender conscience, "I don't believe I remember ef I bought them gloves or not. They was other things I was lookin' at, too—I ain't sure." She paused a moment to consider something else. "Anyway," her face cleared and beamed, "I don't skursely know how that aprun looked. I think 'twas crossbar, but I wouldn't be sure fer nothin'. An' them mufflers; Celia, she chose fer me, an' I didn't look t' see ef she got th' red one or that dark blue. I hope"—she gazed down into the drawer—"I hope 'twas the red one, but I won't know till Chris'muss."

Day after day, Miss Maria added to the contents of the drawer. "Whether or no," as she phrased it, she meant to give some little present to each member of the family, from Joseph down to the errand boy. But, with these weightier matters, her own preparations went on. "The girls" could not understand why their aunt wore those shabby shoes, when Sarah had helped her buy a new pair, or why she made such a mystery of even a couple of hat pins which their mother carelessly bestowed upon her one day, and which disappeared and were no more seen, though her bonnet hung awry upon the good gray head as usual.

Poor Miss Maria! She found it hard work, but she never relaxed her ardor, now that this idea was hers. Her winter plenishing was bought in an off-hand, careless fashion which puzzled Mrs. Joseph, used already to the country woman's love of detail and a trifling excitement.

So Christmas eve came 'round.

After the 6 o'clock dinners, through whose courses she hurried her way, Miss Maria shut herself in her own room, and began at once her work for the night. Her withered cheeks were a dull red with excitement; her faded eyes glowed like youth again. All the family presents had to be resorted and tied up, with lavish expenditure of paper and twine. "It's such fun openin' em!" she thought.

Then came the only private pleasure. Back and forth tripped Miss Maria, back and forth between bureau and chimney, till the long, dangling, gray stocking was stuffed rigid, and the floor beneath piled up with packages. It was only 8 o'clock, but she was used to early hours. "I'll be up before th' light," she thought, with her simplest look, so she went to bed straightway and very soon to sleep.

Now it happened that the Conways had not only been generously remembered by their late boarder at this holiday time, but, strange to say, they had remembered her. Everyone, from "him" down to next to the baby, had helped fill a good-sized box, with which the expressman came banging on the door about 9 o'clock. The Bascoms were genuinely pleased and a little ashamed when they took in this token of good will. Bella said, after a little talk:

"Can't I run up to Aunt Maria's room with it, right away? She'll be as happy as a child, and it seems too good to keep till morning."

The rest approved, and Bella tugged bravely at her load to the door, where only a glimmer of firelight met her eyes as she groped her way in. Aunt Maria was unconscious of her knock and of her entrance. But some one on the hearthrug started guiltily, and turned to meet the young girl's face with a very shamefaced air.

"Molly!" cried Miss Bella.

Molly had a long, plump stocking in her hand. Mistress and maid stood together before each other.

The maid was first to speak.

"See!" she said, huskily. "What that poor soul's done fer 'erself, an' gone t' sleep, like th' baby she is. Been her own Senty Claus, she has, an' me 'n' cook makin' up this" (shading the strange thing she held, with a superior smile), "so as she shouldn't quite miss a Christmas!"

The ready tears sprang to her mistress' eyes.

"O, I never dreamed it was like that to her!" she gasped. "You make me so, so ashamed, Molly! We must do something, too!"

She bustled about the room, depositing the Conway box at one side of the grate, and helping Molly suspend her own tribute.

"This shall be the sweetest surprise the dear thing ever knew," whispered Miss Bella, with a catch in her whisper. "I hope it isn't too late to make her very happy yet."

And the others were much astonished at sight, a little later, of the youngest Miss Bascom, in furs and dainty toque, equipped for a walk. Not less astonished when, as in response to their inquiries, she burst into tears, and, turning to her mother, caught her around the waist to a gale of kisses.

"Suppose it had been you!" she said, "stranded among a set of heathen, who never expected you to do anything but live upon pictures and drink, you darling!"

"Bella, are you daft?" asked Sarah, in some scorn.

"No, but Aunt Maria is, and we didn't care, and let her fill her own Christmas stocking."

They were sympathetic enough now, and Bella told the whole story. Everybody offered, in much good-humored contrition, to accompany this last Santa Claus on her tour, till Mrs. Bascom settled the matter, in her comfortable way, by announcing:

"We'll all go out and make an occasion of it, and perhaps papa 'll take us into Caramel's for soda water."

Of course Mr. Joseph did.

It was the gayest time imaginable, running along over the cold, brilliantly lighted pavements, jostling busy people, heavily laden, in and of the Christmas spirits.

They spread out their buying over as much space as the late hour would allow, for the very joy of it. They tried to remember every fancy Miss Martha had expressed and to anticipate every want. The girls giggled, and so did their mother. Mr. Joseph was preternaturally solemn as a man is wont to do in a new position.

When they at last turned homeward Sarah called, from behind their two parents: "Doesn't candy come in Christmas stockings? I've a faint memory of it, and surely these things should be sweetened, father!"

"O, let's do the whole thing!" cried the good man desperately, and ran into Fountain's.

As they waited by the gayly trimmed windows:

"I wonder," Mary reflected—she wrote poetry sometimes, and had been in print—"if it's because it is such a sweet, wholesome thing to become as little children that the world clings so to Christmas Day? Perhaps that is one sight of the kingdom of heaven into which we cannot enter unless we are like to them."

"If 'the kingdom of heaven is within,'" quoted Bella, softly, "perhaps it is."

Before the Bascom household rested that night, two pendent stockings flanked Miss Maria's own, at the mantelpiece, upon the right and upon the left, and with a remembrance of Miss Conway's blanket shawl last year, a little trail of bundles began at the hearthrug and drifted far out into the room.

So, in the dim light of the fire, they hung before those closed eyes, and waited for the day.

And thus it was that, because she was not discouraged, but kept up a good heart, Santa Claus came to Miss Maria.—*Drake's Magazine.*

Our Third Holiday Bow.

It is with pleasure we make this our third holiday bow. It will be hard for our friends that have not as yet called on us to believe that in such a short space of time we have gathered together so many beautiful goods. Our store is really a bazaar, and gathers within its doors an assortment so diverse that it is within itself an exposition of beautiful goods. Our collection contains very many goods not classed with jewelry, but that are gems in their line, such as rare Italian marble statuary, dainty French mirrors in onyx and gold, French furniture that is a marvel in finish and grace, natural gas cut glass that is acknowledged to be the purest and best crystal made in the world, brass and onyx cabinets, dainty china in royal Worcester, Doulton, etc., sterling silverware, from the extravagant tea service for the millionaire to the silver thimble for your poor relation. Our special watches, diamonds, etc. All these goods have called forth expressions of astonishment and wonder, and your Christmas buying cannot be complete till you have paid us a visit. You are always welcome at Hardy & Hayes', Jewelers, Silversmiths and Art Dealers, 529 Smithfield street; new building.

Read This.

Square Pianos, 7½ oct., $80, $100, $125, $150.

Upright Pianos, 7½ oct., $160, $175, $225, $300.

Parlor Organs, 5 oct., $20, $30, $44, $60, $100.

Parlor Organs, 6 oct., $45, $70, $90, $110, $115.

This list includes such pianos as Weber, Ahlstrom, Haines Bros., Mason & Hamlin, Bush & Girts, Wing & Son, Jewett; Schultz & Co., and Mason & Hamlin, Taber, Waterloo, Keystone and new Paris Organs. Please call and get first choice, as these goods must be sold regardless of price and on terms to suit. Store open nights until 9 o'clock.

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$2 00. $2 00. $2 00.

The sales are increasing daily in our gents' $2 morocco, patent-leather, trimmed chamois-lined slippers. They make very acceptable Xmas presents. CAIN & VERNER,
Fifth ave. and Market st.

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And candelabras; over 500 patterns in china, cut glass, etc.; the prettiest decorations for the house or table. REIZENSTEIN,
152, 154, 156 Federal st., Allegheny.
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Slippers, Slippers, Slippers,

For Xmas at Cain & Verner's, Fifth avenue and Market street.

THE QUESTION MILL.

Some of the Answers Given at a Presbyterian Ministers' Meeting.

SOME ADVANCED IDEAS ON BAPTISM

Work of the Young People's Society of Christian Endeavor.

NEWS NOTES FOR CHRISTIAN WORKERS

At the "Quiz" meeting of the Presbyterian ministers on Monday, the question given to Rev. J. R. Sutherland to answer, had reference to the baptism of the children of those who are not members of any evangelical church. He thought it most surely should be done, as by the fact of their having been baptized themselves, they were thereby made members of the church, according to the rules laid down in the Confession of Faith. In some of his ideas he showed that he is in advance of the views entertained by others on this subject. Rev. John Fox was unable to be present, but sent in writing what his ideas are in reference to those who are not Christians leading the public praise. He takes the ground that it is contrary to the purpose of praise for those not in sympathy therewith to lead. It should not be simply for gain. To engage those who are not believers he thought to be really pernicious.

Rev. J. F. Patterson thinks that the Young People's Society of Christian Endeavor, when wisely presided over by the pastor, surpasses anything he has tried in bringing young people to realize their responsibilities. The pledge exacted by the rules of the society he considers to be one of its best features. It is really the heart of the Christian Endeavor. It teaches self-denial; does not make a church within a church, rather makes the young people more loyal to the church. It teaches them to take their part in the other meetings of the church. If they do not take part now they will not at 40 years of age.

Rev. J. P. E. Kumler, D. D., thought the boards of the church covered all the ground necessary; therefore other objects should seldom, if ever, be presented from the pulpits, as every outside appeal helps to dry up the spring. How would it appear if every soldier should run his own war. By the way some do in reference to their beneficencies, it is no wonder they are called God's silly people. The men at the head of our boards are better able to judge than we are.

Rev. S. H. Moore, said in reference to the duties of trustees that they are determined by the charter of the State, but by common consent they are often allowed to manage all the money matters of a church. They have, however, no right whatever to transfer property, to arrange for the pastor's residence, or to make a new contract with the pastor. They have no right even to raise a pastor's salary, and if they should propose so to do, he would hasten to bring the matter before the congregation, so that it might not be said afterward that it had not been "done decently and in order."

***

What matter friend, though you and I
May sow, and others gather?
We build and others occupy
Each laboring for the other?
What though we toil from sun to sun
And men forget to flatter
The noblest work our hands have done
If God approves, what matter?

Church Notes.

BLAIRSVILLE Presbytery will meet at Braddock on the 17th inst.

THERE are 9,000 Methodists in the Southern California Conference.

THE Rev. J. Ambrose Wright, D. D., known as "Ambrose," died last week.

REV. R. A. WATSON declines the call of the Hubbard Presbyterian Church.

THE Disciple Church at Braddock has been sold to the Hungarians for $8,000.

THE Baptists of Ohio are trying to raise $200,000 to endow Denison College.

TO-MORROW is to be observed as "Book Concern" day in the Methodist churches.

FIRST U. P. CHURCH, Mercer, Pa., has called Rev. S. W. Gilkey to be their pastor.

EMORY M. E. Sunday school will refurnish their rooms at an expense of about $600.

ON Sunday last 35 persons were received as members into the Bethel Church, Allegheny.

MILLTOWN people are anxious that a Presbyterian church shall be organized for them.

THE Baptist Association held a two days' meeting at Hall's Institute, Sharon, this week.

ALLEGHENY Presbytery meets on Tuesday next at 9 A. M. at the McClure Avenue Church.

REV. DAVID HALL, D. D., has resigned as pastor of the Presbyterian Church, Indiana, Pa.

THERE are 15,000 Band of Hope temperance societies, with over 1,800,000 abstaining members.

THE Presbyterian Church of DuBois has recently paid off its debt and enlarged the parsonage.

EVANGELIST CHESS BIRCH is holding meetings in Sharon, Pa., which are being largely attended.

REV. H. R. MCCLELLAND, of Sparta, Ill., was received into the Pittsburg Presbytery on Tuesday.

REV. T. A. SHAW has accepted the call of the newly organized U. P. Church at West Bellevue.

REV. G. S. HOLMES delivered a lecture on "A Trip to the Redwoods" at Beaver College last night.

THE Presbyterian Union will hold its first banquet on the 19th inst. in the First Presbyterian Church.

REV. H. O. ROSBOROUGH will be installed as pastor of the Montour Presbyterian Church on the 17th inst.

THE Church of the Good Shepherd, Hazelwood, has purchased a lot on which a stone church will be erected.

THE African M. E. Church will establish a home for its aged ministers. It will be located in or near Philadelphia.

MR. ALEXANDER MONTGOMERY gives $250,000 to the San Francisco Theological Seminary on condition that $50,000 more be raised.

REV. COLBERT H. DES ISLETS, of Belvidere, Neb., was received as a member of the Presbytery of Pittsburg, at its meeting on Tuesday.

THE Anglican Episcopal Church has recently celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of the consecration of its first bishop in Upper Canada.

BISHOP PAINE, D. D., LL. D., delivered a lecture on "The Negro Question" at the Wylie Avenue A. M. E. Church on Wednesday evening.

THE cabinet organ in the Second U. P. Church, Allegheny, is to be retired from active service and a pipe organ used to celebrate God's praises.

THE Rev. George Hodges has added to his other multifarious duties that of Associate Editor of the *American Church Sunday School Magazine.*

ELMER street Presbyterian Church gave a warm welcome to their new pastor, Rev. S. R. Gordon, last evening. May they always feel as kindly to him!

EXPLANATION of Sunday school lesson for to-morrow by Rev. W. J. Reid, D. D., at noon to-day in the Y. M. C. A. rooms. Teachers, do not forget this.

THE Presbyterian Church at Wheelock, Choctaw Nation, which was begun in 1846, but was partially destroyed by fire, has recently been completed.

THE First Unitarian Society will hold their services in the hall of the Mellon building, Smithfield street, opposite City Hall, till able to erect a church.

IN St. James Hall, London, 78 missionaries recently met preparatory to their going into all the world, under the auspices of the Church Missionary Society.

DURING the past seven months missionaries of the Presbyterian churches have organized 1,100 Sabbath schools, with over 4,000 teachers and 83,000 scholars.

THE First Congregational Church, corner Franklin and Juniata streets, Allegheny, will hold their annual New England dinner on Thursday evening next.

THE Rev. John J. Pomeroy, who had been pastor of the Chambersburg Presbyterian Church, died on Sunday. Mrs. S. D. Herron, of Pittsburg, is his sister.

REV. A. C. GOOD, who has been a missionary in Africa for seven years, gave an account of his work there at the Bellevue Presbyterian Church on Sunday morning.

REV. J. M. BUCKLEY, D. D., editor of the New York *Christian Advocate*, was in the city this week. He was on his way to Washington, Pa., where he delivered a lecture.

REV. PAUL F. SUTPHEN, of Cleveland, O., delivered a lecture on Thursday evening at the Western Theological Seminary on the "Motives and Methods of a Successful Ministry."

ON Sunday morning Messrs. S. McKnight, James Richey, Jr., J. C. Park, J. M. McElvaney and J. Douglass were set apart as ruling elders in the Second U. P. Church, Allegheny.

THE Ladies' Society of the West End M. E. Church at their meeting on Tuesday evening elected officers for the ensuing year, and decided to have a bazaar and dinner New Year's.

THE Pittsburg Presbytery held its regular meeting in the Southside church on Tuesday. A very warm discussion took place on the mooted subject of reviving the confession of faith.

THE Wilkinsburg U. P. Church at their annual meeting Thanksgiving evening voted to increase the salary of their pastor, Rev. M. M. Patterson, which vote he gracefully acquiesced in.

IT is expected that Judge Ewing will confirm the sale of the M. E. Church property at Braddock to-day. This will be a relief to the members of this church, enabling them to go on work with their new edifice.

THE anniversary of the Pittsburg Association for the Improvement of the Poor was held in St. Peter's Church on Sunday evening. The report showed that $22,029 46 had been contributed to the needy during the past year.

REV. JOHN FOX, of Allegheny, has the sympathy of many friends on account of the sudden departure from this life of his father, who died while enjoying an entertainment in the Brainerd Presbyterian Church, Easton.

REV. J. K. CRAMER, who has been pastor of the Thirty-seventh Street Baptist Church about a year, has resigned, but will remain till March 1. He has done a good work there, in uniting the church, and it seems a great pity that he should leave at this time.

REV. JOSEPH A. MURRAY died at his home in Carlisle on Wednesday, November 27. He graduated in 1837 from the Western University, and in 1840 from the Western Theological Seminary. He had not been able to perform pastoral duties for some time.

THE Sunday School Institute, of the Pittsburg Presbytery, met on Monday in the Southside Church. Rev. J. L. Ferson spoke on "Discipline in the Sabbath School;" Mr. Gray on "The Primary School," and Rev. J. D. Moffat, D.D., on "The Art of Questioning."

THE congregations of the Methodist churches of Fayette City and Dawson, Pa., and Summerfield, O., gave their pastors reasons to be especially grateful on Thanksgiving Day, by their generous gifts. Churches who forgot this on Thanksgiving, please note that Christmas is coming.

SEXTONS will please see to it that the doors to pastors' studies are locked during the hours of service, as ministers usually wear good overcoats, and at this time of the year they like to have them at hand, instead of going home without one, as Rev. W. H. McMillan was compelled to do last Sunday evening.

THE installation services of Rev. S. R. Gordon as pastor of the Elmer Street Presbyterian Church will take place on Tuesday at 7:30 P. M. Rev. G. W. Chalfant will preach, Prof. H. T. McClelland will deliver the charge to the pastor, and Rev. W. P. Shrom that to the people. Rev. J. P. E. Kumler, D. D., will preside.

THE Wylie Avenue U. P. Church has been holding a series of Sabbath evening meetings at which addresses have been made by business and professional men. They have been very successful in bringing people to church who are non-attendants. To-morrow evening Mr. R. A. Orr, of the Y. M. C. A., will deliver an address.

AT the Presbyterian Convention held in the Arch Street Church on Monday, many subjects of importance were discussed, among them "The needs of the vacant churches;" "Enthusiasm in the pulpit, its powers and how secured;" "What class of themes are best adapted to meet the needs of the Church;" "The mid-week prayer meeting," and "Personal work."

EMMANUEL Church, Allegheny, is busily preparing to entertain the Woman's Auxiliary of the diocese of Pittsburg on Thursday and Friday next. Rt. Rev. Etheldert Talbot, D. D., of Wyoming, Rt. Rev. A. Leonard, D. D., of Utah, and Rt. Rev. Dr. Hendrick will be present, with the Rt. Rev. Cortlandt Whitehead, and will deliver addresses at the different meetings.

THERE are many churches in these cities noted for activity in various lines of work, as for instance, St. Peter's, corner of Grant and Diamond streets, with its "Boys' Gymnastic Class," "Hospital Service," "Ladies' Aid Society," "Women's Auxiliary," "Ministering Children's League," "Good Samaritan Circle," "Willing Helpers" "Willing Workers," "Well Doers," "The King's Sons" and "Daughters," the "Young Men's League."

REV. ROBERT PATTERSON died on Friday last at 4 o'clock. For 25 years he had been one of the editors of the *Presbyterian Banner.* Dr. Allison, in an editorial, says of him: that "as a Christian man he was a model. He was modest and retiring, though adhering strongly to his own opinions and always ready to defend them, but never obtrusively. In the community where he lived he was held in the highest esteem. In looking back over the 25 years in which we have been so closely associated we cannot discover one unpleasant thing connected with him on the pages of our memory."

INVOKING STATE AID.

About $5,000 Per Year Will Support the Union of Societies.

A sub-committee of five, appointed from the general committee of the various artistic and scientific societies of Pittsburg and Allegheny, met at the residence of Rev. W. J. Holland, Thursday evening, for the purpose of formulating a plan of union between the societies. The members of the sub-committee are: Mr. George A. Macbeth, Chairman; City Engineer Charles Davis, J. G. Shaeffer, C. C. Mellor and Dr. Holland. When Mr. Mellor was seen by a DISPATCH reporter last night he said:

"The fact that the societies contemplated coming together under one roof was published in THE DISPATCH some time ago. Our committee was appointed to devise a plan under which they could be brought together, but as yet we have been unsuccessful. We will hold another meeting in a few days, and I expect that some arrangement will be proposed. We prefer to keep the union, or whatever it may be called, an independent organization. There has been some talk of asking State aid, and getting an appropriation, such as the Philadelphia National Academy of Sciences enjoys, but I do not think such a step will be taken. It is thought that enough Pittsburgers and Alleghenians will join to make the thing self-supporting. I suppose $5,000 a year would be a conservative estimate of expenses, giving us the necessary accommodations and help. This amount is, of course, what will be needed after a building is bought or erected. It is too early to think of getting a building yet, and we will wait until the scheme is fully developed."

The Pittsburg Dental Society held a meeting Thursday evening, and appointed a committee to confer with the committees from other societies.

AN OLD WHALER in to-morrow's DISPATCH describes the rise and fall of whaling.

There are
many white soaps,
each
represented to be
"just as good as the Ivory."
They are not,
but like
all counterfeits,
they lack
the peculiar
and remarkable
qualities of
the genuine.
Ask for
Ivory Soap
and
insist upon having it.
'Tis sold everywhere.

no1-101-MWF

LATE NEWS IN BRIEF.

—Captain Plunkett, chief of the Cork police, who became prominent in connection with the troubles in Ireland, died yesterday.

—The reply of the Portuguese Government to the protest of Lord Salisbury against its rumored support of the slave trade, is conciliatory in tone, and insists upon the sincerity of Portugal in her efforts to suppress the trade.

—A meeting of American missionaries was held in Constantinople on Thursday, at which it was resolved to insist that the United States Minister to Turkey assist in prosecuting Mousa Bey for having assaulted two of their number.

—Mrs. A. R. Edwards is under arrest at Woodstock, Ont., charged with having poisoned her former husband, Hugh J. Whitley, of Clinton, who died under suspicious circumstances in May last. She married A. R. Edwards about three weeks ago.

—The steamship Pennett, from Galveston for Liverpool, put into New York yesterday morning for repairs. She had burst her boiler tubes. She was towed to her dock, where the necessary repairs will be made, and the vessel will resume her voyage.

—Judge Alexander Laidlaw, of Oakland, Cal., who recently caused a scandal by appearing in public in an intoxicated condition, apologized from the bench on Thursday, condemning himself severely, and imposed upon himself a fine of $50, which he paid over to the bailiff.

—The directors of the Cleveland, Cincinnati, Chicago and St. Louis Railroad yesterday declared the regular quarterly dividend of 1¼ per cent on the preferred stock, and also declared the first dividend of 1¼ per cent on the common stock. Both dividends are payable January 2.

—A report issued by the Cotton Association of Alexandria states that the cotton crop is in a favorable condition except in Upper Egypt, the Province of Fayoma, in Middle Egypt, and in one province in Lower Egypt, where cold weather has damaged the plant. The yield is estimated at 3,250,000 cantars.

—The Portuguese charge d'affaires at Rio Janeiro has been instructed to maintain semi-official relations with the provisional Government, pending the recognition of the Republic by Portugal. This recognition will be given when a constitution for the Republic shall have been definitely adopted.

—John Theodore Wild, alias Greenwald, who was twice convicted in the Kings County Court of Sessions for the murder of Lyman S. Weeks, at the latter's residence on De Kalb avenue, New York City, was hanged yesterday morning at 7:26 o'clock. His neck was broken and he was pronounced dead in ten minutes.

—About 11 months ago, Jacob Morgan, of Sistersville, W. Va., was killed with an ax, and robbed of $700. Several persons, including Morgan's young wife, were arrested, but afterward released. On Thursday Charles Sabier was lodged in jail for the crime. Sabier is of a good family, and it is said that he and Mrs. Morgan were conspirators in the murder.

—The figures believed to be complete show that the forgeries and stealings of W. H. Fursman, the absconding real estate dealer and loan broker of Bloomington, Ill., amount to fully $500,000. In this sum the loans made for Hudson, Burr & Co., of Bloomington, are involved to the sum of $125,000; C. Pangell & Co., of Poughkeepsie, N. Y., $20,000, and various others, $45,000. It is believed that Fursman has gone to Mexico or South America.

—A duel for the hand of a young lady was fought in Pomona, Cal., on Tuesday evening. The combatants were Harry Lucas, formerly of Louisiana, and Herbert Priestly, both in their twentieth year. The affair was conducted in accordance with the code, and Spanish rapiers were used. Priestly was cut in the breast and twice in the shoulder, when the seconds stopped the fight. Both young men have disappeared from Pomona; and although the seconds still remain and are well known, no arrests have been made.

REDBIRD, in to-morrow's DISPATCH, gives some incidents of life on an Indian agency.

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—SO THAT—
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Every one is using it and all are delighted with it.
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