

CHRISTMAS MORNING.

What other day from year to year... What memories are laid so sweet... On Christmas morning...

Our Christmas day on earth may be... With Christmas cheer for all the year... On Christmas morning...

It was a Christmas story... A small room, with nothing in it but a bed, two chairs and a big chest... Now Miss Kent was next to two heads in little round night caps...

Two tongues were going like mill-clappers... "I'm so glad we got our skirts done in time... "No, but then we each made four, and fifty cents is a good deal of money...

This was a cheery voice, and as it spoke the four blue eyes turned toward the chest under the window... "Yes, I am, till I think how pleased the children will be with our tree...

"I don't know how poor we were till I saw the tree, and then I couldn't help it... "Hubb, dear, we must cry softly, or mother will hear, and come up, and then we shall have to tell you...

half-dollars in our stockings, so we could go and see "Puss in Boots" at the Museum to-morrow afternoon... "Yes, indeed; but we didn't hang up our stockings, you know, because mother had nothing to put in them...

"I should give mother some new rubbers and then I should buy a white apron, with frills like Miss Kent's... "Good-night, Dolly... "Good-night, Polly...

Her windows were full of flowers, for the delicate tastes of the poor lady found great comfort in their beauty... "I have nothing else to give, and these will show how grateful I am... "They slept now, dreaming of a sunny morning as they sat safely sheltered from the bitter cold...

Now one would think that there had been a gift enough, since all had had their or her mite offered Betsy, the maid, who was off on a holiday, and the babies fast asleep in their trundle-bed... "Dolly opened the door, and started back with a cry of astonishment at the lovely spectacle before her...

"Puss had left her kitten asleep, and gone down to get her own breakfast, and no stockings were hung up, she laid a clean towel on the floor before the door, and spread forth the small gifts to look their best... "Miss Kent was so busy she did not hear a step come quietly up stairs...

"Oh, I'm so glad! Now we shall have a Christmas like other people, and I'll never say again that rich folks don't remember poor folks... "Hubb, dear, we must cry softly, or mother will hear, and come up, and then we shall have to tell you...

threshold, crept away as stealthily as a burglar... The house was very quiet when Mrs. Smith, the landlady, came up to turn off the gas... "Yes, indeed; but we didn't hang up our stockings, you know, because mother had nothing to put in them...

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mas day, and they long remembered it; for while they were absorbed in the fortunes of the Marquis of Carabas and the funny cat, who tucked his tail in his belt, washed his face so awkwardly, and didn't know how to purr, strange things were happening at home, and more surprises were in store for our little friends... "I don't believe it," was the reply of Engineer Frank Crockett, of steamer 12 of the Fire Department of this city...

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