

THE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT

By Mary Graham Bonner

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ELLEN had been feeling that there was no such thing in the world as a Christmas spirit.

During the summer, for example, she had taken a trip. Everyone seemed to enjoy it. Everyone seemed to be glad to get away from the world with its scandals and its spoilt civilization. That was what everyone said as they took the trip through the simple wilds, remote and picturesque and old.

This seemed to be the life everyone longed for and then some one mentioned a scandal which had taken place nearby some months before.

With a dash everyone made for the scene—so they could tell the people back home that they had seen the locality of the scandal and Ellen had been disgusted. Was it such a sordid world after all?

Then she had taken some poor children to a big store to see the Christmas display and they had been refused admittance. The customers had objected to such crowds of children—they wanted to see the display themselves—why should poor children see the toys when they could only look? And all about the outside of the store were eager little faces peering into the windows and hoping that perhaps they could get in when the one who watched at the door was not looking. Once in a while one did and the children from outside waited for the news.

"What did you see? What did you see?" they shouted as the lucky one came out again.

Other stores had been different. Other stores had not had their rich customers complain. But it had saddened Ellen. And one of these very complainers had bought six copies of "The Christmas Carol" by Dickens to give away to friends. Ellen heard that later. It had not improved matters.

And on this same Christmas trip another she had met had said to her that these children had such shamefully poor coats and had reproved Ellen.

"I wish," the woman who had spoken so sharply to Ellen had said, "that they had some of the nice warm things belonging to my children," but when Ellen suggested that she should do something for these children she had gone off angrily.

And another person had patted her as she had seen her walking with these children and had said:

"A fine work, my dear."

And Ellen knew that the woman felt she had showed Christmas duty and Christmas service and Christmas love by making that speech.

But when Ellen began to see the trees which were sent to the city for Christmas she felt better. The smell of the trees gave her some of the Christmas spirit. Oh, yes, it was all right after all, she had been seeing only what was disagreeable and everything else had passed her by.

And then one day in the crowded section of the city she saw a small crippled newsboy go up to a Salvation army bucket and put in his donation. Helping others to have a Christmas dinner when he was none too sure of his own!

As she saw it she involuntarily smiled and a smile answered hers. A strange man was smiling at her.

Was some one going to be impertinent to her? Was the incident of the

little boy only going to serve as an excuse for a man to smile at her?

DeLaval Separators, Thos. W. Gaw.

But in another moment he was apologizing.

"I'm so sorry," he said. "I was trying to place you in my mind. I was so sure I knew you. And then I remembered that you were the picture of the girl on the cover of a magazine last Christmas which I saved all the year and so which is naturally very familiar to me. I am so sorry!"

And then Ellen laughed. For last year she had posed for one of her artist friends.

"I don't suppose you've any idea," the man continued, "how much good that picture did. I've heard so many speak of it and of the Christmas spirit it expressed. You fairly breathed it—then."

"And now I'm different?" she asked. "You don't look just as—just as Christmasy," he faltered.

And Ellen felt ashamed. For she had been critical of others and in worrying about the world's shortcomings she had lost her own Christmas spirit. But it had been merely wandering—it was not utterly lost—and the man? The man who had found it again for her?

They became friends and then they became sweethearts and they made of their love a permanent thing and were married.

And he always called Ellen his beautiful Christmas picture. And Ellen was glad that he did. It kept constantly in mind the Christmas spirit that had once almost left her for good and all!

CONGRESS ASKED TO GIVE MONEY TO GERMANY

The Associated Press under date of December 14 carried an item to the effect that Representative Newton, Republican, of Missouri, had introduced a bill in the lower house of congress appropriating \$70,000,000.00 for relieving famine conditions in Germany and Austria.

Possibly no item in the press in months has caused such comment as this. Coming close on the heels of the announcement that the soldiers bonus was beyond America, ex-service men are frothing at the mouth; farmers are talking loud, business men are disgusted and the laboring classes becoming more hostile. And why should they not?

With wages declining, farm products at pre-war prices, farmers and laboring men are hard hit. With the prices of merchandise at wholesale soaring the merchant is up against a hard proposition. With taxes they cannot pay the whole country faces a serious condition and then for a representative in congress to propose to give seventy million dollars to the varmints who caused this condition is a challenge to American intelligence, an insult to the former soldiers and breeder of anarchy in America.

We all know that Germany is still building her war machine, spending her money getting ready to repeat her former effort, so why send money from America to feed the very people who will, at the first opportunity shoulder arms to slaughter the coming generation?

It is just such legislation as this that causes reds and anarchists, and it makes a law-abiding citizen feel like doubling up his fists and hitting somebody.

We know nothing about Representative Newton, or whom he represents, but it is a good guess that he has some "friends" who would like to supply the merchandise to be purchased with this seventy million dollars. Since the item states that the money is to be spent for foodstuffs in the United States it would not take a great deal of imagination to locate the interests back of the

proposition. However the wonder is that any sane congressman would have the intestinal equipment to father such a resolution.

Give Germany money! Hell, no. Give what money we have to spare to the soldiers who kept those cattle from overrunning the world, and let their own country cease her military policy and care for her own suffering people or let them suffer.

"Rite it with Ray."

"Just why for is it"—inquires old Hum Dinger in the Newton Kansas—"that a woman always ecstatically shuts her eyes when she is being kissed, either on the screen or in real life?" Oh, Hum, y'ought to know. It is bad enough just to be kissed by about ninety-five per cent of the men you could think of, but to have to look at them at the same time, and at such close range, is Too Much. We don't blame them for shutting their eyes.—Kingman Journal.

MAKE OUT THAT LIST

Of Things You'll Need For

CHRISTMAS DINNER

We've bought every good thing the market affords in large quantities and can supply every requirement for the Christmas feast of such splendid quality that you'll be sure to have an enjoyable meal. To make your work easier, sit down and make up a list of what you are going to want and then call us up and let us fill it and deliver it to you just as you want it.



Pick from These

- Cranberries
- Rheubarb
- Celery
- Head Lettuce
- Leaf Lettuce
- Cauliflower
- Ping Grapes
- White Grapes
- Radishes
- Green Onions
- Mangoes
- Parsley
- Delicious Apples
- Oranges
- Bananas
- Grape Fruit
- Parsnips
- Turnips
- Sweet Potatoes
- Heinz Fig and Plum Puddings

CANDIES, NUTS and FRUITS

We've stocked wonderful lines of Candies, Nuts and Fresh Fruits and are in position to supply your needs in a highly satisfactory manner. You'll find our goods and our prices right. Get your Christmas Supplies here.

Fresh Meats and Oysters at the Purity Market are Superior

RIGGLE BROTHERS, Grocers

Grocery Prone 26

Purity Market Phone 60

OUR CHRISTMAS WISH

Before another issue of the Democrat reaches our readers Christmas 1922 will have become a happy remembrance, and we take this opportunity of extending to our friends and patrons the heartiest greetings, and wish you one and all a very Merry Christmas.

Airplane Landing.

A recent invention permits the conventional landing gear with rubber-tired wheels to be dropped from a plane in flight, the subsequent landing being effected with a pair of skids mounted beneath the plane, says Popular Mechanics Magazine. The object is to eliminate the weight and wind resistance of the usual landing gear and to make possible landing in a short space and on rough ground. Landing on water is safer with skids than with the wheels, because of the lowered center of gravity, which reduces the tendency to turn the machine over on its end, the arrangement of shock absorbers, some of which are double-acting, interposed between the skids and the body of the plane, is one of the most important features. In this design the propeller blades must be horizontal when making a landing.

Britain's Shipbuilding.

Shipbuilding at cost is said to be the basis on which the British yards are willing to work, in order to get orders. British owners of vessels, however, apparently do not find the offer so attractive as it sounds, for they declare that before they can place many orders for new steamers the cost of building must come down by 30 per cent. Seventy-five per cent of England's shipbuilding capacity is idle. Prospects seem to be brightening, however, for it is reported that inquiries which precede contracts for new boats are increasing.—The Nation's Business.

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SHERIFF'S SALE NOTICE
(Under foreclosure of Mortgage)
PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that under and by virtue of a judgment rendered in the District Court

of Seward County, Kansas, in an action wherein The Kansas City Life Insurance Company, a corporation, was plaintiff, and Elijah A. Pennington and Clara Pennington, his wife, et al, were defendants, an order of sale issued on a judgment obtained in said court on November 25, 1922, to me directed and delivered, I will on Monday, the 15th day of January, 1923, at 2 o'clock P. M., of said date, at the West door of the Court House, in Liberal, Kansas, offer at Public Sale and sell to the highest bidder for cash in hand, the following described real property, situated in the County of Seward and State of Kansas, to-wit:

The Northeast Quarter (NE¹/₄) of Section Twenty (20), and the Northeast Quarter (NE¹/₄) of Section Nineteen (19), all in Township Thirty-four (34), South of Range Thirty-two, (32), except a 100 ft. strip for a railroad right-of-way, as the property of the said defendants, and apply the proceeds towards the payment of the judgment and costs in said action.

W. O. NELSON,
Sheriff, Seward Co., Kan.
SAWYER & KING,
Atty. for Plaintiff.



Eye-glass Prices—

We use only the best quality ground lenses. Lenses (including fitting to your eyes) vary from \$2.50 to \$16.00 per pair, according to whether they are flat or toric, (curved), single vision lenses or bi-focals. Frames vary from 75 cents to \$2.50 in Aluminum, from \$2.00 to \$5.00 in Gold Filled, from \$7.00 to \$18.00 for Solid Gold. Combinations of frames and lenses including our skill in fitting from \$3.00 to \$30.00, depending on your wishes and requirements.

Dr. E. F. PELLETTE
Eyeglass Specialist
Osteopathic Physician
People's Bank Bldg.,
Liberal, Kan.



Christmas Suggestions
For Discriminating Gift Buyers

For the Lady

- Cedar Chest
- Sewing Cabinet
- Place Rugs
- Rocking Chairs
- Bissel Sweeper
- Electric Sweeper
- Card Table
- Pedestal
- Tea Wagon
- Electric Iron

For the Gentleman

- Smoke Stand
- Foot Stool
- Big Rocker
- Traveling Bag
- Chifferole
- Chiffonier
- Suit Case
- A Costumer, a place to keep his hat

For the Kiddies

- Bassinet
- Carriage
- Jumper
- Walker
- Crib
- High Chair
- Youth's Chair
- Wagon
- Arrow Cycle
- Tricycle

T. L. GRAY

"The Home of Dependable Furniture"