

# THE CINCINNATI DEMOCRAT.

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### A CHRISTMAS VISION.

BY ROSE TERRY.

Stilly before the window  
The floating snow-drops fell,  
And the air all cool and fair,  
And on my heart as well.

The dreary weary winter,  
Held its breath in its open  
My blood ran chill with winter cold  
And slow with winter's fear.

But suddenly a sun-beam  
Across the snow-drops shone,  
And, strange to tell, like any spell,  
The snow-drops all were down!

They vanished like a vision  
Before the sunny beam,  
And in their place a smiling crowd  
Of smiling angels came.

A million little angels  
With faces dazzling fair,  
And eyes as bright and light  
Beneath their shining hair;

And through the mounting tempest  
As suddenly they fell  
A tiny, twinkling, laughing sound,  
Like some angel's bell.

Another, and another,  
Till all the frosty sky  
With soft repeats was ringing sweet,  
And words came wandering by.

"We are Love's little angels;  
When earth is all in snow,  
We cover all her wounds and scars  
With mantles soft as down.

"The rocks that hid their faces  
In summer, green and deep,  
We cover up with snow and grey,  
We cover up to sleep.

"The long and lonely meadows  
That lose their blossoms bright,  
And weep for all their winter hours,  
We veil with glittering white.

"The forest boughs that shudder,  
All knotted, black, and bare,  
We hang with flowers like bridal bowers,  
The blossoms-bells of heaven.

"The dear and silent solitudes  
We veil with tender snow,  
There is no light we do not hide,  
On the earth's winter hours.

"Above the sleeping roses,  
Above the wild-wind flowers,  
We spread our warm and shining robes  
Through all the winter hours.

"We are Love's little angels,  
But mortal eyes are dim;  
Men cannot see our forms,  
Nor hear our joyful hymns.

"We are Love's shrouded angels,  
But birds and blossoms know  
When God's dear love falls from above,  
Though men may call it snow."

### TURNUD TO THE DOOR.

A Christmas Story.

You have known me—let me see—something like a dozen years; and you must have known Tuffaboro and its neighborhood for about the same length of time. It has changed very much, however, in the few years preceding. Twelve or fifteen years ago the whole region was wild, rough, bleak, and inhospitable.

The house which I now occupy had been inhabited by my father and grandfather. Where it stands was then a wood, just before the hills commenced to rise toward Holdane; and there was not then a single other house within two miles on the Holdane side, and something like a mile and a half on the other, toward Barn.

I courted and won a wife at Holdane. I had my wedding day, or rather wedding night, fixed, after two years of engagement. I suppose I must have been nearly in love with Milly Golden. She was very young—even younger than myself; I thought her very handsome, and quite worthy of even all the affection that could bestow upon her; I certainly thought I could love more than most men of my age.

Milly Golden was the eldest daughter of a partially-invalid widow lady, living at Holdane, pinching along a little, I was often afraid (though I did not dare insult them by hinting at assistance, or even making a direct inquiry), on a small life annuity left her by her deceased husband, a clergyman; and something of habitual sadness being connected with the family history, traditions, through the loss at sea, many years before, of no less than three of the brothers of Milly's mother, all seafaring men, and more or less scapegraces, perhaps remembered but the more lonely on the latter account. It is necessary again to be particular in saying that Mrs. Golden was not an old resident, but had accompanied her husband, some years after marriage, from the coast line, her family history being far less known in the vicinity. Acquaintance much more limited, than they might have been in the event of her original residence in the neighborhood.

How it was that my wedding night was set for Christmas, I forget, if I ever really knew.

At all events, the marriage was fixed for Christmas night, in the room in her mother's house where we had so often sat hand-in-hand to talk over the love of the present and the hopes of the future. And never did expectant bridegroom look forward to any one period with such certainty of happiness, as I to that Christmas evening.

Nature, meanwhile, was as gay as my hopes, and as pure as those which side for the snow lay deep over all the region, shrouding everything that might have been ugly or offensive. Then a long period of clear cold weather seemed to have set in, lasting for many days, with only the change of its gradually growing keener and keener, until at the verge of Christmas the atmosphere must have touched zero and gone far below it.

What was cold weather—snow, freezing weather, however, to a heart young as warm, and impetuous as mine? Was not Milly to be mine on Christmas night, and comfort my life thereafter? I well remember the warm, blushing she gave me as she left her on Tuesday morning, after making the excuse of carrying her up a pair of shoes and some ribbons, while the fact was, I suppose, that I felt the impossibility of waiting two whole days without sight of her, the prospect necessarily keeping me absent on the last night of unmarried life.

How fearfully cold that last night shut down! I remember its chill as if it had been but yesterday. The snow crunched under the foot with that peculiar metallic sound indicative of every flake being frozen anew; the stars winked with a chill glitter that seemed steely and pitiless; and the northwest wind

### THE TRANSPORTATION QUESTION.

Report of the Committee on Railway Transportation.

The D. directors of the New York Cheap-Transportation Society met yesterday afternoon. The Committee on Railway Transportation presented a report. The committee recommend the construction by the Government of a national iron highway between East and West, to be operated under a general law by individuals, they paying toll therefor sufficient to maintain the road-bed. Complaining of the present defective railroad system, the committee say:

From among the defects and abuses in our present system are: 1. The present method of undertaking the construction of railroads without a paid-up capital. 2. The inflation commonly known as "watering stock," by which the nominal value of the stock is thereby making it necessary to unduly tax travel and commerce to secure it a value. 3. By rings in their management, through which both the public and the non-managing stockholders are defrauded to enrich a few prominent officials and managing stockholders. 4. The present system which necessitates the operation of passenger and freight traffic over the same road-bed in which the passenger traffic has the right of way, thus making it necessary for freight trains to lay up two-thirds of the time when they should be rolling on to their destination. 5. The but partial representation of the stockholders in the Board of Directors.

The committee, after careful examination, recommend the following remedies for the defects and abuses of the present system of transportation:

First—Legislation, by which our present system of railroads can be regulated and improved; and,

Second—Competition, which will complete and carry out the reform which legislation must inaugurate. Under the following laws, we must have the following laws:

1. A law creating a Board of Railway Commissioners, who shall be clothed with power to establish and regulate rates for transporting freight over all roads, and to prescribe a uniform system of keeping railway accounts.
2. A law prescribing an equitable system of proportional minority representation of the stockholders in the boards of directors.
3. A law restraining railway companies from paying interest or dividends beyond a fair and just return on the actual cost of their property to their stockholders, and compelling them to expend all sums in excess of such amount, and what is required to keep their roads in proper repair and pay their necessary operating expenses from their operating revenues.
4. A law prohibiting all railway companies from delegating their business to separate corporations, now known as fast freight lines, the entire receipts of which do not go into the treasury of the road over which they run.
5. A law to prohibit the leasing, consolidation, or combination of parallel lines of road, by which competition is destroyed and the people's highways converted into monopolies.
6. A law prohibiting railway companies from acquiring or holding more real estate than is necessary for the operation of their roads, and prohibiting railway companies from engaging in mining or any business other than that of transportation.
7. A law making it a penal offense for any public official to accept or use the free pass of any railway company, and prohibiting railway companies from granting such passes to any but regular employees of such railways.

### Humorous.

Trux to the core—A good apple.

The hardships of the ocean—iron clads.

How to raise beets: Take hold of the top and pull.

When is a lawyer most like a mule? When he draws up a conveyance.

An Irishman, being asked in court for his certificate of marriage, showed a big scar on his head about the size of a small shovell.

The French Assembly follows Scripture to some extent, in one thing, when the "Right" doesn't let the "Left" know what it does.

It is said that the Chaplain who officiated in the case of Capt. Jack read this passage from the Scriptures, "Lo, I am with you always, even unto the ends of the earth."

An old negro woman was heard to exclaim to "Thomas Jefferson" you and James Madison come into the house and bring Abe Lincoln along with you, or I'll reach for you, shuah!

"I declare, mother," said a pretty little girl, in a pretty little way, "his too bad! You always send me to bed when I am not sleepy; and you always make me get up when I am sleepy."

The following, from the Boston Traveller, is reasonable:

"How hard the busy little moth  
From eating muffs and waistcoat hats  
One might suppose he'd eat the world."

"Strap in, strap in," said a Chatham street dealer to a countryman: "the cheapest goods in the market." "Have you any fine shirts?" "A splendid assortment, sir." "Are they clean?" "Of course, sir; clean, to be sure." "Then," said the countryman gravely, "you had better put one on, for you need it!"

Christmas Puddings.

To three ounces of flour, and the same weight of fine, highly-sifted bread-crumbs, add six of beef kidney suet, chopped small, six ounces of raisins, weighed after they are stoned, six ounces of well-cleaned currants, four ounces of minced apples, five ounces of sugar, two ounces of candied orange-rind, half a teaspoonful of nutmeg, mixed with pounded mace, a very little salt, a small glass of brandy, and three whole eggs. Mix and beat these ingredients well together in a bowl, and add in a thickly floured cloth, and boil them for three hours and a half.

2. One pound of beef suet, chopped very fine, one pound of raisins, most carefully stoned, one pound of currants, one pound of sugar, one pound of bread-crumbs, grated, one pound of citron, orange, and lemon peel, mixed and chopped up extremely fine, quarter of an ounce of mixed spices, half an ounce of bitter almonds, grated, half a nutmeg, grated, ten eggs, and two wineglassfuls of rum. Mix thoroughly, and boil twelve hours.

3. One pound of suet, one pound of raisins, one pound of currants, three-quarters of a pound of sugar, three-quarters of a pound of bread-crumbs, three-quarters of a pound of flour, quarter of a pound of mixed peel, eight eggs, and half a pint of milk; ginger and spice to taste. Boil six hours.

8,263 Granges.

The official returns from the National Grange, up to Nov. 15, reports the number of granges in the United States, and distributed as follows:

Alabama	240	New Hampshire	8
Arkansas	80	New Jersey	19
California	1,000	New York	117
Florida	16	North Carolina	11
Georgia	215	Ohio	199
Illinois	378	Oregon	43
Indiana	587	Pennsylvania	37
Iowa	466	Texas	219
Kentucky	50	Vermont	29
Louisiana	281	West Virginia	21
Maine	1	Wisconsin	245
Massachusetts	14	Wyoming	2
Michigan	124	Colorado	29
Minnesota	378	Dakota	5
Mississippi	467	Washington	5
Missouri	286	Canada	2
Nebraska	346		
Total	8,263		

Increase for the week..... 2,418

### AMERICA IMPORTED 114 LAWYERS

AND 230 DOCTORS LAST YEAR.

A GENIUS is popularly supposed to be one who can do anything except make a living.

HISTORY makes out that the height of the great Napoleon was only five feet two and seven-tenths inches.

DOO-FIGHTING has been prohibited throughout Japan, and any human transgressors in this respect are to be fined and the dogs will be killed.

THE vote in New York on the proposition to amend the Constitution by appointing, instead of electing, Judges, stood: 115,337 for, and 319,979 against.

THE annual report of pensions shows that 16,408 new pensioners were added to the rolls last year, and 10,233 dropped. The total pensioners of all classes are 238,411.

STEEL BARS are to be experimented with at a church in England as a substitute for bells. It is claimed that the bars have a clearer and purer tone, and are not as liable to crack as bells.

CALIFORNIA has about 8,000,000 head of sheep. The wool crop in two shearing seasons averages 100,000,000 pounds, but its value is estimated at 80,000,000 pounds, or 15,000,000 more than the total product of the United States in 1871.

STATISTICS show that the larger part of crimes committed by men is committed by young persons between 20 and 30 years of age. The number committed by females the greater share is committed by persons between 30 and 40 years of age.

THE principal lines of transportation from the West to the East include 10,000 miles by railway, 7,000 miles by river, 1,600 miles by lake, and 1,600 by sea.

EXCLUSIVE of its branches, the Erie canal, from Buffalo to Albany, is 352 miles long, and upon it 7,140 boats run 9,358,100 miles in one season. The number of men and boys employed on the boats 28,000, and the number of horses and mules used in tow is about 16,000.

ONE of the charges for which an artillery officer was recently cashiered, specified that on a certain occasion he entered a store in Sitka, Alaska, and seating himself heavily upon the table, ordered the waiter to bring him a pipe and a tin of snuff, and to smoke it.

IN VIENNA, recently, Prof. Hyatt delivered a lecture on mercury, when he exhibited the leg bone of a man whose death had undoubtedly been hastened by that substance.

PROF. LOOMIS deduces from the weather reports of the last two years that the average rate of progress of a storm in January is 680 miles a day, and its average direction five degrees north of east; for February, 740 miles, and a direction thirteen degrees north of east; for March, 940 miles, eleven degrees north of east; and for April, 615 miles, sixteen degrees north of east.

THE question whether a man can talk or not after his tongue has been cut out, has recently been decided in the affirmative. The *Lancet* describes a case to the point, occurring to the Royal Free Hospital in London. In order to remove an ulcer, the patient's tongue was wholly cut out, leaving the floor of the mouth entire. Within a week he was heard to say distinctly, "I should like some more beefsteak."

I saw three ships come sailing in on Christmas Day;  
I saw three ships come sailing in on Christmas Day;  
Oh, they sailed into Bethlehem;  
On Christmas Day, on Christmas Day;  
Oh, they sailed into Bethlehem;  
On Christmas Day in the morning,  
And all the bells on earth shall ring on Christmas Day;  
And all the bells on earth shall ring on Christmas Day;  
And all the angels in heaven shall sing on Christmas Day, on Christmas Day;  
And they shall sing in heaven all day on Christmas Day in the morning.

MR. MAGNINIS is the Delegate from Montana, he tells some rather startling stories about the doings of Indian agents. Magninis says: "The agents will take a barrel of sugar to an Indian and get a receipt for ten barrels; just as they will take one sack of flour and get a receipt for fifty. They will take 300 head of cattle, march them four times through the corral, get a receipt for 1,200, give a part of them to the Indians, sell part to a white man, and steal as many back as possible."

### Postal Telegraph.

The President of the Western Union Telegraph Company, in a letter to a New York paper, says: "The Herald is probably correct in assuming that further reduction of rates will not be made by the companies now doing the telegraph business for some time to come."

### A CHRISTMAS RHYME.

BY HELEN J. ANSELL.

One Christmas evening, long ago—  
Just how long, I forget—  
The funds of Santa Claus ran low,  
So he ran into debt.

And his usual gifts bestow  
As his usual gifts bestow  
Could he his usual gifts bestow  
As his usual gifts bestow?

He pulled his beard and scratched his head,  
And said his cap awry,  
"There are things in the world," he said,  
"That money cannot buy."  
Things useful as one wouldly bread;  
This year those gifts I'll try."

And so to one he gave a friend,  
And to another health,  
And showed the third the beautiful end  
Of blessings won by stealth.  
Toward whom were lost their footsteps tend  
Who too much haste for wealth."

For one he won a husband's life  
Back from the dreary doom;  
And for another hopeless wife  
Opened the peaceful tomb;  
Through many a village ran with strife  
Bede flowers of concord bloom.

One sore-tried soul he made so brave  
That right the victory won;  
With tears upon a sorrowful grave  
Saw higher life begun;  
Beneath a sorrowful grave  
An erring, sorrowful son.

He brought to many a household hand  
A welcome little guest;  
To cheer one that was sad and hand  
Of her he loved the best;  
To cheer one that was sad and hand  
Of her he loved the best.  
The blessed bond of rest.

An opening rose-bud, sweet as June,  
Such one poor sufferer's wife;  
A strain from some forgotten tune,  
Revives the twilight glow;  
When life, whose music died so soon,  
Entranced the lone soul.

"A good day's work!" cried Santa Claus,  
"Well you've little fame;  
But look his gifts! Nature's laws,  
Not heeding whence they came;  
And some averted they had no cause—  
Their logic was so lame."

To you who own so many stores of gold  
I have a word to say;  
Good blessing in your hands you hold  
To gladen Christmas Day.  
Since love cannot be bought and sold  
I have a word to say.

For, should no other good be best,  
And each last Christmas be your best,  
If such gifts you bestow,  
For Christ will give you Christmas gaud,  
Beginning Heaven below.

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