

Christmas Wishes

By S. B. HACKLEY

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OR many minutes on the afternoon that Robertson & Co. marked down their "window suits" to \$25 Iva Ellsworth, Elsie Banford's visitor, watched from Elsie's automobile with sympathetic eyes a little lame woman who stood before the window and directly in front of a navy blue coat suit of "chiffon broadcloth."

Delmar Halstead stood at the side of the car with his back to the sidewalk and his eyes on Iva's face. He had made excuse to leave his bookkeeper's desk when he had seen Elsie come in the store and leave her guest alone in the car, so he did not see the little lame woman.

"I wish," said the girl irrelevantly, "everybody could have their dearest Christmas wishes!"

Halstead's smile was a bit wistful. "I echo your heavenly kind thought—"



Iva Ellsworth Was the Dixie Rose.

"I've a big wish for Christmas myself." "Something pretty or useful?" "It's pretty, useful and good—everything that's lovely and desirable."

Iva's eyes were on the package in her lap, but she felt that he was looking at her in unconscious appraisal, and her pulse leaped.

"Tell me about it Christmas evening, I mean," she added a little confusedly, "whether you get it or not."

"Indeed I will!" he promised.

Miss Adriana Halstead, elderly and somewhat neglected by her only relatives—her dead brother's family—gave a glad little cry when she saw her older nephew in her door that evening. Delmar felt a little prick of conscience as he kissed her. For a few moments the little woman fluttered about him happily, then set about preparing the evening meal she insisted he must share. While she was out of the room Delmar accidentally dropped his fountain pen in her wastebasket.

As he fished it out, absently smoothing the sheets of crumpled note paper in which it fell, his eyes caught in his aunt's cramped scrawl: "To Mrs. Miriam Halstead, My Mother in Heaven." Wondering, he read on: "Everybody but me is thinking of Christmas wishes—gifts possible for them to have—and oh, mother darling, I must tell someone what I know I cannot have, or my heart will break!"

"I want somebody of my people to sit at my table to laugh and to talk with me, to live with me and love me! In the four years since you and father went away I've been lonely—lonely!"

"I could not bear it if it were not for Delmar. When he is here I play he lives with me, and I forget for a blessed hour or so I am alone. And oh, mother, my roses are going unpruned, my fence untrimmed and my house unpainted, and my clothes are getting shabbier every day. I am afraid they will soon not be respectable enough for church. Oh, little mother, I want a new dress. I want—oh, mother, ought I to covet that coat suit in Robertson & Co.'s window—the blue French broadcloth that would just fit me?—I—"

The words ended here. The writer had evidently crumpled the paper and thrown it in the basket when she heard his ring.

When Delmar went home he walked by the corner and looked at the blue suit. Twenty-five dollars represented an engagement ring if Iva Ellsworth would accept it. Iva lived with her cousins in the next state and was used to luxury, and his bookkeeper's salary was only \$75 a month, but Delmar had resolved.

On Christmas eve Miss Adriana's doorbell rang to admit Robertson & Co.'s porter with a great box marked "With Delmar's Love." Under the lid lay a fragrant bunch of violets, a lacy white shirtwaist, a pretty blue velvet toque, a pair of trim shoes and the

Quaint Packing of Eggs.

In many Korean towns one sees piles of eggs outside the shops, done up in straw rolls. This is the Korean method of packing eggs. There are, as a rule, ten eggs in a roll, and the straw casing is so cleverly twisted and so strongly woven that it can be moved without fear of the eggs falling out. A native will lift up a roll, place it across his shoulders and march away, and though the roll may sway dangerously to and fro, its contents always remain intact.

BIRTHDAY PARTY.

On Monday, November 24th, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. John Spellman, a birthday party was tendered their little daughter, Velma, in honor of her eighth anniversary. The evening was spent in games, dancing, singing and recitations. Dainty refreshments were served in abundance and everyone left tired but happy.

Those present were: Alma and Ione Durgin, Straus Berthant, Althea and Norma Nell Higgins, Oral Iris and Mary Cecilia James, Marion and Muriel Montelepre, Althea and Noletia Gorman, Eugenie Thates, Catherine Sutherland, Jeannette Jagot, Veva LeBlanc, Carrie Maronge, Helen Bordelon, Velma Blakeman, Nola and Edwina Burmaster, Elizabeth and Lillian Traub, Whilmenia Dallam, Antoinette Thornin, Misses Maud Lennox, Leah Schroder, Mary Spellman, Masters John Joseph Morton, Joseph Lennox, John and Charles Hilderbrand, Charlie Russell, B. H. Blakeman, Willie Higgins, Gladstone James, Matthew Heindel, Ernest Spellman, George Isaac, Wilbur Maronge, Messrs. Tisdale Daniels, Ernest Anconin, Melford Pitre, Joseph, John and Theodore Spellman, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Morton, Charles Dubret, Miguel Montelepre, Mrs. Henry Senner and Mr. and Mrs. John Spellman, Mrs. Frank James.

Delmar's mind was torn with indecision. But near the end of the play he looked at the little lonely woman beside him, for the time pathetically happy, and quite suddenly his mind was made up.

"Auntie," he said abruptly to her when they were again in her living room, "will you let me come live with you? Mother doesn't need me; she's going to be married soon to Dr. Ashley Wyatt. We'd be company for each other. If you'll let me I'll move my desk and other things over tomorrow." Miss Adriana's happiness of the evening, compared with the new joy, was as a drop of water to the ocean.

That evening Iva Ellsworth received a bouquet of pink carnations and a note that asked her to pardon the writer for breaking his promise to call, and begging her to accept his congratulations on the success of the play. "I didn't get what I wanted for Christmas," the note ended. "I didn't dare, in the face of things, to ask for it."

For several months the world held no happier creature than Miss Adriana. Then she observed that Delmar had occasional fits of abstractedness, unnatural to him. Gradually it dawned upon her that he was troubled over something.

"Where is that pretty Ellsworth girl now, Del, do you know?" she asked him tentatively one morning early in December.

He started at her question, and she noticed with a sinking heart that the paper he had shook a little.

"Bryce Garth told me yesterday Paul Nelson was married," he answered her, "and though Bryce didn't know to whom, I—I think it must be to Miss Ellsworth, auntie."

Later in the day, searching for a lost cuff button of Delmar's, she came upon a picture of the girl.

"He loved her—he gave up asking her to marry him," her troubled mind reasoned, "to make a home for me. And now he is grieving for her!"

As the weeks passed Miss Adriana paled under the weight of her secret trouble. Delmar became uneasy for her, and a few days before Christmas sent her to the near-by city to see one of his friends, a fine young physician there.

That afternoon while crossing the street to the railroad station Miss Adriana felt herself caught and pulled back just in time to escape being run over by a heavy truck that came around the corner. The girl who saved her helped her to the ladies' sitting room of the station, but when her train came a few minutes later she was too shaken and nervous to attempt to board it.

"Oh, what will Delmar think when I don't come!" she exclaimed.

"Delmar!" The pretty girl's cheeks grew a deeper pink, and Miss Adriana knew her to be Iva Ellsworth.

"My nephew, Delmar Halstead, with whom I live in Review," she explained, "Why, Review is only twenty-five miles," cried the girl; "I'll telephone him and he can come for you in an automobile."

When she came back Miss Adriana's lips trembled over a question.

"Are you—are you married, my dear?"

When Delmar came Miss Adriana was able to smile in wan gayety at him.

"Where is the lady that saved you?" he asked presently as he knelt beside



"Delmar, You've Misjudged Me."

her with his arms about her. "I don't know how I'll ever thank that blessed woman!"

Miss Adriana took his face between her hands. "Delmar," she said, "she told me her dearest wish for Christmas was a home! She has a little money of her own, but, Delmar, three people could live on what we two do, in comfort, in real comfort. I—oh, Delmar, I want her to come and live with us!"

Before Delmar could speak the inner door opened and Iva Ellsworth came in.

"I know now why you didn't ask for what you wanted last Christmas!" she said softly. "Delmar Halstead, how you've misjudged me! Plain living, with—with love, and this dear woman to mother me, would be riches to me!"

Alleviates Earache.

If earache does not occur often possibly home treatment will alleviate the suffering, which is always so severe while it lasts. Wring out hot cloths and apply them to the ear. This often brings quick relief. Or moisten a small piece of cotton, saturated with sweet oil or laudanum and place it carefully in the ear. This is generally efficacious if the trouble is caused by the hardening of the wax.

Power for Good and Evil.

Into the hands of every individual is given a marvelous power for good or for evil—the silent, unconscious, unseen influence of his life. This is simply the constant radiation of what a man really is, not what he pretends to be. Life is a state of constant radiation and absorption; to exist is to radiate; to exist is to be the recipient of radiations.

'CIRCUS AT MASONIC HALL.

On Saturday evening, November 22d, the Sts. John Chapter No. 35, O. E. S., entertained the "children" of its members.

The members of the Order planned a very enjoyable evening for the little folks. The hall was one round of mirth and merriment from the time of the opening of the program until the end.

The circus opened with a grand parade led by the cleverest of clowns and the babies and children were drawn around in toy wagons and boxes gorgeously decorated with bright colors and flags.

After the parade the children were seated around a large ring, and Miss Edna Karr told a very funny story, which was enjoyed by both young and old. The two little "Murray Boys," from McDonoughville, were the "stars" of the evening with their original recitations. The clowns, Mr. Tom Entwistle and Mr. Edwin Booth, entered into the spirit of the occasion with a vim, and the tricks and antics of these men furnished amusement for the little folks for the rest of the evening.

Mr. John Cicutat acted as vendor of circus wares. The little ones were given balloons and bright colored caps, which added much to the pleasure of the evening. Games of all kinds were played, even to the old reliable pinning the tail on the donkey. Six prizes were awarded, three to the girls and three to the boys. Delicious refreshments were served throughout the evening. All who attended had a rollicking good time.

Different Now, But Christmas Just the Same

By De Lyle F. Cass

In olden days they used to bring a boar's head smoking into the feast and drag the holly-grown Yule-log to the great fireplace with special ceremonies.

And years afterwards the custom was for bands of sweet-voiced boys to go from house to house on Christmas morning, standing grouped in the street and singing carols of joy to the mellow resonance of bells.

And in grandfather's time folks made up jolly, boisterous sleighing parties, where all muffled up snugly and let out the horses, with the iron runners gliding swiftly over the hard-packed snow.

But Mollie and I live in a little house in town, where the sanitary department keeps the streets swept clean of snow; where there are municipal rules against chopping down trees and no fireplaces in which to burn the logs, even if we had them; where the policeman on the beat probably would arrest the Christmas choiristers if they came around and woke up the neighborhood by singing early in the morning.

Mollie and I just wake up the kids and let them tumble downstairs to see the tree we trimmed the night before, and then let them litter up the parlor, while she sits quietly on the arm of my chair and I smoke, watching them a most of the day afterwards.

But, let me tell you, friends, it's Christmas, just the same!

A CHRISTMAS SUPERSTITION.

In the west of England it was once firmly believed that anyone who visited a cattle shed on Christmas eve would hear the beasts conversing. But such a visit was considered perilous—the irreverent eavesdropper being likely to hear words of ill omen, as in the legend of the farmer who heard his oxen comparing mournful notes of a certain hard day's work that lay before them in the future: "It is a long way up the hill to the churchyard, and our master is heavy." Brand speaks of a west country peasant who told him that he had himself seen cattle fall on their knees at the Holy Hour, and heard them utter a groan "like Christian creatures."

Beds in Which Dolly May Take Her Daily Sleep

Colonial Four-Poster Beds of dark, highly polished wood; mattress and pillows furnished; prices range from 2.50 to 6.00 Cradles; all sizes and descriptions 75c, 1.00, 1.50 and 1.95

Holmes Toy Section—Third Floor



No. 1614—An American-made, jointed doll, 14 inches high; head and forearms of bisque; stuffed body and legs; dressed in white "teddies," lace-trimmed white dress, Dutch cap and white slippers 1.25

Clip the Picture



No. 110—A jointed Kewpie doll, 9 inches high; made entirely of bisque, dressed in decorative gown of pink flowered Dresden silk, trimmed with belt, rosettes and shoulder straps of green tulle; the cap is of gathered Dresden silk finished with a halo-like band of gathered green tulle 2.50

Clip the Picture



No. 1706—An American-made, jointed doll, 12 1/2 inches high, with head and forearms of bisque, stuffed body and legs; dressed in white underclothes, white, lace-trimmed waist, pink plaited skirt having bretelles and button trimming, and white slippers and socks 75c

Clip the Picture



No. 1961—A 15-inch American-made, jointed doll, with head and forearms of bisque; stuffed body and legs; dressed in white, lace-trimmed "teddies," underskirt, dress and knitted booties; blue ribbon chain held in place by "gold" beauty pin 2.45

Clip the Picture



No. 3002—A chubby American-made, jointed doll, 15 inches high, made entirely of bisque; curly dark hair; eyes that open and close; dressed in lace-trimmed white "teddies" and dress 5.50

Clip the Picture



No. 1952—An American-made, jointed doll, 16 1/2 inches high, with head and forearms of bisque; stuffed body and legs; dressed in white, lace-trimmed rompers, white socks and white slippers 2.50

Clip the Picture



No. 1933—An American-made, jointed doll, 19 inches tall; head and forearms of bisque, stuffed body and legs; dressed in lace-trimmed white "teddies," petticoat, plaited dress, baby cap trimmed with blue ribbons, white socks and white slippers 4.00

Clip the Picture



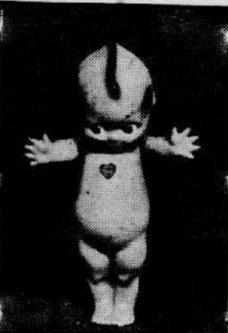
No. 1500—An American-made, jointed doll, 12 inches tall; head and forearms of bisque, stuffed body and legs; dressed in white "teddies," lace-trimmed white dress; white Dutch cap ties with pink ribbons; and white slippers 1.25

Clip the Picture



No. 1884—A beautiful American-made, jointed doll 20 inches tall, long flaxen curls tied with blue ribbons; stuffed body and legs; eyes that open and close; dressed in lace-trimmed white "teddies," petticoat, plaited dress trimmed with featherstitching, and white knitted booties 6.50

Clip the Picture



No. 1708-20—An American-made, Kewpie Doll, 12 inches high; brown hair, combed in high ridge down the middle of the head; small blue wings at back of neck 1.95

Clip the Picture

Holmes

Mail Orders Filled Promptly

Doll Things

Doll Kimonos and Bath Robes; pink and blue grounds with animal and flower designs; price 75c and 1.00.

Doll Hoods; Red Riding Hood style, in pink, blue and red. Price 35c

Doll Wigs; black, brown or blonde curls and bobbed—1.25 to 3.50.

Doll Slippers; all kinds and sizes, 15c, 20c and 25c.

Doll Booties; leather booties, single eyelet ties 15c

Dolls' Knitted Booties; pink and white, white, and blue and white; all sizes 25c

Doll Sweaters; knitted, pink and white, white and blue and white; variety of sizes, 35c to 95c.

Doll Caps; knitted variety of colors and sizes 50c to 2.50

Doll Pianos; redwood case; 8 notes 50c

Doll House; gabled house of gray brick, one story and attic; lace-curtained windows; front porch; side open, showing 2 large rooms; roof may be lifted to open attic. Price 12.50

Doll Sulky or Push Cart; strong wooden handle; fiber body; strap in front; rubber-tired wheels; leather upholstered seat 4.50

Doll Buggy; white fiber basket body, adjustable top; rubber-tired wheels; cloth corduroy velvet lined; variety of sizes—1.50 to 22.50.



No. 5100—An American-made, jointed baby doll, 20 inches tall, made entirely of bisque; short brown hair; eyes that open and close; dressed in short, lace-trimmed white baby clothes; "teddies," petticoat, dress, pink ribbon-tied cap and pink and white knitted booties; can be dressed and undressed at will—18.00

Clip the Picture



No. 2152—An American-made, jointed doll, 18 inches high; head and forearms of bisque; long flaxen curls tied with blue ribbons; stuffed body and legs; eyes that open and close; dressed in lace-trimmed white "teddies," petticoat, plaited dress trimmed with featherstitching, and white knitted booties 6.50

Clip the Picture



No. 1963—An American-made, jointed doll, 18 inches high; head and shoulders of bisque, stuffed body and legs; dressed in lace-trimmed white "teddies," petticoat and dress, pink jacket trimmed in fancy braid and fastened by beauty pin, dainty pink-ribbon-trimmed cap, white socks and white slippers 4.50

Clip the Picture

Swings for Dolly's Playtime

A White Chair Swing suspended from a 33-inch stand, sells for 1.65
A Red Two-Seated Swing on a yellow stand, 28 inches in height, 24-inch base, sells for 1.75

Holmes Toy Section—Third Floor

Cold Weather Comforts

Knitted Suits in a variety of sizes and colors; rompers, cap and booties. Prices 75c to 2.50

Holmes Toy Section—Third Floor