

A Christmas Carol

By Charles Dickens.

WORLD'S GREATEST YULETIDE STORY, RUNNING IN THE PRESS—IDEAL HOLIDAY READING.

Scrooge glanced toward the phantom. Its steady hand was pointed to the head. The cover was so carefully adjusted that the slightest raising of it, the motion of a finger upon Scrooge's part, would have disclosed the face. He thought of it, felt how easy it would be to do, and longed to do it; but had no more power to withdraw the veil than to dismiss the spectre at his side.

Oh, cold, cold, rigid, dreadful death, set up thine altar here, and dress it with such terrors as thou hast at thy command, for this is thy dominion! But of the loved, revered, and honored head, thou canst not turn one hair to thy dread purposes, or make one feature odious. It is not that the hand is heavy and will fall down when released; it is not that the heart and pulse are still; but that the hand was open, generous and true; the heart brave, warm and tender; and the pulse a man's. Strike, Shadow, strike! And see his good deeds springing from the wound, to sow the world with life immortal!

No voice pronounced these words in Scrooge's ears, and yet he heard them when he looked upon the bed. He thought, if this man could be raised up now, what would be his foremost thoughts? Avarice, hard-dealing, gripping cares? They have brought him to a rich end, truly!

He lay in the dark, empty house, with not a man, a woman or a child to say he was kind to me in this or that and for the memory of one kind word I will be kind to him. A cat was tearing at the door, and there was a sound of gnawing rats between the hearthstone. What they wanted in the room of death, and why they were so restless and disturbed, Scrooge did not dare to think.

"Spirit!" he said, "this is a fearful place. In leaving it I shall not leave its lesson, trust me. Let us go!"

Still the Ghost pointed with an unmoved finger to the head.

"I understand you," Scrooge returned, "and would do it if I could. But I have not the power, Spirit. I have not the power."

Again it seemed to look upon him.

"If there is any person in the town who feels emotion caused by this man's death," said Scrooge, quite agonized, "show that person to me, Spirit, I beseech you!"

The Phantom spread its dark

robe before him for a moment, like a wing, and withdrawing it, revealed a room by daylight, where a mother and her children were.

She was expecting someone, and with anxious eagerness, for she walked up and down the room, started at every sound, looked out from the window, glanced at the clock, tried, but in vain, to work with her needle and could hardly bear the voices of her children in their play.

At length the long expected knock was heard. She hurried to the door and met her husband, a man whose face was careworn and depressed, though he was young. There was a remarkable expression in it now—a kind of serious delight which he struggled to repress.

He sat down to the dinner that had been hoarding for him by the fire, and when she asked him faintly what news (which was not until after a long silence), he appeared embarrassed how to answer.

"Is it good," she said, "or bad?"—to help him.

"Bad," he answered.

"We are quite ruined?"

"No. There is hope yet, Caroline."

"If he relents," she said, amazed, "there is! Nothing is past hope, if such a miracle has happened."

"He is past relenting," said her husband. "He is dead."

She was a mild and patient creature, if her face spoke truth; but she was thankful in her soul to hear it, and she did so, with clasped hands. She prayed forgiveness the next moment, and was sorry, but the first was the emotion of her heart.

"What the half drunken woman, whom I told you of last night, said to me when I tried to see him and obtain a week's delay; and what I thought was a mere excuse to avoid me, turns out to have been quite true. He was not only very ill, but dying, then."

"To whom will our debt be transferred?"

"I don't know. But before that time we shall be ready with the money, and even though we were not, it would be bad fortune indeed to find so merciless a creditor in his successor. We may sleep to-night with light hearts, Caroline!"

Yes. Soften it as they would, their hearts were lighter. The children's faces, hushed and clustered round to hear what they so little understood, were brighter; and it was a happier house for this man's death! The only emotion that the Ghost could show him, caused by the event, was one of pleasure.

"Let me see some tenderness connected with death," said Scrooge; "or that dark chamber, Spirit, which we left just now, will be forever present to me."

The Ghost conducted him through several streets familiar to his feet, and as they went along Scrooge looked here and there to find himself, but nowhere was he to be seen. They entered poor Bob Cratchit's house, the dwelling he had visited before; and found the mother and the children seated round the fire.

Quiet. Very quiet. The noisy little Cratchits were as still as statues in one corner, and sat looking up at Peter who had a book before him. The mother and her daughters were engaged in sewing. But surely they were very quiet!

"And he took a child, and set him in the midst of them."

Where had Scrooge heard of these words? He had not dreamed them. The boy must have read them out, as he and the Spirit crossed the threshold. Why did he not go on? The mother laid her work upon the table, and put her hand up to her face.

"The color hurts my eyes," she said.

"The color? Ah, poor Tiny Tim!

"They're better now again," said Cratchit's wife. "It makes them weak by candle light, and I wouldn't show weak eyes to your father when he comes home, for the world. It must be near his time."

"Fast it, rather," Peter answered, shutting up his book. "But I think he has walked a little slower than he used, these few last evenings, mother."

They were very quiet again. At last she said, and in a steady, cheerful voice, that only faltered once:

"I have known him walk with—"

I have known him walk with Tiny Tim upon his shoulder, very fast indeed."

"And so have I," exclaimed Peter. "Often."

"And so have I," exclaimed another. "So had all."

(To be continued.)

Walter J. Nicholls & Co., Brokers
 8105 Howard Street
 Phones, Main 26 and 2050.
 Members
 Chicago Board of Trade
 Portland Board of Trade
 Spokane Stock Exchange
 Correspondents
 Logan & Bryan.
 will sell
 1000 to 5000 Nevada Treasure...65
 1000 to 2000 Stanley...85
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 1000 to 5000 Mineral Farm...01
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The New York Sample Store
 Corner Sprague and Lincoln
 "The House of Bargains"
 The biggest and best sample store in Spokane. You save one-third to one-half.

Order Your Groceries Now
 at the Pine Street Grocery for your New Year's dinner. Everything fresh and wholesome, prices right and prompt delivery service. Phone in your order to Main 8683.

Pine Street Grocery
 8110 Pine St. Phone 8683.

IT WILL PAY YOU TO BUY A PIANO TODAY
 If you can't spare more than \$5, come in and arrange to pay the balance in convenient installments covering a period of about 30 months—two and one-half years. You can select an instrument from the finest and largest stock in the city, if not in the entire west, and the instrument will be delivered upon payment of eight per cent of the purchase price.

WENTWORTH CLOTHING HOUSE
 Entrance—709 Riverside

PEONE GARDENS
 The Choicest Fruit Lands in the Northwest.
 Lying at the very door of Spokane. Only four miles from the city. Sub-irrigated tracts of a rich black loam, free from rock or gravel. Water can be had anywhere from 5 to 15 feet. No later frosts. Finest varieties of commercial winter apples grow here in absolute perfection.

N. T. Johnson Co.
 1 and 2 Ziegler Block, Phone Main 2118.

Powell's Stomach Remedy
 cures Indigestion, Gastritis, Nervous Dyspepsia, Sick Headache, Catarrh of the Stomach. Ask your druggist.
 Spokane, Wash., Jan. 26, 1909.
 Mr. A. H. Powell, Manufacturing Chemist.
 Dear Sir: After suffering for over 30 years with stomach trouble and spending hundreds of dollars with doctors and for patent medicine and receiving only temporary relief, if any, finally I was induced to try Powell's Stomach Remedy. After taking one bottle I felt like a new man and could eat things that I had not been able to eat for years. I wrote you this letter so you can publish it so that anyone affected as I was may read it and learn of this wonderful medicine and be permanently cured. Yours truly, EDWARD RYDBLOM, 826 Perry Street.

Dr. Rector's
 double suction placed in a set of false teeth of our make will give more solid comfort than any plate you have ever had. It means a good fit when all others have failed.

THE MODERN DENTISTS
 Corner Washington Street and Riverside Avenue.
 Over McNab's Drug Store.

WHERE TO EAT TO-DAY
 Everything home cooked and on the counter, where you can select for yourself. Location, 112 Wall, north of Riverside. Open from 6 a. m. until 12:30 a. m.

BALTIMORE DAIRY LUNCH
 "The House of Quality," 429 First Ave., Spokane, Wash.
 FINE HOME COOKING

THE WALL STREET LUNCH ROOM AND BAKERY
 126 WALL STREET. You have tried our excellent 25c lunch. Now try our 25c special breakfast—hot cakes, maple syrup, potatoes and choice of ham, bacon or two eggs.

RECEPTION FOR A SERVANT SIXTY YEARS IN ONE HOME

NEW YORK, Dec. 30.—One hundred or more of the following invitations were sent out last week. Not one of the recipients sent his or her regrets or stayed away:

Mr. and Mrs. John Bauer
 60 Linden street, New York
 Request the honor of your presence
 On Saturday evening,
 At 8 o'clock
 At a reception in honor of the Sixtieth Anniversary of Miss Barbara Spanagel's Services as maid in their home

Miss Barbara Spanagel, better known to the members and friends of the Bauer family as "Nana," is 75 years of age, and she entered the service of the Bauers on December 25, 1849. Since that time she has never worked anywhere else.

It is many years since Nana has really been looked upon by the members of the family as a servant, although at no time would she allow anybody else to do her work unless she was sick, notwithstanding the repeated entreaties of her master and mistress that they be allowed to hire another girl and

that she make herself comfortable. She nursed four of the Bauer children, all of whom have now grown to manhood and womanhood, and she will not yield even to their mother in her interest in them.

SAN FRANCISCO.—Chin Yin Tang, Chinese minister at Washington, notifies Chinese here that unless war of the On Yick tong and Yee family is stopped at once, Chinese government will punish relatives in China of the warring factions.

Tomorrow Is Your Last Chance to Get in on Wentworth's Wonderful Year-End Bargain Events
 Store closes at 6 p. m.
\$3.50 Off the Price
 of every man's and young man's Overcoat and Raincoat in the store.

\$4.89
 for choice of a fine line of Boys' New Winter Suits, values up to \$8.45, all sizes.
ONE-FIFTH OFF the price of all Boys' Overcoats.
ONE-FOURTH OFF the price of all House Coats, Bath and Lounging Robes.
\$2.55 for choice of a large line of men's fine \$3.00 warm woolen underwear. See center display case.

Spokane Trunk & Grip Co.
 STORE 9 STEVENS ST.

Did you forget one of your friends?
 If so, just send them some leather goods—a Purse, Card Case, Hand Bag, Grip, Suit Case, Toilet Set or Trunk. The quality and price is always right.

Spokane Sample Store Co.
 308 Riverside Avenue
 Only Strictly Sample Store in Spokane

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Sinton The Tailor
 228 RIVERSIDE AVE.
 A Proper Tailored Fall Suit at a Moderate Price.
 Sunday and Daily Press, 10 cents per week.

Spokane Sample Store Co.
 308 Riverside Avenue
 Only Strictly Sample Store in Spokane

Clearance Sale
 of all Ladies' and Misses' Sample Goods. Your choice of entire line at

Less Than Wholesale
 Sample Furs, Ladies' and Misses' Suits, Millinery, Waists, Skirts—all Winter Goods to be closed out at less than wholesale cost.

Spokane Trunk & Grip Co.
 STORE 9 STEVENS ST.

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THE CRESCENT
 SPOKANE'S GREATEST STORE

Women's Stylish Winter Coats Sensational Values at \$7.50

THIS lot consists of a splendid assortment of coats, this season's styles, of course, many of them late season models. Made of excellent quality broadcloth, cheviot, wide wale serges, English covert and mannish overcoatings.

Black and a splendid assortment of colors, including the color tones most in use right now.

Included in the lot are a number of full length capes; these are in next manish overcoatings and chevigns. All sizes, from misses' 14 to women's 44.

Not a garment in the lot that in regular stock would be expected to sell for anything like the sale price and many were priced several times what you are asked to pay. **\$7.50**

On account of the extreme low price, these \$7.50 coats cannot be altered.

MILLINERY
 Buy a Trimmied Hat Now for \$2

AS AN additional attraction in the millinery section tomorrow a group of neat, attractively trimmed hats will be on sale at this remarkably low price. These hats are all new and represent a variety of effects and styles. Materials that are used in many of them could not ordinarily be bought for the price asked for the finished hat. Special. **\$2.00**

Other Millinery Offerings
 Three other sales at **\$4.00, \$8.00 and \$15.00** opened at the beginning of the week, will continue. In each of them exceptionally good values and a good assortment of styles will be ready for your choosing.

Girls' Hats \$1.00
 A table in the millinery salon is now devoted to a clearance lot of misses' and girls' hats of various kinds, worth from double the sale price up to a number of times that much. Take your choice for **\$1.00**

Towels for a Dime
 DAMASK towels, fringed ends, odds and ends of lines that sold at 25c and 35c each. Take your choice for **10c**

Table Cloths \$1.90
 These are two yards wide, and from 2 to 3 yards long. Pure linen; good quality; no napkins to match them. Some are worth more than double the sale price. Special **\$1.90**

Mattress Protectors \$1.50
 60x60 inch size, the kind that usually sells for \$2.25 each. Special **\$1.50**

White Goods 15c
 A big lot of these. About a hundred pieces in all. Swisses, fancy waistings, madras and plain muslins. All sorts of surprising values. A whole table full to select from it **15c**

A Great Sale of Fancy Silks at 59c
 THESE are silks that if in regular stock would sell for \$1.25, \$1.00 and 85c a yard. In buying a dress or waist from this sale you can save almost enough to pay the making. A good assortment of colors in stripes, checks, plaids and plain effects. Some taffetas, some messalines. Special **59c**

Boys' \$5.00 Suits at \$2.98 Only 30 Suits
 WE HAVE picked out 30 boys' suits that are priced \$5.00 each. These are in sizes from 8 to 16 years. All dark patterns, all made with knickerbocker trousers. The price you pay for them tomorrow is hardly more than the materials are really worth. Special price **\$2.98**

Wash Goods at 5c, 10c and 15c
 BROKEN lots from the season's stock grouped into three great lots. Among the fabrics offered are ginghams in several qualities, flannelettes of various kinds, outing, kimono cloths and other materials. A miscellaneous collection.
 Your choice of Lot One, per yard **5c**
 Your choice of Lot Two, per yard **10c**
 Your choice of Lot Three, per yard **15c**

Coats and Suits Reduced
 Entire stock of boys' suits and overcoats at a uniform reduction.

Bags and Suit Cases Ridiculously Cheap
 HALF price and even less is the rule. It's a clearing out of odds and ends. All good, but not wanted in regular stock as they have been replaced by other numbers. Quantities in each case are limited, so choosing had best be done in the forenoon.
 24-inch wairoid suit cases, well made, brass locks and bolts; leather handle and corners; \$1.75 value. Special **80c**
 18 and 20-inch reed suit cases; leather handles and straps; \$1.00 and \$1.25 values. Special **55c**
 Reed lunch baskets, 30c, 40c and 50c values. Special **15c**
 C. S. telescopes, 16 and 20-inch sizes; well bound with leather; leather straps; \$1.00 to \$2.00 values. Special **60c**
 Reed telescopes, 16 and 18-inch sizes; 50c and 75c values. Special **25c**
 Imitation leather bags, 12 to 18-inch size; 70c to \$1.00. Special **35c**