

A Christmas Joke

By MARY GRAHAM BONNER



HE was a young bride. Every present she had received was very welcome. She had depended on presents to furnish her new home.

When she had received a duplicate which were not initiated she hastened to the place from which they had been purchased and picked out other articles of beauty and of household necessity.

Her friends had really been remarkably kind. She had been surprised to find how ready the shops had been about taking back gifts and substituting with others, or in engraving presents which had not already been engraved.

Only one had charged for engraving—the gift had been purchased at "wholesale rate" and so engraving was not included.

Altogether from the point of view of presents as well as from the point of view of a mate she had done remarkably well. This would enable them to make a very good appearance in their home without having to draw from the none too plentiful savings.

She viewed everything over again one evening, presents and those which were exchanges. There was just one thing among them that was not necessary and not particularly pretty. It was a gravy-dish. She knew of no particular use to which she could put it—she had one of the kind she really liked.

She could not exchange it. It had a monogram in the center. "I know what I'll do with it," she said to her husband. "I'll give it to Molly Stevens for a Christmas present. She has been so good to us and I'd like to show her how much I appreciate it."

"You know she is going to get married in the spring—that is—her engagement is all but announced. Don't you think it would be a good idea? She was so helpful about my wedding and she has told me, quite confidentially, that the wedding will be in the spring."

"It would be a good idea to give her something for Christmas that she could have for her new home. We really can't afford to buy anything just now and that will do beautifully."

"But the monogram?" her husband inquired.

"Oh, that can be taken off you know, and another one put there in its place. I heard some one ordering that to be done in one of the silver shops the other day."

"Yes, that's a splendid idea," her husband heartily agreed.

"I'll go down-town and attend to it tomorrow. I haven't much time. Christmas is almost here."

"Our first Christmas," said the young husband as he clasped his bride to him.

"Our first Christmas," she murmured.

The next evening he asked her if she had arranged about sending the gravy dish to Molly Stevens.

"I couldn't send it," she said. "Why not?" he inquired.

"Because of the monogram in the center," she said.

"But you told me that that could be erased by the silversmiths and a new monogram placed there," her husband persisted.

"I know I did," the young bride answered, "but you see they told me today at the shop that it would be possible to do it were it not for the fact that it had been done so often to that it had become too often to dare take a chance with it again. They'd not be able to avoid boring a hole this time! It has been given away once too often for me to put any use," she sighed sadly.

"And I shall just send Molly a Christmas card. After all she did no more than any one else!"

Christmas Collars

By MARY GRAHAM BONNER



LOVE him, I love him, I love him," Agnes Allen said. And as she was alone in her room, and as no one could hear her, naturally there was no answer to her statement which she had repeated several times.

She was speaking of George Farwell. George was so good looking with his wonderful blue eyes, his brown hair, his fine erect figure.

Wherever she saw men she thought how insignificant they looked beside George. She was glad that she thought that way. She hoped others thought the same.

Then they had planned to go to their own new little home which they had just finished furnishing and fixing up. They were going to have their own little Christmas tree, there—quite by themselves, and their friends had left their wedding presents and their Christmas presents there, though almost all of the former they had seen of course.

"Are you almost ready?" It was Mrs. Allen calling up the stairs.

"Almost, mother dear," she answered.

"You'll be late," her mother called. "I'll hurry," she said.

"Do you want any help?" But she had taken longer than she had thought. Yes, if she didn't hurry she would be late! Still she would have George all her life now. How wonderful it would be! She wondered if that was why brides were so often late because they felt they had so much time!

It was a gloriously happy thought to realize how much time she had. She was only ten minutes late. The few friends were at the Christmas day wedding. And her bouquet was of holly and mistletoe. She had always said she would love to have such a wedding bouquet. It would be so merry and Christmasy and such a happy, gay kind of a bouquet.

George had consented of course. He agreed to everything she said, because he loved her so, and she was so fair with him, too, because she loved him so!

The ceremony was over. They drove away in a low sleigh with jingling bells to the small house. There, by themselves, they opened presents. What a glorious time they had.

And she had a little surprise for him. Just a little bit of a surprise. But she knew he would like it.

"Open that box, there, George," she said.

He opened it. And looked at some collars, many, many collars, all much too big for him.

"When I was buying my wedding clothes in town that time, George, I remembered that you'd spoken of a wonderful kind of collar you liked. I remembered the name, too. I was a little puzzled when the man asked me your size. I told him though that as long as he had the right kind the size didn't make any difference. When he asked me if you were big or small I told him you were big of course!"

"Why, George, what is the matter? Won't they fit you? Is the size so important?"

"My darling little girl," he laughed, "what does it matter what the size is. That is—it does matter about wearing them I'm afraid, my love. But to think you thought of me even when you were getting the wedding dresses and remembered the name of the collar."

"They're my Christmas collars," he exclaimed, "and I'll put them away in the box with the Christmas bouquet we're going to save. Such a Christmas gift from a dear little bride should never be mangled by any laundry!"

"What a silly I am," she laughed gaily. "But such an adorable silly," George answered as he kissed her.

An Unasked-for Gift

By MARY GRAHAM BONNER



R. LOUIS ROTH had become a money-maker. Mrs. Louis missed doing her own work. She liked to do the darning. She was nervous in a motor-car, and a chauffeur depressed her. She had tried having one once, but she not only felt like a fool when she "doiled up," as she expressed it, but she was frightened when she saw the chauffeur's look of disgust when she told him she had no calls to make and no shopping to do except to the corner store.

She didn't care about going to a smart hotel for tea in the afternoon. Now and again she liked to have a "bite" in a pastry shop.

Louis was a musician. He was one of the most popular of dance conductors. He made money from royalties on his popular songs—a great deal of money. She had been often told that musicians were temperamental flirts. But the ones she had seen were not. They liked cigars and pinocchio and fat cheeks. That wasn't so temperamental. Neither was there anything temperamental about the music publishers and the friends of Louis who came in of an evening for cheese and crackers.

She was nervous when the maid broke dishes, though she knew there was lots of money to buy more. She was naturally a careful housekeeper, and the money had come a little too late or else she was one of the kind who couldn't spend it! Very rare, but not at all pleasant.

When she went to shows she fell asleep. She longed to dust behind corners and under the rungs of chairs. She loved to bake a good cake.

But prosperity was hers, and she didn't want to let Louis know how hard it was for her to be prosperous. He came in this time when Mrs. Louis was sitting stringing corn for the little tree she had bought. It was Christmas eve.

Louis was very evidently excited. He asked his wife to come into the little bedroom so no one would hear. Louis hadn't become used to talking before a maid. His wife noticed that she looked rather worried and troubled.

"What's the matter?" A sharp thrill of pleasure went through her. Perhaps he had speculated, lost his money in Wall street, or on the curb. So many people did, she had been told. Louis would be poor and she would darn his socks and get his meals, and they'd live in the old flat and keep the cozy red plush furniture. Louis had been talking lately of moving to better quarters.

He took her hands in his. "It's going to be hard on you," he said. "Oh, no," she answered, trying to repress the exultant note in her voice. "I'll be glad."

She was about to tell him how oppressive the riches had been, how they had almost suffocated her. How much happier she would be to have to save money, rather than try to spend it for Louis's sake, to make him feel she enjoyed it.

"Wife," he said finally, "they want me to tour Europe. It's a great chance. There's big money in it, and the boys all want to go with me. Do you suppose, wife, I know you're awful seasick, and a poor traveler." His face looked worried. "But do you suppose you could stand the seasickness and all, for I'd be so lonesome leaving you home? They want me so much—and they know I wouldn't want to go without you—that they're going to pay your expenses and make that a little Christmas present for you."

She gave a look at the beloved red plush furniture. Would there never be any rest from prosperity? Her fate was sealed.

"I guess I could stand it, Louis," she said bravely. But in her heart there was hopelessness. Money, Europe, riches and more riches, a limousine future and a street car soul! And a Christmas present of such a trip! And she, alas, would have so much preferred a street car ride and a sewing basket from the boys such as they had given her that first Christmas after she had married Louis, when they hadn't been rich!

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SWANVILLE

Dec. 21.—Mr. and Mrs. W. L. Dunphy and daughter Ellen, of the Dale, N. D. arrived here Tuesday for a visit with Mr. and Mrs. Chas. B. Rose. They are parents and sister respectively of Mrs. Rose.

Mrs. Orville Roff and children left last Tuesday for Kellogg, Minn., where they will join Mr. Roff and reside in the future. Mr. Roff and Charles Ruff, sister and brother of Mrs. Roff, accompanied them. Charles Ruff will be employed at Kellogg and Mrs. Vern Roff will return home next Saturday.

Miss Lillian Jahncke went to Little Falls Monday to meet her sister Mrs. Amber Jahncke, who returned from the twin cities, where she has been employed.

Emil Braatz and Ernest Axel returned Tuesday from North Dakota, where the latter went to take treatments for throat trouble.

Miss Label Gupit was shopping at Little Falls on Tuesday. Born to Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Roff, Jr., (Blanche Bain) on Thursday, Dec. 15, a son.

Mrs. Roy Kennedy and son, Mrs. Ed. Roff and children and Mrs. Herb Bain visited here Friday for a visit with their relatives.

N. B. Blair, Jr., of Great Falls, Mont., arrived here last Friday for a visit with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. N. B. Blair, Sr.

The village school closed last Friday for a two weeks' vacation. The boys will start Saturday for their respective homes.

J. J. McRae, Sr., was a business caller in Little Falls on Tuesday. The Clarissa high school basketball team came over on Friday evening and played a double header with the high school team. Each team were defeated by the Swanville team. The score for the girls' team being 2 to 7, the score for the boys' team 15 to 21. At the close of the game lunch was served by Miss Elliott and her domestic science class to all the teams and also to visitors from Clarissa.

The Swanville high school basketball team went to Sauk Centre Tuesday evening, where they played the Sauk Centre high school team.

Mrs. J. M. Fellbaum, a pioneer resident of this locality passed away at her home in Culdrum on Sunday morning where she had resided. She is believed to have been 74 years of age. She was born in Wisconsin in 1847, where she grew to womanhood and was married to John M. Fellbaum. The family came to this village in 1899, where they were in the hotel business for some time before moving to their farm in Culdrum, where they have since resided. She is survived by her husband, four sons, Martin of North Dakota; Henry of South Dakota; Ed. of Wisconsin and Benjamin of Culdrum and two daughters, Mrs. F. G. Strochein of East Swanville and Mrs. Walter Brandt of Duluth. All were present at the funeral.

The funeral was held from St. Peter's Lutheran church Tuesday afternoon, Rev. Gutknecht officiating and burial was in the Lutheran cemetery.

Larson and Calhoun are erecting a large ice house in the north part of town.

T. R. Andrus and Daniel King visited over Sunday at Clarissa at the home of the former's parents.

Albert Kind, who has been visiting his sister, Miss Adelle Kind, in Minneapolis, returned home on Tuesday.

GENOLA Dec. 19.—Henry Hoffman of Little Falls was visiting at the Theo. Stumpf residence Wednesday.

Pete and Bob Meyer and Frank and Ed. Gohl were business callers at Little Falls Wednesday.

The Melrose Granite company shipped two carloads of paving blocks to Minneapolis Wednesday.

Mr. Cooper from Brainerd was a business caller Thursday.

Gus Hanson left Friday for Chicago to visit over the holidays.

Miss Dick of Minneapolis was a business caller Friday.

PARKER TOWN

Dec. 20.—Miss Esther Dahlgren was pleasantly surprised at her home Friday evening, the occasion being her birthday. The evening was spent in playing games, after which a delicious supper was served to about thirty guests.

L. Kazek and family from Randall took dinner Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Kazek.

W. H. Othoudt, who has been quiet for the past two weeks, is reported some better at this writing. His father and mother from Winnebago came to help care for him.

L. E. Baughman and family were Sunday guests at the home of A. W. Othoudt.

The Knight was called to see Mrs. Elvin Wise, who has been suffering with the hives.

Mr. and Mrs. Andres are the proud parents of a boy, born Dec. 16th.

George Othoudt butchered a beef for Silie Bernet Tuesday.

Miss Cora Bradford was a week-end visitor at the N. E. Dahlgren home.

Owing to the cold weather not many from this neighborhood attended the reception at the creamery hall in Randall Monday night in honor of Rev. Horne and wife.

Mrs. Edna Wise entertained the Ladies' Aid society at her home, Thursday, Dec. 15th.

Rudolph Carlson spent a few days the first of the week with Monta Wise.

DARLING TOWN Dec. 21.—Marion Engstrom, Hugo Troelsius and August Blomquist were in Randall on business Wednesday.

We are having very cold weather now, but little snow.

A report has been made that Henning Hedlin, formerly of Darling, was married at Bremerton, Wash. The name of the bride was not learned. We all wish them good luck.

Fifty young people of this vicinity pleasantly surprised Mr. and Mrs. Hjalmer Gustafson last Friday. A lot of pretty gifts were left with Mr. and Mrs. Gustafson and everyone reported as having had a good time.

Friday evening, at 7:30 p. m., a Christmas Festival will be held at School District No. 35. Only those belonging to the district are invited.

The Swedish Lutheran Sunday school will hold their Sunday School Festival Tuesday evening at 7:30 p. m., Dec. 27th. Everyone is invited to attend.

Chas. Regnell, formerly of Darling in a letter states that he has quit farming, at Flaxton, N. D., and is now living in the city.

While Regnell celebrated his birthday anniversary. The Government is conforming with our wishes for this year at least in not having rural mail delivery on Christmas Day. Of course, it happens that Christmas day is on Sunday, which accounts for it.

WEST BELLEVUE Dec. 21.—H. Zimmerman and daughter Helen spent Saturday in Little Falls.

Mrs. F. X. Kusterman and son Ambrose came up from St. Cloud last week for an extended visit with relatives.

WEST RIPLEY

A butchering party was held at the home of H. F. Schulz of Ft. Ripley last week, where Messrs. Adolph Keosch, Chas. Holz, (neighbors) and R. Kriefall and son Henry and Dan Stricker of Buckman, were present, one hog weighing 600 pounds and a critter weighing 1800 pounds were butchered.

The days being so short now, it was late in the evening before they were done, and one of the party had to return the next day to give it the trimmings. The sausage cannot all be made before Christmas but soon thereafter, we'll all have a jolly good time, everybody welcome.

Were you among the Herald subscribers to send in remittance the past week? DO IT NOW.

Little Falls Market Report (Corrected over Thursday P. M.)

Table with market prices for various goods like Northern Spring, Barley, Rye, Oats, Corn, Hay, tams, Ground Feed, Cracked Corn, Bran, Shorts, Flour, Rye flour, Low grade, Oil Meal, Cows, Calves, Hogs, Chickens, Eggs, Potatoes, Creamery butter, Dairy butter, Butter Fat.

STEPHEN C. VASARY, Judge of Probate, Attorney for Petitioner, Little Falls, Minnesota.

CITATION FOR HEARING ON PETITION FOR ADMINISTRATION. In the Matter of the Estate of Malvina Gendron, Decedent.

The State of Minnesota to all persons interested in the final account and distribution of the estate of said decedent: The representative of the above named decedent, having filed in this Court his final account of the administration of the estate of said decedent, together with his petition praying for the adjustment and allowance of said final account and for distribution of the residue of said estate to the persons thereto entitled.

Therefore You, and Each of You, are hereby cited and required to show cause, if any you have, before this Court at the Probate Court Rooms, in the Court House, in the City of Little Falls, in the County of Morrison, State of Minnesota, on the 16th day of January, 1922, at 10 o'clock A. M., why said petition should not be granted.

Witness the Judge of said Court, and the Seal of said Court, this 22nd day of December, 1921.

C. W. KEMP, Probate Judge, Attorney for Petitioner, Little Falls, Minnesota.

CITATION FOR HEARING ON FINAL ACCOUNT AND FOR DISTRIBUTION. In the Matter of the Estate of May Thomas, Decedent.

The State of Minnesota to all persons interested in the final account and distribution of the estate of said decedent: The representative of the above named decedent, having filed in this Court his final account of the administration of the estate of said decedent, together with his petition praying for the adjustment and allowance of said final account and for distribution of the residue of said estate to the persons thereto entitled.

Therefore You, and Each of You, are hereby cited and required to show cause, if any you have, before this Court at the Probate Court Rooms, in the Court House, in the City of Little Falls, in the County of Morrison, State of Minnesota, on the 16th day of January, 1922, at 10 o'clock A. M., why said petition should not be granted.

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C. W. KEMP, Probate Judge, Attorney for Petitioner, Little Falls, Minnesota.

SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION State of Minnesota, County of Morrison.

The STATE OF MINNESOTA, ss. T. Dano, Defendant. You are hereby summoned to be and appear before the undersigned, one of the Justices of the Peace in and for said County, on the 24th day of January A. D. 1922, at 10 o'clock in the forenoon of said day, at my office in the City of Little Falls in said County, to answer to the complaint of J. J. Tucker, Plaintiff, in a civil action, wherein the Plaintiff claims the sum of Seventy-three and 15/100 Dollars (\$73.15) with interest thereon from the 22nd day of December, A. D. 1921, at the rate of six per cent per annum. Should you fail to appear at the time and place aforesaid, judgment will be rendered against you upon the evidence adduced by said Plaintiff, for such sum as he shall show himself entitled to.

Given under my hand and dated this 22nd day of December, D. 1921. PHIL S. RANDALL, Justice of the Peace.

CITATION FOR HEARING ON FINAL ACCOUNT AND FOR DISTRIBUTION. In the Matter of the Estate of May Thomas, Decedent.

The State of Minnesota to all persons interested in the final account and distribution of the estate of said decedent: The representative of the above named decedent, having filed in this Court his final account of the administration of the estate of said decedent, together with his petition praying for the adjustment and allowance of said final account and for distribution of the residue of said estate to the persons thereto entitled.

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Witness the Judge of said Court, and the Seal of said Court, this 22nd day of December, 1921.

C. W. KEMP, Probate Judge, Attorney for Petitioner, Little Falls, Minnesota.

CITATION FOR HEARING ON PETITION FOR ADMINISTRATION. In the Matter of the Estate of Malvina Gendron, Decedent.

The State of Minnesota to all persons interested in the final account and distribution of the estate of said decedent: The petitioner of Joseph Gendron having been filed in this Court, representing that Malvina Gendron, then a resident of the County of Morrison, State of Minnesota, died intestate on or about the 25th day of August, 1921, and praying that letters of administration of her estate be granted to Joseph Gendron and the Court having fixed the time and place for hearing said petition.

Therefore, You, and Each of You, are hereby cited and required to show cause, if any you have, before this Court at the Probate Court Rooms in the Court House, in the City of Little Falls, in the County of Morrison, State of Minnesota, on the 16th day of January, 1922, at 10 o'clock A. M., why said petition should not be granted.

Witness the Judge of said Court, and the Seal of said Court, this 22nd day of December, 1921.

C. W. KEMP, Probate Judge, Attorney for Petitioner, Little Falls, Minnesota.

Yule Tide Greetings. We wish to extend to our customers and friends A Right Merry Christmas and a Bright and Happy New Year. Merchants State Bank Little Falls, Minn.

Christmas Greetings. At this season of the year our thoughts turn to those whose friendly business has made possible bigger and better things, and we extend to you a hearty greeting for Christmas and best wishes for the New Year. NORTH AMERICAN GROCERY CO. The Store That Co-operates With the People All the Time.