

A STRANGE STAR

Birth of New Life Which Was to Shine Over the Earth.

Conference of the Beasts of the Nativity as Portrayed by Imaginative Writer.

CAREFUL, Brother, thy horns! Keep thy head straight. Remember, tonight we share but the one stall between us. The man and his mate, there, have thine. The little tawny-hided ox of Palestine on the farther side leaned hard against the stable wall.

"'Tis a strange star that shines tonight," his yoke-fellow answered, sighing restlessly as he turned back his gaze from the open door. Even with care their horns clicked in the narrow space. "If men must take my feed, why did they not turn us out into the free air? The grass would have dew on it tonight—and I could watch the stars!"

"But" snorted the little gray ass which had carried hither the woman who lay stretched on the straw between them. "What grass wouldst thou pluck from the cobblestones of the city?"

"Ay," loved the first ox. "There it lay here; and eat and be still. The star is no concern of thine."

"The star shineth on the whole broad earth, Brother. He hath the peaked hills to wander in, and the dark valleys, the fields and the towns alike. I wish I were free like the star."

"Then, like him, thou wouldst come slipping in on our stable door again. Hye, come off thy knees! We must sleep, standing," his mate grunted warningly.

"Hush! Brother, there is something wondrous in my old stall! Something very small and white! It gleameth as with hornfrost in the star's light. It hath the smell of lilies. It moveth. The star can stroke it with its long, pale tongues." He leaned longingly against the barrier which shut him away, until it cracked.

The little ass slipped his soft ears between his own bars and sniffed inquiringly. "Why, 'tis a child!" he whinnied with delight. "Children are lovely things. His small fingers will play with my mane and he will sing little songs to me as I bear him along. Look up, little Master. We will see great days together."

"There, that serveth thee right!" reproved the far ox as the woman made a quick motion toward the inquisitive nose. "Thy black muzzle belongeth in thine own manger, Brother Ass."

"She did but brush it aside," the little gray beast breathed contentedly. "She is pleased that we know her son. No fear, Brother Ox. Her husband will not take his staff to us. She is gentle, that woman of mine. She is kind, too, will love us."

But the ox had not drawn back. He knelt there, his broad forehead pressed against the bars, his wondering eyes fixed on the new life which was to shine over the whole broad earth with a brighter glory than that wondering star's—John Breck, in the Detroit News.

GROWTH OF CHRISTMAS TREE

Abandoned Farms in Foothills of Green Mountains in Vermont Provide the Yuletide Sprouts.

SINCE five million Christmas trees are annually shipped out of Vermont, it is only natural to wonder where they all come from. They must come from farms—not farms operated to produce the Christmas tree crop, but abandoned farms where the trees have planted and reared themselves.

These abandoned farms lie in high valleys in the foothills of the Green mountains. One may see sections covered by thirty-odd farms, once thriving settlements, but now all but two or three may be unoccupied. Such land, once under the plow is gradually coming back to forest. Along the fern-choked, ivy-traced furrows, young spruce, pine up and in the open sunshine take on a vivid green. And more than that—the symmetrical branches are a lively green clear to the ground.

Christmas trees cannot be cut in areas of spruce forest, because when they grow in dense clusters the under branches die for want of light, and hence the trees have no value as decorative Christmas trees.

Few, indeed, see the harvest. One or two lonely partridge hunters, perhaps, will see it as it lies covered with the first early snow squalls in the mountains. But back in October, when the days have not lost all of the mellowness of autumn, a gang of twenty choppers will have been busily at work cutting the scattering young spruces and tying them with twine. The cutting and bundling is the easiest part of the harvest, for the trees must be hauled for miles to the railroad, and at this time of year the mountain roads are nothing more than frozen ruts and waterholes. Despite this fact, however, heavy two-horse wagons and even motor trucks, bristling with great crible bodies, struggle slowly out, loaded high with the trees. Two horses are able to draw out at a load about seventy trees of average size.

At the chosen town on the railroad every diseased spot is hired and a mountain of trees begins to grow, till eight thousand of them may be packed in a solid mass.—St. Nicholas.

Choice St. Cloud Property
To exchange for full purchase price of a good
Morrison Court Farm
Write P. R. THIELMAN, St. Cloud, Minn.

The Clancy Kids

When They Looked For the Skunk

By **PERCY L. CROSBY**
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CUSHING

Dec. 27.—Born to Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Miller, Wednesday, Dec. 21st, a daughter, Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Beto left Friday for St. Paul, where they will spend several weeks visiting friends and relatives.

The rural schools closed Friday for a two weeks' vacation. The teachers left Saturday for their respective homes at Little Falls and vicinity, to spend the holidays.

Miss Bertina Lundwall, who is employed at St. Paul, came home Saturday to spend the holidays with her parents here.

Jingwall Thorsen came home last week from North Dakota, where he has been employed.

Mrs. Louis Larson came up Saturday from St. Cloud, to spend a few days visiting with her father, Fred Anderson, at this place.

Miss Ruth Klemm of Minneapolis is visiting with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. A. Klemm of this place, during her vacation.

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1. at 10:30 a. m. A son was born to Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Lehrke December 22.

Mrs. Mary Rossa visited at the Maciel home in Swanville Christmas.

Miss Caroline Sutili went to Little Falls Friday, to spend the Christmas vacation at her home.

Harvey Andersen left Friday to spend Christmas with relatives at Brainerd.

Mr. and Mrs. H. M. Kinney were guests of Mr. and Mrs. L. P. Anderson of Swan River Sunday evening.

Simon Sobiech, Jr., returned home Tuesday from Minneapolis, where he has spent the past two months.

Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Rossa and daughter visited at the A. Lehrke home in Swanville, Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Hanson of Hammond, Wis., being the last of the week to spend Christmas with their parents near Elm Dale.

Dr. Bussen of Swanville was at this place Thursday.

H. P. Rasmussen and son Peter, L. P. Anderson, H. Kinney, Mr. and Mrs. Jos. Novokoska and Mrs. A. J. Rossa were Little Falls visitors Friday.

Mr. and Mrs. Christ Johnson and son Roy of Royal, Ia., will return to their home this week after spending Christmas at the J. J. Jacobson home.

Mrs. Andrew Bosell and daughters Gladys and Myrtle and Emmanuel Bosell visited at the Amiel Peterson home in Swanville Monday.

The vaudeville troupe playing "My Dream Girl" booked for the Harwha theatre last Monday evening, did not appear here, their engagement with Manager Smoots being cancelled Monday afternoon on account of the loss of two members of the company, who took "Friday" off that day.

The troupe will appear at the Harwha next Monday evening, if the vacancies can be filled before that time.

GILBERT
Dec. 27.—To the staff and all the readers of the paper, we extend best wishes for a happy and prosperous New Year.

The program, basket social and dance given at the school house last Friday night, was a great success.

The Misses Agnes and Clara Hedlund and Anna Peterson came home from Minneapolis last Friday and will spend the holidays at their home.

Last Thursday was a busy day at the feed mill. Sixty-four sacks were ground.

Miss Alma Johnson came up from Little Falls Saturday to spend Christmas at her home.

E. Johnson, who was operated upon at St. Gabriel's hospital for appendicitis came home Friday.

Miss Eva Larson, who is attending high school in St. Paul, came home for the holiday vacation.

NORTH ELM DALE
Dec. 27.—Born to Mr. and Mrs. Barney Bolenski, a son last week.

Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Hanson of Hammond, Wis., are here visiting with the latter's father, J. J. Jacobson and other relatives.

Born to Mr. and Mrs. Henry Zimmerman of Pierz, December 22, a son, Mrs. Zimmerman was formerly Miss Lillian Schlar.

Mrs. Paul Rasmussen, who has been ill with a light attack of the flu, is able to be up and around.

Mr. and Mrs. Christ Johnson and son Roy, of Iowa, who has been here visiting the past three weeks, returned home Tuesday.

Miss Annie Larson, who is employed near Upsala, spent Sunday and Monday visiting her mother, Mrs. Gundala Larson.

Mr. and Mrs. John Czek and Miss Charlotte Olson went to Little Falls Tuesday on business.

The school in District No. 15 will commence Tuesday, January 3.

Miss Mamie Olson is staying at the home of her uncle and aunt, Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Olson, this week.

WEST RIPLEY
Dec. 27.—Happy New Year to all. Homer Laforce, who has been employed by Uncle Sam, is reported discharged from the service and is now home.

WANTED
Your savings account. We credit interest semi-annually at 4 per cent annum.—Merchants State Bank, Little Falls, Minn. 15-1f.

staying at Fred Houle's.

E. J. Patinaud, to Little Falls Thursday with a load of dressed beef. Our school closed Friday for the holidays.

What is the matter with our funny boy? He did not have his little story in the last issue. He is gone to Yale but will be back soon.

Frank Beaumont, who is employed at Clouet, arrived home Saturday for three or four days' visit.

Uclid Plante, Joe Martineau and son Theodore, Eddie Doucette and Theodore Doucette were at Ft. Ripley Saturday shopping for Christmas.

Miss Marie Grimes, Red Cross nurse with headquarters at Brainerd, spent Christmas with her parents at Ft. Ripley.

RANDALL
Randall News, Dec. (23).—Rudolph Keotner came home Wednesday from the cities, where he has been attending government school.

Miss Edna Hagstrom arrived Saturday from Minneapolis, where she has been attending business college and will spend two weeks at the home of her parents here.

Mr. and Mrs. Axel Schultz and children moved to Flenzburg Tuesday, where they will reside.

MOTLEY
Motley Mercury Dec. (23).—The Northern Pacific railway depot at Motley is now lighted by electricity.

Last week an N. P. employee appeared on the scene and wired the depot and the signal arm and on Wednesday of this week the power company connected the lights and that night the depot was lighted by electricity.

In addition to the lights inside the depot, the company has put a light at each end of the depot, for platform lights.

Jay Cottingham, who is attending college at St. Joe, Mo., where he is studying to become a veterinarian, arrived home the first of the week to spend the holidays.

Edwin Johnson returned Sunday morning from Minneapolis, where he has been working as a salesman for the Lizzett Myers Tobacco Co. He is home on a two weeks' vacation and will return to the city for three weeks more before going back on his regular territory.

Mrs. A. W. Bailey died Sunday evening at 6 o'clock at the home of her daughter, Mrs. W. H. Sears, the direct cause of her death being pneumonia. The deceased was 81 years of age and has been in poor health for some time.

The remains were taken to Rice Lake, Wis., for burial. She has a son living there and spent 40 years of her own life there.

A. E. Morey returned Friday from Brainerd just 17 days from the time

BOWLUS
Dowlus Advance, Dec. (23).—One who insists on everybody doing the same thing, the law wants to know why we don't publish the names of bootleggers and moonshiners. Our defense is that we do not print business addresses without being paid for it.

Edith, the 9-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Roy Babick was severely hurt by a hot boiler last Tuesday, while she and her brother were playing near a boiler of wash water.

The doctor has ordered him out of the hospital and a little nurse was presented to Rev. and Mrs. Horne as a Christmas gift from their many friends.

UPSALA
Upsala News-Tribune (23).—John August Rundquist was born in Skaraborg lan Sweden, June 7th, 1852. Was united in marriage to Miss Caroline Larson in 1879. Mr. Rundquist arrived in this country in the spring of 1882, and settled in this community, residing in the fall of that year, where his family now resides except Augusta, who lives at Little Falls; Maria at St. Cloud and Hulda at Detroit.

Left to mourn his going are besides his wife and children, one sister residing in Upsala, one sister residing in

Sweden and a brother residing in Wisconsin, a number of other relatives and a host of friends.

The deceased left his earthly abode on December 14th, 1921, at Willmar, Minn., at the age of 69 years, 6 months and 7 days.

The funeral took place Monday of this week from the home at 1 o'clock p. m., and 2 o'clock from the Mission church. The services were in charge of Rev. Hultman.

Miss Edna Nelson, Alice Peterson and Evelyn Johnson, students at the vocational high school for girls at Minneapolis, arrived here Saturday to spend the holidays at their respective homes.

Miss Ida Ryberg, who has been a student at the Lutheran Bible Institute at St. Paul, came home Monday to spend the holidays at the home of her parents here.

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MORE MONEY
If You Ship Your HIDES - FURS Write Us First for Special Information DEAL DIRECT WITH THE LARGEST and OLDEST FUR DEALERS IN THE WORLD. LOWEST PRICES and PROMPT SERVICE. Write for pr

BERGMAN & CO.
ST. PAUL - MINN.

OUR APPRECIATION

Years come and go, and are forgotten, but the loyal support given to this bank by the citizens of this community from year to year remains fixed in the memory of its officers and directors.

Again it is our imperative duty and a sincere pleasure to offer you our grateful appreciation of your co-operation and support, and to express the wish that all future years may remain as green in your memory as your loyalty to this institution remains in ours.

First National Bank

LITTLE FALLS, MINN.

he had his left leg amputated above the knee. The leg has gotten along remarkably well and he is able to get around on crutches in fine shape. As soon as the leg is sufficiently healed, he will get an artificial leg. His many friends are hoping that he will have no further trouble with the leg.

Miss Mildred Sears returned Friday from Westington Springs, S. D., where she has been attending school, and will spend the holidays at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Sears.

E. H. Durst, returned Wednesday from a trip to Iowa.

BELLE PRAIRIE
Dec. 24.—A party was given at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Jake Houle at this place. All present reported a good time. Mrs. Houle was before her marriage, Miss Edna Bastien.

Hector Schelling delivered chickens to Brainerd Wednesday.

Students of the Belle Prairie academy are at their homes to spend their Xmas vacation, with the exception of a very few remaining. They will again resume their studies January 1.

Ed. Gerhard of Brainerd is spending his Christmas vacation at the home of Mr. and Mrs. O. J. Beaudry at this place. Mr. Gerhard is a cousin to Mrs. Beaudry. Mrs. Beaudry is reported on the sick list.

District 122 celebrated Christmas Friday with a Christmas tree. District 122 is also closed for Christmas vacation.

Hector Schelling is reported on the sick list.

Make way for the good old message, you've often heard before. The wish for a Happy New Year and hopes for many more.

We Wish You A HAPPY NEW YEAR
May It Be a Prosperous One.
And as a result of the prosperity, may you decide to

Build Something New
Calling On Us for the Material

BROADWAY LUMBER CO.
GEO. ANTON, MGR.
PHONE 48 LITTLE FALLS, MINN.

WE GREET YOU WITH THANKS

Every business day in the year we are thanking our customers for their patronage, no matter how small the purchase.

At this season of the year it is again our privilege and pleasure to you our grateful thanks for the many favors you have extended to us.

We offer you the compliments of the Yuletide season, with the earnest wish that success may attend you in all of your laudable undertakings.

Anderson Hardware Co.

"Eyes Wrong?"

"Why," exclaim some people "I can see as far as ever I could and I can read print away out there"—holding the paper at arm's length.

Seeing far is no proof of normal vision. It is possible to see too far.

And holding the paper at arm's length is proof positive that glasses are needed for reading.

About 13 inches is the correct distance. If you are over or under that, it is time to see us.

VASALY

EYE SPECIALIST
Little Falls, Minnesota

MICKIE, THE PRINTER'S DEVIL

BY GEORGE, THIS IS GETTING SERIOUS! ONLY ONE MEAL YESTERDAY AND ONE TODAY! DARN THAT SLOW RACE HORSE! IF I HAD HIM HERE, AND A KNIFE 'N FORK, I'D EAT HIM!

HOORAY!
HOORAY! HOORAY!
IT CAME!
IRENE SENT TH' MONEY she didn't forget us!
WHEN DO WE EAT?

Dear Boss I am enclosing you \$500. so you can make that trip to New York and Atlantic City while Congress is adjourned and I think you'll like it. Business is just slow. With love, (St. Nicholas) Irene

AN' FER DESSERT SOME MUSHMELON 'N APPLE PIE A LA MODE 'N CHOCOLAT CAKE 'N JELLY TARTS 'N BANANAS 'N CREAM 'N LEMON PIE 'N STRAWBERRY PRESERVES 'N SWEET PICKLES 'N—UNHAT ELSE 'N GOT?

Choice St. Cloud Property
To exchange for full purchase price of a good
Morrison Court Farm
Write P. R. THIELMAN, St. Cloud, Minn.