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Interests of Bank and Depositors

Officers and directors of this bank recognize that the interests of this bank and its depositors are the same. When the resources of the patrons and depositors of the bank increase the volume of business increases. It is therefore wise and prudent for the bank to assist the people of this vicinity to increase their money and property.

To this end the most cordial relations between the officers of this bank and its depositors are encouraged. Any service that we can render is always cheerfully given in all financial matters.

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PHONE 48

Story of the Christmas Stocking

YEARS and years ago stockings were not hung on Christmas eve as we hang them now. No one ever heard of such a thing as hanging up a stocking for Christmas gifts. And if children had thought of such a thing they would have said, "What a foolish idea! A stocking wouldn't hold half the things we want." So the children throughout the world placed crocks, big brass basins, and copper kettles on the hearth on Christmas eve and left notes in them telling Santa to fill them to the brim. Each year the children left larger vessels to be filled, children left larger vessels to be filled.

Up in the great white north Santa's reindeer no longer pranced and pawed, impatient to be off on Christmas eve, as they once had done. They hung their heads and a tired look came into their big brown eyes, for they remembered how heavy the loads had grown and how many more trips they were forced to make year by year.

St. Nicholas no longer rested now through the summer months, as he once had done, but labored every day throughout the year, and often he built toys late into the night, for a great many gifts had to be made to fill the baskets that the greedy children left. The twinkle left his merry eyes, and he no longer sang about his work, for he was sad and thought of the time that would come when he could no longer build enough presents to go around.

Late one December day St. Nicholas stepped from his workshop into the deep snow. Facing the south, he stretched out his tired arms and called: "Hear, oh hear, children of the earth, my loved ones, can you not see you are becoming selfish and that your greedy demands are too great a task, even for St. Nicholas, king of the Christmas spirit? Can't you see, my children, that you are killing the spirit of Christmas?"

His chin sank upon his chest and tears glistened in his kindly eyes. A soft white snowflake fluttered down and nestled against his cheek, and a tiny voice whispered into his ear: "Santa, I will help you."

"Who are you?" asked St. Nicholas. "I am a snow fairy," answered the tiny voice. "As my sisters and I have danced about the air we have often swirled about your sleigh on Christmas eve, and have seen the great loads you have always carried and how tired you have looked."

"What, O what, shall I do?" asked Santa. "Just go about your work as usual," answered the fairy. "I and all my sisters will help you."

"Oh, thank you—thank you," cried St. Nicholas. And the fairy floated out among the other snowflakes.

As the children went about the snowflakes whirled around them, and it seemed as if they heard the chanting of tiny voices, and as the snowflakes nestled against their ears they seemed to sing: "Just a stocking—hang a stocking up on Christmas eve." "Just a stocking—just a stocking," rang through the hearts of the children on Christmas eve. And in place of leaving the great vessels as they once had done they just hung up their stockings.

Some children were too selfish to hear the song of the snowflakes and left the great baskets as they always had done. But when they saw the great joy the unselfish children had in their gifts and how contented and happy they were those selfish ones were ashamed, and they, too, began to hang up only their stockings when Christmas eve came round.

When St. Nicholas found stockings in place of the great baskets and barrels the twinkle came again into his laughing eyes, his cheeks grew red, and he sang as he drove through the merry sea of snowflakes.

With just stockings to fill St. Nicholas had time to rest, and he grew strong and well, and the spirit of Christmas lived. So this is why nowadays we hang up our stockings on Christmas eve. All this we are told by a writer, who learned it from a Christmas fairy.

Santa Fetched Her



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NOTICE.

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned was on the 8th day of December, 1921, appointed administrator of the estate of Conrad H. Hecht, deceased, by the Probate Judge of Curry County, New Mexico.

Therefore, all persons having claims against said estate are hereby notified to file the same with the necessary vouchers, with the undersigned or County Clerk of Curry County, within one year from date of said appointment as provided by law or the same will be forever barred.

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