

and it was only a few thousand million miles away. The churches were filled. It began to be noticed that charity was increasing. John Hagan, rendered desperate, applied for a raise of salary again. This time he got it. He was to receive \$4,000 after the first of the year. But by that time, according to Prof. Joram, Og which was traveling with increased speed, would inevitably have deflected earth from its orbit.

"Changes in temperature may be looked for after the New Year," said the weather bureau, which liked to be right, even in those days. Certainly there would be changes.

And now panic descended on all the world. Men went about their work in a daze. Long estranged families began to be reconciled. Enemies made up. Men wanted to die with clear consciences.

It was a few days before Christmas that a sudden hot wave struck the world. The overcoats remained unsold on the factory shelves. The temperature was that of balmy summer. Nobody could understand why the change had come about so suddenly until on Christmas day.

Then the huge star, which had filled several degrees of the heavens, was seen to have disappeared. In its place was a red mist, like a new milky way, which glowed by day and night. And the heat, instead of increasing, gradually gave way to normal winter temperatures again as the mist finally turned white and hung, a nebulous curtain, in the heart of the constellation Hercules.

And then Prof. Joram announced the truth. A miracle had happened such as no one could have foreseen. The huge star had collided with a dead, dark body equally large, that had been circling about the solar system since the beginning of time, unguessed at. It seemed to have been planted there by providence for just such an emergency. At a distance of a thousand million miles from earth the two had collided squarely.

The shock of the impact had disrupted both into fine particles of incandescent gas. The heat was the cause of the sudden increase of the earth's temperature, but, as the particles cooled and began to coalesce all that was left of Og and its dark enemy was the fragments of what was to be a new universe, aeons hence.

And with the knowledge that it was saved the world went mad with joy. Men kissed each other upon the streets. The prisons were opened and all the inmates released. Wars ceased, the rich gave back their plunder to the state, which distributed it among the nation. There were no more poor, nor ever would be. Preachers traced from that day the beginning of the real world of joy and happiness in which we are no fortunate enough to live.

"I knew, dear, that it would be," sobbed Mary, as John Hagan caught her in his arms. "It's better than revolution, isn't it, John?"

That was what all the world was saying. For the poor suddenly found that the rich were their brothers, and the rich that they had never before known the meaning of happiness.

SAYINGS OF A WISE PUP

"KI-YI!" AN OSTRICH PUTS ITS HEAD IN THE SAND TO KEEP FROM BEING SEEN, BUT WHEN A MAN SEES A BILL COLLECTOR, HE HAS TO CROSS THE STREET!

