

Around the Christmas tree we stood,
And watched the children's faces...

But when to me the darling came
All empty handed she,
And when I asked, "Why slight me thus?"

Amid the laugh that came from all
I drew my new gift to me,
While with flushed cheeks her eyes met mine...

THE MAGIC SPECTACLES.

A Christmas Story.

BY WILKIE COLLINS.

CHAPTER I.

MEMBERS OF AN ARCTIC VOYAGE.

"He says, sir, he thinks he's right to his
latter end, and he would like, if convenient,
to see you before he goes."

"Hear how I came by them first!" said
Septimus.
"Will it take long?" I enquired.

"Do you see that white jug?" he said,
pointing to the washhand-stand.
"Yes. Do you want water?"

"They say you were a pirate," I replied.
"Worse than that. Guess again."

"It happened that when I went out with
the Arctic expedition, Septimus proceeded
'I've forgotten all my learning, and lost
my memory for dates..."

"I can't tell you how many days passed,"
he went on; "I only know that the time was
high when it was all dark and no light..."

"I should say two or three hours, sir. Here,
double that time, at least. You may say,
why not do without the sledge?"

"I filled the pewter mug again. And again
Septimus Notman emptied it.
'We set our course northwest by north,"

"There he stopped, and pointed to the grog.
'Dry work, talking," he said. "Give us a
drop more."

"I'm called away," Septimus answered;
"and before I've a confession to make
and something useful to offer you..."

"I never mind me, Septimus. Has a doctor
seen you?"
"The doctor knows no more about me
than I know of myself."

"Have you any last wishes that I can
attend to?"
"None, sir."

"Shall I send for a clergyman?"
Septimus Notman looked at me as directly
as he could—he was afflicted with
a terrible squint...

"I thought the clergyman might not like
this and withdraw my suggestion accordingly.
The least I could do, as a matter of common
politeness, after giving up the clergyman,
was to ask if I might look at the Magic Spectacles."

"I expected nothing, Master Alfred. The
boatswain's mate (beginning to get light
headed, you know) expected the lieutenant
to send in search of us..."

"Stripped every rag of clothes off him, and
put them all on myself. What are you shivering
about? He couldn't feel it, could he?"

"What do you mean?"
"Didn't I tell you I buried him?"
"Will!" "Get on to the end!" I said.

"I can't tell you how many days passed,"
he went on; "I only know that the time was
high when it was all dark and no light..."

"I should say two or three hours, sir. Here,
double that time, at least. You may say,
why not do without the sledge?"

"I filled the pewter mug again. And again
Septimus Notman emptied it.
'We set our course northwest by north,"

"There he stopped, and pointed to the grog.
'Dry work, talking," he said. "Give us a
drop more."

"I'm called away," Septimus answered;
"and before I've a confession to make
and something useful to offer you..."

"I never mind me, Septimus. Has a doctor
seen you?"
"The doctor knows no more about me
than I know of myself."

"Have you any last wishes that I can
attend to?"
"None, sir."

"Shall I send for a clergyman?"
Septimus Notman looked at me as directly
as he could—he was afflicted with
a terrible squint...

"I thought the clergyman might not like
this and withdraw my suggestion accordingly.
The least I could do, as a matter of common
politeness, after giving up the clergyman,
was to ask if I might look at the Magic Spectacles."

"I thought the clergyman might not like
this and withdraw my suggestion accordingly.
The least I could do, as a matter of common
politeness, after giving up the clergyman,
was to ask if I might look at the Magic Spectacles."

EDISON AGAIN.

New York, Dec. 11.—The Herald states
that Edison has finally elaborated a lamp for
the use of electricity simpler than any lamp
in common use...

London, Dec. 11.—The Viceroy of India
telegraphs that Gen. Bright reports the
movement of reinforcements all along the line...

St. Johns, N. B., Dec. 11.—A letter has
been received by Mayor Roy from the Govern-
ment General, in which he encloses a Christ-
mas gift of \$500...

Pittsburg, Dec. 11.—A pitched battle
occurred in the First Reformed Presbyterian
Church last night over the election of Rev.
Nevin Woodside as pastor...

Thorold, Dec. 11.—A man named Walker,
from Fonthill, called at Brown & Williams'
livery stable about eleven o'clock on Saturday
night...

Washington, Dec. 11.—The Consul-
General at London states that a change for
the better has recently occurred in the trade
of the United Kingdom...

Lawrence Barrett, the tragedian, is to be-
come manager of the California Theatre, San
Francisco, next spring...

A first and final dividend has been declared,
and we believe paid, of three cents in the dollar
in the matter of Homer Campbell, sen., of
Ingersoll, an insolvent...

London Life: "Mr. Gladstone is not the
most distinguished guest who has ever been
to Dalmeny Park. In 1842, during the life-
time of the last lord, the Queen paid it a
visit..."

Application for relief. A mustard plaster.

abolition of the secrecy which has heretofore
characterized the proceedings of the Municipal
Committees. Indeed, it is an undoubted fact
that most of the schemes which militate
against the weal of the city are either con-
cocted or consummated at the private sessions
of the committees of Council...

It is stated "that during the last twenty-
five years not a single singer has died of
consumption at St. Petersburg, although this
disease has outstripped all others and now
holds the first place among the causes of death
in the Russian capital..."

It was some forty years ago a common
practice to give consumptive patients a
specially arranged tube to breathe through
with the view of exercising the chest...

"It is nearly sixty years since the Duke
of Kent, having caught cold while visiting
Salisbury Cathedral, died in the arms of the
Duchess, who lost not only an affectionate
husband, but the means of subsistence—

subsistence is understood by royal personages.
In fact," says the Whitehall Review, "the
young Princess Victoria and her mother
were face to face with poverty, in one of its
comparative forms, when Prince Leopold
took them under his protection..."

Those kindnesses have never been forgotten
by Queen Victoria; and it is by the light of
this early passage in her life that the inscrip-
tion which accompanies the white marble
statue of King Leopold, which Her Majesty
has just placed in St. George's Chapel,
Windsor, should be read...

London Life: "Mr. Gladstone is not the
most distinguished guest who has ever been
to Dalmeny Park. In 1842, during the life-
time of the last lord, the Queen paid it a
visit..."

Application for relief. A mustard plaster.