



MISS RHODA'S MEASURE.

Miss Rhoda sat in the west doorway. Her face was turned toward the sweet sky, radiant with its rays of red and golden light; it was nature's "withdrawing season."

There was no kindly voice to warn her of the dangers that might come from longer exposure. No loved form to come to the door and say, "Come in, now; the air is chill and the fire is burning brightly."

In the afterglow of the lives of those who had belonged to her in the old home sweet memories lighted up the closing day, and as she looked intently at the western sky she seemed to see



HIS TOO CLOSE-FISTED.

A vision of the peony gates, behind whose portals those loved ones were dwelling. Watching the red and gold light fade away, and the darkness gather, she, like Christian, "fell sick" at the glimpse of the glories and wished she could be among them.

"I was passing Miss Rhoda's house just at sunset to-night, and I saw her sitting at her west door," said Mr. Bates, as he sat down at the supper table. "I knew she was trying to work out the links and knots about that mortgage on her place. But old Tom Cullom's will foreclose when the time comes. She can't expect any mercy from him; he is too close-fisted for that."

"Dear me," exclaimed Miss Martha Bates, "what will become of her."

"The will have to go to the town-house, I suppose. It will be very hard for her. Miss Rhoda was always a high-strung woman," her brother rejoined.

"And after all that woman has done for other folks when they were in trouble," exclaimed Mrs. Bates. "Think how she took in those Butler children and kept them after their mother died, and how she kept that young man who was too sick to work all winter. Her own mother couldn't have done more for him. I declare if Miss Rhoda were to give up her place and go on her own at her age, it will be a shame."

has always been in some good work, and has had a kind word for everybody.

Aunt Martha did not like the spirit of criticism which her nephew had shown of late about reconciling statements of the Holy Scripture. She spoke up in a quick way and said, "Miss Rhoda hasn't gone to the town-house yet."

"No; but the finger on the signboard points that way," replied Arthur.

"It is dreadful for old people to be obliged to give up their home and old associations and go where they would not," said Mrs. Bates. "Young folks can bear changes—many really enjoy them—but it is different with the aged."

Aunt Martha had not married—her acquaintances called her "a maiden lady." It was not because she never had opportunities to marry, she told her nephews and nieces, but because she loved them too well to break her home ties with them. It had long ago been settled that the Bates family could not do without Aunt Martha, and Aunt Martha could not get along without them. "How dreadful it must be," was her thought that night, "to have no love-light in one's life."

Then Miss Martha sat down and wrote a letter to her brother John, who lived in the city. She told him of Miss Rhoda; what a patient, faithful life hers had been, and now, just as nearing the end of the journey, she must be forced to give up her home and go to the town-house. Then she added, "John, you and I must pay off that mortgage, and give Miss Rhoda the home for her life. We are able; let us be willing to do it. What a joyous Christmas we shall have if we do this! Miss Rhoda must have the measure meted out to her that she has meted out to others."

The result was that Brother John who was quite apt to act on sister Martha's suggestions, joined her in the labor of love for her neighbor. When Miss Martha went over to see Miss Rhoda, a short time before the foreclosure of the mortgage, she found her looking over her things—she could not carry many with her; for the room was small she expected to occupy. But there was this little memento and that gift with sweet memories associated



THE LORD STAYED HIS HAND.

about them which made it a hard matter to decide what to take and what to give up. There was the mother's old workbasket, once so full of the making and mending for the loved ones, and her copy of "Daily Food" lying in it, and father's well-thumbed Bible, with here and there words of comfort and explanation written on the margins—those of course must go with her.

to move. It's something I never did before, and it's sort of trying. But I'm thankful I don't feel so unrecalled and unhappy about it as I thought I should when I first made up my mind that there was nothing else I could do. My eyes are so poor I can't see any more. I say with John Bunyan, 'Perhaps my way to heaven lies through this very valley.' It is just as near the town-house, heaven is, as it is to my old home here, but then—well, I won't say one word against the Lord's dispensations. The Lord keepeth the feet of his children. If this is his way for me to walk, I hope he will give me strength to follow without faltering step."

"But, my dear Miss Rhoda, it is not going to be the Lord's will for you to leave your old home; you are to stay in it as long as you live."

When Miss Martha told her how her home had been secured to her, she exclaimed, "I never thought before how Abraham must have felt when he was ready to sacrifice Isaac and the Lord stayed his hand!"

It was Arthur who planned a house-warming for Miss Rhoda on Christmas eve. The young men and young women of the church and town filled her woodshed with wood and coal, and her cupboard-shelves with things useful for the necessities of the body. The fathers and mothers joined in the work of love, and there was never such a thorough house-warming done in that locality before. A new light came into Miss Rhoda's face that Christmas tide. It was love-light—she was not alone in the world any longer; she belonged to her good neighbors, and they belonged to her.

When the Christmas bells rang in the church belfry on Christmas morning the people heard them with gladness, and thanked the Lord that they had been enabled to help return Miss Rhoda's measure running over full.

CHRISTMAS RAPPINGS.

(By James Rolfs Haggood.)

If a friend should rap at your old home door On the Christmas morning fair, With a present for you and your little dears, Say wouldn't you open, Claire?

If a boy should rap at your old home door On the Christmas morning fair— Your wandering boy, that you thought was lost— Say, wouldn't you open, Claire?

If a babe should rap at your old heart door On the Christmas morning fair, To give you a kiss or a hug or two, Say, wouldn't you open, Claire?

If a God should rap at your old heart door On the Christmas morning fair, To give you a Son with a heavenly home, Say, wouldn't you open, Claire?

Christmas Kindnesses.

At this season of the year, remember that it is your duty as children, and also your privilege, to glorify God, to promote peace, and to extend good will to those around you. You may promote the blessing of peace on earth by frankly forgiving those who may grieve or annoy you, by persuading enemies to be reconciled to each other, and by daily prayer to God to preserve the nations of the earth from the deadly horrors of war. And you may in a great many ways show good will to men. Are there not poor people within a short walk of your own door who will receive no Christmas cards, no nice presents of food or good clothing, whose children have no nice toys or picture books, of which some of you have such an abundance that you scarcely know where to find room for?—Christian Herald.

What Makes a Happy Christmas.

It does not require much money, nor indeed any money, to make a happy home circle on Christmas. The chief thing is a warm and merry heart. It will devise ways and means for filling the home with cheer, joy and gladness. A little invention, a little effort, and much love will give the day a hale brighter than tinsel and gold. God did not require extra material to paint every tree and bush in all this region a crystal whiteness the other night. He used only a little moisture and a little cold, and in the morning men exclaimed in wonder, "What beauty!" So the simple things beauty and glorify the home, and make holidays bright with joys beyond the purchase of money.—Michigan Christian Advocate.

Christmas gifts for thee, Fair and free! Precious things from the heavenly store

Filling thy casket more and more; Golden love in diviner chain, That never can be untwined again; Silvery carols of joy that swell Sweetest of all in the heart's lone cell.

FROM WASHINGTON. PROCEEDINGS IN NATIONAL HOUSE AND SENATE.

Condensed Summary of the Work Accomplished by the Legislators in the Upper and Lower House for the Past Week.

Wednesday, Dec. 9. Washington, Dec. 10.—The house held a three hours session and passed a dozen bills of minor importance.

The senate by the decisive vote of 35 to 21, adopted a motion to take up the Dingley tariff bill. Three sets of vigorous resolutions for Cuban independence were introduced. They came from Mr. Cameron of Pennsylvania, Mr. Mills of Texas and Mr. Call of Florida, and, while differing in terms, breathe the same spirit of recognition by the United States of Cuban independence.

Thursday, Dec. 10. Thursday, Dec. 10.—In the house two bills were passed during the four-hour session. One was to secure to musical compositions the same measure of protection under the copyright law as is now afforded productions of strictly dramatic character. A bill to prohibit the sale of liquor in the capitol building was also passed. A bill advocated by the delegates from the territories to modify the law forfeiting alien ownership of lands in the territories so as to give them the right to acquire under mortgage and to hold for ten years real property was defeated.

Senator Cullom made a long and able speech in the senate in favor of the intervention of the United States in the conflict with Spain in Cuba. He preceded his speech with the following resolution: "Resolved, by the senate and house of representatives, That the extinction of Spanish title and the termination of Spanish control of the islands at the gateway of the Gulf of Mexico are necessary to the welfare of those islands and to the people of the United States."

United States." Mr. Call (dem., Fla.) followed Mr. Cullom, addressing himself to his resolution introduced Wednesday for the recognition of Cuban independence.

Friday, Dec. 11. Friday was private bill day in the house, and seven war claims, carrying an aggregate of \$18,407, were favorably acted upon by the committee of the whole. The house at 5 o'clock took a recess until 8 o'clock, the evening session being devoted to the consideration of private pension bills.

After putting the Lodge immigration bill over as unfinished business, the senate adjourned until Monday.

Monday, Dec. 14. Monday, Dec. 14.—Beyond agreeing to a resolution for a two weeks' holiday recess beginning Dec. 22, the proceedings in the house were almost entirely devoid of public interest.

Mr. Hull (rep., Iowa), chairman of the committee on military affairs, reported the army appropriation bill. Mr. Allen made a speech in the senate protesting against intemperate criticism of populism in Nebraska. Mr. Peffer added a defense of Kansas against the attacks prevalent in the east that contract liabilities were being violated. He paid a high tribute to the integrity of his state. Senator Chandler spoke against the resolution for the election of United States senators by popular vote, and Mr. Mitchell (rep., Ore.) supported it.

SULTAN FEELS SORE.

Says President Cleveland Must at Once Apologize.

A Washington special to the New York World says: "President Cleveland has been called to account by the sultan of Turkey. An emphatic protest made Thursday by the Turkish government against the language used in the President's message to congress respecting the massacre of the Armenians and the general conduct of the government toward the Christians in the empire."

GEN. MACEO DIES ON THE FIELD OF GLORY.



Gen. Antonio Maceo, who was killed in battle in Cuba the other day, was without question the most brilliant figure of the present revolution. He effected a landing at Ciego de Barancea on March 31. With him were Flor Crombet and a number of officers. Maceo had been a member of Gen. Gomez's staff during the ten years' war from 1863 to 1878 and commanded large bodies of troops in the Province of Santiago de Cuba, in which province his family had lived and where he owned a large plantation. After the ten years' war Maceo traveled in Central America, attempting to raise a large force to invade Cuba and contest the sovereignty of Spain. In 1886 he went to Havti to try to get assistance for an invasion of Cuba, but he was driven out and lived for a long time in retirement in Jamaica and after that he returned to Cuba and lived quietly on his plantation in the eastern province, where he was popular. In 1890 he was driven out of Cuba and went to New York. At the time of the present outbreak he was in Florida, and he joined a large expedition which set out from Fort Limon

in March, 1895, on the steamer Adirondack. A Spanish man-of-war pursued the steamer for eight hours, and at last the leaders were compelled to land on Fortune Island, one of the West Indies. Thence Maceo and the other leaders made their way to Cuba. In the great raid across the island, led by Maximo Gomez in 1895, Maceo was his chief adjutant, and when Captain-General Campos had finally receded with his headquarters to the city of Havana, Maceo led a daring raid into the fertile province of Pinar del Rio, where he devastated the great Vuelta Abajo tobacco district, and raised the whole province in revolt against Spain. There he remained, with the Spanish authorities in the province practically overturned. Time and again reports have been received from Cuba of his defeat and rout, his death in action, or his suicide, always to be refuted by his later activities. There is no doubt that many people will doubt the authenticity of the report now received of his death, though no previous report has given such exact details of the circumstances of his death or the facts of identification.

Miss Collins a Kentucky Girl. Miss May Collins, who, with S. P. Putnam of Chicago, president of the free thought congress, was found dead in Boston Saturday, was the daughter of D. T. C. Collins of Midway, Ky. She was a graduate of Daughters' college of Harrodsburg. Her age was 21 years.

Non-Partisan W. C. T. U. The second session of the seventh annual convention of Non-Partisan Woman's Christian Temperance union met at Washington Friday. The treasurer's report showed the receipts to have been \$2,636, and the disbursements \$2,605.

Want the Date Changed. The committee having in charge the arrangements for the coming monetary conference are being appealed to from many sections of the country to change the date from Jan. 12 to some later date.

Has No Cabinet Ambitions. H. H. Kohlsaat of Chicago, who has been mentioned as a possible member of the McKinley cabinet, says he could not accept such a place if it were offered to him.

To Fight for Cuba. A company of twenty young men went south Sunday night over the Illinois Central railroad, bound for New Orleans. There they were joined by sixty others from various parts of the United States, and the entire party will ship for Cuba on the first outgoing vessel and will join the insurgents.

Want Mule Law Repealed. A meeting of the temperance people of Iowa has been called in Des Moines Dec. 29, having for its end the repeal of the present mule law and the submission to a popular vote of the prohibition question, as was done in 1882.

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Joseph Choate for Senator. Joseph H. Choate has written a letter announcing that he will be a candidate for election to the United States senate to succeed David B. Hill of New York.

Hope Hood's Sarsaparilla

The One True Blood Purifier. All Druggists. Hood's Pills are the best after-dinner pills, cure headache, etc.



Housekeeper—Goodness, what have you broken now? Little Help—A cup, mum. Housekeeper—And this morning you broke a saucer! Little Help—Yes'm; but I hain't broke a plate yet.

FARMER WANTED. In every township, 3 days a week during winter, to distribute samples, collect names of sick people and work up trade for their druggists on the 3 great family remedies: Dr. Kay's Renovator, Dr. Kay's Lung Balm, and Kidney-Kura. Good pay to man or woman. Send for booklet and terms. Dr. B. J. Kay Medical Co., western office, Omaha, Neb.

The Lawyers of the United States. The allowance of lawyers to population in the United States is rather more liberal than that of preachers. There are 89,422 men and 208 women engaged in the legal profession, and supposing each to have an average of ten suits on hand, the litigation going on at one time in the United States would foot up 896,200 cases.

Lilly Lost Her Hair. A celluloid comb worn by Miss Lilly Henderson of Portsmouth, Ohio, came in contact with a gas jet, flamed up, and burned every hair from her head, leaving her entire scalp blackened and blistered.

BRAVE SPIRITS BROKEN.

How often women wake up in the morning cheerful and happy, determined to do so much before the day ends, and yet—

Before the morning is very old, the dreadful BACKACHE appears, the bravospirit sinks back in affright; no matter how hard she struggles, the "clutch" is upon her, she falls upon the couch, crying—"Why should I suffer so? What can I do?" Lydia E. Pinkham's "Vegetable Compound" will stop the torture and restore courage.

All such pains come from a deranged uterus. Trouble in the womb blots out the light of the sun at midday to a vast number of women.

Do advised—do as many others have done and are doing—procure Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound at once, and commence without delay to realize the relief it is sure to bring you.

49 YEARS A SUFFERER.

Sept. 25th, 1895. Dear Sir:—Am 47 years old and began taking your medicine last April for Rheumatism, which I have had for 49 years, also for a weak heart. Since taking "Dr. Kay's" Rheumatism has all disappeared, the stiffness is gone from my joints, and my heart now moves a load. I am today a well, strong woman, and I owe it to "Dr. Kay's." I only wish I could send my bundle of praise far enough to be heard all over the world, and could receive every one that "Dr. Kay's" is all you'll have to do to be and more.

WOMANHOOD. In order to suffering women how to guard against dangerous surgical operations and quick treatment the American Association of Physicians passed a resolution to distribute a little book on female diseases. "Womanhood" explains all diseases and irregularities peculiar to women and gives the best methods of treatment. Sent free for stamps to pay postage. Address: Eleanor Kendall, 516 North 25th St., South Omaha, Neb.

PATENTS, TRADE MARKS

Examination and Advice as to Patentability of Invention. Send for "Inventors' Guide" on How to Obtain Patent. O'GARRELL & SON, Washington, D. C.

OPIMUM HAZARD DRUNKENNESS

Dr. Kay's Lung Balm for coughs, colds, and throat ailments.

BED-WETTING CURED OR NO PAY. Dr. Kay's Lung Balm.