

A CHRISTMAS WEDDING

By Alvah Jordan Garth

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IT WAS days before Christmas and Netta Doane had been left alone in the house, except for the servants. Usually her favorite playmate, Cora Wallace, living near by, called for her, and they took a stroll, or visited a neighbor, or inspected the shops on the next street. Cora had not appeared, and taking her dolly Netta wandered about the upper portion of the house in a desultory way. It was in her sister Winifred's room that Netta received a suggestion that she proceeded to carry out. That young lady in her haste to join her mother in a shopping tour had left her jewel case open in full sight. "I'll fix you all up for a grand party, Dolly," prattled Netta, and then there in turn a sunburst, a necklace and a diamond pin were attached to the clothing of the doll, innocent, artless Netta never realizing that she was playing with a small fortune. "Now, we'll ride to the party in the automobile," announced Netta further,



and she put on Dolly's coat, covering up her opulent adornment. Just then there was a call outside and Netta hastened downstairs to join Cora, waiting for her at the door. Passing her mother's room Netta noticed an open box lying on the bed. It held a lovely new doll, and in an instant she knew that it was to be her Christmas present, for a new one had been promised. Impetuously she snatched it up. "Oh, Cora!" exclaimed Netta, appearing before her friend, "look! look! My new Christmas dolly. We'll go right over and show it to Alice Lisle. The old one is no good now," and she recklessly flung it into the street, with no thought of the jewelry it wore. Five minutes later a ragged little urchin picked up the discarded doll. "That'll be a fine present for sister Lou," he declared, and made for the tenement—six squares distant—carrying his find to a home possessing a marked contrast to the elegant mansion that had housed the discarded pet of capricious Netta Doane.

There was a vast commotion at the Doane home that evening. Willis Frere, who was the accepted lover of pretty Winifred Doane, made his usual call to be met with tears by his fiancée. Someone had entered the house and had rifled her jewel case! Father had reported it to the police, but the recovery of the gems seemed hopeless. Willis consoled with Winifred but had a professional call to make and left early. He was a young, rising physician, and arrived at Gray's tenement to receive good news as to a patient of long standing. Mrs. Mary Steadley. He found her on the road to recovery, and told her so, and her daughter and the other children and Paul Martin, a regular visitor at the house, were made happy at the thought of the convalescence of their loved one.

"There is the balance of your bill, Dr. Frere," spoke Martin, taking him into the next room. "The doctors who operated I have paid, too, and the hos-



pital bill is all settled. It's the only Christmas present we shall see around here this year, but isn't it enough to make our hearts glad—mother well once more! You know, I had saved up enough to marry Martha this Christmas, but I have gladly stood the expense of her mother's sickness, so there will have to be a postponement."

"We will call the bill square on your former last payment," insisted Dr. Frere, touched by the faithfulness of the young man. "What are these?" he asked as Martin lifted a box from a stand.

"It is something I wanted to ask you about," replied Martin. "This morning little Ned found a doll in the street and brought it home for Lou, who noticed all that jewelry pinned to it. We are honest people and I want you to advise me how I shall go about finding the owner."

Dr. Frere could scarcely believe his eyesight. In an instant he recognized the jewels belonging to his fiancée. It was too intense a circumstance to analyze all at once; its strangeness; its importance. He hurried back to the Doane house and told the story of Paul Martin.

"A worthy, honest man," observed Winifred's father. "These poor people interest me. What do you say to this grand Martin man having his wedding just as he expected this Christmas?"

Then back to Martin went the doctor. The poor fellow's appreciation of what the Doanes designed fairly overcame him. Next day Winifred and her mother spent decorating the humble tenement rooms and arranging for the wedding.

It was a royal gift to honest need, and the most contented hearts in all the great city that Christmas night were those that had bestowed such signal happiness upon a worthy, grateful family.

CHRISTMAS TREES— MRS. LEMON SAYS, "RE-PLANT THEM"

Makes Effective Plea for Conservation of Our Evergreen Trees.

Thru the Christmas issue of our home paper, I take the opportunity to set forth a plea, for the saving of a few at least, of the many Christmas trees that will be used in nearly every home in our village.

The Christmas tree is a symbol of Life. The tree like the sun seems always to have been a symbol to primitive man for his ideas about the mystery of universal life. Back in the dawn of years trees were held sacred to some god or spirit, good or evil, and gifts were hung upon them as offerings or prayers for health.

Back to India and Egypt, may be traced the beginning of tree worship. Egypt, holding the first tradition which connects the tree with the sacred festival of the winter solstice when branches of the date palms were hung in the temples and houses as emblems of immortal life. One story of the origin of the Christmas tree is that Martin Luther walking alone one Christmas Eve, was so overwhelmed with wonder of star that they seemed a revelation to him of the nearness of God to man, on returning home, he took a little fir tree and put lighted candles on its branches to make clear to his children the thought that had been given him. Since then Germans have used the Christmas tree at Yuletide celebrations more generally than any other nation. The tree was not widely used in France until about the time of Empress Eugenie. In England it was not until Victoria married Prince Albert that the fir tree laden with gifts and toys for the children and glowing with candles, became popular.

But in the midst of all this romance a very practical problem presents itself. The Christmas Tree is not only the symbol of a beautiful ideal, it is a definite factor in twentieth century trade. Four million Christmas trees are used each year in the United States. What is being done to conserve or replace the young trees that are cut down so ruthlessly? A thought has come that would leave the romance of the tree undimmed and yet lessen the terrible waste which threatens our countryside wherever the fir and the balsam grow. Why not imitate our French brothers, the peasant people and the village people all over the country replant the Christmas tree after the holiday has passed.

It is taken up carefully with the soil about its roots, burlap or canvas bound about them securely to keep the soil in place, tenderly cared for during its days of elevation to the symbol of Christmas happiness and then carried out and planted in some well chosen nook. The French people were the first to practice the replanting of the sacred tree.

The replanting of the Christmas tree should accomplish three very definite things for the children. They share in the labor of replanting as they shared in the joys of decorating and lighting it. It will bring happy memories throughout the year. It will also teach them that the thing which has life and is growing, is more valuable and more beautiful than the thing that is used for a moment's pleasure and then destroyed. It also teaches a lesson in economy for why should this beautiful green tree from the heart of nature be used for a day or so and then destroyed. The third lesson is the interest in nature sure to follow the setting out of the Christmas tree, a child who has been taught to plant one tree and do it right will want to know more about the planting and growth of other trees and will grow up with some knowledge of and interest in conservation. There is really a fourth reason for planting the Christmas tree, that it will add greatly to the beauty of the home garden.

Think this over little folks and big folks too, and you will find that a live Christmas tree is far more satisfactory than a dead one. Consult with some nurseryman how you can secure your tree and when, and engage it now so that all the pleasure and happiness of conserving the sacred Christmas tree may be yours.

Mrs. Edward G. Lemon.

Fish Unable to Swim.

It is a fact that there are fish which cannot swim. A Brazilian fish, called the maltha, can only crawl, walk or hop. It has a long, upturned snout, and is unable to some extent to tread. The anterior fins of the maltha are quite small and are not suitable for use in the water. They are in reality thin paws which are of no service for swimming.—Dearborn Independent.

MODJESKA HOUSE BROKEN INTO ON MONDAY NIGHT

Seems as if Burglars Have Started Winter Operations Moving From Hinsdale.

The home of Al. Modjeska on West Maple avenue was broken into on Monday evening by some unknowns but not very much was taken. It is thought that burglars were disturbed in their operations as they evidently left in a hurry.

The Modjeska family with the exception of Mr. Modjeska, is in California for the winter so no one was home at the time. On Tuesday morning Mrs. E. C. Schultz, a neighbor, discovered a back window open and the curtain flapping in the breeze which led her to investigate.

While on the face of it, it appears as if local talent might have had something to do with the affair, a later supposition is that a band of thieves have moved operations from Hinsdale to Downers Grove. Robberies were reported from Riverside, then Lagrange, Western Springs and Hinsdale, the band apparently moving from one town to the next in a westerly fullion.

SCHOOL SUPT. TO HAVE CHARGE OF CLUB'S PROGRAM

Women Looking Forward to Next Wednesday When School Talent Appears.

Members of the Downers Grove Womens Club are looking forward eagerly to next Wednesday afternoon, December 15th. On this day talent of the local schools will appear on the club program and a great afternoon is expected.

The affair is one of the regular numbers of the Home and Educational Department program and Superintendent of Schools, Kenneth M. Snapp, will have charge of the afternoon.

Students and teachers will entertain and instruct and it is expected that one of the largest meetings of the year will be held.



Everyone, young or old (and who would admit being old at this season of the year) is now interested in gift purchases.

It is easy enough to fill in the names on the Christmas list but filling in the gift after the name is a little harder. We have turned our store into a veritable Christmas Center and following are a few suggestions.

For Brother, Father or "Gentleman Friend"

- CIGARS CIGARETTES
- FOUNTAIN PENS
- TOBACCO PIPES
- PLAYING CARDS
- STATIONERY

For Mother, Sister or "Sweetheart"

- STATIONERY CANDY
- TOILET WATERS
- PERFUMES TOILET SOAPS
- FOUNTAIN PENS
- AND AGAIN—CANDY

Christmas Cards

We have the largest and finest assortment of holiday cards ever shown in Downers Grove. Beautiful hand colored Christmas greetings are the leaders, and every variety at every price is represented here.

Name cards, seals and stickers and other accessories that add so much when the packages are tied are also found in great variety.

See our line before making your purchases.

PUFFER PHARMACY

ICE CREAM IN ANY QUANTITY
ALL KINDS OF HOT DRINKS

Main and Curtiss Streets

Telephone Number 6

Happy Holidays Everybody And Thanks for Remembering Us This Year

Keep Healthy and Enjoy the Holidays
Happy Holiday Healthgrams

DON'T eat too much!

DON'T sit in a draft!

DON'T forget to wear rubbers in rain or snow!

DON'T expose yourself unduly in the sick room!

KEEP work and bed rooms open to fresh air and sunshine!

KEEP your feet dry!

KEEP away from crowded cars and rooms!

KEEP your Coal Bin Full and your house Warm

Which Means You Will

Use "OLD BEN" Coal

It must be GOOD FUEL

So Many people buy it.

Potter Mfg. & Lumber Co.

MANUFACTURERS AND DEALERS

BUILDING SUPPLIES, LUMBER, COAL, MILLWORK

"REDYBILT"

PORTABLE GARAGES, POULTRY HOUSES, COTTAGES, POULTRY EQUIPMENT, SUPPLIES ETC.

Yard Entrance on East Curtiss Street

PHONE 15

After 6 p. m. phone 83-J or 89-W.

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