O compensor

The Acton Free Press

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ardward and slabe out glove length always

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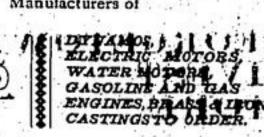
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Our Stock s now open for you to choose from and we il put goods away until Xmas for you.

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excellent light.

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Children Bools Mirrors And other such articles too numerous to

mentien. We have also the popular Annuals for 99. Hoya: Own Annual; Girls Own Annual; Ifels Own Annual; Ifels of Annual; Ifels of Bunday Also we have opened out our choise assertment of Xmas Perfumes from all the leading Perfumers on both continents, such as Roger & Galette, Plants, Ifable, Polagate, & Co., Richtschar, Beeley, Loon Marechai, Crown, etc.

We are pleased to show goods whether you Our fancy Xmas Books were imported direct from New York city and the prices we are

J. D. McKEE.

Bring your Custom Logs in Home with You.

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Has constantly on hand a full line of umber, Lath, Shingles, Cedar Posts, Wood, Atc. Custom Logs and Bill Sinff cut to order on short notice. Planing and Matching done to the best of satisfaction. Prices very cheap and made

At the immense variety of

Take a Liook

Suitable Coods for Christmas presents at ...

accustomed folds, shutting the gay little group from sight but not from hearing. There was a babble of childish volces, high pitched with excitement, besieging the patient mother with questions regarding the Christmas mysteries as she lared them up the stairs. Katherine Leeds listened with a half-wistful smile, her eyes lingering on the stockings of varying length hanging at each side of the Areplace. Her brother-iu-law listened also behind his. evening paper, his thoughts reverting to

had not yet blanted the edge of his pleasure n playing the part of Santa Claus. There came the patter of feet in the hall and the curtains were parted again; fram: ing the sweet face of small Evelyn. The father tried to frown, but the child did not Ever Drew Before. look at him. "O auntie !" she piped, "won's we have the beautifulest Christman. we've ever had !" and the bright eyes look-

sundry knobby parcels concealed in the

cloak closes. Re lioped Mary would hasten

back-there was much to do and oustom

The fire was the same of the

Poetry.

CHRISTMAS BELLS.

I heard the bells on Christmas day

And wild and sweet

Of peace on earth, good will to men!

And thought how, as the day had come

The words repeat

The bolfries of all Christendom

Had rolled along

The unbroken song

Till ringing, singing on the way,

A voice, a chime,

But in deepair I bowed my head,

Of peace on carth, good will to men!

The world revolves from night to day.

Of peace on earth, goodwill to ment

"There is no peace on earth." I said,

Of peace on earth, good will to men!"

"God is not dead, nor doth he sleep.

The wrong shall fail, .

With peace on earth, goodwill to men !"

Select Family Reading.

A Belated Gift.

Y MARION DICKINSON.

The portieres dropped back into their

The right provail,

Then pealed the bells more loud and doep.

-Longfellow,

"For hate is strong

And mocks the song

Their old familiar carols play,

ed up at the slender figure that moved to meet her in confident expectancy. Katherine bent and kissed the chi "We will try to make it so, dear," she said, softly, with an odd, oatch in her voice. "Now burry, for Santa Claus must not be kept waiting."

She followed her little niece into the hal and, after the child had disappeared, passed on to the music room. The Balf-light was grateful after the flicker of leaping flames in the library grate; the sir was sweet with the breath of the violets she had left upon the plane that afternoon. Sitting down upon the stool she bowed her head upon the rack and closed her eyes.

"The bountifulest Obristman we have paper and Mary would not be down for a spinst her tall young sisters' shoulder. Now that it was spoken, his question

"A happy Christmas, my Katherine." whispered.

ing sleighs, while good-humored pedestrians Molly," and Katherine dropped one of her kept up a steady tramp beneath the windowe. It was a glorious Christmas eve, with tingling air and flooding moonlight. All the world was glad to-night-it was the night of "peace and good will." There came the sound of an organ, Mr. Carew's gift soon," she asked, half tonos. muffled by distance, yet something in the questioningly.

elusive harmony caught Katherine's car. She sat erect, wearily pushing the soft hair back from her forehead, and looked toward the window. It came again, bearing a burden of song; the choir of All Saints' must be rehearsing the Christmas music. So they had sung a year before and he and from her hair. She looked at herself halfshe had listened. How oddly he had look- shyly as if afraid of what she should read ed down upon her? Her heart gave a in her double's eyes. "And yet that would quickened throb at the memor y.

ood half-hour, she could dream of happier

Outside, the streets were gay with pass-

lmes in peace, for a little.

Strange-she could not be deceived-she -a mere courtesy in view of our old would remember that song through all the friendship." pride roused in indignation at her weak- | tion could no longer talk backness. What had it been but a pleasant

friendship? And friendehips lapse. law and sank into a low seat before the not be able to sleep. To have a weak will fire. "Look, Jack-Evelyn has pinned a and a lack of proper pride in combination stocking to the toe of baby's sock, lest he against me is too humiliating." should fail of his share." She laughed softly; she was herself again.

together now. Which stocking is yours, the servant said, entering with a small, mined click when her errand was socomp-

Katherine held out her hand. "My gayly, "I really must peep inside. I do shouts of "Merry Christmas !" were not recognize the writing," scanning the mingled with argent demands for haste. address with a puzzled wrinkle between

her delicate brows.

"You are carious, yourself," she retorted pages ' How far may I go?" / the "Oh, you might as well go a little farther. Anybody can see it is a book-

"Violet and white and gold-nothing but greeted Rowland Carew as the door opened postry din warrant so dainty a dress !!. to admit him. and she drew off the tissue within. "Oh!" with a quick indrawing of the breath. She few moments, if it is not too early," he did not offer to touch the book, but sat gasing at the title with fathinated eyes, volume. He had not noticed her excite- paced impatiently up and down the recep-

warm, finding himself clumeily stumbling ture. Katherine rose quietly to meet her sister.

ing. Mr. Ourew has sent me a book." The fittle woman looked brightly from | ment which he had just received? In one to the other, ... 'Oan's I trust you two?" she asked. . What children you are still wats does charming things."

blesied ber in hertieart.

As Jack carefully covered the glowing intrusion. embers of the dying fire the hall clock struckthshour of twelve and without the air abruptly, "but in my surprise at receiving was resonant with a clamor of bells, domin- your mote I pame at once to ask why, at ever lind ?" she repeated, with a said little ated by the deep tone of All Saints brazon this late day, you should comsider is

"It could not be otherwise with you, my

rare kisses on the other's cheek, Half-way to the door she looked back; Mary was following her with her eyes. The younger hegitated, then returned swiftly. "I suppose I must soknowledge

"Certainly-" with great decision. "And if you should write to-day, please send our Christmas greetings."

"Today-that is a little precipate." Katherine communed with her reflection in the mirror as she took the shell pins be simply friendly and quite in accord with She crossed the room impulsively, and the present terms of our acquaintance. throw up the each. With the crisp cold How foolish I am to be disturbed by this' swept in a strain of appealing sweetness. gift. It is only one of his pleasant thoughts

years. Feeling the springing tears she "It was odd that he should have chosen closed the window sharply and hurried out | just that book," she mused, after the light into the lighted hall. All her womanly | was turned out and the eyes of the reflec-

Half an hour later she wrapped her soft dressing-gown about her and lighted the "Mary will soon be down, now," she said | gas, ball impatiently. "I must write that carelessly, as she passed her brother-in- note at once," she complained, or I shall

"It is a triffe stiff and formal," she said oritically when the note was finished. "Bless her heart! I'll get the things "but it must do." She held the sealed envelope in her hand an instent as if loth to let it go. "I will put it on the bal A sharp peal of the bell startled them table before I am tempted to tear it up; and in ellence they waited during a hurried | and with light steps she stole through the colloquy at the door. "For Miss Leeds," | quiet house to look herself in with a deter-

In the grey dawn there came a battering Christmas is beginning already," she said of impatient fiels by her door and gleeful When she reached the lower hall excorted by a trio of small adorers, a swift glance "Just a peep," Jack said, gradgingly, told her that the table was empty. With Play fair, now, Kathle. Here's my a half-smile at her irresolution of the night, she hurried into the library to share the children's delight. One gift, only, was laid aside until a more convenient season. She would not even look between

the covers. The voices of little children read by rich full contralto in a quaint old carol

"I would like to see Miss Leeds for said to the impassive servant, remembering that ten o'clock on Christmas morning "May I see it ?" and Jack took the little | was not a conventional calling hour. He ment. "Ab, pardon me! I dropped the tion room, when left alone, his consitive face betraying both doubt and hope. At She could not turn to look, though it lay the sound of footsteps he threw back his the revels of Christmis eve, when the face up upon the rug, but waited in still broad shoulders and turned to meet the booths and bazaars were thrown wide open expectancy for Jack's next word. He maid with his accoustomed control. "Miss the madesp revelers were accustomed to glanced at the card carelessly as he stoop: Leeds will see you in the music room, sir," going from booth to booth, purchasing such ed to replace it, then turned surprised eyes was the message. On the way he encoun- articles as struck their fancy, and in the tered Mary marshalling her flook up the bigh parnival which followed these "Rowland Carew!" he ejaculated. "Why, stairs. "I must get them roady for

on unknown ground. "Here's Mary," he He made some police response he greater discrimination in the present said with evident relief. "Now for the bardly knew what. He was keenly con- selected and is the earliest record of solous that on the other side of the heavy. Christmas presents. - Exchange. ourtains Katherine Lerds was waiting. "I have received a gift already. ' she said Would the silence of the last year be now steadily, "and Jack and I have been peep- explained? What was the meaning of the cool little note of conventional acknowledg-

another moment they were face to face. Katherine stood leaning mgainst the with your peopling. Rowland Carew al. plane, brazing herself desparately to hide the nervous tramor which had seized her. She spoke early, as if a gift from Row. But he saw nothing of her disquiet. To land Carew was an every day affair. She his eyes here stood the woman he loved in did not even wold the gaze of her younger, all her gracious diguity, but with an added sister, but met it frankly. And Katherine womanliness. She held out her hand frankly to meet his grasp, looking at him Il was hear, midnight before the limp, with a direct, friendly glance. He felt a ank stockings had taken on a knobby, dis: | sudden sense of loss. Here was the same toried wapper, while entioing bundles growded pure, flower face, the same sweet corve of ed below. With much muffled laughter ; the lips, but the expression of the eyes had and elaborate scorecy, the gifts for the changed. She was withdrawing her hand : elders were emuggled into place and the she was speaking. He must remember his errand, which was his only excuse for this

""Pardon me, Mira Leeds," he said laugh. Now that Jack was absorbed to his tongue. Mary laid her sheek an instant necessary to acknowledge my little gift?"

the better it? Katherine looked quickly up at the embarressed eyes and grew very pale. Her hand involuntary grasped the banch of fading violets on the piano; their touch reminded her that the book was also there and she moved slightly to conceal it. "At this late day," she echoed. Had he come to make merry over what she now

sounded appallingly rade-but how could

copaidered her inexcussble haste? Oh no! There must be some horrible mistake. "do not understand," she continued, with added formality. "Surely a year is too long to remember so small a gift," he answered gravely. She looked beyond him. "I do not know to what you refer. My note was in

acknowledgment of the book received 'last "Last night! be echoed in turn. sent no ... May I see this book?"

"Certainly." She turned and indicated the volume with a slight gesture. He stood without offering to touch it, a strange expression growing in his eyes. "There is something strange in this," he said below his breath. "That book was sent to you a year ago and yet you say it is

but just received." "Last evening." "My card was in it?"

"Yee, it fell out when the wrapping was "Have you looked into the book ! There was suppressed excitement in his

said, hesitatingly, "There has been so "May I open it?" He looked at her way she could not understand. "Surely," she forced herself to say, but

As he opened the volume something unexpected caught his eye. "Here is a note for which I am not responsible," he said, holding a folded paper toward her. "Please read it; it may solve this riddle." She took it half unwillingly, gratefully conscious that he turned away as she read. There was amoment's silence. At length ; LIL do not understand even now," she faltered. "Why should your sister keep this from me so long, only to send it now? "My stater!" He trood looking away

from her for a breathless interval. When spoke there was a change in his voice. When Frances loves, it is a love that rooks no sharing. It was to her that trusted the book-and she has been false could I dream-But let us not speak of the village secretly.

eyes spoke his meaning before the tardy face, having white hair and whiskers, and words, "This is no more remembrance also a gray cost and a large sack. from me. Katherine. It carried with it my heart." He laid the open book in her hands. going on in the stable. In this building a dear remembered

eloggent by interlining, greeted her eyes "How do I love thee? Let me count the ways I love thee to the depth and broadth and height My soul can reach * * * I love thee with the breath, Smiles, tears of all my life, and if God choose-She did not need to read; she knew that

essage by heart. "As it was then, so it is now-so it wi ver bo !" and Rowland Carew looked ! her with the truth of his words shining in It was the other Katherine, she who had

listened to the Christmas music a year before, who gave her hands into his. "I have loved you through all the silerce." said she simply. From All Saints' the music of the ho Christmastide came to meet them, and the

joy of "the beautifulest Christmas," was i their hearts.

ORIGIN OF GIFT-MAKING. s said to have originated in Spain. During purobases were exchanged indiscriminate

supposed-.". He stammered and grew oburch," she said in excuse of her depar- ly. The opportunity thus afforded of exchanging secret love tokens gave rise to

> MERRY CHRISTMAS. Merry Christmast Merry Christmas Singeth through the crowded street, How it rings up from the pavement Trod by busy, eager feet, Each to each the bright contagion Passes, as they swiftly move; Arms so full of precious bundles,

Hearts so full of happy love! Merry Christmas! Merry Christmas! Gayly peal the festive bells ; Swiftly back the scho fashing All the earth with music swells, Little snowbirds hopping blithely Chirp in ecstacy of joy, Obstering with whirling snowfishes Dancing from the frosty sky.

Merry Christmas Merry Christmas

Shout the evergreen and pine,

And replying, sing their comrades

Now bedecked in aplendor fine.

With the toys all ranged about them, Gay with lights, they honored are As a depos for dear Santa And his heavy-laden car. Ob, this dear old Merry Christmas Was there ever such a time, Gladdest posts of despairing Better speak these meny children

Romping, rushing through the hall,

Morry Merry Merry Christmas.

Unto you, and unto all !"

OUR CHRISTMAS. We didn't have much of a Christman, My papa and Rollo and mo, For mamma'd gone out to the prison . To trim up the poor pris'ners' troo And Ethel, my biggrown up sistor,

Tis to go among poor lonesome children And make all their sad hearts more gay. Azid Auntie, you don't know my Auntie? She's my own papa's half-sister Kate, Showss 'bliged to be round at the chapel Till 'twas-Oh, som othing droadfully late

And he goes home 'round by our gate, But then I suppose he knows bost, Aunt Kate says ho intones most splendld And his name is Vane Algernon West. My papa had bought a big turkey. And had it sont home Christmas ove;

You see Bridget had threatened to leave If she couldn't go off with her cousin,. (He doesn't like her one bit) Sho says she belongs to a 'u'nion,' And the union won't let her "submit." So we ate bread and milk for our dinner, And some raisins and candy, and then

Butthere wasn't a soul here to cook it,

Papa said he would take us out riding Then he thought that he didn't quite dare. For Resie'd goldend and kept coughing; There was dampness and chills in the air Oh, the day was so long and so lonesome. And our papa was lonesome as we, and the parler was dreary-ne sunshine,

And we all sat up close to the window. Rose and me on our papa's two knees, And we counted the dear little birdies

Rosic wanted to be a brown sparrow; But I thought I would rather by far. She moved a step away. "Not yet," she He a robin that flys sway winters Where the sunshine and gay blessoms are And papa wished he was a jail bird. 'Cause he thought that they fared the bost: But we are all glad we wern't turkeye. For then wo'd boen killed with the rest her voice was so low that he could hardly

That night I put into my prayers-"Dear God, wo've been lonely to-day For Mamma, Aunt, Ethel and Bridget Every one of them all went away. 'Fore it's time for next Christmas to be. To take care of philanterplats' fam'lies. Like papa and Rosle and me? And I think that my papa's grown pious, For he listened as still as a mouse, Till I got to Amen : Athen he said it

A CHRISTMAS STORY. WHITTEN POR THE PREE PRESS. the Manor House of a quiet, little country to the master's private room. Mr.

The packages contained presents for all He turned upon her abruptly and his classes, while the last one enclosed a false

was loaded and a pair of big, white horses, having falso manos and antiers, were The first house reached was the home of

As Christmas Eve came on the sleigh

This mode of bestowing the gifts was continued all through the town. At some places money was left; at others, clothes; just as Harry, Mr. Sea worth's son, thought-At last the presents were all distributed

out of right. This was the only time he was seen during the night. Next day - Christmas-nothing was talked of except the mysterious Santa Claus who had visited the town. The place seemed to have awakened

Mr. Seaworth chackled to himself at his party held on Christmas afternoon at his home, when the people praised Santa

The oldest villager said that in all their lives aud in all the Christmas tales of that old English village, there nover was one described so delightful a day as when

bounteous Christmas party. W. J. R. BROWN, 52 Albany Ave.,

Toronto, Ont. Ago 12 years.

berry, Tusoarora, writes: "I am pleased to



Was down at the sylum all day To belp at the great turkey dinner, And teach games for the orphans to-play. She belongs to a club of young ladies With a "beautiful objick," they say,

For she pities the poor worn-out curate: His burdens she says are so great." So she 'ranges the flowers and the music I should think this way would be the longest

Rose and me went downstairs to the pantry To look at the turkey again,

And all the sweet roses-the tea, And the red ones, and forms and carnations That have made our bay window so bright, damma'd picked for the men at the prison To make their bad hearts pure and right. That were hopping about on the trees.

Won't you please make a club, or society.

-Julia Walco

So it sounded all over the house.

Great was the surprise of the servants at village when, two days before Christmas, package upon package arrived and was sent to the charge. This is her tardy repent- Seaworth, the Square, intended to give the ance. What a fool I have been to take village a grand Christmas celebration, but eilence as my answer! Yet receiving no he had a more important plan in view.

sign from you, what could I think-how which was to help all the poor people in

Then the maid servants were more surprised than ever on hearing hammering large sleigh was being generally improved, and having a new box-placed on it, while to one side a quantity of great, snowy white rogs were professly scattered about, for Mr. Seaworth intended to have his son of sixteen years play Santa Clans.

hitched to the sledge, and as twelve o'clock at night struck they started. a poor widow with three children. A loose window was found and a quantity of good things were quietly put in the room. The name of the person to whom the present belonged being on each parcel.

was most needed, and Harry had started home, whon, as he was passing a tavero, the Blue Boar, a party of men stepped out and watched him

from a sleep. The children played with their books and toys. The elder ones had on their presents of warm new clothing and nobody seemed able to say enough in praise of the liberal Santa Claus.

CIMUR. If they were surprised before they were more so now about the great abundance of good things which were invished upon them.

Sauta Claus and his reindeer distributed their gifts and Mr. Seaworth gave his

Can Recommend It .- Mr. Ence Bron-

say that Dr. Thomas' Eclectric Oil is all that you claim it to be, as we have been duing it for years, both internally and externally, and have always received benefit from its use. It is our family medicine, and I take great pleasure in recommending