

MY CHRISTMAS OF 1859.

BY PARSON STYLES, LL. D.

I did not plan it thus at all. Indeed, I had at my mother's earnest request promised to spend that winter's holidays at home, the first time since I began to fit for college. The matter of a family reunion had taken possession of her whole soul and so insistent was she that I had promised nothing should prevent it. There would be gatherings of all the cousins and the clans who traced their lineage to Jedediah, that staunch loyalist who gave up a pleasant home on the banks of the Connecticut for a pioneer's life in the frontier wilds of Canada, rather than yield his allegiance to King George and the house of Hanover. Everything promised to make the 1859 holidays memorable in my life, and a share in them had been my waking and sleeping dream alike all the long term of school to that evening when Aunt Mary—the owner of the family boarding house where a half a score of fellow-students found so pleasant a home—came into my study, just off the dining room, for a brief conference. She did that occasionally, as I was a sort of a son to her, doing the family errands at the groceries, post-office, etc.

Aunt Mary was a typical New England woman, overtaken by financial reverses. She was of good family, a native of Riverside, strong-minded, a close and constant student, especially of theological subjects, and so she kept theological student boarders. The school had been moved half a dozen years before from New Hampshire to Riverside and was in the very height of its short-lived prosperity, for the 5th of this month its spacious buildings were burned to the ground and the last vestige of the school passed away. Her own children were small and she had adopted or given a home to the orphan daughter of her own sister, a girl of some 15 years, Catherine was in every respect superior and gave promise of a rare womanhood. She had a marked personal presence, tall, well-formed, erect, graceful as a swan, fair skin, with bright rosy cheeks, fine Grecian features, bright, luminous lustrous eyes, a high, intellectual forehead, modest and retiring even to a fault. She was also high-spirited, ambitious and proud, of course; she could not be otherwise. Everyone knew she was an orphan, but they admired and pitied her, she was so bright withal, so cheerful where most girls of her age and circumstances would have been depressed and sad. Come what would she was determined to have an education and so helped about the household duties of her aunt's home out of school hours.

It goes without the saying that Catherine was a general social favorite in the town, the old home of her mother's family, as well as in the school of 150 students.

When Aunt Mary entered my study that evening I was very busy in my Tacitus or spherical geometry, but I saw at once that she had "something on her mind" and so I gave heed.

"I came in, Mr. Styles, to see if you can help me devise some plan for getting Catherine an evening dress; she has nothing and you know how many times she will need one this winter. Her cousin Jennie—whose home was in the next block—is having an elegant one made and Catherine feels so badly that she has none, and you know that I can't afford to get her one."

After half an hour's visit I told her I would think it over and report. A few days later she informed me there was to be a big party at Colonel Jones'—the Jones were the family of Riverside—and Catherine had a special invitation; indeed Miss

Jones had seen her personally and told her she must be there without fail, never dreaming of poor Catherine's needs. Every time I saw that girl I thought of the dress and how it could be secured. One morning as I awoke an idea came to me; it did not originate with me; it came into my mind from without—such things, however small, don't originate with selfish mortals—and so I said to Aunt Mary, who had told me the village dressmakers whom she had consulted, generously of their own accord, offered to make the dress free of cost if only the material could be secured. "Find out what the materials and everything for that dress will cost."

Soon after I had gone to my work that same evening she called at my study to report.

"Well, how is it, Aunt Mary?" was my laconic interrogative, and she told me the amount of the bill to a penny—but a few dollars more than I knew that holiday trip would cost, and that few dollars I knew I could make up in sawing wood or otherwise.

"Aunt Mary," said I, "my holiday vacation which you know I have planned, will cost so much. I will give up that holiday trip and put enough more with it to purchase that dress material." The good merchant had offered a liberal discount when Aunt Mary told him the scheme.

The next day the material and one of Catherine's dresses were in the dressmakers' hands, two as noble, self-sacrificing sisters as ever plied the needle.

It had cost me a hard, almost bitter struggle to give up that holiday trip, and I felt the pangs of that bitterness every day, although fully conscious of having done only what was right.

I sat down at once and wrote my mother a full statement of the case, ending my letter with the remark: "Mother, I put 'Sis' (the pet name of my sister) in Catherine's place, and I could do no less." Promising to go home the next winter and teach the old school, only 15 to 20 rods from the house, which I did.

I knew only too well how keenly mother would feel the disappointment; she would moisten that letter once and again with her tears, as she read and re-read it. And when Christmas came and the dinner; I could see all the family at table, only myself excepted, at the table my place at my father's right vacant, and I knew only too well my mother's feelings at that time.

Aunt Mary promised us as good a Christmas dinner as she could prepare and said I should have my board free during the holiday vacation, but there was a constant pain at my heart, albeit I knew I was doing right, as Paul felt the rankling of the thorn in his flesh, though the promised strength divine was given him.

The dress was finished in due time, brought home and hung in my press, where Catherine never went, so she would not discover it. Her cousin Jennie came over the night before the party, as she often did, and spent the night with Catherine.

After they were sound asleep Aunt Mary took the dress with a card, "For Carrie from a friend" attached, and placed it where she found it next morning.

When she came to the dining room that morning it needed no diviner's art to tell that her cup of joy was full; it beamed from her face, and eyes and every movement. She could not keep the joy to herself, though neither she nor anyone else suspected me any more than they did the Pope in Rome.

After breakfast I went down town for an hour or two and on returning as I entered the door opening into the dining room Catherine stood on

the stair, close to the door, and grasped my hand and thanked me and then as quick as thought kissed me as she would her father, blushed and sped to Aunt Mary's room. Her heart was so full and happy that she told me every day how grateful she was, and when dressed for the party, with Aunt Mary she came to my study that I might first see her properly gowned for the occasion.

Yes, I was abundantly compensated; but for all that the pain and the sting was at my heart for many a day, and I pitied my dear mother so, too.

But that lesson, one every person, young or old, needs to learn, namely that the value of real giving lies not in the intrinsic worth of the gift, but in the sacrifice on our part to bestow it. I learned as I had never learned it before, though I did not perceive it at the time.

One word more and my sketch is done. Catherine had many admirers as she grew to womanhood, and she wisely accepted the attentions of a worthy, noble young man, bright and studious, who had his own way to make in the world, then a student at Riverside. After completing his classical studies and graduating from the Albany Law school he settled in a growing city, in this western world. In due time he and Catherine were married and have one of the finest homes in that city, while he has had all these years a lucrative practice, honors not a few, having been on the bench for his circuit of counties for over a dozen years. A more charming family life, a happier home than this I know not east or west.

HIGHWOOD HAPPENINGS.

Troop C, first cavalry, will give a ball on New Years eve at the post mess hall.

Chas. Preston and wife left early in the week for Plattville, Wis., to spend Christmas with the father of Mr. Preston.

The Misses Shelton left Tuesday for Atlanta, Georgia, where they will spend six weeks, returning the first of February.

Mrs. H. L. Harvey is going to Jacksonville, Fla., to spend the winter. She will return in about three months. In the meantime Mr. Harvey will keep bachelor's hall.

Mr. Hicks, who was mentioned by mistake in the Cooper memorial item of last week as the brother-in-law of the deceased from Lake Geneva, is a member of the local lodge of K. P. from the army at the Fort.

Christmas exercises will be held at the M. E. church, Friday evening, by the members of the Sunday school. Plans have been made for a chimney corner, from which Christmas presents will be dispensed by Santa Claus.

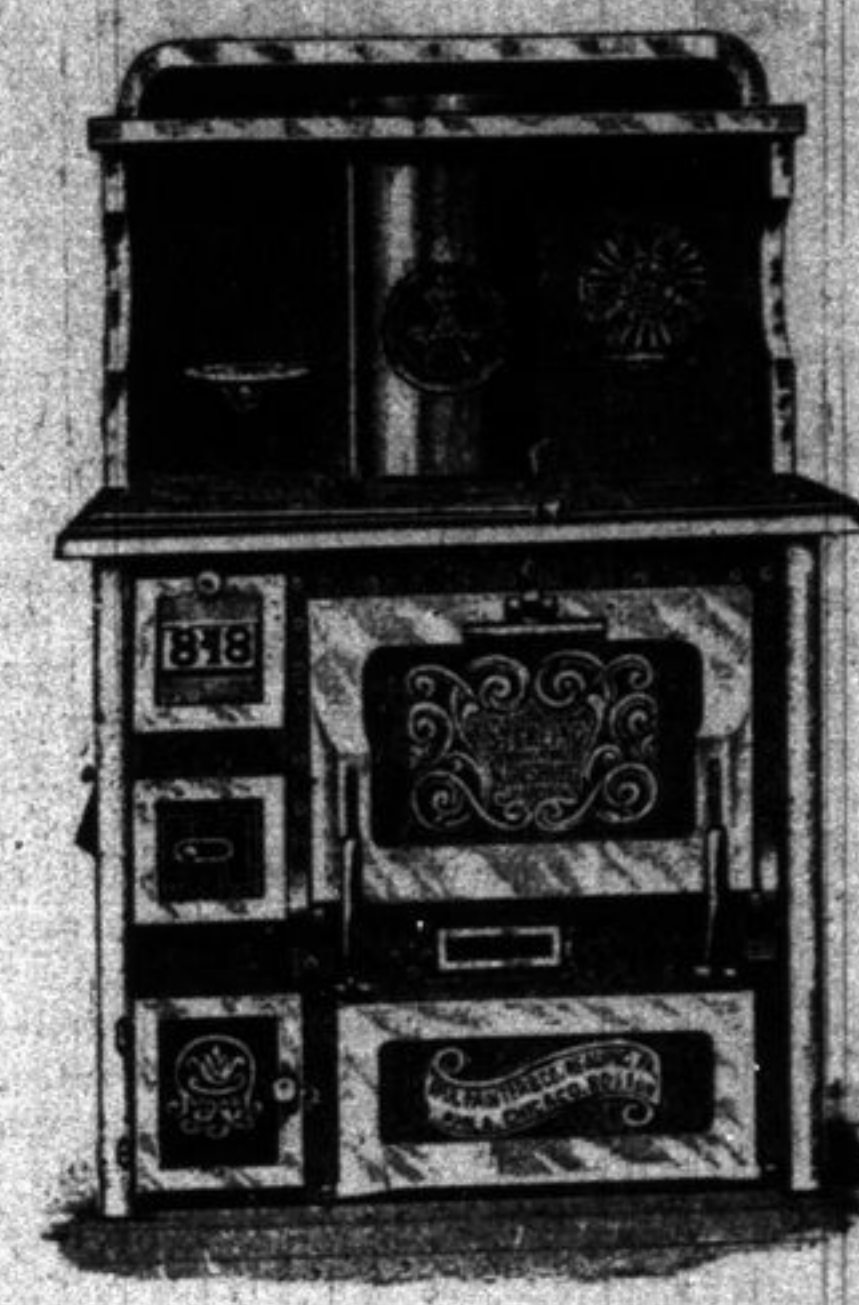
WAIFS.

Still a few choice Christmas presents left at Schumacher's, such as fine perfumes, fancy stationery, etc.

The Misses Bottum and King, the school maids, went to Coldwater, Mich., Thursday, where they will spend the Christmas vacation with friends.

We are in receipt of a very elaborate program for the Christmas celebration of the Lake Forest Sunday school next Sunday afternoon at 4:30 o'clock. There will be recitations by several of the classes, an address by Dr. McClure and plenty of good singing.

We can't tell the library folks all books they should purchase. But there is one just out by Bishop Spaulding of Peoria on timely political and educational affairs which we ought to read, whether we agree with all he writes or not. He is a man of ability who studies the problems of the day, and we want to know what he thinks of them. Let us have the book.



Following are a few of our customers who are using Sunshine stoves:

- James Larkin
- Dr. T. D. Conger
- T. F. Clayton
- H. L. Bowen
- H. Duck
- W. E. Egan
- Fred Greenleaf
- J. Hessler
- Miss LaBar
- B. F. Schumacher
- Charles H. Baker
- W. W. Boyington
- Dr. Ingalls
- G. D. Boulton
- Charles Larson
- J. Blackler
- G. L. Sites
- M. Dugan
- A. S. Campbell
- J. C. Coe
- Mrs. Duffy
- William Smith
- City Hall
- M. Moit
- James McNeill
- J. S. Prall
- J. F. Rice
- M. Rogan
- F. Thorn
- John Radolph
- Colonel Davidson
- A. J. St. Peter
- Mrs. A. Bock
- Mrs. J. Grant
- Miss Erskine
- B. F. Gump
- L. G. Yoe
- J. Hartroft
- M. Corwith
- M. Gibbs
- R. J. Street
- R. G. Chandler
- Mrs. D. C. Purdy
- Mrs. P. Dooley
- O. B. Brand
- M. Gansch
- J. Burk
- George Smith, Sr.

- Mrs. Van Schaick
- E. H. Brown
- G. S. Everingham
- F. D. Everett
- B. A. Fessenden
- John Hart, Sr.
- James Higgins
- J. Mooney
- Martin Hart
- Aug. De Bona
- W. W. Denlow
- M. J. Hart
- C. E. Maxwell
- H. McFarlane
- Fred Clow
- John Rudolph
- John Moore
- C. A. Chapman
- John Hart, Jr.
- A. T. Lay

- George Roberts
- Charles M. Green
- Dr. Bergen
- Fred A. Tucker
- Frank Siljestrum
- D. A. Driscoll & Co.
- J. J. Gallagher
- E. D. Lurham
- Mrs. Dr. Baker
- Exmoor Club
- W. W. Flinn
- T. D. Hull
- J. Happ
- S. W. James
- Mrs. T. Watson
- Prof. W. H. Russell
- Capt. Troxel
- C. J. Winchester
- C. L. Hall
- F. P. Hawkins

D. C. PURDY, IS AGENT FOR HIGHLAND PARK.

HOLIDAY GOODS 1897.

Be sure and not buy your

Nuts, Candies, Oranges and Fruits
.....of all kinds for the Holidays

Until you have seen the line Mrs. A. Bock has for you to select from. She carries a full line of Holiday Goods for presents, etc., of every description. Also a most complete stock of

Groceries, Dry and Fancy Goods, Boots, Shoes

Her goods are fresh—none shop-worn—and prices are reasonable. An inspection is solicited.

MRS. A. BOCK, CENTRAL AVENUE.

TELEPHONE 24.

DUFFY BROS' Express, Baggage and Dime Parcel Delivery.

Trunks, 25c.; Parcels, 10c. To or from any part of the city.

Furniture and Pianos Moved, Packed and Shipped.

J. H. DUFFY, Manager.

TELEPHONE 56

Highland Park, Ill.

JOHN MIDDLETON,

DEALER IN

Hard and Soft Coal, Kindling, Wood, Lumber.

Sewer Pipe, Lime and Cement. Building Material of All Kinds.

OFFICE: CENTRAL AVENUE AND FIRST STREET.

TELEPHONE NO. 32

VOL III.

THAT COLLEGE

We have made some gation of this United college matter, of which week or two since. We Dixon has offered the boagers a campus and b equipped and in running with perhaps some money addition. Freeport is the plan of providing a ten acres, and a money g of \$30,000 to erect an suitable building. Wh would insist on an equal money and land here, cannot say, but they wou sity need a campus and sum of money to put th running order, and we pect them to come here smaller financial basis th get elsewhere, for while an ideal place, a college ist wholly on ideals.

Hence the question fo of this city is this: Do college enough to raise \$30,000 in cash for it? ination won't come here where else empty-hande They will raise and lav as a permanent endow the income of which, in tuition fees, shall be u professors' salaries, an redit expenses. As to of students, we can o before the split in the a few years ago. Nap \$25,000 to secure their there, and there were f 400 students at the tim as students went thro the Illinois conference. it could safely rely on 200 students from abro or two from the op. an and steady increase. mean, of course a large population to our city men and women and t an education, also very ies who would come sake of educating their for the sake also of liv lege town. These ar varnished facts as to t its natural results on anyone knows who is such things.

The one problem of this, Do we want it en up the requisite sum course a committee of be associated with the agers in spending t see that it was used purpose for which I Dixon and Freeport about Feb. 1, 1898, a will do, and we may both very anxious for

A SKATING

The rink is in full Mrs. Van Schaick's v site N. Corwith's on plat 200x300 feet in with some 25 incan has a neat and comfo putting on and off sling warm or resting a permanent attenda hand to see that ever class order. The te stand are, for a bac a family of two it for a larger family son—may it be long far it has proved a The officers are K