## Mike's Christmas Gift

John A. Cormie, Oak Lake, Man., in The Presbyterian

"white" settlers, as they vield his spoils, the reason that the Galicians were in want to take him home. He get tired first and had some of the best home- pretty soon, then I take him." steads in the district, but Mike was pop- "You're a pretty decent sort of a kid, you met him on the trail, when you were | not know just how to do it. his laughing "Good day, 'Meister,' " would give you a new view of life. We ter," and the "Meister at the Reever." you thought you were alone and you was clinging to Mike's arm. never knew where you would hear his | Somehow the sun was shining bright-

when I was tramping through the coun- ing soil smelled sweeter.

got out of place and found itself by mis- harvest fields take in the end of the first week in April. The snow was gone except a diray drift caught in the bluffs here and there. The knolls on which the sun shone were dry and were starred over with anemones, the little purple heralds of summer, and where the bluffs kept off the northeast winds, the grass was sprouting. The air was heavy with the smell of thawing soil.

I had already walked sixty miles and did not start the third day of the journey with a particularly light heart. I was only well started when I heard a shot from behind a bluff I was approaching and then the hearty laugh of a healthy boy.

"G'day, Meister," hescalled to me. "Good day." I replied, my hearth enlarging under the genial warmth of the boy's smile. Then I saw he was not alone. Another boy was coming from the bluff with a gun on his shoulder and a rabbit dangling from his hand. He staggered under the weight of it, as if it were too much for ham, which surprised me, for a boy does not let a stranger see him stagger under a gun.

"That me brudder," explained the boy. "He shoot very good," he added, unnecessarily loudly, as I thought, until I saw a faint flush of pleasure come into the younger one's face at the hearty praise.

"Me brudder seeck," said Mike, and the The winter came early that year, eves froze into uce on his face. smile left his face so quickly that it was | Weeks before Christmas the ground was | "His life for his friends," I mutterplain that to Mike this was a calamity, covered with snow and the thermeme- ed.

called themselves, mainly I thought for "Jack shoot him," laughed Mike. "He

ular with all. He was a cheery chap, aren't you?" I said. I wanted to tell always smiling and often laughing. If the boy what I thought of him, but did "Jack seeck, Meister," he replied. "He get very tired. He like to shoot. I help

"Well, good-bye, sir," I said. He came

the other the "stere Meister." You had I turned after a few minutes to have trail to be first with the salutation. The over Mike's shoulder and the rabbit was boy had a way of coming on you when | dangling from the barrel of it and Jack

er when I turned, the little anemones The sky was threatening that morn- has a tender sympathy for the poorest? The first time I met him was a day looked prettier and I thought the thaw- ing.

north of the Galicians. I had heard so persuaded me that nothing would be walk." much of the Galicians that I thought gained farther north and I chose a "You can't, Mike, you'll freeze to stranger to this world; there was no the lessons that they teach. Oh, tell fifty miles would be few enough to have homestead near by. I must confess that death." between their settlement and my home- Mike entered my thoughts when the He pointed to the warm clothes he Herod hunted him (v. 7.) His own par- on this stone! It was a day in early srping, one of the summer on my homestead and then was gone. those days in May, that seemed to have went south to make some money on the By noon that day it was blowing and men rejected him (Luke 4; 29); he had was strong in his entreaty, and de-

I thought I discovered a new note in his voice and when I came nearer, there was something in his eye I had not seen

I was afraid to ask for Jack. I had had no communication with the settlement during my absence. The conversation ran in hte ordinaary lines for a while. Then he suddenly turned to

"Mebbe I shoot partridge?" he asked. I was juggled for a moment when I remembered that the open season was past. There was a pathetic appeal in his voice that made his words go deep. "Jack very seeck, Meister. Mebbe shoot partridge?" he asked again. 'Jack

like partridge," he added, by way of ex-"You shoot your partridge, old man,

"Jail be hanged," I said, "there's your I watched him disappearing like a deer | The snow was packed in a circle about

We watched the boy struggle toward | way to my own home.

His name was Mike. That is, we all "Me brudder name Jack-Ivan, me fod- had even begun to think of Christmas. wounds, thought himself on the field at

> later and the Galicians were making happy until his spirit took its flight to preparations for it.

"How will you go?" I enquired. try on my way to a valley fifty miles I met an Englishman soon after who "Oh, I walk, Meister, I good for a

matter was under consideration. I speat wore, and before I could say a word he ents "understood not" his youthful as- In his agony, he sought the spectral

turned on the boy. The doctor's service him (John 10, 31); one of his own disci- Holding up his hands in a last prayer a birthday during his visit they were and a large boy or a man drives the usual, I dined alone, and my thoughts John 7, 53; 8, 1); his own people stoned pulsed him. was to be his Christmas gift to Jack. ples betrayed him (Hatt. 26; 14, 15); to have his fate reversed, he saw an all delighted with the idea of celebrat-"G'day, Meister, you cum back?" he rose I got anxious. I left the dishes way from the cradle to the cross he died down into a bedpost. home. The boy was not there. Then I IV. A place of royalty. "Born King of The bed was his own, the room was and laid in a stock of good things to the trailing creepers of ground pine from Then I heard he had gone for the doc- thew is the story of Jesus as King. Its time before him was his own to make day. They planned and arranged the

> good time. We came upon no traces royal pedigree, from David, source of Ghost of Christmas Present: and. walk- Everything else that was to be done was of the boy on the way and in the town Jewish rule; and Abraham, source of ing with his hands behind him, Scrooge postponed until after the birthday, and

> the sun set the white, flashing world come, thy will be done in earth" (Matt. ing, sir! A merry Christmas to you!" the little gifts arranged, and the guests fact that the boy was safe satisfied us. Presently we came to a spot near (v. 6, R. V.). The characteristic of his ears, which were many wolf tracks. My com- spiritual kingdom is patience (Rev. 1:9). He went to church, and walked about birthday it is?" panion was anxious about it and insisted on seeing the cause. Something was

"Rabbits blind in spring," he added for through the bluffs, with this partridge him, for the wolves were hungry that under his coat, and then went on my winter, but they had been afraid touch him. We carried him into the sleigh and the tears which fell from our

"Me name-Mike," he confided to me. 'ter had made a record descent before we My companion made no reply.

LESSON XII.—DEC. 22, 1907.

Christmas Lesson.-Matt. 2: 1-12.

Commentary .- I. The coming of the wise men (vs. 1/2.) 1. When Jesus was born-While the exact date of Christ's birth is uncertain there is no reason why it may not have been on December 25th, B. C. 5. But why do we say that Jesus was born "before Christ"? Simply because our calendar is incorrect. For tory. Finally, in the sixth century, a learned monk, Dionysius Exiguus, was appointed to ascertain the time of Christ's birth, and it was ordered that But Dionysius, who first published his a new-born king.—Farrar. Herod feared IV. Guided by the star (vs. 9, 10). 9. calculations in A. D. 526, put the birth of a rival. All Jerusalem with him-Fear- The star. went before them-The same Jesus about four years too late. In ing that he would make this an occasion star which they had seen in their own Betblehem-"House of bread," "A name of renewing his acts of bloodshed, '4. properly applied to a place where the Had gathered-He assembled the Santrue Bread was manifested for the life hedrin.-Lightfoot. Chief priests-This of the world."-Clarke. Of Judaea-To expression probably comprehends the distinguish it from Bethlehem in Galilee, acting high priest and his deputy, those mentioned in Josh, 19; 15. Herod- who had been high priests-for at this Herod the Great. He was an Edomite, time the office was often transferred and although a preselyte to the Jewish by the Roman authorities and "the religion, was notorious for his wicked- heads of the twenty-four sacerdotal famness and cruelty. He reigned thirty- ilies," which David had distributed in so months after the birth of Christ. At this terpreters of the Mosaic law, and the time "the scepter was departing from Judah, a sign that the Messiah was now | Many of them were Pharisees-Demandat hand." Wise men-Or magi. "Orig- ed of them-Because they would be most inally a class of priests among the Persinns and Medes, who formed the king's | V.) - Or the Messiah, the official title of privy counsel." They were men of the promised deliverer. "The wise men learning and wealth. Augustine and had said nothing about the Christ, or Chrysostom say there were twelve magi, the Messiah, but only about the King but the common belief is that there were of the Jews. But Herod saw that this but three. But why were these magi king must be the expected Messiah."

salem brought Jesus into popular notice the other cross of fact that the "The thousands" (Micah 5, 2). The tribe mond ring in the toe of her stocking last rather merry yesterday, sir." Messiah was to be born in Bethlehem. had been subdivided into thousands, and Messiah was to be born in Bethleinen.

Messiah was to be

"born" a king. His star-Many inter- herd and King. My people Israel-Israel preters, especially those who seek to was God's people in a peculiar sense. eliminate the supernatural, explain the They were His own peculiar treasure. "star," or "sidereal appearence," by a III. The intrigue of Herod (vs. 7, 8). conjunction of Jupiter and Saturn, 7. Privily called-Herod desired to keep is however, much more in harmony with should take occasion to rebel. Enquired all the facts to believe that the star of them diligently-"Learned of them

oxysm of alarm and anxiety by the visit | crafty and subtle, saying one thing and telligence that they had come to worship | mit him to carry out his purpose.

many courses." Ccribes-The learned incollectors of the traditions of the elders. likely to know. Where the Christ (R.

which occurred in May. B. C. 7, and the time of Christ's birth as secret as again in December with Mars added. It possible lest the Jews who hated Him

worship him-To do him homage. They formation as to the time the star ap- loud voice (Rev. 5:12). . Had heard-The magi had created no 8. He sent them-He assumed control: small stir by their inquiries, which im- but they followed the directions of the sacrifice" (Rom. 12:1); they worshipmediately atttracted the attention of Lord. Search diligently -Herod was ed," pouring out their souls' adoracien; the king. Troubled-Herod, now sunk honest in making this charge to them; into the jealous decrepitude of his sav- he greatly desired to receive definite age old age, was residing in his new pal- word concerning the new King. And was already by the crimes of his past He only wished to find the child in or- incense, and myrrh" (v. 11). As a count.

> country now again appears. The star suffer. led them to inquire in Jerusalem for the young King whom they sought, Sup-

alone is enough to cause rejoicing.

-They could easily go east from Both-

PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS. Jesus was born" (v. 1.) "Thou shalt call his name Jesus" (Matt. 1; 21.) A man's name represents his character. Herod's hause is a synonym for cruelty, Abralam's for faith, Stephen's for martyr tion. His name has power to save. brave cavalry officer, dying of hi

By that time Jack was at our side. and even I could see he was not proper- enemy's gun was in front of them ready must lead," said Scrooge. "But, if the When I looked into his face I saw it ly clothed. At the Christmas tree which to be fired. He was greatly distressed. courses be departed from, the ends will when I looked into he was greatly discreased the was greatly discreased to departed from the was greatly discreased to the children are was greatly discre ing homesteaders who had settled on the that made him stagger. I thought that of his desirium passed show me!" ing homesteaders who had settled on the that made and settled on the that made and settled on the sexual to give Mike a special invitation and away; a smile lit up his pale face, and The Spirit was immovable as ever. Mike saw that Santa Claus was in a he said in a low tone, "Jesus, Jesus! It to his father, who held to Michel for Mike lifted the gun from his brother's position to give him a suit of warm is he who said: "Come unto fine, all ye he went; and, following the finger, read many weeks, and then he was Mike to shoulder and put out his hand to take clothes. An idea crept into his head that labor and are heavy laden, and I upon the stone of the neglected grave mas, Bob, my good fellow, than I have will give many weeks, and then he was Mike to shoulder and put out his hand to take clothes. An idea crept into his head upon the stone of the neglected grave mas, Bob, my good fellow, than I have will give many weeks, and then he was Mike to shoulder and put out his hand to take clothes. An idea crept into his head upon the stone of the neglected grave mas, Bob, my good fellow, than I have will give many weeks, and then he was Mike to shoulder and put out his hand to take clothes. An idea crept into his head upon the stone of the neglected grave mas, Bob, my good fellow, than I have will give many weeks, and then he was Mike to shoulder and put out his hand to take clothes. An idea crept into his head upon the stone of the neglected grave mas, Bob, my good fellow, than I have will give many weeks, and then he was Mike to shoulder and put out his hand to take clothes. An idea crept into his head upon the stone of the neglected grave mas, Bob, my good fellow, than I have will give many weeks, and then he was Mike to shoulder and put out his hand to take clothes. many weeks, and then he was him will give you rest!" I want rest; I am his own name, Ebenezer Schooge. weary." The name of Jesus saved him | "Am I that man who lay upon the Their own Christmas came ten days from delirium, and he was restful and bed?" he cried, upon his knees. Two days before their celebration com- termost;" (Heb. 7: 25); able to save menced. Mike appeared at the door of from the power of sin as well as its penalty (Rom. 6; 2, 14); able to keep us 'Meister," he said, "Mebbe a doctor from all unrighteousness (1 John 1; 7), its robes, "hear me! I am not the man and able to "keep" us clean (Jude 24). I was. I will not be the man I must "The Station" was the name of the II. A place of obscurity, "In Beshle- have been but for this intercourse. little town at the railway, to which we hem" (v. 1.) "An insignificant village, Why show me this, if I am past all were tributary and it was twenty-five not mentioned among the many towns hope!" miles distant. I had heard that a doc. at the time of the division of the land. For the first time the hand appeared tor had settled there in the fall and in- "In a manger" (Luke 2: 7.) Not in a to shake. palace, not in a house of luxury, not in "Good Spirit," he pursued, as down "Jack very sseck," he said. "Mebbe I a cottage surrounded by brightness, but upon the ground he fell before it. in a limestone cave, did the Christ-child "Your nature intercedes for me, and It was the first time I had seen tears open its Infant eyes to earth. Was this pities me. Assure me that I yet may to teach how little God cares for exter- change these shadows you have shown "I get doctor for Jack for Chreest- nals? That the Christly beart will not me, by an altered life!" covet gaudy surroundings! That Jesus | The kind hand trembled.

the lowliest places?

key-word "kingdom," is found fifty-six amends in! a rod of iron (Psa. 2:9).

ing is promised to those who read and nephew's house.

VI. A place of guidance, "The star.... child was" (v. 9). Heralded by a star | Very! Jesus ushered in the day of grace at the Yes, sir." Holy Spirit, of whom Jesus says: "He if you please.." shall testify of me" (John 15:26). infant King, carry our thought forward | dear."

then "they offered unto him gifts" (R

(John 3:16); as saves ones we are God's | who's that?" in token of his royalty, typitie: what come to dinner. Will you let me in. we are; frankincense, referring to his Fred?" ticipating his death; refers to what we | shake his arm off. He was at home in

The Stockings by the Hearth.

where ordinary means are to be had with rapture and set the children on Stood over-The star pointed out the tiptoe in a flutter of enthusiasm and very house.—Benso. 10. They rejoiced excitement. One is the moment when The Greek is very emphatic. They the stockings are hung in a row beside rejoiced exceedingly because they saw the hearth. They must not be too he could only be there first, and catch member is that the Christmus barrain close together, lest Santa Claus be in- Bob Cratchit coming late! That was counter is the dumping ground of the they were about to find the child and because they had such unmistakable convenienced when he opens his pack the thing he had set his heart upon. shrewd merchant. He tosses here all the proof of being in divine order. That and begins his task, There are lots of Ah, he did it; yet, he did it! The left-overs from last year's usalable things that fit into a stocking from clock struck 9. No Bob. A quarter stock. For this counter, he buys up old V. The child Jesus found (vs. 11, 12). heel to toe, and make it bulge all the past. No Bob. He was full eighteen wholesale stocks, auction lots and 11. Fell down-They prostrated them- way from ankle to knee. But there are minutes and a half behind his time. factory ends. Nobody knows the fallselves before Him according to the east- bigger things, such at skates, sieds, Scrooge sat with his door wide open, ings of the bargain counter shopper betern custom. "In this act the person toy velocipedes, desks, lovely dolls that he might see him come into his ter than does this shrewd merchant. And kneels and puts his head between his have crossed the ocean and know ever Tank. knees, his forehead at the same time so much about Paris or Vienna, if they His hat was off, before he opened the on every sale. Everything is mussy and touching the ground. It was used to ex- could only talk and tell their secrets; door; his comferter, too. He was on colors are garnish, Moths have eaten inpress both civil and religious reverence." books that a boy has been longing for; his stool in a jiffy; driving away with to this and dust has settled on that Clarke. Gifts-The people of the East rubber boots, in fact there is no end of his pen, as if he were trying to over- But the woman who tries to shop seeking the Christ? "We know that the 5. By the prophet—Micah 5, 2. Mat- did not approach into the presence of perfectly delightful treasures that come take 9 o'clock. Persian magi believed in a Messiah or thew does not quote the exact words kings without bringing them presents. into the house on Christmas eve and "Hallo!" growled Scrooge, in his acfuture Saviour, who should in the latter found in Micah, but the sense is given. The custom still prevails in many are found by their new owners on Christday appear and renew the world in It was an accepted truth that the Mesrighteousness."—Whedon. From the east siah must come from Bethlehem. 6. Art be useful, while frankincense and myrrh a stocking, and therefore a little space ing here at this time of the day?" Perhaps from Media, or Persia, or in no wise least (R. V.)—Micah says, were prized for their delicious fragmust be left between the stockings of "I am very sorry, sir," said Bob. 1 possibly, from Arabia. To Jerusalem— "Though thou be little among the thoupossibly, from Arabia. To Jerusalem from She- of Eleanor and those of Fred. As for They seemed to suppose that when they sands of Judah, yet out of thee shall bring gold father an mother their steelings are I think you are?" repeated Scrooge. "Yes, frankly just how much they can spend They seemed to suppose that when they saids of states are likely said of the Jewish nation he come forth unto me that is to be ba shall come; they shall bring gold father an mother, their stockings are I think you are. Step this way, sir, if and unless my measure of the clerk in they would have no trouble in finding ruler in Israel." This made Bethiehem and incense" (Isa. 60. 6) "Incense, or always crammed with gifts that are you please." "in no wise least." Although Bethlehem frankincense, is a resinous gum, flow- fairly electric with children's love. Ethel, "It's only once a year, sir," pleaded be waited on promptly and satisfactorthe object of their search.

The object of their search.

The object of their search.

The object of their search.

Where is he—This inquiry in Jeru
Who is twenty-two, an aged her little was little, yet it was exalted above all the other cities of Israel. The princes—

Salem brought Jesus into popular notice salem brought Jesus into popular notice salem brought Jesus into popular notice the other cities of Israel. The princes—

Salem brought Jesus into popular notice salem brough Christmas, and the children feel taller "Now, I'll tell you what, my frierd."

OLD SCROOGE

(From Dickens' Christmas Carel)

the grave by which it stood.

"Men's courses will foreshadow certain I met the boy on one of the worst days the head of his gallant men, and that an ends, to which, if persevered in, they of knocking Scrooge down with it,

The finger pointed from the grave to

That they who follow him will choose and try to keep it all the year. I will live in the Past, the Present and the III. A place of cruelty, "In the days Future. The spirits of all three shall of Herod the king" (v. 1.) Jesus came a strive within me. I will not shut out room for him in the inn (Luke 2; 7.) | me I may sponge away the writing

pirations (Luke 2; 49); his own towns- hand. It sought to free itself, but he the air was thickening with snow. As | not where to lay his head (Matt. 8; 20; tained it. The Spirit, stronger yet, re-

shoulder, was one of the first to meet like wind bir (Luke 20 conspired to crucify alteration in the phantom's hood and ling it. Days before—almost weeks bemight cost too much. As the wind him (Luke 22, 66; 23, 1, 12). All the dress. It shrunk, collapsed, and dwin- fore-they began to prepare for the

Jewish blessing (Matt. 1:1). Jesus was regarded every one with a delighted indeed many important things were neg-The wind fell that night, and in the born king, but he waited-he is waiting smile. He looked so irresistibly pleas- lected.

Christ will rule over men one day with the street, and watched the parips bur- "Hush! hush!" the mother said. trees delivered at the station, and placrying to and fro, and patted chi'lren "Don't ask questions." Zech. 13:7; Isa. 53:12; Psa. 22:18; Psa. any walk-that anything-could give puzzled. 22:1; 69:21; Zech. 12:10; John 1:45; him so much happiness. In the after- "Why," she said, "it is a celebration.

his second coming (Rev. 1:3; 22:18, fore he had the courage to go up and curious herself. came and stood over where the young said Scrooge to the girl. Nice girl! this time she asked one of the family.

beginning of this dispensation. The star | "Where is he, my love?" said Scrooge. before us to guide us to Jesus is the with mistress. I'll show you upstairs, they were, all excited and trying to en-

VII. A place of rejoicing (v. 10). The Scrooge, with his hand already on the even know who he was. He was left wise men, rejoicing at the cradle of the dining-room lock. "I'll go in here, my out and forgotten.

looking at the table, which was spread | cept the little child. He slipped out of were bold to confess the object of their peared. Assuming that the star appeared VIII. A place of worship (v. 11). They out in great array; for these young the room, and made up his mind to when the child was born he would thus gave themselves; then their gifts (2 Cor. housekeepers are always nervous on find the man whose birthday it was, and II. Light from the Scriptures (vs. 3-6). have some idea of the age of the child. 8:4, 5). They saw, they fell down," such points, and like to see that every- finally, after a hard search, he found "Fred," said Scrooge. Dear heart alive, how this niece by He had been asked to leave the guest-

age on Zion, when, half maddened as he worship Him also - What hypocrisy! sented unto him gifts; gold, and frank- he would not have done it, on any ac- ill, and no one had had time to think was already by the crimes of the full of the number was already by the crime of the number of the number was already by the crime of the number of the number was already by the crime of the number of th

> deity, refers to what we do; myrrh, an- Let him in. It is a mercy he didn't A. C. M. Eve nenutes. Nothing could be heartier. His niece looked just the same. So did Topper when he came. So did the plump sister when she came, Two thrilling moments fill the home So did every one when they camel Wonderful party wonderful games,

> > But he was early at the office next son in the Woman's Home Companion friends, the music of some joyous carols. morning. Oh, he was early there. If for December. " The first thing to re and an air of gladness, and should not

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\* Still the Ghost pointed downward to | back into the Tank again; "and therefore, I am about to raise your salary!

> your salary, and endeavor to assist noon, aver a smoking bowl of bishop, Bob! Make up the fires, and buy another scuttle before you dot another i Bob Cratchit."

second father. He became as good a Hancock county, chiefly from Castine, a friend, a os good a master, and as good Orland and Blue Hill. The third sensor a man, as the good old city knew, or trees were sent to New York and or heeded them; for he was wise enough son more than 1,200,000 were sent away, to know that nothing ever happened on This season's shipments will probably the globe, for good, at which some reach 1,500,000. was good enough for him.

THE FORGOTTEN GUEST.

There was once a family who had a guest staying with them, and when they found out that he was to have them firmly together with strong cords, celebration. They cooked and stored a Yes! and the bedpost was his own. large quantity of good things to eat, family roam through the woods, pailing went to the store. He was not there. the Jews" (v. 2). The gospel of Mat- his own. Best and happiest of all, the be cooked and prepared on the happy most beautiful decorations. They even shadows of overhanging pines and gath-I told a neighbor what I feared. He times. Its key phrase, "kingdom of He dressed himself "all in his best," thought over and made, or selected, litagreed with me that Mike was in great heaven," is found thirty-two times and at last got out into the streets. the gifts for one another; and the danger, and volunteered to go after him. nowhere else in the New Testament. The people were by this time pouring whole house was in hurry and confusion The wind was behind us and we made Matthew gives his legal geneology, his forth, as he had seen them with the for weeks before the birthday came.

morning the mercury stood at forty be- still for the kingdom (Luke 19:25; Matt. ant, in a word, that three or four genally the birthday came, the rooms low. The sky was perfectly clear and 26:29). The prayer, "Thy kingdom good-humored fellows said, "Good-morn- were all decorated, the table set, all aflame. We started besk with lighter 6:10), has never been literally fulfilled. And Scrooge said often afterfards, that from outside of the house had all arhearts. We had a trip in vain, but the It will be some day. Christ rules the of all the blithe sounds he had ever rived. Just after the festivities had but the sum total means a great deal to hearts of his own to-day as a Shepherd | heard, those were the blithest in his begun a little child said to its mother: "Mamma, where is the man whose money. Allowing seven and one-half

V. A place of prophecy. "It is written on the head, and questioned beggars, But the child persisted, until finally from trees alone will be \$112,500. Auded took possession of me and I began to by the prophets" (v. 5). A study of and looked down into the kitchens of the mother saidw: "Well, I am sure, I prophecy gives a miniature life of Jesus. houses, and up to the windows, and do not know, my dear, but I will ask." trailing evergreens to be made Isa. 7.14: Micah, 5:2; Isa. 9:1, 2; Gen. found that everything could yield him | She asked her neighbor, and the wreaths. This means 20,000 barrels. 49:10; Hosea 11:1; Zech. 11:12, 13; pleasure. He had never dreamed that neighbor looked surprised, and a little flour, or 10,000 cloaks for the women or

Acts 13:27; 1 Cor. 2:8. A special bless- noon he turned his steps towarf his We are celebrating his birthday, and he pairs of storm overshoes, or it means is a guest in the house." hear and keep the last great prophecy of He passed the door a dozen times, be- Then the mother got interested and

knock. But he made a dash, and did it! "But where is the guest? Where is "Is your master at home, my dear?" the man whose birthday it is?" And He looked startled at first, and then in quired of the rest of the family. "Where is the guest whose birthday

which illuminates our pathway and goes "He's in the dining-room, sir, along it is?" Alas! nobody knew. There joy themselves by celebrating his birth-"Thank'ee, he knows me," said day, and he-some of them did not

When they had wondered for a little which attracted the attention of the exactly." -R. V. He inquired of them | to another day when a multitude of remagi was provided for the occasion. To the exact time and received positive in deemed men and angels shall cry with a face in round the door. They were went on with their celebrations-all exhim upstairs in the attic, lonely and

marriage started. Scrooge had for room, which he had occupied, so as to gotten for the moment, about her sit- be out of the way of the preparations IX. A place of presents. "They ple- ting in the corner with a footstool, or for his birthday. Here he had fallen had all been so busy preparing for his oxysm of alarm and anxiety by the visit of these magi, bearing the strange in- meaning another. But God did not per gift to him (John 17:6). Cold, presented birthday festival that they had forgot-

This is the way it is with most of us at Christmas time.-Leslie's Monthly.

The Scramble for Shristmas Presents. "The girl who works for her living does have a hard time gathering up her Christmas gifts, unless she has a fire the truest and best Christmas keeping. wonderful unanimity, won-der-ful happi- head for organization and ! nows where It were a sad pity if the glad day should to shop," says Anna Steese Richard- bring to us only a few presents from

store. Girls who work down town go to a first-class shop, tell the clerk Born King of the Jews—This was a title over each subdivision there was a chief in your shopping as you are the control and rule. Who shall be shepting and applied to no one except the Messard applied to no one except the manner that they understood and the inscription over the cross.—Carr. Notice that Jesus was the companion for December.

It reappears in the inscription over the cross.—Carr. Notice that Jesus was shepherd his flock. Christ is both the companion for December.

It is sort of thing any longer. And the performance of your office duties his atool, and giving Bob such a dig and you will reap the reward of good that they at once obeyed. The most going to stand the blessings of the unbappy clerks.

It reappears in the inscription over the cross.—Carr. Notice that Jesus was shepherd his flock. Christ is both therefore, he continued his purpose to them in a street, because soon after the holidays this sort of thing any longer. And the December Both is sort of thing any longer. And the performance of your office duties had been organized at Saskatoon. Capture the continued his purpose to them in a product that they understood and the blessings of the unbappy clerks.

Home Companion for December.

It is sort of thing any longer. And the performance of your office duties had been organized at Saskatoon. Capture the continued his purpose to them in a product that they understood and the blessings of the unbappy clerks.

Hence Companion for December and the blessings of the unbappy clerks.

MAINE'S CHRISTMAS TREE TRADE GROWS FAST

Twelve years ago a aprty of hunters, aribou hunt in Newfoundland, called at Sargentville, on the eastern shore of Penobscot Bay, and took a ride land to visit some abandoned copper and leaves had fallen from deciduous trees, dusing the dark evergreens to stand out rampant growth. The owner of the vacht looked at them carefully and came to the conclusion they would make ideal Christmas trees-much better than the scrubby, irregular pines that were then of trees were taken up in front of Fanaround her fragile form, in a vielike crushing, cruel grip. euil Hall the marketmen fell over one trees. They sold out the entire lot at an enormous profit, and clamored for more,

The next year about 50,000 trees were

people did not have their fill of laugh- Though the cutting, trimming, bundter in the outset ; and knowing that ling and shipment of Unristmas trees is a such as these would be blind anyway, laborious task, the Maine farmers make he thought it quite as well that they the occasion an autumnal holiday, taking should wrinkle up their eyes in grins, their families to the forest fringe and as have the malady in less attractive | eating their midday meal around a blazforms. His own heart laughed; and that ing fire, that roars and sparkles in the midst of their labors. One man cuts the sizable trees close to the ground. A boy or strong girl cuts away with a sharp hatchet the few dead limbs at the base; a woman and a boy or two women put

among the fallen leaves, picking great bunches of glossy wintergreen from the carefully in boxes and sent away to form city homes where Christmas is observed

with pomp and splendor. From the point of view of the millionaire, who makes and loses thousands of dollars on margins every day, the revcents for the average price on Christmas to this is, say, \$10,000 for berries and as many overcoats for the men. means 40,833 pairs of shoes, or 61,250 an annual income of \$4,800, if put at interest in any of the Maine savings

ON EARTH PEACE

Christ came to bring peace to the earth. He would make peace between very slowly to the gentle influence of ove; but it is vielding nevertheless. Christian civilization, with its institurefinement of feeling and all its gentle humanities, is the fruit of Christ's life,

Peace is one of the great key-words-of the Bible. It has many shades of meanng. There is peace with God, which broken. This peace He gives to his friends, if they will receive it.

song. Wherever the love of Christ goes, it binds hearts together in unity. The Cynic's Christmas

Same old Christmas As of yore, Same old nuisance, Same old bore, Same bum Santa Same exchange

Christmas giving Very strange. Same old cheer, Same old present As last year. Same old slipper Much too small, Same cigars No good at all Same old Omar,

Same old ties, Nothing novel Meets my eyes. Same old greetings Same old ills, Same old samenes

Harvey Peake in the December

With dilated eyes and lips breatly ly apart, and paling cheeks, the y girl heard, and arose to her feet, etood one moment, uncertain, am bewildered, and then reeling, held her arms to her father. But at the moment Falconer sprang forward, caught her to his bosom, closing

Daniel Hunter advanced upon him demanded his daughter. "No. You shall not have her, I nothing about her being your daug She is mine-my bride-my wife. has pledged her marriage vows to here at this altar. She is mine, force her from me!" exclaimed Falc The maiden slightly struggled to herself, but the pressure was incre painfully, while he glared defiance

"Do not struggle, Maud, my chil we stand under. If he designs to a disgraceful scene here in this ch he deceives himself that is all. We be patient with him, and when tired of that tragic acting, he will re you, and you will come to me," said iel Hunter, colly taking a seat. But, to the surprise of all, Fale O'Leary lifted up the maiden in

arms, and bore her down the aisle out of the church Daniel Hunter calmly arose, and after them. Mr. Lovel and one or gentlemen from the pews followed. clapped his strong hond upon his a der, wheeled him around, and said: "See here. I bore with your inso permit a disturbance in the church are butside now, and I command ye

release my daughter; for if I have force you to do it, you shall suffer utmost consequences of your outrag "Never. She is my wife, Off, sir, say, or do you take the consequent exclaimed the madman, and still ing Maud in a tight grip with his arm, he put his right hand in his b and drew a pistol. "Oh, Falconer!" shricked Maud,

she fainted away. Daniel Hunter instantly closed him, and having both hands free, overmastered him, and wrested to his hand the pistol. He threw the pon at a distance, and received fainting daughter in his arms, just a officer, reaching the spot, arrested coner O'Leary. Daniel Hunter bore his daughter

the vestry room, where, prompt as ance being rendered, she soon recove Mr., Lovel was present, looking "Is the carriage from Howlet Hill |

sir?" inquired Mr. Hunter. "It is, sir. We came in it," answ I will send it back for you

Lucy. It shall be here by the close the morning service. "Do not trouble yourself, Mr. Hur we car easily remain in the village evening, and dine at the hotel." "By no means; you shall have

carriage in time, and you must join at dinner. "Very well, then, as you please the meantime, I shall endeavor to my curiosity in check until you can me the explanation of this strange of family history."

"My dear Lovel, Dr. Channing I t human life is almost always out of si "Shall I call the carriage for you "I thank you-if you please."

Mr. Lovel went out, and Daniel ter, leading his feeble, pale and t bling child, followed. The carriage when he paused, drew Mr. Lovel a

can I depend upon you? Will you tend to ft?" **~**\$\p\$\p\$\p\$\p\$\p\$\p\$\p\$\p\$

> Statistics show alone over 200 p consumption.

Don't neglect

be living now if warning cough. You know Emulsion e

And most of

cough or cold.