snugly at the foot of the hill, while the freshly fallen snow-flakes, resting tremulously on the evergreen, fell fluttering earthward, as the breeze stirred their branches, all indicating, that the world was preparing comfortable winter quarters for the celebration of another Christmas Day.

On the road that came winding from the valley, past the house, up and away over the hills, a few passing sleigh bells broke the silence.

An old man, bent and worn more by the toil of earning a livelihood than by years, opened the door of the house, and, looking observantly at the freight ed clouds heavy with their overcharged burden, spoke with a prophetic voice to ome one within.

"We are going to have some more snow to-night. To-morrow will be a real old-fashioned Christmas, such as we had years ago when we settled here first." He closed the door and turning to the sweet faced white haired woman who was preparing supper, asked: "How long is it, wife, since we came

Why, surely, you have not forgotten, It is thirty years next spi We came here when we were married, right into the heart of a forest to build a home, while-

"A strange wedding trip," he interrupted humorously. "The young people nowadays take a very different one.' "But not a happier one than ours for

our hearts were full of love and hope." Her dark eyes glowed with the light of the love which had never dimmed

since those youthful days. "That's so, wife, and wasn't I proud of my bonnie bride? I thought a palace none too good, yet I had only a settler's nut to give her, but she made it paradise for me."

The expressive tenderness of his voice told her that the bent, white haired wife was infinitely dearer to him than the fair young bride of thirty years ago.

was her loving, earnest answer, "if your ways been a good husband to me. How proud I was of our little log house! It was our own, and it was home. We have had a long and happy life together. Of course there were sometimes dark and cloudy days, yet the sun of God's providence always shone through. We have had grief and loss ... Her voice broke, and she looked through the window, and across the valley, as if the eyes of love could see, through the darkening winter twilight, the white stones in the old churchyard that marked the resting place of two children God has given them to care and love a while, and then he had taken them to Himself.

"Ay, wife," said the husband, as he furtively brushed away a tear with his coat sleeve. "But our little ones are safe. Their love blessed our lives, and they are waiting for us yonder, and remember, God left our Archie with us." "Yes, and he's a good son. The house has been lonely since he went away. But we could not keep him in the home nest when his wings were ready for flight Yet he did his duty by us, if ever

a boy did." All a fond mother's pride and love glowed in her face, and vibrated in her voice, yet there was a latent sadness in it. The tea kettle hummed its merry song, and the old grey cat purred in calm contentment on the rug before the fire. All within was cheerful and home like, yet something was missing, and the husband's words told what it was as

te said, slowly: "Do you know, wife, I kind of thought Archie would be home for Christmas. He has never spent one away from us yet. I feel lonesome thinking about telling us about his doings in the city. He's a rare one to tell things is Archie. To hear his laugh makes my heart young. I seem to live my youth over again in him."

"We must not forget, John, that he's | the puzzled question. a married man now," said the wife, in a hard voice. "The old parents must take a second place. I seem to have lost him since he married. My heart feels sore towards the woman who has won him, and taken my boy from me." Her voice broke in a sob, while the husband said sternly, yet consolingly: "fut, wife, Archie has too true a heart ever to forget us. Then, with a merry twinkle in his eye, "Did you consider my mother's feelings thirty years

"But that was different, John," she said, half apologetically.

"Not a bit of it," was the sturdy reply. "The same old story just repeats itself. Remember, wife, our capacity for loving is not limited. We may love in a different way without taking any of our affection from others who should have it. When I loved you I did not think less of my dear old mother. God bless her memory! Neither will Archie think less of us. I confess would like to see him and his wife, to, for she must be a good woman, or he would not love her so; yet wife, it you and I have to eat our Christmas dinner alone, it will only remind us of that first one we had here so long ago, when we had just each other."

"Yes, thank God, we still have each other," she breathed, with tender reverence. Then, after a short silence, she said, "I did some fixin' for to-morrow. I could not help it. It's a habit, I suppose. I got a turkey ready, and made Christmas cake, some mince pies, and pudding such as Archie used to like. Perhaps it was foolish of me to cook so much, and he not here to share it. I wonder if his wife can cook, and make the good old-fashioned things he likes so

"Oh, well, if she doesn't, her new fangled dishes will taste as good to him as yours did to me when you first began housekeeping."

He knew how she missed her boy, and that it hurt her to know that another hand ministered to his wants. He felt how sore her heart was, and, hiding his own loneliness, he tried to comfort ber.

"We must not be selfish, wife, for it is only natural that Archie should wish I saw her. She's a bonny woman, my | gift!-Deaconess' Advocate.

********************** The snow lay curled in little drifts | to spend the first Christmas since he's room, Archie asked humorously, Did

> to see them." His abject in proposing a visit evidently did not have the desired effect,

down to the postoffice for the paper, before the storm comes on."

He returned in a short time, for the little postoffice was only a few rods down the road. Opening the door he called cheerily,

"Here's a letter from Archie." His wife came forward eagerly and took it from his outstretched hand. He stamped the snow vigorously from his feet, closed the door, and sat down by the fire, while she prepared to read the letter aloud. As she tremulously opened it there fell from its folds five cr.sp ten dollar bills. When she finished reading it, her husband said with slow unsteady voice.

"Sorry he cannot be with us. Business detains him. Kate and he sends The wife's eyes filled with tears, and she said pitifully. "It was kind of him

to send this money. I'll put it away, for it seems somehow to take his place. We don't need it but we do want our Her tears fell freely over her furrow-

ed cheeks, and she seemed to have suddenly grown older as she sat there with her son's gift lying unheeded in her lap. Her husband rose feebly and went out into the darkness. When he returned, supper was ready. They made a pretence at eating, while their loneliness remained silent in each aching heart. In a distant city Mrs. Archie McGre-

gor sat in her prety comfortable home, beside a glowing grate unmindful of the fast falling snow without. She held a book in her hand, but was not reading. She had been quietly watching her hus-"I could not have done that, John," band for some time. He seemed perplexed and restless. At length she part had been neglected. You have al- | rose, and going to his side, asked with

> "What is the matter, Archie. Is there anything troubling you. He spoke in a low voice, yet his wife detected a quiver in it. "Why didn't you tell me sooner, and

we could have gone to see them? You have never invited me to visit your old home, and I have often wished you "I know that Kate. You have made these four months of our married life

so happy that I have grown selfish. To day one of the office boys asked permission to go home for Christmas. When I saw the joy on his face as I granted his request, a strange, inexplicable yearning came over me, bringing with it a mental picture of the old home, and father and mother. I feel that they want me to-night, and I wish them to know my wife," he said, with fond pride, "I would like to know your parents,

Archie, I have no mother now, so you must give me half of yours' she said sorrowfully.

"There's a train in half an hour, Kate

Could we go then?" "What about our grand dinner morrow evening at Judge Dunmore's?" "I'll send a note to the judge, explaining our absence. Will you go Kate? Say you will humor me, dear." looked at her pleadingly.

With her loving intuition, she understood his longing even better than he did himself, and answered unhesitatingly, "Of course I will, Archie. I'll get ready at once."

A few hours later as they were speeding away towards the old home among to come and play "The Carnival of Venice." him. I would give a good bit to see the northern hills Archie leaned towards and our Music Hall was packed with an imhim sitting over there in his old place, his wife, saying tenderly, "I am taking mense audience of some my parents a precious gift this Christ-

"I hope your mother will like me, was her wistful yet reserved answer. "And what about my father?" was

"Oh, I do not fear winning his love but mothers are different. It is hard for them to share their sons' loyalty and love with other women. I feel for your mother, Archie," she whispered, softly as she nestled closer to him.

Next morning, as the old couple sat alone with nothing but the memories of other Christmas days to cheer them, the wife said suddenly: "John, I hear bells. Who can be out so early this morning?" Her husband rose and looked

through the window, then said hurried 'It's a sleigh from town. It has

stopped here. Oh, wife, it is Archie! Yes, Archie, and Kate, too." He spoke joyously, hastening out meet the travellers, while the mother stood in the doorway with a wondrous light shining in her eyes. Soon she was clasped in her son's strong arms. while her husband with old-time chivalry, was caring for his daughter, for his heart claimed her as such from the moment she put up her red lips for his

"I wanted you so, my boy," the mother whispered, as she kissed her son. A strange yearning took possession of the young wifes' heart as she saw the brown head pressed close beside the white one. Then her husband turned to her, and said, with tremulous tenderness and pride, "I have brought you

When Kate felt the motherly arms around her, and the kisses on her face, the ache in her heart passed, and she felt that Arheie's mother was hers, too. "I guess your good things will not spoil now, wife," said the father, with a merry ring in his voice.

a daughter, mother."

"And you have your wish too, John. We have much to be thankful for," Then looking at her son, "We were just longing to see you, Archie. We wanted you "Not more than I wanted to see you. I thought at first I could not get away,

but I had to, that's all. I wanted you to see your daughter, father," he added blushing like a lover, as his mother led his wife away to lay aside her wraps. "My heart called her that as soon as

boy. And your old father is well pleased and very happy."

telling his father all about his busy life, his eyes with loving watchfulness saw his wife and his mother talking together, with nothing but love in each face, his heart was filled with a wondings joy and contentment. That night, as the young husband

and wife sat together in the little spare around the old farmhouse that nestled | morried with his wife. When the spring | you think I had taken leave of my opens we will take a trip to the city | senses, Kate, when I hurried you off so quickly I could not help it, dear, an irresistible force compelled me to come." "I am glad we came, Archie. for she answered rather decidedly, "No, would not have missed seeing your fath-John, I shall not visit them. I'd be too er's joy and the light on your mother's old-fashioned for Archie's stylish city face for anything. Mothers are queer, anyway. She was so delighted when Failing to give her any comfort, he she learned that I knew how to cook rose slowly, and said, "I think I'll go and make the things you like. I invited her to visit us, and see for herself,

how well I care for you, and she has promised to come in the spring." He laughed happily, then said, earn estly, "This has been a very happy Christmas day to me." "And to me, too, Archie," she whis-

pered. "I love your father and mother, and I feel that they love me." "Why, how could they help it?" he asked, wonderingly.

OLE BULL'S CHRISTMAS PRESENT. Christmas eve, as a tall, dignified looking gentleman was walking leisurely along one of the bystreets of London, his attention was attracted to a little boy who was looking in at a shop window in which were displayed various articles (some of them apparently cap, approached the little boy, he saw that his gaze was fixed upon a beautiful-looking violin that hung in the centre of the window. Upon coming nearer he heard him singing s familiar melody in a pure, sweet voice, which he accompanied with rhythmical movements of his slender arms and fingers as if he were playing the violin. He stopped to listen, quite charmed at the innocent, childish spectacle. Just then the little boy looked up, and, abashed at being observed, ceased his performance.

"Do you think you could play as well upon that violin, if you had it, as you can sing, my little fellow?" "I don't know, sir, but I would like 'Come with me," said the gentleman, and ogether they went into the shop. "How nuch for the violin in the window?" he

asked of the shopkeeper.

Five pounds.

"Two much by half," said the gentleman Show me something cheaper. After being shown five or six other violins, which he rejected after merely glancing at them (the little boy's big blue eyes looking more and more wistful all the time), the shopkeeper handed out a dingy, antiquatedoking violin, with the remark, "Here's an old fiddle that I got of a sailor. It needs fixing up a bit, but you can have it just as is for £1 10s." The gentleman scrutinized it closely, inside and out, remarked that was very much out of repair, but said that he would give just £1 for it, which the shopkeeper, after some heeftation, accepted, and the money was paid bim.

Put on a string in place of this broken one," said the gentleman; "and furnish me good bow-I will pay extra for it." While this was being done, the gentleman looked down at the little, pale, wondering face upturned to his, and said, "What is

The boy quickly responded, "Leo! and my father rings the chimes-if you bark, you can hear 'em now!" The gentleman listened for a moment or two, and as the sound of the grand old bells died away, the shopman handed him the violin and bow ready for coat, and placing the violin under his chin, began softly and sweetly to play the tune which the Christmas bells had just rung out. For some minutes he continued to play, weaving the air fato every conceivable kind of variation, and ended by playing the meland brilliant arpegglos. After the violin He drew her closer to him, saying | handed it to the bewildered boy, and patting him on his curly head, remarked as he butviolin home with you, and take good care of it; it is worth £100 at least. Learn to play the tune I heard you singing outside keep the violin; it is a Christmas door for his little protege, and passed out nto the crowd just as the Christmas bells rang out again their merry chime. of our clients, and we thought him one of

the most fascinating men we ever saw. At a later period, when we were going to people to hear him play. At the time of his death, in Norway, something like a hundred thousand Norwegians (if we remember rightly) attended his fueral.—GEO. T. ANGELL.

----Christmas Eve in Wildwood Hollow. Pauline Francis Camp in January St. Ni

Wildwood Hollow, t'other eve, they had a Christmas tree And acores of pretty presents filled the an mais with giee. r Reynard smiled a foxy smile, and scar his joy could hush, When presented with a fine, rew comb

Old Bruin's wife gave him a box, to i Miss Centipede, whose feet were cold, and a hundred warm footmuffs. The hedgehog had a bottle of ink, in which And all the birds had wallets new, in which

in a "squall") Miss Peacock, hooks for all her "eyes." the bat received a ball. The monkey had an interesting book of "Jur gle Tales.' Mr. Alligator had a brand new set

buffalo, in gladsome mood, prance gally round and round. n his own name puon a pair lows" he had found: short, for each and every one, a useful gift was planned. merry grunts and roars and grow were heard on every hand.

His Unspeakable Gift.

II. Cor. 9. 15. How many gifts are being prepared

for the Christmas season! Gifts for our children, our parents, our friends; gifts for the poor and for those whose goodwill it is to apportion them among the poor; gifts fashioned by loving fingers or chosen by loving hearts; gifts of great price and gifts of small price the coinage of this world, but rich the reckoning of heaven. And who would refuse a gift, how-

ever poor and trifling? Who will not accept gratefully the slightest token of his neighbor's love on Christmas Day? Yet there is one gift from which many turn aside. It is the Unspeakable Gift. Love beyond measure prompted it; sufferings more than we can tell'brough it within our reach. Without it, all other gifts are but poor, useless things; with t, the slightest gift is glorified. Refused times without number, it is still held out in mercy. Refuse it not again-his unspeakable

LESSON XIII .- Dec. 27, 1903 Review-Read Prov. 4: 5-19

Summary.-Lesson I. Topis: The true spirit of worship. Place: Baslah, eight or ten miles west of Jerusalem. The ark was a sign of the divine presence; for seventy years it had lain in neglet; David now decides to bring it unto Jerusalem; proper reverence is not shown; didst well that it was in thine heart' Uzziah dies for touching it; David is (1 Kings 8:18). But the kingdom not displeased; the ark is left at the house | being fully established, the time for of Obed-cdom; three months later David | creeting a house for God had not come. takes the ark and brings it into Peru- The man of war, whose hands were red salem; the priests and Levites and chief with blood, was not to build the temmen are called together; a great proces- ple. That was reserved for David's own sion is formed; sacrifices are frequently son. And as "the honor of the son is offered; there is music and singing. It was the greatest day o fDavid's life.

II. Topic: God's covenant with his prospect of Solomon's glory more than people. Place: Jerusalem. David desires to build a house for the Lord; the ark was on Mt. Zion and David was Mephibosheth proved that he himself living comfortably in his own house of | had experienced the divine mercy and cedar; David spoke to Nathan the pro- love. The true, compassionate love of phet about his desire, and Nathan at one's neighbor "does not (1) suffer the once encouraged him to proceed with neighbor's need to come to it, but the building; God spoke to Nathan, in- searches out and goes after the need; forming him that David's desire could | (2) does not suffer itself to be deternot be granted; he had been a man of | mined by selfish aims, but does its duty war, and there was still much to do in in faithfulness, impelled by God's mercy, establishing the kingdom; he could pre- for Christ's sake." pare the material, but his son should establish David's throne forever.

Mephibosheth, the son of Jonathan, is any should perish. called; he appears before David and falls on his face; David promises to show him kindness for Jonathan's sake; 2. Defamation, 3. Deception, 4. Dishon-David restores the estates of Saul to esty. 5. Disloyalty. Unholy desire for Mephibosheth, orders the land tilled for high position and forbidden good is him, and has him eat at his table.

IV. Topic: Conditions of spiritual joy. Place: Jerusalem. This is one of the seven so-called penitential psalms; it has reference to the forgiveness that was granted David after he had comhis deep repentance and of his confidence in God. God was to be his mighty

V. Topic: Perilous temptations of routh. Place; Jerusalem, Hebron. The bitter fruits of David's own unholy course are now being seen; David's sons were wicked; Absalom was a wicked, proud young man; he was renowned for his beauty; he laid a plot to overthrow the government and seize the kingdom; he stole the hearts of the people by his subtlety; he then lied to his faher and ment of his own; he soon started with an army toward Jerusalem. David fled | for the captive to drink there is deliverfrom the city and crossed over Jordan and established headquarters at Mahan-

VI. Topic. Lessons from the death of from Jerusalem he refused to take the | (Deut. 30; 19.) A reward awaits those ark with him; Absalom and his who esteem the reproach of Christ great- night, he will be so proud, poor old Jerusalem the same day: Absalom at first intended to folhim; Absalom and his army marching | holy use. Our homes should be dedicatfrom Hebron entered Jerusalem the same | ed to God, that they may be habitations day; Absalom at first intended to fol- of righteousness. Our churches should low David immediately and overtake his be dedicated to God, and held sacred to father while he was weary, but he fin- his worship only. Our bodies are "God's ally decided to take more time and raise | building" (1 Cor. 3; 9), and we are coma large army. Absalom was King in | manded to be "filled with the Spirit" Jerusalem about three months; he then (Eph. 5; 18), and to "offer up spiritual went out to battle with David's war- sacrifices" (1 Pet. 2; 5). riors; Absalom's army was defeated and XII. "Christ Jesus came into

untimely death of his son. VII. Topic: The believer's joyful vision reverently love him as God. If we "folof God. This is one of the psalms sup- low his steps (1 Pet. 2: 21) we will go posed to have been written by David | out after the lost .- A. C. M. during the latter part of his life. It contains two figures: 1. The Shepherd and his sheep. 2. The Host and his guest. Christ is the good Shepherd: His people are the sheep; the divine Shepherd gives soul rest, soul satisfaction and soul liberty. David is abundantly supplied so that his cup runneth over. VIII. Topic: The secret of success.

Place: Jerusalem. After David's tory over Absalom he returned to Jerusalem; he was now growing old and a new king must be selected; David's choice was his son Solomon; the princes of Israel were assembled and David com- and make a saturated solution, in a big missioned his son to perform the great work of building a house for the Lord, David charges Solomon to know God and serve Him perfectly.

IX. Topic: The curse of strong drink. Place: Probably in Jerusalem, the prophet's home. The Israelites had forgotten God and forsaken His worship; they were wholly given up to sin and especially to the sin of drunkenness; the land was filled with drunkards; the prophet refers to their approaching ruin by Shalmaneser, whose power he compares to a tempest or flood; he shows the rulers of Jerusalem their own danger by pointing out the ruin which had come to the Northern kingdom through drunkenness; his words are also a warning to Sam-

X. Topic: Right choices in life. Place: children, and even the grownups sel-Gibeon. Soon after Solomon became king dom refuse their share of the toothsome he assembled the people at Gibeon; the morsel. These can be hung by ribbons Lord appeared to Solomon and asked him fastened through the cakes. Stockings what he desired most; Solomon replied that he most of all desired wisdom and understanding in order that he might guide the affairs of the nation aright The Lord was pleased with this request and not only gave him wisdom, but also gave him riches and honor in abundance. XI. Topic: Temple lessons and reflections. Place: Jerusalem. As soon as Solomon was made king he began to

prepare for the building of the temple. When it was finally built the ark was brought in and the house was dedicated; Solomon offered the dedicatory prayer; God accepted the house and filled the temple with a cloud.

XII. Topic: Arguments for world-wide missions. Place: Bethlehem. Joseph and Mary had gone from Nazareth to Bethlehem to be taxed; there Jesus was born; shepherds were in the field watching their flocks by night; the angels of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone about them; | already possess the necessaries of life! It is the angel told them not to fear, also that the Savior was born in the city of

Many truths may be found in the lessons of the quarter. We note a few: I. The name and perfections of Jehovah are the Lord Jesus Christ, who is our Ark. Through him we have the forgiveness of sins; by him we have access to the Father; in him we are heirs to a throne. We should always reverence his name and conduct our services in the power of the Spirit according to the word of God. We must not substitute H. God approved David's desire to do something for him. He said, "Thou the honor of the father multiplied a hundredfold," so David rejoiced in the

in his own. III. The mercy and love David showed

IV. The forgiveness of God is "blessbuild the house. The Lord said he would ed." It is, 1. A free forgiveness. We gay and crowded. From the theatres III. Topic: Forgiving love-human and | gift in answer to the sacrifice of Jesus. divine. Place: Perusalem. David in- | 2. A complete forgiveness. It covers all quires whether there are any left of the | the past, all the present, all the future. house of Saul; he is told that there is | 3. A willing forgiveness. God so loved a son of Jonathan living, who is lame; that he gave. He is not willing that

V. The sins of unholy ambition as revealed in the lesson are, 1. Disobedience. found all along the ages. It was one of Satan's temptations to Eve in Eden, to

which she yielded (Gen. 3; 5). VI. David drank the cup of sorrow. The words "A foolish son is a grief to his father" (Prov. 171; 25), are illustrated in mitted his great sin. In psalm fifty-one | the case of Absalom. It was the lack of we see him repenting and pleading for a true family life that made possible mercy; with the opening sentence of this | such faulty sonship as that practised by psalm we hear him say, "Blessed is he Absalom toward David. A day of polywhose transgression is forgiven, whose gamy was not favorable to real filial sin is covered"; he speaks here also of love. Our age equally has its foes to healthy family life and discipline.

> VII. If we really trust God we shall never "want" for, 1. Peace. 2. Guidance. 3. Forgiveness, 4. Comfort, 5. Food, 6. The Holy Spirit, 7. Heaven. VIII. A king's justice "must be shown

> alike in his gracious influence upon the

good and his stern justice to the wick-Among the last words of David were, "He that ruleth over men must be just, ruling in the fear of God." 1X. Drink destroys all hope for the one addicted to its use; but "the grace went to Hebron and set up a govern- of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men" (Titus 2; 11), and

ance in Christ Jesus. X. Choice determines character. To each one comes the call, "Choose" (Josh. 24; 15.) To every one God says, "I have Absalom. Place: Mahanaim, David's set before you life and death, blessing temporary capital. When David fled and cursing; therefore choose life' marching from Hebron cn- er than the treasures of the world. They | chap who choose wisely are God's chosen ones. XI. To dedicate is to set apart for a

he was slain. David mourned over the | world to save sinners" (1 Tim. 1; 15.) Let us follow his example as a man, and

CHRISTMAS TREE

It is not the cost of the Christmas tree decorations that will give delight to the children. In fact, the work of their own hands and the hangings that they can pick from the tree and eat will furnish more fun than all the fineries that are kept from year to year, and accommutated by a full pocketbook from the art treasures of the manu-

A sparkling tree always appeals to the childish heart, and is easy to accomplish. Take the tree into the yard pail, of water and alum. Then with a big brush or broom, sprinkle the tree thoroughly with the liquid. Let the tree

Strings of popcorn and of cranberries, bring into practice their kidergarten teachings and make chains of red, eilver and gilt paper with which to decorate the boughs. Frosted snowballs of asled with diamond dust. A bent wire should be inserted in the top of each. Lady apples and gingerbread men and animals are always a delight to the may be fastened with bright colored red cambric and laced with green. These too, should be filled with candies. Fancy paper napkins that are to had in great variety of design and col ors are excellent for little bundles

goodies. Plenty of holly red ribbon should of course, be used to tie the different articles to the twigs. ----CHRISTMAS IS COMING.

Once on a time a woman at Christmas made her mind to be sensible and give her riends only useful presents. She found it a much harder task than if she had bought a lot of thoughtless things and distributed them haphezzard, for she had to study the peculiarities of each friend and try to remember the one thing lacking that would make her happy. But by putting on her thinking cap and sitting up at night she at ast congratulated herself that she had succeeded. But lo and behold! when her friends received the presents thy were furious. "What shocking taste!"they exclaimed 'How little she appreclates the true Christ. mas spirit! How could she imagine we don't most insulting! We will never speak to her

Moral-Never try to please everybody .- J

A CHRISTMAS DREAM

Annie McRobie in New York Scottish American.) John Galton, M. P., lit his pipe, and leaned back in his comfortable chair

with a sigh of content. He had just concluded what he regarded as a very satisfactory interview with a junior cofleague, who had lately shown signs of restiveness.

The two men had been discussing the question of old age pensions. Young Metcail's eager plea for the introduction of some practical scheme had been skilfully demolished by the cool, logical reasoning of the level-headed Galton. The question, if deftly handled, was

law declared it out of the zone of practical politics. Such was Galton's summing up. Now the younger man was gone ,and his senior gave himself up to his pipe and a pleasant reverie. Suddenly a man entered the room unannounced, and persuasively requested Galton to accompany him for a stroll.

useful as a party bait, but the economic

Galton, but in a spirit of adventure he readily agreed, and together they sallied Christmas being near, the streets were cannot buy it or earn it. It is God's the ladies' beautiful dresses, the flashing the playgoers were thronging out, and jewels, the luxurious carriages and su-

The newcomer was an utter stranger to

perb motors presented a scene of almost dazzling splendor "Some evidence of wealth in the old country yet," laughingly remarked Gal-

"Yes, this is one of the many evidences, but let us go to a different

Presently they entered a quiet street, evidently inhabited by the respectable artisan class. Into one of the houses the two men noiselessly entered, and stood unob-

An old man and his wife, with thin, care-lined faces, sat talking. "It's almost too good to be true,

Mary," said the man, tremulously. "But, thank God, it is true, Dan." "Ay, it's anly a few shillings weekly, but it will ease our burden forever." "Ay, that it will. Oh, Dan, I could cry for joy. It was breaking my heart to see that no one would give you work because you were old; our bairns were dead, and our savings were slipping away; there seemed nothing for us but the 'House'," and both shuddered visibly, The stranger touched Galton's arm,

and they silently withdrew, but only to enter another modest dwelling. Here, too, a husband and wife sat talk ing. They were comparatively young, but already care had set its impress on their faces.

"Well, old girl, isn't it jolly? A sort of Christmas greeting from the Government, and I feel like shouting, 'Hip, hip hooray!""

"I think I could join with you, Jim," said the woman, a smile on her lips and tears shining in her eyes. "To think that the pensions are now a fact after so many disappointments. I

"Ay, Jim, you have been so good, and have never grudged my father his bite and sup, but I'm sure he often worried when he knew we had so many little mouths to feed."

"But its' all right now, my lass, and we must have something especially nice for granddad and the kiddles this Christ-

Again the two unobserved listeners withdrew, their third visit being into a tiny room where everything was spotlessly neat.

An elderly woman, with thin, worn features, sat reading a newspaper. By and by she bowed her head as if in prayer. Golton and his companion stepped silently outside. "Who-who is she? And who are

you?" said the M. P. "The woman is one who, single-handed. has bravely fought the battle of life, but now, through physical weakness, she can no longer provide for herself. In a little while she would have been faced with two grim alternatives of Death or Pauperism. But to-night she has got good news. As for myself, I'm a sort of Christmas spirit modernised." "But what does it all mean?" faltered

Galton.

"It means that at last an Old Age Pension Act is passed. To-night you have seen dark shadows lifted from three homes because of it. They are remain until dry and it will look as | typical of thousands all up and down the if Jack Frost had applied himself to the | country. These workers are not the riffraff of society, not the miserably poor for whom innumerable efforts are put strung by the children, can be used to | forth, but the unobtrusive, thrifty, harddecorate the tree. Then the children can working poor, who toil and pinch, yet have no security against poverty in their old age. At last a few men in power realized that these workers were one of the nation's best assets. My sorted sizes, some as large as a big plmu | friend, you talked glibly about thrift, and others the size of a huge apple, can | about economic laws, about insuperable be made with cotton batting and sprink- difficulties. Think of the wealth in our land, consider the stupendous achievements and inventions of our day in every sphere of human interest, and can you wonder that when men seriously applied themselves to the question they speedily discovered a method of relieving our brave toilers of the haunting dread of want?"

As he finished speaking a powerful motor brushed past them. Galton hastily sprang aside, and-awoke! With bewildered gaze he glanced round his room, and gradually it dawned upon him that he had fallen asleep after Metcalf had

The fire had died down, his pipe lay on the rug, he shivered slightly, but far into hte night he sat thinking, thinking of the vision in his Christmas dream.

The Bells of Yule. (By Austin Dobson.) The bells of Yule ring loud and clear Acrons the threshold of the year; The quiet moon is rising slow seyond the margin of the snow; The white glint sparkles far and near How long have those old sounds been dear! How long have we from youth to sear Re-heard their rippling carols flow,-The bells of Yule! Old days return; old dreams appear

Old conflicts rise of Hope and Fear; And yet, with all, 'tis good to know Despite Life's change of kiss and blow, We still thank God to hear once more The bells of Yule!

rary, and without

up the lights, had easy chair, thrust pockets, placed b boots on the curb on his breast, sat Yet even so, with look on his dar some man, The great fire cast lo distant corners o room, with its highly polished f vivid patches of that proclaimed 1 Two years ago grey hair in his he dering how he we likely when he ha the gleaming jus would stay, he V be embers full; it to be widowed. wives of other me Monica, He had is ordeals with grim once or twice, in loneliness, he had he liked one of his the deception would his from zelf-contro y faithful, and h invitations to Yu

sence to give a re-Growing! Well science would make girl, ch?"

is filled again--not see her equal." "Nor you will. stepmother over the

apron with the ever which she had come puckered brow. trouble, seeing no Lord's birth first sh eastern sky. As the and again swept r at the further end "Who's there"

he cried irritably, a

making such an att.

fill the room with

was repeated, "Conyourself off. Evidently the kno former course, for me young children, two boys, leading between ed baby girl, a visio curls, smooth, dimple wondering bine eves ed quietly again, liwalked the pretty g on them, they wave dled together as if up wolf was giaring. An mas Eve, Anthony now near, ringing I said, "Suffer the litt

Anthony, shortly, mud ensily aware that if afraid of him, he them. "Look here, go a play in this room, y and he pointed town But Tony, his six heir, had straightened they advanced to the line before him. "We have not come do here." he said. in