

THE CHRISTMAS STOCKING.

Estele M. Kerr, in the December Canadian Magazine.

Last night I stayed awake to see what Santa Claus would bring. I heard a noise above me, and the merry sleighbells ring. Perhaps it was a reindeer's hoof That made the snow fall from the roof.

And then I heard a gentle step. I thought that it was he, The door was softly opened, and my mother peeped to see. If I were sound asleep in bed— Or Santa wouldn't come, she said.

I tried to look as if I slept, and shut my eyes so tight. And when I opened them once more, the room was shining bright. He hadn't made a bit of noise, But filled the stocking full of toys!

It bulges here, it sticks out there, and here's a ball, I know. On top there is a Teddy bear. What can be in the toe? I think it has the nicest feel. The whole way down from top to heel.

I'm glad it's mother's stocking, for my socks are very small. I wonder how he knew that I was not so big and tall. For everything he brought, I see Looks just as if he thought of me!

NEW LOVER, OLD KNIGHT.

Reincarnation Plea For Husband's Murder.

Tokio, Dec. 21.—Reincarnation was made the defence for murder in the trial at Tokio of a woman named Yasu and her lover, Yataro. The two are accused of killing Yasu's husband, Kichigoro. Yasu delivered an extraordinary address to the judge.

"Listen with your whole-souled attention," she began, "but you should miss my words and ask me to speak again, which I will never do. I had a very profound motive in killing my husband, Kichigoro. It was all due to the dispensation of Providence.

"In my previous existence I was a beautiful geisha, named Yaeokichi. A certain feudal lord fell in love with me and proposed to buy me. I disliked him, yet what could I do. He madly insisted, and I had no choice but to yield.

"In this sad predicament a gallant knight whose name was Sulaemon, bravely came forward to my rescue. He declared that I should not be wedded to the man I disliked, and then and there took me from the influence of the lord. This was the beginning of the genuine love that sprang up between the knight and myself, and finally ended in our happy marriage.

"My benefactor in the previous life is the self-same Yataro as he now stands before you. The husband I killed was in the former era only my errand boy. Imagine the wrath of Providence for my preposterous act in deserting my real husband and benefactor and marrying the servant! Heaven threatened me if I persisted in this hideous sin. So in obedience to the will of Providence I took the life of Kichigoro, the reincarnation of my former servant."

Sentence was postponed after the prosecutor had demanded the death penalty.

Richard Hadden, Pieton, aged seventy-one, passed away at his home, Saturday. The late Mr. Hadden was one of Pieton's oldest citizens, having carried on a hardware business there for thirty-five years. He was highly respected.

Mr. Charles Smith, of James, Ohio, writes: "I have used every remedy for sick headache I could hear of for the past fifteen years but Carter's Little Liver Pills did me more good than all the rest.

A bride of only a few months, Anna, wife of Harry Albee, of Fitchburg, Mass., died at the Barbank hospital, as a result of taking bichloride of mercury with suicidal intent. Her husband and friends are mystified in assigning a cause for the act.

The poultry show, in progress four days, at Brockville, was brought to a close on Friday night with an address from the expert judge, George Robertson, of Ottawa. Over 800 birds were on exhibition.

At a meeting of the Trades and Labor council, Brockville, it was decided to place two or possibly three candidates in the field at the forthcoming municipal elections.

And the face of the homely girl is her chapman.

THEY PAY HOMAGE THOUSANDS SILENT BEFORE THE CATAFALQUE.

For Three Hours Stream of People Passes Through the Silent Halls—Ruler Eulogized By the Episcopate.

Brussels, Dec. 21.—The body of King Leopold lies in state in the royal palace, while thousands have filed silently before the catafalque and paid homage to their late sovereign.

In the presence of Prince Albert and the officers and dignitaries of the court and government the coffin had been borne to the mortuary chamber, while priests chanted the Miserere and a procession of nuns with bended heads told the rosary for the dead.

Passing through the garden and courtyard up the broad marble staircase, embanked with magnificent floral pieces, and across the vast reception hall, those who had come to the palace found themselves in a room of state, the draperies of which were black with silver fringe. It was lit up with the glare of electric globes and the softer glow of hundreds of candles.

The mahogany casket, in which the king lay, was half draped with the colors of the old Grenadier regiment and surmounted by his daughters' floral wreaths. It was guarded on either side by three officers, in uniforms glittering with gold, and swords brought up to the royal salute.

Against the walls and between the tall palms other officers held the standards of the kingdom. In front of the coffin were kneeling nuns and priests. For three hours the stream of people passed through the palace, witnesses of the impressive scene.

The Belgian Episcopate issued a pastoral letter eulogizing King Leopold as the apostle of peace and justice, the glorifier of the Catholic faith and the promoter of Christian civilization, through the founding and development of the Congo independent state.

On the other hand, the general socialist organization has issued a proclamation in favor of a republic and condemning Leopold for imposing upon the country the costly burden of the Congo. The proclamation adds that the socialists decline to swear allegiance to Albert, who, as monarch, is bound "to represent the oppression of those who labor by those who fatten on the fruits of labor."

Princess Louise, who has commenced an active legal battle for the estates of King Leopold and Baroness Vaughan, has not yet arrived here. It is reported that new complications have arisen which will result in her refusal to come to Belgium alone and to join her family. Count Lonyay, husband of Princess Stephanie, is now here.

The Soir published a despatch from Rome, stating that it is confirmed that the Vatican that King Leopold and Baroness Vaughan were married both by a civil ceremony and a religious ceremony at San Remo, and that the king pardoned his daughters; other-

wise he could not have been absolved. According to the newspapers, the ex-Empress Charlotte, widow of the late Maximilian of Mexico, has not yet been informed of her brother Leopold's death.



Awful. Mrs. Wise—Mary Ann, are you cooking cabbage? Mary Ann—No, mum, it's your husband, mum, tryin' one av them cigars you gave him at Christmas.

GRADUATE OF QUEEN'S.

Has Been Pastor of Church For Twenty-Five Years.

St. Andrew's church, in Quebec city, of which Rev. A. T. Love is pastor, has just celebrated its ninety-ninth anniversary, and Rev. Mr. Love, who is a son-in-law of Mrs. Coxworthy, Alfred street, and a graduate of Queen's University, at the same time, is celebrating his twenty-fifth anniversary as pastor of St. Andrew's. Rev. Dr. Milligan preached the anniversary sermons, and during the day, an eloquent tribute was paid to the long and successful pastorate of Rev. Mr. Love, and the good work accomplished by the congregation of St. Andrew's.

The history of St. Andrew's church is a unique one. Although the present edifice was only erected in 1819, services date from the time of the taking of Quebec, by Wolfe, in 1759. During the last one hundred years, only four pastors have ministered to the congregation, and of that period, the pastorate of Rev. Mr. Love and that of his predecessor, Rev. Dr. Cook, jointly cover nearly seventy-five years.

A lot of people would be glad to make sacrifices by proxy.

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STROKE OF PARALYSIS.

Stricken As He Smokes—Is Burned to Death.

Media, Pa., Dec. 21.—Thomas Valentine Cooper, a member of the Pennsylvania legislature from Delaware county, and formerly collector of the port of Philadelphia, was burned to death at his home on Sunday.

While smoking a cigar in the sitting room of his home he either fell asleep or suffered a paralytic stroke. His bathrobe became ignited and he was dead before the flames were discovered by members of his family.

The aged legislator was a sufferer from insomnia, and shortly before six o'clock on Sunday morning he entered the room occupied by one of his nephews and got a cigar. Shortly afterwards his daughter-in-law smelled smoke and awakened her husband, T. V. Cooper, jr.

An alarm of fire was turned in but before the firemen arrived Mr. Cooper's body was found lying on a blazing couch in the sitting room. It was badly charred.

As no outcry was heard his family believe he suffered a stroke of paralysis before the cigar fell from his mouth. He was seventy-four years old.

At the Manitoba municipal elections, today, local option by-laws will be submitted in forty-six municipalities, covering a little more than one-third of the area of the province.

A CRUEL JOKER.

Told Michigan Man His Wife Was Dead.

Detroit, Dec. 21.—A heartless practical joker sent a telephone message to Coy Vanderveen, of Grand Rapids, yesterday, telling him that his wife had just died suddenly. Vanderveen dropped his work, and hatless and coatless ran nearly half a mile through the cold to his home, when he found the whole affair to be a hoax. He was seized with a severe congestive chill and now lies in a dying condition. The perpetrator of the "joke" is unknown.

Impure Blood.

Let the blood become impure or impoverished, and the nerves—which draw their nutriment from the blood—are apt to reply with pain. Rheumatism, neuralgia, locomotor ataxia, and other painful affections arise from impure blood. Debility and muscular weakness has the same cause. The certain remedy is Wade's Iron Tonic Pills (Laxative).

They are a great nerve-strengthening and blood-making. In boxes, 25c., at J. B. McLeod's Drug Store, corner King and Brock streets (Wade's old stand), and corner Princess and Montreal streets. Money back if not satisfactory.

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