

The Seasonable Charm For Christmas

Asleep or Awake Jeff Is Up Against It

By "Bud Fisher"

There is something in the very season of the year that gives a charm to the festivity of Christmas. At other times we derive a great portion of our pleasures from the mere beauties of Nature. Our feelings rally forth and dissipate themselves over the sunny landscape and we "live abroad and everywhere." The song of the bird, the murmur of the stream, the breathing fragrance of spring, the soft voluptuousness of summer, the golden pomp of autumn earth with its mantle of refreshing green, and heaven with all its deep, delicious blue and its cloudy magnificence—all fill us with mute but exquisite delight, and we revel in the luxury of mere sensation.

But in the depth of winter, when Nature lies despoiled of her every charm, and wrapped in her shroud of sheeted snow, we turn for our gratifications to moral sources. The desolation and desolation of our landscape, the short, gloomy days and dark some nights, while they circumscribe our wanderings, shut in our feelings also from rambling abroad and make us more keenly disposed for the pleasures of the social circle. Our thoughts are more concentrated; our friendly sympathies more aroused. We feel more sensibly the charm of each other's society, and are brought more closely together by the dependence upon each other for enjoyment. Heart calketh unto heart, and we draw our pleasures from the deep wells of living kindness which lie in the great recesses of our bosoms, and which, when restored to furnish forth the pure element of domestic felicity. —Washington Irving.

Politics At Church Conference

Ottawa Citizen (Conservative). The election as member of the Ontario legislature of Irwin Hilliard, of Morrisburg, to succeed the late Sir James Whitney recalls that at the annual session of the Montreal Methodist conference in June last, previous to the Ontario election, Mr. Hilliard was the chief opponent among the lay delegates of a motion to endorse the abolish-the-bar platform of the liberals under Mr. Rowell. Mr. Hilliard, while representing his church section at the conference, was apparently not unmindful of his duty as a true party man and his election, although with a greatly reduced vote from that accorded Sir James, shows that his services have been duly noted and appreciated. The incident is interesting even at this late date because of the light it sheds upon the attitude of some of our professed churchmen during the contest and of the respective strengths of the appeal of party and the appeal of principle.

Many a girl who aspires to become a missionary doesn't even break into the kindergarten grade by helping her poor old mother launder the dishes.

"Where's Daddy, Mother?" "Kit" writes a gripping war article in the December Canada Monthly, from which the following is taken: Do you know what trenches really are? They look fine in the pictures.

But I have been in Spanish so-called trenches, and they are pits filled with things mentionable and unmentionable. Crude Christmas hospitality! Think now, of our soldier in some bleak camp-tent or other shelter.

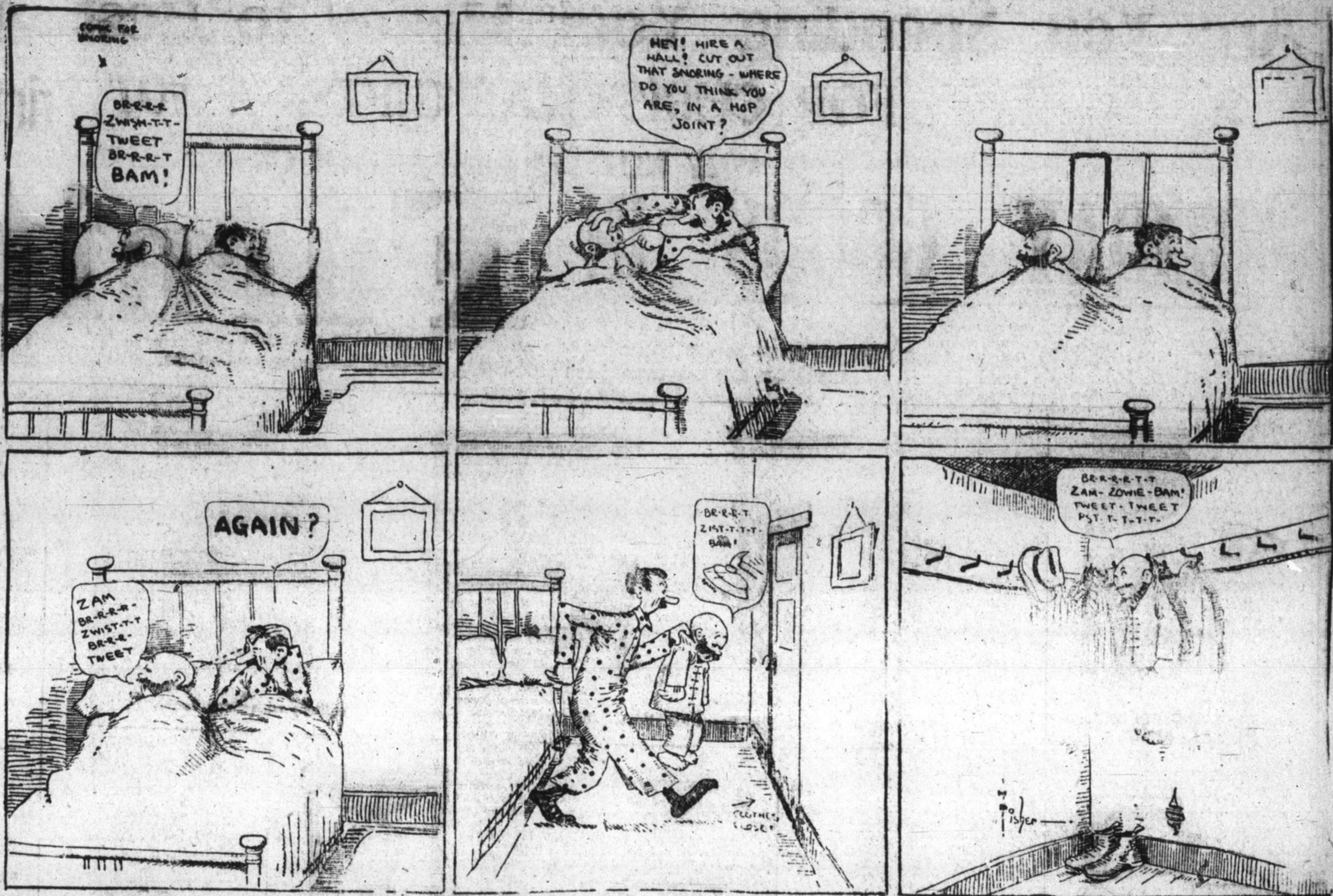
Christmas Night—maybe the stars shinning—maybe the cold drizzle and East wind which racks Britain and Europe generally. The men thinking of the "Missus" and the little children at home and Daddy

not there to help to fill the small stockings. "Seven of 'em I have," said the big British Sergeant; "seven little blighters, an' the Missus, an' 'ere I be in the firn' line Christmas Eve,

and Gawd knows where I'll be tomorrow. The poor little blighters an' the Missus!"

On the harping wings of the angels comes the messages to all the grieving and troubled world—the

message of Peace and Good-will to all men. What a mockery! "Where's Daddy, Mother? I want my Daddy for my Christmas." Daddy is lying dead on Christmas morning—in a far country, little boy.



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