

[WRITTEN FOR THE EXAMINER.]

CHRISTMAS.

By Mrs. A. D. MacLeod.

Oh, Blessed Day! which hailed that night, When out the gates of gold Glad seraphs winged o'er Judah's height, Heaven's message to the earth, And radiant arches of the sky With echoing joy-bells rang, Aglow with halos from on high, Whist angel voices sang.

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George Washington Watts' Christmas.

HAPPINESS, fun and frolic reigned in many hearts and homes in Prince Edward Island forty-five years ago. But there was at least one exception; and the object of this tale is to show how George Washington Watts spent a very miserable Christmas when he expected to spend a happy one.

He lived in Charlottetown with his parents, who kept a general store in a small way, and were in fairly comfortable circumstances. They were respected members of the Bible Christian denomination, then known as Bryanites.

George Washington was an only son; and, of course, was the pet and idol of father and mother. But, like many another in that day and in this, he felt a strong repugnance to steady work. He believed he had a mind above the petty details of a small store.

At length, when he was about eighteen, he professed to be converted at one of the revival meetings held by the Bryanites. Here was an opening for him, he thought. Why could he not become a preacher? It was a much nobler and higher mission to go and tell people what they should do, than it was to stay in a dingy shop measuring molasses and weighing tea. He had an uncle in Halifax, a respected minister of the same denomination, who was consulted. The result was that it was agreed by the family that George Washington should go to Halifax for a year or two, to be under the care and guidance of his uncle. It may be said that, pious as his parents undoubtedly were, they had some misgivings as to the course their son was pursuing.

Before he left, he paid a visit to an aunt who lived about fifteen miles from Charlottetown, in the settlement of S—. Her name was Benton, a widow, who had but one daughter named Annie, then living with her. The deceased Benton was one of the first settlers on the Island; and had, by years of toil, made a considerable clearing, so that, at his death, his wife and daughter were as well off as most of their neighbors. They occasionally had hired help; but the most of their work was done by their kind neighbors. Year after year, the whole neighborhood would gather, and put in her crop or take it out, as the case might be. The young men, in particular, were always willing to give the widow Benton a help. The censorious would hint that much of the proffered assistance was owing more to the beauty of Annie than from motives of charity. Whether this was the case or not, it is a fact that Annie Benton was beautiful, as well as a good sensible girl, and a favorite with all.

When our hero saw her, (for the first time in some years) he began to think that after all there were some things in this world worth living for. Among these thoughts were some regrets that he had so hastily decided to devote his own life to the regeneration of a wicked world; but it was too soon for him to begin to retrace the steps he had taken. It had been arranged that he should go to Halifax—and go he must.

It may be asked: What were Annie's feelings towards her cousin? It may be confessed that she looked upon him with a great deal of indifference. It is true, she liked him well enough, as a cousin and a friend, but she did not like his town ways and his exalted notions about himself. She did not like him as she did Norman Ross, a neighbor's son, a great strapping fellow, clad in the roughest homespun of the day, and with hands as hard as horn.

As it would make this story too long to give further details of the lives of the persons who figure in it, the reader must, in imagination, allow two years to pass, while George Washington Watts is in Halifax.

A few days before Christmas, 1840, he arrived home, and a fine looking man he was. Dressed in the height of fashion, perhaps too much for a minister, he was an object of envy to the young bucks of Charlottetown. He resolved to spend his Christmas with his Aunt Benton and her daughter. Accordingly he started off the evening before Christmas with

some country people who lived near the settlement of S—. Almost as soon as he left the city his troubles began. The people with whom he travelled insisted on calling at every wayside inn, and at that time there was a public house in every few miles. The consequence was that it was midnight before he got to within two miles of his destination, after which he had to walk the remaining distance in a blinding snowstorm. On arriving at the house he found the family had retired for the night and the house was cold. However they made him supper, and as he was really tired out, he shortly afterwards went to his room, and soon fell asleep.

But before Mrs. Benton and her daughter sought repose again, a rap was heard at the door; and, it being opened, a young man stepped into the room without invitation. He said he had lost his way in the storm, and requested a bed for the night. He was a singularly good-looking young man, but somewhat fantastically clad.

The widow and her daughter were desirous of affording him shelter, they really did not know what to do with him. There were only two bedrooms in the house, one of which was occupied by themselves, the other by their relative. Finally they decided to let him sleep with George Washington. He seemed grateful for their kindness, and went to bed without apparently disturbing the sleeper. The mother and daughter then retired and were soon fast asleep.

They were somewhat later than usual in rising the next morning, owing to the disturbed rest of the night. The morning meal was soon ready, however, and then they waited for their guests to appear. After some time Mrs. Benton went to their door and rapped. She was answered by her nephew, who said he had been awake some time but he could not find his clothes, and he supposed they had taken them to dry before the fire.

Entering the room, the widow saw the explanation of the whole business. The stranger of the night before was gone; so also was George Washington's apparel, his own being left in their place. Here was a dilemma! Watts abhorred, with unutterable loathing, the look of the other's clothing; but what could be done? His aunt had not a vestige of the late lamented Benton's clothing left. Indeed there was nothing in the house at all suitable for wearing by a young man of twenty.

Arraying himself in the despised clothing, he appeared at the breakfast table; but Annie's fits of uncontrollable laughter sent him back again with everything but blessings in his mouth. In fact, the adjectives he made use of in his language caused his relatives to entertain serious doubts as to his fitness for the ministry.

What made matters worse, was that George Washington had arranged to preach his first sermon at a small meeting house about two miles distant; and to go in this ridiculous costume was not to be thought of for a moment.

Many of my readers will be anxious to know who was the stranger that got our hero into such trouble. Well, he was no other than Jack Collins, a character well known by many of the citizens of Charlottetown now living. This man was subject to occasional fits of insanity, and it was well known that when seized by one of these fits he invariably went to the country to play his pranks. Although he was never known to commit an act of actual violence, he was a terror to old and young in the settlements near Charlottetown.

Whether it was by accident or by design Jack Collins went to the widow Benton's that night, it is almost certain that he did not bring about the events of the following day by mere chance. If his was madness, there was method in it. He went to the little Meeting House, where our hero was to have preached his first sermon, fully half an hour late. Without a word of explanation Collins mounted the pulpit and preached a sermon—perhaps the most ridiculous man ever listened unto. It was simply an harangue of incoherent and blasphemous profanity. All the same, a good many of his hearers remarked to one another on the way home that he was one of the best preachers they had ever heard.

In the meantime George Washington Watts was cooped up in his aunt's house, and fuming like a caged lion over his ridiculous position. Time and again he donned the clothes left him by Collins, only to become utterly disgusted with his appearance and divest himself of the loathed habiliments, retiring once more to bed. At intervals he would give expression to his pent-up feelings in a manner wholly unsuited to his calling. His aunt was horrified at his conduct, and, at times, had doubts of his sanity. But the climax was yet to come!

It appears that Collins had been, for some days previously, carrying on his mad pranks in an adjacent settlement and had around the entire neighborhood. A legal document for his arrest as a dangerous character, was given by a magistrate; and two constables, backed by a number of the settlers, were sent to search for him.

This expedition, for such it may be called, was headed by Sylvan Dorion, a hulk Frenchman, who had been a constable for many years. Collins was soon traced as far as the Widow Benton's. Entering the house the officers found our hero dressed in the unmistakable clothing of Collins. He was pounced upon at once by half a dozen strong men; and among them was Norman Ross,

who appeared to be particularly anxious that the prisoner should not escape. No one would listen to Watts' explanation of how he came to be found in a madman's clothes. The Frenchman would say: "You better go an' tole dem story on the marine"; or remark ironically: "Prap you was not ride on my uncle Lazor's cow. Praps you was not trow me cousin Peter sheep on his well. Mebbe you was not put some straw in me grandfadder Lemang's chimney. Spose you was not at me broder Joe, and shove hees calf trough hees window. Praps you was not swore some at the Pries."

All the unfortunate Watts could say was of no avail. He was in the hands of men who had seen the lunatic wearing the identical clothing now worn by our hero himself. It must also be confessed that the two men were not unlike in age and appearance. George Washington Watts was therefore securely bound and put upon a wood sleigh, and carried to Charlottetown, where he was lodged in the common jail, in which he remained the whole of the night of Christmas, A. D. 1840. The next day he was released; but the young men of Charlottetown, his friends and acquaintances, instead of sympathizing with him, only laughed at him. Shortly afterwards, he left the Island and went to the United States, where, it is believed he is still living.

Annie Benton and Norman Ross were married before the next Christmas day came round with its mirth and frolic for childhood and deeper feeling of contentment and good will to men on the part of their elder brethren in life. Annie is now an old woman; but she still laughs herself and makes other laugh also in telling how her cousin, George Washington Watts spent his Christmas with her forty-five years ago.

The Christmas Services at St. Peter's Church are as usual. Choral Evensong at 8 p. m. on Christmas Eve—Procession and Carols Celebration of Holy Eucharist at 11.45 on Christmas Eve. Celebration at 8 a. m. on Christmas Day. Matins (plain) at 10.30. Choral celebration at 11 a. m. on Christmas Day. Evensong (plain) at 7 p. m. as usual. On St. Stephen's Day, celebration 7.15 a. m. Matins at 9 a. m. Evensong, 5 p. m. On Sunday, St. John Evangelist day, services as usual: 1st. Celebration, 8 a. m., (plain); 2nd, Choral, at 11 a. m.

REMEMBER that our Perfumes are the finest. It will pay you to patronize Reddin's Drug store to-night. THERE is no place in America you see a finer range of Neck Wear than at D. A. Bruce's. dec24 A HAPPY CHRISTMAS is guaranteed to every one who buys Christmas Presents at Watson's.

REMOVAL.

MACMILLAN'S COAL OFFICE has been removed to foot of PRINCE STREET. A Large Assortment of HARD AND SOFT COAL Kept Constantly on Hand. R. McMILLAN. Dec. 24—3m eod & wky

XMAS AND NEW YEAR



Just View the Display AT THE DIAMOND BOOKSTORE.

THEO. L. CHAPPELLE. Ch'town, Dec. 5, '85—eod

HORACE HASZARD

offers at Lowest Wholesale Prices: 200 half-chests Tea, of superior quality. 100 brls. Sugar, assorted grades. 50 puns. choice retailing Molasses. 300 brls. Flour, patents and superiors. 100 bags Wheat Bran. 50 do do Shorts. 100 boxes Assorted Biscuits. 100 do do Confectionery. 25 choice Canadian Cheeses. 10 rolls No. 1 Sole Leather. 100 boxes Laundry Soaps. 10 do London Soap Powder. 1000 reams Wrapping Paper. 50 dozen do Twine. 100 dozen Broons. 50 casks Amer. Kerosene Oil. Price List mailed upon application to HORACE HASZARD, South Side Queen Square, Ch'town, Dec. 10, 1885—1 mo eod

JEWELRY, & HEADQUARTERS

G. H. TAYLOR is now showing a good stock of the above, suitable for the season's Gold, Fancy and Engraved Rings, etc. SILVER-PLATED WARE (fresh stock and selling low.) Having just returned from England, where he has purchased a nice assortment of English Jewelry, G. H. T. is now able to give his business full attention, and all Orders will be Promptly Executed.

North Side Market Square. Dec. 15—6i 2th's wk tu fri, 4 next

Facts Facts

PERKINS & STERNS'

WELL-KNOWN LOW PRICES ARE BEING FURTHER REDUCED TO CLEAR BALANCE OF THIS SEASON'S STOCK.

Immense Discounts to clear balance of Fur-lined Cloaks.

Immense Discounts to clear balance of Winter Jackets.

Immense Discounts to clear balance of Millinery.

Dress Goods, Shawls and Hosiery Cut Away Down Very Low.

Just See the Prices we are Selling Blankets at.

HOLIDAY GOODS.

The Largest Stock, Newest Goods to be found—Useful and Ornamental. Prices to Please Everyone.

Our NEW, LARGE AND WELL-ASSORTED STOCK is now offered to the public at LOWEST POSSIBLE PRICES.

Let All Remember that we will not be Undersold by any House in the Trade.

SEE OUR PRICES BEFORE BUYING ELSEWHERE

PERKINS & STERNS.

Ch'town, Dec. 11, '85.

GREAT DISCOUNT SALE

A CHANGE AND A CHANGE.

Extraordinary Inducements to Purchasers of Dry Goods.

IT is our intention to make a change in our business early in the New Year, and we shall for a time offer our whole stock of STAPLE AND FANCY DRY GOODS AND MILLINERY at immense reductions in price, commencing MONDAY, the 14th inst.

Our stock of Goods is so large it is impossible for us to enumerate it, but in every department our prices will be

REDUCED 20 to 30 PER CENT

and a lot of Odds and Remnants will be closed out at HALF PRICE.

Our Goods are always marked in plain figures and customers will see that the discounts are made bona fide.

Orders by letter will receive careful and prompt attention.

We will also prepay freight to the country on all purchases exceeding ten dollars.

The above discounts are for Cash only, but for purchases exceeding fifty dollars we will allow three months' credit.

This is our first Big Discount Sale, and we intend to fulfil all the promises of our advertisement.

W. W. BEER.

Ch'town, Dec. 10, '85—dy wy 2mos

ROYAL CANADIAN INSURANCE CO.

FIRE.

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Head Office—MONTREAL. Halifax Branch—J. SCOTT MITCHELL, Agent.

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F. H. ARNAUD, MERCHANTS BANK OF HALIFAX. Ch'town, Jan. 1885.

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WE are daily manufacturing Candies and Cake of the choicest kinds, from the common Molasses to the finest French Creams; Fruit and Plain Cake, Pies, Tarts, Scotch Cake and a large variety of Small Cakes.

N. B.—Cakes iced to order at

W. F. CARTER'S.

Dec. 23—2i wed thur

CITIZENS'

SKATING RINK.

SEASON 1885-6.

THE Directors have much pleasure in announcing

The Opening of the Rink,

ICE PERMITTING, ON

CHRISTMAS NIGHT, DEC. 25

The City Cornet Band, under the leadership of Mr. John Work will be in attendance during the season.

Intending Ticket Holders will please buy their Tickets beforehand at the Apothecaries' Hall.

SEASON TICKETS:—

Ladies ..... \$3 50

Gentlemen ..... 5 00

AFTERNOON TICKETS:—

Miss ..... \$2 00

Boys ..... 2 50

Promenade ..... 1 00

W. W. STANLEY, Secretary.

Ch'town, Dec. 22, 1885—pat 3i

Y. M. C. A.

THE Annual General Meeting of the Charlottetown Young Men's Christian Association will be held in the Parlor of the Y. M. C. A. Building, Charlottetown, on the evening of MONDAY, the 28th day of DECEMBER, instant, at 8 o'clock, p. m., for the purpose of electing a Committee and officers, and the transaction of other necessary business.

JOSEPH HENSLEY, President.

Ch'town, Dec. 19, '85—4i mtug

Executors' Notice.

THE Undersigned Executors of the last will and testament of the late Lewis John Westaway, of Georgetown, merchant, deceased, hereby notify all persons indebted to his estate, to make immediate payment to Malcolm McDonald, at his office, Water Street, Georgetown, and all persons having claims or demands against the said estate, are hereby required to furnish the same, duly attested, within twelve months from this date.

JOSEPH FAIRCHILD, G. ALBERT AITKEN, JOHN T. POOL, Executors.

Dated at Georgetown, the 17th day of December, 1885.—dec18 lmo

YOU CAN NOT

MAKE a Mistake in getting your

Christmas Presents

—AND—

CHRISTMAS CARDS.

Presents for Ladies,

Presents for Gentlemen,

Presents for Children,

Selling Cheaper than Ever.

Do not fail to see for yourself.

G. H. HASZARD,

QUEEN SQUARE.

Dec. 12, 1885.

WANTS, LOST, FOUND, &c.

UNION MUTUAL LIFE INSURANCE CO., of Maine; established, 1848; old, strong, safe and popular; Rates moderate; dividends large; death and endowment claims promptly paid. Manager for P. E. Island, J. T. Mellish, Charlottetown. dec24 2aw wky

FEMALE SERVANT WANTED.—Inquire of Mrs. Benjamin Bremner, Fitzroy Street. dec28 tf

BOX Jaunting Sleigh for Sale. Apply to Geo. Bremner. dec29 3i

SECOND-CLASS TEACHER WANTED.—Royalty East School vacant; male teacher; only 2nd class need apply.—John Frowse, Trustee. dec29—wky 2i p1

FOR SALE—A balance of 16 barrels of cement, to clear, at \$8.25; general price \$4. Apply at this office. oct19 tf

BOARDERS—Two or three gentlemen or lady Boarders who find comfortable accommodation by applying to Mrs. William Kennedy, Brick Horse, Hillsborough Park. sept 14