THE FOOL'S SEARCH

EPISODE IN JOSTLING THRONG OF CHRISTMAS SHOPPERS.

Under for Purchase of a Fool's Candle—Strange Experiences—Men, Women and Children All Are Mad.

THEY are all mad: men, women, children, spinsters and bachelors, floorwalkers and clerks, drivers and delivery boys. It would seem there could be no madder, merrier time.

The fashion change happens, but one only had time to dwell on them and laugh over them, but each enjoyment is denied in these days of strife and struggle.

In a moment of thoughtless good nature we promised to do the family shopping. Among the thousand and one commitments handed over in immediate response in the thoughtless moment was the order for a purchase of "The Fool's Calendar." We set forth, a lone three-times-forty hour in one good, big, much-abused hand-bag, and entered the first shop come upon, in our sub-conscious feeling that we, like the rest of the jostlers, fitted in pretty well with the tide of that calendar. Down the aisle came a rattled-looking, hair-disturbed, generally disturbed gentleman whose governess assumed the direction of affairs in the respective departments of their fancy, but the Christmas spirit so possessed him he was not quite himself, not able to place his "Madames" and "Mrs." at short-sighted, rose-weathed hatted, so disarmed his way, he passed with wrinkled brow and questioning worry on what might be the commodity "Do you sell calendars here?" We asked in best of manner, to which he replied glibly, "Yes, Sir," and never knew he was not using the usual form of address to a woman. He led us then with rapid step to the calendar square, where pressed out and opened door, roof and pillars of calendars. It would seem every time—chronicler for every taste. And then feeling very like a fool ourselves, we asked in a low voice, "Have you "The Fool's Calendar?" "No," says he, with a gleam of keen intellect lights his eye, "We have Saints and Sinners."

We wanted to shriek with laughter we forgot all the worry and nervousness enough or time—enough—I paid for all the crowding and mobbing and back-aches and heartaches of the day.

Funny enough was the woman encountered in mid-afternoon entering the much-advertised, much-crowded book-room of a department store in haste to get at the forty-eight counters and thirty-sixers; she was high and breed and muscular, an Amazon that need not have put on extra effort to make her way—but in spirit of Christmas—the modern—was strong upon her—and so we passed her on the way out into blessed out-of-doors, even in our hurry we could not but notice her wild look, her panting breath, her elbows out on defensive and offensive the moment she also marched on, unswervingly, unrelenting, fully his equal—we thought the heresis books.

Overheard at the book counter "Don't you think a nice little book like this is a good present to give?" "A little book? What is the matter?" "Why I don't know, but it's a nice little book to clean white kidding, I believe I'll get a dozen. A dozen, please, and see that they're all fresh."

The calendar square again. Women mostly struggling, another Amazon this one brow-beating a pale-faced girl afflicted with a cold and, wearing a too-much Christmas air "Can't you get me envelopes to put those calendars in?"—dimensions of calendars 18 by 24 inches—"It's so hard when you get home to hunt around and mend things. I wouldn't have bought the calendars if I hadn't thought would pack 'em. Say, take that new one out of that nice box, hang it up and give me the box. Not either, that. What's the difl, they'll never know." And the pale-faced clerk bends to the Amazon's will.

A large, canny, prosperous gentleman at a candy store, carefully selecting and considering different lots of twenty worth of Kindergarten mixed.

Brave, foolish, big-hearted shop girls make spending their money all and drawing on the future, to make a Christmas for others at home.

We do a generous deed, one that calls for large sacrifice. We have gone down town all saddled, all bridled, for the day's work, three neat long pencils neatly sharpened to long points, when we become one of a mob assailing the enclosure where blank books, tissue-paper, holly-stickers and all that are confirmed from the greedy hands of thousands who have put their share for the urgent necessity of doing up gifts with approved ornamentation. The clerks, pale-faced and pinched looking; one, so we and pallid has momentarily lost her reason because of the loss of her pencil. A line of people wait with feverish impatience, scowls deepen, muttered growls are heard, the one pallid girl grows more pallid and gripped looking. With mighty effort of the will, we take note of the disappearance of neat, long-pointed pencils; the pale face glows, the mutters of the crowd lessens, we feel ourselves both yet vain and public benefactor.

Another pale-faced, gripped looking clerk, this one standing looking wistfully at cases where bright silver gleams through the glass. "Give me a room for a child, something cheap." And she herself needs a pair of shoes.

Husband and wife shopping in an wonted personal partnership, always the talk of what "it" will like. The Child. And the sight of the deeply interested faces of the many husband and-wife groups, sets us to believe after all There is hope in the general madness, for who would not be a fool for The Child.

KATHERINE POPE.

The wise man hope to express much more than proverbial wishes that his entire clientele may enjoy the sentiment of merry Christmas.

THE PRINCE OF PEACE

By JAMES RUSSELL LOWELL

"What means this glory round our feet,"
The Magi mused, "more brightly than noon?"
And voices chanted clear and sweet,
"Today the Prince of Peace is born."

"What means that star, the shepherds said,
That brightens through the rocky glen?"
And angels, answering overhead,
Sang, "Peace on earth, good-will to men."

And they who do their souls no wrong,
But keep at eve the faith of morn,
Shall daily hear the angel's song,
"Today the Prince of Peace is born!"

For Your Christmas Dinner

WE have a large stock of Turkeys, Ducks, Geese and Chickens—poultry of the finest quality—which will be sold at prices which you cannot better at any other market. Call us up—phone No. 491—and let us reserve a turkey or other fowl for you. Don't be afraid to use the telephone or send the children when buying here. We serve you the same as when you come in person. We want to call your attention to our home-cured Bacon and Hams. They are especially fine. Try them.

CAN YOU BEAT THESE PRICES?

Sirloin Steak	17c	Pork Chops	15c
Porthouse Steak	17c	Pork Roast	12½c
Round Steak	14c	Side Pork	15c
Shoulder	10c up	Leaf Lard, loose	13c
Plate Beef	9c	Fresh Liver Sausage and Rinderwurst	10c
Corn Beef	8c to 12c	Veal and Lamb at lowest prices	
Hamburger	10c	Beef and Pork sold in Halves and Quarters at lowest prices	
Pork Sausage	1 Loose 10c 1 Links 12c	Oysters, quart	35c

ALL KINDS OF FISH EVERY FRIDAY

Fruits and Vegetables of All Kinds

APPLES BY THE BARREL, BUSHEL AND PECK.

Irish Potatoes, peck	20c
Apples, peck	40c up
Apples, barrel	$4.50 up
Cranberries, quart	10c

GEORGE J. WENNINGER

The Real Culprit

☆ ☆ ☆

A mistletoe berry
Did caught in her hair!
She wasn't to blame,
She had not put it there,
That mistletoe berry
A-lit in her hair.

Lips red as a cherry,
It hardly was fair,—
Yet she wasn't to blame,
For it is clear that the same
Was the fault of the berry
That caught in her hair.

THE CALL OF CHRISTMAS

Inspiration of Time Should Bring Us Deeper Sense of Personal Responsibility.

It is Christmas time and at this moment the call is to lift up our hearts and welcome the Light of the World; to rise for a while in the glory of that light; not, indeed, forgetting the lesson we have learned and, never those great servants of his who taught us to know and love and work and have passed away, but in thank fulness and adoration seeking to learn more and more how we would be best us serve him. The inspiration of this blessed time should bring us a deeper sense of personal responsibility, and of our state to our neighbor in regard to questions touching the general welfare and humanity. A deeper faith that faith by which mountains can be removed—add a truer love, a devotion that can lean upon the shadow of the cross. If permission may but be granted us to share in bearing a part of that burden.

The advent of Christ makes us debtors to God and man. It is therefore fair for us to question whether others are kind to us, as whether there is love, gentleness, meekness, sympathy and helpfulness in our own lives, for not. With this spirit of the season reflected and perpetuated in the life Christmas giving will resolve itself into the sacrifice spoken of by Christ—Christmastide to Christmastide of every year of our lives. Christ came not to be ministered unto, but to minister to suffer, and to die for others, even his enemies. Blessed are the dead who die in aim of getting and gaining solely for self, the grateful heart will say "What can I give to my Redeemer who gave himself for me and what can I do for others, for his sake, and his gospel?" That is the embracing action of the Christ spirit, and exalts him who said "And I, if I be lifted up, will draw all men unto me."

Our early days will soon, indeed, come back, yet is Christmas an Indian summer evening to the venerable—a revivifying reminiscence of youth.

Crown the Christ Child King

At Christmas time we celebrate the birthday of our King. The wise men came from the far east, attracted by the light of the star, to find and worship the King. This blessed day is lighted by a star that ought to attract our attention and lead us in the same direction and to the same end. This time of month and gold explosives should be especial emphasis on the kinship of Jesus of Nazareth. In our privilege to see in the Babe of Bethlehem, the King of Kings and Lord of lords. That Babe should be more dear to us than to the wise men of old. They had none of the helps that spoken our's—we'll remember the life he lived, the work he did, the sacrifice he made, the influence he has exerted and is exerting to this very hour.

Never was a spoke like this man concerning God, man, sin, life, death, truth, immortality, the future for ever. He has drawn the intellect of the world to himself.

His ideals have captured civilizations and turned the currents of history into new channels. He has compelled the world to accept his ideas of greatness and the value of human life. He has drawn the art of the world to himself for the greatest paintings of the ages reflect his ideal. He has drawn the music of the world to himself for the mighty masterpiece of his life tell the story of his work and influence. He has drawn the thought of the world to himself, for there never was one about whom so many books have been written. His life and words have been the inspiration of the modern art and music, and pulse much to lift humanity to higher and better levels. He is rapidly drawing the heart of the world to himself as he draws the lives of men to himself.

He shall reign, King of kings and Lord of lords. Because he humbled himself and made himself of no reputation, taking on the form of a servant, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross, therefore God hath highly exalted him and given him a name that is above every name. If we will not crown him Lord of all in our hearts, here we are called upon to crown him King of eternity. Let us crown the Christ Child King in the here and now.

Saving the Value of Manure.

Hauling manure directly to the field as soon as made and spreading it is the safest method of handling it. By this method nothing is lost by fermentation and very little by bleaching. When the manure is plowed on the fermentation takes place slowly, and no nitrogen is lost. The carbon dioxide and acids produced combine with the other elements in the soil and result in more plant food being made available. All the organic matter is saved for humus in the soil.

The Syrian New Year

ALL the Christians of New York do not observe Christmas as a time for gifts. Many of the Syrians, for instance, who live in the lower end of Manhattan island, in Washington street, from the battery up to Albany street, have an old custom of giving their presents on New Year's day. Then there also is a difference in the manner of giving. The Syrian child does not hang up her stocking. Neither do the parents disguise themselves as Santa Claus on the occasion. The Syrian child invariably gives the gifts to her parents. The basis of class and consequents is treated to an extraordinary surprise. There is one thing however of which he remains in ignorance and that is the nature of the gifts he will receive.

The child picks out whomever he pleases to be her patron, lord in case he succeeds in meeting and greeting him at the proper time on New Year's day. Sometimes a long night vigil extends as the custom so prescribes it that the one who offers the first greeting at the beginning of the new year shall consider a fitting reward from the one greeted. A good wife for success and prosperity is the boon that New Year's day is held by the Syrians to augur well for the following twelve months. The wife is the thing which good prospects is entitled to a reward.

Custom prescribes that at the time of this New Year's greeting whatever the one greeted happens to hold in his possession becomes the property of the girl. The one who receives the great greeting is supposed to be so pleased with it that acting upon the happy impulse of the moment, he hesitates not to require his greater with whatever he happens to be in hand. This custom was originated in feudal times when the Emir was supposed to be the father and the followers dependent for their sustenance upon his gifts and that he allowed them the spoils of war.

Of course you can't nowadays our prize any Syrian early New Year's day feeling with a crowd of artists. He has depended on as knowing her or for either he would have to make a gift of it to the one the first greeted him or else be branded as a miser. Wise Syrians carry ready to hand to the children who greet them.

Christmas Giving

There are a great many people in the world whom we know more or less but to whom for various reasons we cannot very well send a Christmas gift. But there is hardly one, in all the circles of our acquaintance, with whom we may not exchange the touch of a Christmas gift.

In the outer circles, cheerful greetings, courtesy consideration in the inner circles, sympathetic interest, hearty congratulations, honest encouragement, in the inmost circles, comradeship, helpfulness, tenderness.

After all, Christmas-living is the best kind of Christmas giving.—Henry Van Dyke.

A Useful Christmas Gift

A Christmas present, to be most highly appreciated, must be something that is not only pretty, but useful. A Furnishing Store will be found many such articles. Every man needs Neckties, Collars, Ties, Gloves, Socks, Hats, Caps, etc., and will receive such gifts very thankfully. Our's is a new store, hence our stock is new and up-to-date, which is an important factor, especially in choosing gifts. Fashionable articles and ones that are reliable will not fail to please. Come in and see what we have, then you will buy.

Men's and Boys' Shirts

All put up in neatly decorated holiday boxes.
Silver Brand Shirts for men, white and figured, plaited and negligee all sizes. Acknowledged the best by all. Price $1.00
Joseph Pels Co's double plaited figured shirts $1.00
Boys' white plaited shirts, good value 50c
Boys' negligee shirts, specially priced at 35c
Boys' blouses, all colors and sizes ..... 25 and 50c
Men's and boys' soft shirts, collar attached ..... 50c and $1.00
Men's flannel shirts $1.00

Hats and Caps

Hats and Caps make gifts that are useful and will be appreciated. We have all styles and sizes of Derby hats at ..... $1.50 to $2.50
Our special is the Elk brand. Regular $3.00 Derby Hats at $2.25

Gloves and Mittens

Kid gloves, with or without lining, put in attractive holiday boxes ..... 50c to $1.50
Work gloves and mittens in leather, canvass and wool.

Neckwear

Four-in-hand, bows and ready ties in all qualities and colors. Put up in ornamental boxes; they make an excellent gift for any man or boy. Prices 25c to $1.00
Silk reefer muffers, exceedingly attractive. A special holiday value ..... 50c and $1.00

Collars

Silver brand collars with easy-to-button Linocord button holes—they don't tear out. The satisfaction a man gets from our Silver brand collars is so complete that it always brings back for more; each 15c, two collars 25c
Lilholin, regular 25c water proof collars ; you can't tell them from linen 20c

Cuff Buttons and Scarf Pins ..... 25 and 50c

Hosiery

We have some special holiday values in men's socks, tissue silk; 4 pair put up in attractively decorated boxes, making a handsome Christmas present; special price 95c
Men's dareless socks, extra good value at 25c
Heavy ribbed stockings for boys—they wear like iron. Buy them for your boys and they won't keep you starting. Price and value right, all sizes 15 and 20c
Infants' stockings, black and prettily colored. Per pair 25c

Sweater Coats

Some extra good men's, boys' and infants' garments at prices ranging from ..... 88c to $3.00

Handkerchiefs

Put up in special holiday boxes.
All silk handkerchiefs, cream center, with colored borders, each 50c
Excellent silk handkerchiefs, assorted popular colors, each 25c
Linen handkerchiefs 5, 10, 25c

Suspenders

President holiday suspenders, attractively put up, making an excellent gift 50c

Underwear

Men's superior finish normal wool sanitary underwear. An extra special at, per suit $2.00
Men's extra heavy fleeced lined underwear, suit $1.00
Boys' heavy fleeced lined underwear, suit 50c
Men's union suits, wool, fine ribbed, regular $3 values, per suit $1.00
Boys' silver fleeced union suits ..... 40 to 75c
Flannel night shirts at ..... 50c and $1.00

Ear Muffs 25c

Herbert B. Banks & Company