MY CHRISTMAS REVENCE.

AY CHRISTMAS REVENCE. From the Aldino for December. I do not think there is any need of my explaining how it happened, that I, who when born had expectations of quite a fair fortune, should have found myself, when womanhood came, obliged to earn my daily bread. But so it was; and in one of the large sewing-mactine empor-iums (no matter which one) of a leading American city, I held a position as a feacher for several years. My duies were very monotonons, but Yused to extract a considerable amount of inferest and amusement, while engag-cd in giving instruction, from learning the histories—and they were varied—of my scholars. If the proverbial cup of t-a unlocks the female tongue, I found that a lesson on the machine, and initia-tion inte the mysteries of setting a needle, winding a bobbin and regulating a tenison, were even more conducive to

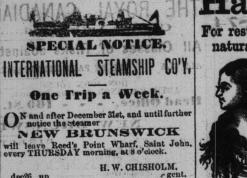
a tenison, were even more con

a tenison, were even more conducive to communication. I do not wish the appear egotistical; but I must confess to quite a power which I seemed to possess of gaining the confidence of my pupils, through my habit of taking an interest in them; also that I was very fond of an "ower true tale;" perhaps some malicious critic would call my propensity by no higher name than female curiosity. Even now, though time has brought its changes to me, and I no longer haunt the old familiar places, I often find myself recalling one and another among the miny romances and stories in which I igured as an interested and sympathetic

igured as an interested and sympathe istener, and occasionally an unsuspect

actor. The present recollection always comes back to me at the Christmas time; and therefore when the season rolls round again, with its merriment and cheer, its mistletoe and holly, its written and an-written tragedies and comedies of life, I teel like reconnting it to others. The position of instructress brought own set. Sometimes I had a male pupil-one of a mildly mechanical turn, who would wish to become familiar with the machine, so as to be able to assist some wife or sister; but the instruction-room, wife or sister; but the instruction-room, as a rule, was usually quite free from fre-quent visits of the sterner sex.

quent visits of the sterner sex. During the fall of a special year I be-came conscious, however, that a certain Mr. Harry Lee, a gentleman whom I knew to be an intimate acquaintance of one of one of my employers, and whose face was quite well known to all in the estab-lishment, began to occasionally drop into my department and look on during in-struction hours. He wis very pleasant and gentlemanly in his manners, an: gave as an excuse for the interest he took, that he was a born Yankee and therefore very fond of inventions. Although there were other teachers, I discovered that he Hugered most fre-CALIFORNIA. VICTORIA, UTOPIA. BOLIVIA,..... ELYSIA,



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