

such a way as to render it unsafe to all out. The policeman suggested that Mother get out of the cab and another one, as the block was really very bad, and traffic was generally at a standstill all around.

"But—I can't get out," he protested. "There is not room on the ground for me to place my foot and don't see what I can do."

And the policeman, who, of course, saw nothing of our affairs, said: "Step across into the hansom near you, ma'am. Its wheels are safe, and I'm thinking the line will be moving north first."

Poor Mother flushed cruelly and did not a word, but just sat there looking with pleading eyes at Father. At Father didn't move and neither did she speak, so I took the situation in my two small hands and said: "Father, won't you help Mother in our cab?"

Then the big policeman stared at his face grew red, but the next minute he turned away whistling "New York Town." I know the reason because the pretty actress who has an apartment across from ours in Central Park West plays it quite often on her piano.

Directly I spoke to Father, he was attentive and polite. He stood up and held out his hand to Mother, and carefully helped her across into the hansom. I believe Mother would never have come only she knew that great many persons had heard me and were watching us, and so she smiled gracefully, as Mother always does.

When she was in our cab and sitting down with me squeezed in between Father and herself, she raised her eyes and said quietly: "Thank you, Will."

A moment later the line started moving northward, and our hansom went with the others, Father and I sitting side by side. It seemed so good just to think of it, though I knew it all came of an accident alone, that I could have about with joy in the most unalloyable manner. But Mother says I must always remember that I am a gentleman, even if I am only six going on seven, so you see it would never in the world have done for me to have pointed in the street.

After we had gone two blocks again, Father spoke—very quietly and with pressed lips.

"I'll speak to the man and tell him to stop at the next corner. Then I'll get out, and you and Billie can have the cab to yourselves."

"There is no need for you to get out, Will," Mother told him quickly, "I am the intruder. Have him please, and I will find another hansom."

"I wouldn't have you do that for the world," he returned. "I shall leave at the next corner; that is all."

Mother put out her hand and laid it lightly on Father's arm.

"Will," she cried, "please don't make me feel worse than I already do. I am forced in your cab, by accident, it is true, but nevertheless, I did sit you to help me enter it. But this is because—people were watching—and I thought—it best. Now that you are out of the tangle, I must thank you and ask you to set me down—please! Else I shall never forgive you."

"You have already promised that," said Father, with a queer strange arch.

And they continued to talk, and the hansom continued on its way, and nobody but myself noticed that we had well up-town and were within two blocks of the apartment building in Central Park West, where Mother did live.

So, quite unobserved, I spoke up to the cabby, and said: "The Strathmore, and quickly, please!"

We turned down a cross street into other, and before one could say Jack Robinson, we had stopped at the door of the Strathmore.

"Oh!" cried Mother.

"What is this?" frowned Father. But he leaped out on the snow-covered pavement and gave Mother's hand. A moment later we all hurried up the steps and—stopped in the cobby!

"Thank you," said Mother. "You are very kind."

Father laughed. "Oh, not at all," he said. "This is not a case of being kind—exactly."

Mother stroked the fur of her pretty little muff, but Father showed no inclination to go. People whom we saw came down in the elevator and added to Mother and me as they went out, and Mother moved uncomfortably, but still Father stayed.

Then "Won't you come in—for a little—a cup of tea, perhaps?" asked Mother slowly.

I don't know what Father would have answered, so I took no chances, threw my arms around his neck and whispered that he must—I wanted to know him where the Majolica jars are to go.

"Do come!" I cried, and looked at Mother to further second my invitation.

"Yes, do," she said, without raising her eyes.

"Thanks, I will!" cried Father, and he all went up in the elevator together.

When we were safely in Mother's pretty sitting room, and I had securely locked the door, I slipped away and left them together. Somehow it seems as if they would get along better without me just then, and, besides, I think I had helped a lot as it was for mere little girl, don't you?

An hour later—it seemed hours and ours later, although it really wasn't, of course—I went back and found Mother in Father's arms. "Never again," I heard her say, and right away I knew what that meant.

"Oh, won't we have a bully Christmas?" I cried joyfully. "Father and Mother and I—what a lovely, lovely one we'll have together!"

"You can wager anything you own at we will," laughed Father. "Why, will be a regular Christmas a la mode, eh, Nell?"

And then he kissed Mother, and she hid her happy face on his broad shoulder, and I was oh, so happy!

Merry Christmas, indeed!



"THE SEASON'S BEST"

HAMPERS, containing delightful selections of choice Champagnes, Liquors and Wines, tastefully arranged in strong handsome boxes, at prices that fairly speak for themselves. This is your OPPORTUNITY to purchase your Xmas beverages, and to make some of your friends an appreciative gift, at comparatively low prices. Below are itemised sections describing our SPECIAL XMAS HAMPERS.

Hamper No. 1

- 1 Bottle of Fernandez White Cap Port . . . \$.75
- 1 " " Fernandez White Cap Sherry75
- 1 " " Bobbie Burns Scotch 1.25
- 1 " " Canadian Rye 1.00
- 1 " " Dry Gin 1.00
- 1 " " De Moissac Brandy 1.00

REGULAR TOTAL PRICE \$5.75

Our Special Xmas Hamper Price \$4.75

Hamper No. 3

- 1 Bottle of Guimarean's Superior Port . \$1.50
- 1 " " Fernandez Red Cap Sherry . . . 1.50
- 1 " " Canadian Rye 1.00
- 1 " " Premier Scotch (15 years old) 1.50
- 1 " " Robin's 15 year old Brandy 1.75
- 1 " " Schmidt's Chateau Leoville Claret 1.40

REGULAR TOTAL PRICE \$8.65

Our Special Xmas Hamper Price \$7.00

Hamper No. 5

- 1 Bottle of Canadian Club Rye \$1.25
- 1 " " Watson's Antique Scotch 1.75
- 1 " " Gilbey's Castle "D" Port 2.00
- 1 " " Gilbey's Nat. Montilla Sherry 1.75
- 1 " " Bols' Holland Gin 1.25
- 1 " " Cusenier's Creme de Menthe 1.75
- 1 " " Cusenier's Curacao 1.75
- 1 " " Ponet Canet Claret 1.40
- 1 " " Hennessy's XXX Brandy 1.75

REGULAR TOTAL PRICE \$14.65

Our Special Xmas Hamper Price 12.75

Hamper No. 8

(WINES)

- 2 Pints of Cliquot Champagne \$3.00
- 2 " " Saarbach's Sparkling Burgundy 3.00
- 2 " " Saarbach's Sparkling Hock 3.00
- 2 " " Saarbach's Sparkling Moselle 3.00

REGULAR TOTAL PRICE \$12.00

Our Special Xmas Hamper Price 10.25



Hamper No. 2

- 1 Quart of Guimarean's Tawny Port . . \$1.25
- 1 " " Fernandez's Yellow Cap Sherry 1.25
- 1 " " King George 4th Scotch 1.25
- 1 " " Canadian Rye 1.00
- 1 " " Schmidt's St. Julian Claret85
- 1 " " Robin's X Brandy 1.25

REGULAR TOTAL PRICE \$6.85

Our Special Xmas Hamper Price \$5.50

Hamper No. 4

- 1 Imperial Quart Burke's Irish \$1.50
- 1 Bottle of Watson's No. 10 1.50
- 1 " " Harrison Rum 1.00
- 1 " " Bols' Holland Gin 1.25
- 1 " " Canadian Rye 1.00
- 1 " " Robin's X Brandy 1.25

REGULAR TOTAL PRICE \$7.50

Our Special Xmas Hamper Price \$6.75

Hamper No. 9

- 1 Bottle of Schmidt's Sauterne \$.90
- 1 " " Schmidt's Chateau Leoville Claret 1.40
- 1 " " Gilbey's Hockheimer 1.00
- 1 " " Guimarean's Choice Old Port 1.75
- 1 " " Gilbey's Natural Montilla Sherry 1.75
- 1 " " Pommard 1.00

REGULAR TOTAL PRICE \$7.80

Our Special Xmas Hamper Price \$6.25

Hamper No. 10

- 1 Bottle of Gilbey's Castle "D" Port . . \$2.00
- 1 " " Gilbey's Natural Montilla Sherry 1.75
- 1 " " Schmidt's Haut Sauterne 1.40
- 1 " " Pebleford Bourbon 1.75
- 1 " " Premier Liqueur Scotch 1.75
- 1 " " Royal 8 year old Rye 1.50

REGULAR TOTAL PRICE \$10.15

Our Special Xmas Hamper Price \$8.50

- ### Hamper No. 6
- 1 Bottle of Imperial Rye \$1.00
 - 1 " " Roderick Dhu Scotch 1.25
 - 1 " " Canadian Port50
 - 1 " " Fernandez White Cap Sherry75
 - 1 " " Dekuyper Holland Gin 1.25
 - 1 " " Gilbey's Viceroy Irish Whiskey 1.25
 - 1 " " Robin's X Brandy 1.25
 - 1 " " Harrison's Rum 1.00
 - 1 " " Bouchard's Creme de Menthe 1.25
- REGULAR TOTAL PRICE \$9.50
- Our Special Xmas Hamper Price \$8.00

- ### Hamper No. 7
- 1 Bottle of Imperial Rye \$1.00
 - 1 " " Bobbie Burns Scotch 1.25
 - 1 " " Old Ripy Bourbon 1.50
 - 1 " " Gilbey's Viceroy Irish 1.25
 - 1 " " Harrison's Rum 1.00
 - 1 " " Robin's X Brandy 1.25
 - 1 " " D. C. L. Dry Gin 1.00
 - 1 " " Fernandez White Cap Port75
 - 1 " " Fernandez White Cap Sherry75
 - 1 " " Bouchard's Creme de Menthe 1.25
 - 1 " " Schmidt's Sauterne90
 - 1 " " Ferrier's Claret50
- REGULAR TOTAL PRICE \$12.80
- Our Special Xmas Hamper Price \$10.75

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