AN INTERESTING PAGE FOR THE BOYS AND GIRLS. A



This story begins with a club. It was a club that had a handle, that is to It was the Acme Club, so called because no girl could belong to it who did not own a pair of Acme skates, and who did not know how to use them, too. And it had five members.

The funny thing about these five members was that the first letters of the first names of four of them spelled to invite one. I know whom I'd infifth member, who was the president, began with C, which stands for club, so that whenever anyone of the five girls said: "Acme Club," she may be said to have called over the names of all its members. Thus: There were Amy Anderson and Callie Fisher and Maria Tuttle and Emily Hunt, A. C. M. E-Acme; and the first name of the president was Catherine—she spelled it

more members?" "I move," said Maria Tuttle, "that our next new member must be a girl school and go to work to help take whose first name begins with L, and care of his widowed mother and himthe next with U, and the next with B, self.

"But there aren't any girls' names that begin with U," said Callie. "Yes there are," replied Maria; "there

there is Ulrica, and-Well, that's enough," said Callie,

All this took place at one of the meetings of the club, but what else took ing. place at that meeting I must not tell, for it is a secret. Did you ever know was that he was sick. He hadn't been

But one thing which took place at this meeting I must tell you, for it is fact, it was the one thing for which Bradley was going to get well. this meeting had been called-"a special meeting, on important business—so the said Callie Fisher. notice ran. The business proved to be

"Jenkintown, Pa., Dec. 15, 1883. "Deach Catherine-That was a pretty letter you wrote me from school the farther'd bring him." sending a Christmas present this year every night and morning." fice order for ten dollars. You can go said Emily Hunt. to the postoffice and get it cashed invite Sarah Ames. Her mother comes up your secrets in, and five nails on the this year." wall to hang up five pairs of silve! At any rate, here is the money, from Ames and Fannie Sackett." UNCLE OLIVER."

into a chorus of resolutions.

"that we spend it for candy." "No," said Callie Fisher, "let's hire plan.

a norse and sleigh and have a sleighride Christmas day."

was good in arithmetic; "let's buy two be on the committee. Finally it was

nity, "I've a plan, that's best of all." Your members all at once.

"Let's give a Christmas tree."

"To whom?" exclaimed the united There were lots of details to be setmembership in concert. "To ourselves?" tled after the plan was once decided of presents if there had been so much

serves, but to some other girls or boys. Let's each pick out some one girl or boy, or perhaps two, who wouldn't be say a name; and a head, that is to say, likely to have a Christmas tree of their own, and give them a nice tree with lots of presents."

"Couldn't get many presents for ten children with ten dollars," objected Maria Tuttle, the girl of the arithmetical turn of mind. "Well, then," replied the president

vite." "Who?" exclaimed the chorus of

voices. "Billy Bradley."

"Oh, yes!" shouted the chorus, "we'd all want to invite Billy Bradley." Billy Bradley was a boy whom alwith a C, Amy, Callie, Maria, Emily—gentle voice, or his quiet, pleasant ways enjoy it. A, C, M, E—they stood for Acme, and or his habit of always doing what he But what shall we do?" asked Callie mother, I do not know; certainly it was Fisher one day, "when we get some not the house he lived in, or the clothes weeks had made. His cheeks were seive them. he wore, or the money he had to spend for he was a boy who had had to leave

so as to finish out the word club—C, L, alone by themselves in the third story of a house over a store in a building near the market. The rooms were connected by folding doors. One was Mrs. s there are, replied Maria; "there is Ursula, and there is Undine, and there is Undine, and kitchen, eating-room and sitting-room combined, and Billy slept in a little "and if we have to wait till some girl comes along with one of these names largers it'll be a good while before we I guess it'll be a good while before we the fire in the stove for his mother cold winter mornings and put the kettle on to boil while she was dress-

five girls to get together yet in a club, at Sunday school for sevenal weeks. or anywhere else for that matter, that And when Catherine said that she would like to invite him to the Christmas tree she had proposed. Emily Hunt said that the thing on which my story turns. In Hunt—that he didn't think that Billy "Perhaps he'd be too sick to come,"

"No," said Emily, "my father took the production by the president of the him out to ride yesterday. But he says he's afraid he isn't going to live very long. I guess he could come. though to a Christmas tree. My sunken,

what to do with the money. You can to help us iron twice a week and she's

"And I," said Maria Tuttle, "will inskating, and build an Acme Club house died, and I do not see how they can ready, and then you could open the increasing, even while she is repaying her will cease either to play havor with her together eliminated in the Carmania, have

"That makes just the five," said the skates as bright as Hans Brinker's, if president; "Billy Bradley, Bridget Mil-

Whereat there was a great clapping about this plan, but the end of it was of hands, and the Acme Club went off that the Acme Club voted unanimously to give the Christmas tree as pro-

First it was decided to have a com-"Girls," said the president, with dig- other member and the president were added as honorary members. And the "What is it?" exclaimed the other week before Christmas the Acme Club. morning. was fully organized into a committee of five on the Christmas tree.

money to spend. "No, said the president, "not to our- upon. Where should the Christmas tree The girls had a busy time all the time before 4

party to arrive, and she came a few minutes after 3, before Mrs. Bradley hal got her room quite ready. Mrs. Bradley had scrubbed up her floor until it shone like marble, and had blacked her stove, and everything looked as nice as a pin. The Christmas tree stood in the middle of the room covered with a big white sheet, so that nobody should see what was on it until the proper. time came.

Little Bridget sat quietly down on a chair in the corner to wait, but it was slow waiting.

the newsboy, and then Sarah Ames,

fore all could be agreed upon. Christ- with a cloth like the tree. But Mrs. his mother sat near him enjoying his book the 'Prayer for a Sick Boy,' and did not turn his head or open his eyes mas came Wednesday that year, and Bradley said that that was a secret happiness with an overflowing heart. | then we will all say the Lord's Prayer to bid them good-bye. of these days was Sunday,

should send out the invitations?

deliver them.

special meeting of the club, again act- then the fun began. for them. It was that Billy Bradley beautiful.

He is too weak to go."

"five children instead of ten, each of us sorry Billy's so sick."

So it was agreed that Emily and Amy wonderful Christmas tree! should go together to Mrs. Bradley's I cannot stop to tell you all that there the table to go around the nine. most everybody knew, and whom every-body knew, and whom every-body that knew him loved. Whether in her apartment so that Billy woke up and said:

It was astonishing—the way the good still with a pleasant smile upon his for them to have the Christmas tree ents this one had and that one; and the party stripped cheek, listening to the words he loved the put his apartment so that Billy woke up and said:

C for Catherine—that stood for Club— could to make other people cappy, or lows. Both Amy and Emily were tree and distributing them among the sample of every good thing on it prayer for a sick child: shocked to see the change which a few eager hands that were waiting to re-



on each of them they were very pale, statistician and financial figure expert in disappointment. As in the past, she does battleship; for it marks a decided step of Bryants Point, Me., and yet a man disappointment. "Wno else is there you'd invite?" His thin white hands lay outstretched Britain. other day for a composition, telling me about the Acme Club, only I want to about the Acme Club, only I want to Bridget Milligan, who brings our milk the kindly office of fairy godmother. She turbine. In the first place, the horse-ing the world with them quassing in the world with the world with them quassing in the world with the world with the world with them quassing in the world with the from the kitchen to see him. He ish, owing to protection."

see the tree and all the presents, with- ists.

your money holds out as far as that. ligan, Jimmy the newsboy, Sarah the wall opposite the folding doors and The nead of Brilly's bed stood against food and crude materials from abroad. when he was propped up by his pil- These account for 55 per cent of her im-I cannot take time in this story to tell you all that was said and done about this plan, but the end of it was room.

> and Tuesday afternoon at 4 was fixed ly. Now the United States has to import precept as to how to behave religiously for the time.

sun rose bright and clear. The air was 000,000, and paid duty on it. This proves, "I'll tell you what would be better thought that would not be cuite fair, than that," shouted Maria Tuttle, who be sides everyone of them wanted to be on the committee. Finally it was send in arithmetic. "let's buy two be on the committee. Finally it was send in arithmetic." "In addition much wood pulp was imwas good in arithmetic; "let's buy two be on the committee. Finally it was ninety-nine cent dolls apiece all voted to have a committee of three, and then, to save hard feeling, the voted to have a committee of three, rode around to Mrs. Bradley's in the ada. America, if she had properly man- before eating. When eating never put pung from the provision store where aged her forests, instead of allowing pri- leg upon the other, nor put your elbows the tree had been bought early in the vate gain to wantonly destroy them, would

It was a pretty tree, not very tall, out Europe.' but thick, and bushy, with branches "The American trade returns destroy enough to hold a hundred dollars' worth

morning setting up the tree, and dividing the presents, and doing them up, and marking them, and putting them on the tree. And by noon it was all ready, and they went away, to come back again at 4. The folding doors had been shut all the morning, so that Billy would not be disturbed by the noise, and as the girls went out, peeping in through the door that led into the hall, they saw that he was fast asleep. It seemed as if 4 o'clock would never come. But come at last it did in its proper place, and when it came it found Mrs. Bradley's kitchen full of nine as happy boys and girls as ever you saw. In fact, it had been pretty full for some

Bridget Milligan was the first of the

The club came next, and then Jimmy

should buy the presents? And who Jimmy had not been a very brave boy could help feeling sorry for him and Royal David's City, or 'It Came Upon in saying that with earnest hearts. he would not have known what to do glad that he was so glad. I think I a Midnight Clear; and then I want But this time Billy's voice was not

Tuesday afternoon was set apart for from the mothers of some of the girls. There was a nice black necktie and together; perhaps, this is the last

Emily Hunt had a bad piece of news master of ceremonies, The tree looked stripped, Mrs Bradley went to the their sick companion on the bed.

wouldn't do for him to come at all. There were long packages and square tree at which it was not good to have "Come, Callie," he said, "you start 'He isn't near so well the past few packages and some things not done up something to eat?

gifts were found tucked in with what breaking up and going home. had been bought with Uncle Oliver's whisper to two or three of the girls. are desired. Deliver him, O Lord, in Club and their four guests of Christ-

There was a pretty pockethandkerhief for every one of the girls, and a Book," for Sarah Ames, and a doll for other things for everybody.

The chief interest, of course, centered in the presents for Billy Bradley, and every time his name was called everybody was so glad.

ON AMERICAN TRADE wedded to the idea that a protectionist country imports few or no manufactures SAYS THE UNITED STATES IS A DISAPPOINTMENT-MUST

TRAVEL LONG WAY YET.

"America as a trade competitor of Eng- to the latter.

shout the Acme Club, only I want to know all about the secrets. Instead of Bridget Milligan, who brings our milk was bright, and his face lighted up for the first nine months of this year, is is almost as ready as ever to supply us with his old smile and his voice, though sued by the Department of Commerce and with the cream of her natural resources power developed is considerably greater with his old smile and his voice, though sued by the Department of Commerce and to you I am going to send one to the club, and here it is inclosed—a post of-club, and here it is inclosed.

The process as comfortable a fortune at resources are constant to the process as comfortable a fortune at resources are club, and the old pleasant tone to it, and the old pleasant tone to it.

what to do with the money. You can livide it among yourselves and buy dolls lame. I don't believe she ever saw a could have it here just as well as not, when America will have an excess of image as some of them have already promised ment of 5,000-horsepower, with a proand I don't think it would tire me to ports, for America will not forever conto do, then Great Britain will realize fully portional increase in the speed, indicates ual maker of this very necessary article on the shores of the beautiful pond vite Fannie Sackett. Her mother's just that the serious difficulties which arose in the folding doors shut till it was all her goods, and her investments abroad are the Allan Line steamers, and were not allowed in the Carmenia have

"Many people, no doubt, will be surpris-The head of Billy's bed stood against ed to learn how largely America draws to see what was going on in the other to man, and it is also due to American prodigality. Take lumber, for instance. I move," spoke up Emily Hunt, posed to the guests named, and a comlumber largely from Canada. This year and appropriately at meals are intermittee of one. Then some of the girls It was a beautiful winter day. The America imported lumber valued at \$23,-

"In addition much wood pulp was im-



Where Is It. The average weman puts everything she can scrape together on her 'Yes, and when you see her in one of those evening gowns you wonder where it all is."

the tree, so that only three days re- | Well, 4 o'clock came, and when the a box of linen collars, and a pencil Christmas tree I shall ever see. Here's pretty tired, and he's dropped asleep. mained for final preparations, and one clock had fairly struck, and all was with a rubber in the end, and a Christ a hymn that will do," he added in a We won't wake him, but let him sleep. ready, the folding doors were rolled mas card; and a copy of "Tom Brown moment, when he had had time to turn You can all go out softly, and when he It was agreed that the party should back, and there was Billy Bradley, half at Rugby", and a box of candy, and a over a few of the pages of his new has had a good nap he'll feel rested." be held at Amy Anderson's, because lying, half sitting, in his bed, poor, pale car ticket punch, and a "Mark Twain hymnal—"the twenty-sixth"; and he So without saying a word, and with her house was most convenient, and sick boy that he was, as full of eager Scrap-book," and a pretty prayer book read: that Maria Tuttle, who was the oldest, and happy expectation as any of them. and hymnal bound together side by and Callie Fisher and Callie Fisher's Then the window blinds were shut side in the English fashion. And when mother should buy the presents, and and the shades drawn down so as to all these presents were laid out bethat the president should write the in- make the room all the darker, and the fore him, the poor sick boy's eyes vitations, and that Emily Hunt should tree all the brighter; with a pull came glistened, and turning his face over the white sheet off the tree; one by one toward his mother, he said, "Mother, silently and unconsciously moved from Bradley moved gently about her rooms, When Saturday came and with it a the little candles were lighted and I think this is the happiest Christmas the tree toward the folding doors, and and the stars came out brightly, and

I ever had." ing as a committee of arrangements, The president of the club acted as After the Christmas tree had been and sympathizing hearts looking at mother, as she came now and then to table in the corner, and threw off the They seemed all to be feeling as they breathe. Aren't you surprised," said Callie white covering from the pile of some- had not felt before how ill poor Billy

The next morning, after the Christwas not so well, and that his mother had said that he wouldn't be able to come, and Dr. Hunt, Emily's father, had said that it with only ten dollars!"

Aren't you surprised," said Callie white covering from the pile of some-had not felt before how ill poor Billy was, and how true it might be that wouldn't be able to come, and Dr. Hunt, Emily's father, had said that it with only ten dollars!"

Aren't you surprised," said Callie white covering from the pile of some-had not felt before how ill poor Billy was, and how true it might be that he would never see a Christmas tree with only ten dollars!"

The next morning, after the Christmas service at the old church, Catherine had not felt before how ill poor Billy was, and how true it might be that he would never see a Christmas tree with only ten dollars!"

And did you ever know a Christmas again.

days," said the doctor to his little girl, in packages at all; and for ornaments There was a large plate of corn-balls, So afte: a moment's hesitation, and "and it would be too much for him. there were wonderful butterflies cut out and a basket of oranges and apples, with a little of a timid and trembling bell handle. of colored paper and little Japanese and a huge loaf of angel cake, and a voice, Callie struck up the hymn to "Then why couldn't we have the lanterns, and round glass balls of many plate of fancy cakes of all sorts, colors the tune of "O Mother Dear, Jeru-Christmas tree at his house?" asked colors that glistened in the candle light, and sizes, and a pitcher of lemon- salem"; the others one by one joined the president. "We might just as well and bells that fingled with every motion ade. And you ought to have seen the ir, and the sweet voices of the nine go there as to Amy's, that is if his of the branches. Now it seemed as if Acme Club and their guests gct around children presently filled the room with she met their questioning faces at the mother is willing, and if Emily's father the tree were all alive, and then as if that cake and table and make way melody. thinks that it would do. I'm so it were all on fire. Oh, was there ever with those eatables. There was just Billy tried to sing too, but the first last night, did we, that the end was anything quite so wonderful as the room enough for the nine to stand verse was quite enough for him, and quite so near! It was just as the clock around the table, and just enough on turning his face over upon his pillow struck midnight, and as the chimes in

it was his bright, open face or his gentle voice, or his habit of always doing what he could to make other people happy, or his level to make other people happy or his level to make other people happy or his lavel to make other people happy or his lavel to make other people happy or his lavel to make other people happy or

And strange to say, some unexpected president said that it was time to be life and death, look down, from wore one of the new collars and the "We have been here now more than they good appointed time from his mas Eve sung the same hymn they had

long. Billy did indeed look tired. The ex- good pleasure to prolong his days, he citement had been a good deal for him may live to thee, and be an instrupair of red mittens for Jimmy the news to bear. His eyes sparkled with new ment of thy glory by serving thee was sung: boy, and a morocco wallet for Bridget luster, and the red spots on his cheeks faithfully, and doing good in his gen-Milligan, and a "Jean Ingelow Birthday were larger and redder than before, eration; or else receive him into those His mother bent over him and kissed heavenly habitations where the souls Light on thy hills, Jerusalem, Fannie Sackett, and ever so many him, and a tear dropped down from of those who sleep in the Lord Jesus her eye upon his forehead. "Don't wipe enjoy perpetual rest and felicity.

it away, mother," he said, "let it stay." Grant this, O Lord, for the love of thy "Mother," he said again in a moment, Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ, Amen. "before the girls go I want them all And all who were present heard to come in here and sing me a Christ- Billy join feebly but distinctly in He looked so sick and yet so cheer- mas hymn-one of the Christmas hymns the "Amen." Then Jimmy turned back the hills indeed!

> and exports a great many. "Although Britain's output is smaller than that of America, we have to import far more raw material. But the most striking fact is that while we have absolutely open ports, and America has the Dingley tariff, our imports of manufac tures are not larger than those of Ameri ca, when freight and insurance are added

land is a great disappointment." Such is "The United States has yet a long dis- of the turbine machinery of the Dread- horsepower.-Scientific American. the opinion of L. G. Chiozza Money, who tance to travel before she is so keen a naught has a wider significance than is member of Parliament for Paddington, competitor of Great Britain as Germany. and except for a bright spot and recognized as the greatest trade Indeed, America as a competitor is a great "The figures show," he adds, "that skins, leather—these and other things too ing that of the Cunard liner Carmania.

resources or to have a great surplus of been now fairly well mastered. These them to export. A stupendous American trials, moreover, must come with a very population will, indeed, find it necessary welcome assurance to those who are rerendered. In that day America will be a Lusitania and Mauretania; for the equipcompetitior, for she will pay for her imment of the Dreadnaught, in which four The grocer who offers you something ports in the only possible way-by export- turbines are employed on four shafts, is

MOSLEM TABLE MANNERS.

The rules set down by old Moslem esting, though whether they are denot now be importing wood from 'played- upon the table, as this hinders good digestion. Never be a slave of your repast, and never touch any meal if you are not hungry. Be ever content with what you find before you, and never give yourself great pains in preparing choice dishes. Be always, if possible, at the table in company with friends, as the prophet never partook of his meals alone. Always begin and end your meal with thanksgiving to Allah. Always eat with your right hand, and swallow, before and after food, a little salt. It shows good upbringing and is pleasing to Allah ever to put into the mouth only small morsels and never to make any observations upon the defective qualities of dishes. Never cut bread with a knife, but, as the prophet did, break it. Never choose the fruit offered, but take any au hasard. Never wipe your fingers with bread. Avoid b.owing on a hot dish, but wait until it gets cold. Eat dates, apricots and other similar fruit one by one, remembering in eating them thus the unity of Allah. Avoid at the table drinking much water. Your meal finished, use attentively the toothpick, gather up the crumbs and wash again your hands and mouth. Lastly, render thanks to Allah. -The Lancet.

> There are now 31 negro banks in the United States, with a combined capital of \$350,000. Their deposits amount to \$1,192,000. Twelve are in Mississippi, four in Georgia, six in Virginia, two in Tennessee, two in Arkansas and one each in North Carolina, Alabama and Florida. There are also two in Muskogee, I. T.

These details required ever so many with himself in a room so full of girls, shall have to tell you what his prestend meetings of the club, so that it was the Friday before Christmas be
These details required ever so many with himself in a room so full of girls, shall have to tell you what his prestend all to kneel down, and I want heard.

Everybody wondered what there was ents were, as one by one they were the president of the club, or you, or on a table in the corner, covered, up laid down on the bed at his side, while Jimmy to read out of my new prayer knees, Billy continued lying still, and

Come heaven's melodious strains."

the hymn, you know how to sing."

he closed his eyes and lay quiet and the old church began to ring in Christ-

It was now about 6 o'clock and the to whom alone belong the issues of burial service in the old church. Billy heaven, we humbly beseech thee, upon black necktie which had been given him Acme Club as well as their guests were two hours, and we must not stay too bodily pain, and visit him with thy sung as they stood around what proved salvation, that if it should be thy to have been his dying bed.

be given? And on what day? And whe and Fannie Sackett last of all, and if ful and patient and happy that nobody we sing at Sunday School; "Once in to the Lord's Prayer, and all united

"Poor boy," said his mother, "he's quiet steppings to and fro, the children

gathered up their things, said good-bye "Calm on the listening ear of night, to Mrs. Bradley, and took their leave. And the shadows of the night grew deeper, and the fire in the stove burned By this time the little company had on, and the clock ticked away, and Mrs. were standing there with quiet faces Billy lay sleeping so peacefully that his look at him, could scarcely hear him

> came round to Mrs. Bradley's to inquire for Billy. And when they came in sight of the door, they found a long piece of white ribbon hanging down from the

"I'm glad it's white and not black" said Callie.

"Yes, girls," said Mrs. Bradley, as door, "Billy's gone. We didn't think

Cnristmas in heaven. Almighty God and Merciful Father, Two days later there was a tender

There were few dry eyes in the church at the last stanza of the hymn

The Saviour now is born! And bright on Bethlehem's joyous plains

Breaks the first Christmas morn. For Billy Bradley there was light on

BRITISHEXPERT'S VIEWS the cherished illusions of a lifetime, for the average tariff reformer is usually

DEVELOP A SPEED OF 25 KNOTS.

unhappy plight. Oil, cotton, copper, zinc, to the appearance of the Dreadnaught bethat the serious difficulties which arose in in the world. import the very articles now so freely sponsible for the turbine engines of the broadly identical with that of the new "just as good" has no regard for your Cunard fliers, whose horsepower, however, judgment or your health. It's delicious

will be three times greater. The Dread-| naught turbines were designed to give a speed of 21 knots, with 23,000-horsepower: 18 PROVED but they actually developed 28,000-horsepower, and drove the ship at a mean speed of 211/2 knots, with occasional bursts of THE NEW OCEAN GREYHOUNDS Lusitania and Mauretania are designed to speed of 221/4 knots. The turbines of the drive the vessel at 251/4 knots, with 68,000horsepower. If they exceed requirements in the same proportions as the turbines of the Dreadnaught, they should drive the new ships at a speed of from 25% to 261 The satisfactory completion of the trials knots, and develop between 80,000 and 90,000-

Few persons ever wonder where that of establishing the high speed of this clothespins come from; few ever heard the process as comfortable a fortune "The figures show," he adds, "that distended to the new plan for the Christ- America's imports are only about 25 per mas tree with great interest.

"Yes, mother," he said; "I think we ting within measurable reach of a time these exports ever cease or become dear, these exports ever cease or become dear, promised these exports ever cease or become dear.



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