## A Christmas Bride

### Concluded.

Concluded. At 10 o'clock Ethel roused her moth-er. Jack was going, and wished to bid her good-night. "We shall see you and your father on Christmas day, Jack ?" said the old lady, as she put up her face to be kissed.

"Yes, mother," said Jack. "I hope

so. For the last three years Jack and his father had dined with the Merricks on Christmas day. That was one reason why Jack was so anxious about the

new overcoat. "You'll come early, Jack, on Christ-mas day?" said Ethel. "Yes, dear; but if it's fine I must take dad to Hampstead in the morn-ing. You know that he always likes to go and see the old home on that day." day

day." "Yes," said Ethel softly, "but I wish he didn't. I'm sure he'd be happier with us if he hadn't filled his mind with all those sad memories before he came

Jack Hathaway shock his head. "I don't think so, Ethel, dear. I believe that for one short half-hour on Christ-mas day all that he has lost comes back to my father again as he looks at the house that was his and my mother's-the house where I was born. He is rich and happy again-until I take his arm and lead him away. Jack folded his sweetheart in his arms, pressed his lips to hers, and went out into the night and hurried home as fast as the fog would let him. Sunday was fine but hitterly cold

Sunday was fine but bitterly cold. Mr. Hathaway would not venture So Jack stayed with his father Old Mr. out. So Jack stayed with his father in the morning and went to meet Eth-sl in the afternoon. They went to the park. By the Marble Arch a nurse was walking with a beautifully-dressed lit-tle boy. The nurse stopped to look at the contents bill of a newspaper with a sensational head line on it, and let go the child's hand. The little fellow who was about 7, walked on, and step-ped off the payement just as a car-riage and pair were dashing in at the gate. A second more and he would have been under the horses' feet. Ethel shrieked, but Jack dashed forward, shrieked, but Jack dashed forward, seized the boy and flung him out of danger, but he was knocked down him-self, and one of the horses kicked him on the arm before the coachman could

pull up. The nurse ran to her charge, to as-sure herself he was safe, and a little crowd gathered round. A gentleman in a heavy fur coat sprang out of his carriage—a middle-aged handsome Jew. He ran to the boy and caught him in his arms his arms.

You're not hurt, Issy," he said "are you "No, pa "Are you?" "No, papa," replied the boy, who was crying from the fright.

Grying from the fright. The child had nearly been killed by his father's own horses. The gentle-min in the fur coat was the cele-brated Mr. Sciomon Epstein. Directly he had ascertained his boy was safe, Mr. Epstein went to Jack, who was standing surrounded by a little sympathizing crowd. ''I hope you are not hurt?"

"I hope you are not hurt?" No," said Jack, quietly; "it's noth-

ing.

ing." "It was a deuced plucky thing, sir, and I owe you my boy's life, I thought it was all up with you. May I ask for your card, sir?" Jack bowed. "I haven't a card, but there is my means and if the second "I haven't a card, but

there is my name and address." He took a letter out of his pocket and hunded the envelope to Mr. Ep-stein, who took the boy from the nurse and put him in the carriage and drove

When Jack looked at the letter he

When Jack looked at the letter he had publicated in his pocket he exclaim-ed: "Well, that's funny!" "What is it, dear?" sold Ethel. "The letter is one your father gave me the other day. He had written to a frient of his asking for some in-formation I wanted about a firm in the city, and he handed me the let-ter. The onvelope was addressed to your father at his private house. Mr. Solomon Epstein will think Iam Rich-ard Morrick."

. . . . .

for one of the big city drapery houses. The jokes, the whip, and the very bad oil-painting of himself, which had been a presentation, were all that the old gentleman had to leave his son, and that son vowed he would never part with anything that had been his dear old father's. That was why he clung to the jokes, which had now al-most attained his dignity of antiquar-ian 'relics. But the jokes seemed cuite fresh to-

But the jokes seemed quite fresh to-day, Mr. Merrick rattled them off with such vivacity. Certainly Jack thought he had never seen Ethel's father so boi-tercouch (Christer School and Sc he had never seen Ethel's father so boi-sterously Christmassy. He slapped Jack on the back four times in five minutes, and once after a merry sally it real-ly seemed as though he were going to dig the old gentleman in the ribs! Jack caught Ethel outside for a min-ute-that mistletoe again!-and asked what had put her father in such ex-cellent humour. Ethel couldn't exy cellent humour. Ethel couldn't say. She had gome to church in the morn-ing by herself, and when she came back her mother was busy in the kitchback her mother was busy in the kitch-en with their one servant, and her father was roaring out "A Fine Old English Gentleman" all by himself in the parlor, and when she came in caught her round the waist and waltz-ed so vigorously round the parlor with her that her mother ran upstairs, ex-claiming that bits of the kitchen ceil-ing ware falling into the minement. ing were falling into the mincement! Jack went back into the parlor, and for the fifth time Mr. Merrick slapped him on the back, and called him asly dog, and a minute afterward he was inquiring of old Mr. Hathaway what his engagements were for boxing day, and what did he say to making up a party to go to the pantomime?

Jack thought their host must cer-tainly be a little off his head. If it hadn't been that he knew Mr. Mer-rick made it a rule never to take hot minite and mathematic theory of the second rick made it a rule never to take hot spirits and water until after dinner he would have been inclined to think that the head of the house had been drinking Father Christmas's health al-ready. He was rather relieved when Mrs. Merrick, hot and flustered, and setting her cap to rights and divest-ing herself of a neat white apron, ap-peared in the doorway and informed them that dinner was quite ready. It was a very merry little dinner party, Mr. Merrick's high spirits were so infectious that at last even old Mr.

so infectious that at last even old Mr. Hathaway yielded to it, and took "wine" with his host and Ethel and Jack, and holding up his glass of beer bowed after the old manner. When the pudding had been taken away and the cloth removed.—Mr. Mer-nick liked to see the Christman surface

away and the cloth removed,—Mr. Mer-rick liked to see the Christmas nuts, and the Christmas oranges "on the mahogany"—the host rose, and every-body cried "Speech I speech I" It was Mr. Merrick's custom at the Christmas board to drink his guests' health and to say how pleased he was to have them with him, but on this cceasion he began much more elaborately than usu-al, and there was a twichtie the

al, and there was a twinkle in his eye which everybody agreed afterwards was positively ''mischievous."

which everybody agreed afterwards was positively 'mischlevous." "Mr. Hathaway and Jack," he be-gan, "my very good friends, it is my proud privilege to-day to welcome you beneath my roof. My wife welcomes you, my daughter welcomes you-es-pecially Jack "-Ethel blushed-"and I welcome you. It is Christmas day, a day-er-a day-when peace and good-will and good cheer-er-you know what I mean-"" Hearl hearl' from Jack. "Well, cn Christmas day it is the custom-and a fine old custom it is!-you know what the poet says: 'It was my father's custom, and so it shall be mine'-to make Christmas pre-sents to those we love among our, kith and kin, and to those we love among our friends and relatives." Jack thought of the purse he wanted to buy for Ethel, and sighed with a conscious-ness of his shortcomings. "Well, la-dies and gentlemen, I am going to for Ethel, and sighed with a conscious-ness of his shortcomings. "Well, la-dies and gentlemen, 1 am going to make a Christmas present. Two years ago my young friend Jack Hathaway -God bless him for a fine young fel-low and a good son" "Hear! hear!' in a quavering voice from old Mr. Hath-away, "to a good father," an apple in Jack's throat, and Ethels hand slip-ned into his with a tender little grip,-

in Jack's throat, and Ethel's hand slip-ped into his with a tender little grip,-"two years ago, I say, Jack Hathaway --and here's towards him," half a glass of port to allay a tickling in the ora-tor's throat-"asked me for the hand of my daughter, Ethel," Ethel's head bent down, and Jack's eyes open wide

"Christmas Day-Sir: It is only to-day that I have ascertained that the gentleman who so gallantly saved my little son's life, is the son of Mr. John Hathaway, formerly of Hathaway & Co., merchants. "I have been away from England nearly twenty years and knew poth-

"I have been away from England nearly twenty years, and knew noth-ing of the circumstances under which the old firm ceased to exist, or I should have sought you out before. I was once in your employ. You will perhaps remember a young clerk named Moss. One day you discovered that he had done a dishonest action. Had you chosen you could have had him sent to prison. But you found out that he had been sorely tempted, and led away by been sorely tempted, and led away by an evil companion. You called him into your room and gave him a kindly warn-ing and forgave him. That your

an evil companion. You called him into your room and gave him a kindly warn-ing and forgave him. That young man shortly afterward quitted your service and went abroad. He had a relative in South Africa who sent for him. There he prospered, and eventually changed his name and became the pos-sessor of property which in time made him a man of vast wealth. "Mr. Hathaway, I owe everything I possess to your kindness and your help at a critical moment in my life. But for you I might to-day have been a penniless outcast or a criminal. Ins-stead of that I am a man of weight in the city and the director of vast commercial enterprises. I beg you to allow me to show my gratitude to the father who saved me and the son who saved my son by offering to your son a post in my city office, which I am sure from what Mr. Merrick tells me he will fill with credit to himself and advantage to me. The salary is £700 a year—the post is vacant, and that is what I paid his predecessor. "Mr. Merrick tells me that young Mr. Hathaway is engaged to his daughter. I hope that I may be fur-

Mr. Merrick tells me that young Mr. Hathaway is engaged to his daughter. I hope that I may be fur-ther allowed to show my gratitude to you by giving the bride as her mar-riage portion the sum of £5000.

Plage portion the sum of £5000. "Do not refuse me, my dear old mas-ter. There are few favors that can make a millionaire happy; you have it in your power to grant one. Assur-ing you of my undying gratitude, and acknowledging that I owe all my suc-cess in life to you balisme me my dear ing you of my undying gratitude, and acknowledging that I owe all my suc-cess in life to you, believe me, my dear old master, your obedient servant, "SOLOMON EPSTEIN," formerly Moss," The letter fell from Jack's hands. Old Mr. Hathaway, his eyeg filled with tears, could only murmur; "Moss -yes, I remember; poor boy, he was the tool of others, and a good lad at heart; I forgave him." Ethel drew closer to Jack, and the big tears rolled down her face as his arm slipped round her waist. But Mr. Merrick, feeling that it was absolute-ly necessary for somebody to say some-thing, rose, and exclaimed: "The bride and bridegroom-God bless them! and a merry Christmas to everybody !"

everybody! And old Mr. Hathaway rose, and, lay-

And old Mr. Hathaway rose, and, lay-ing one trembling hand on his son's shoulder, put the other gently on Eth-al's, and, stooping, kissed her forehead lenderly and murmured: lenderly and murmured: "From Jack's mother-for Jack's wife."

(The End.)

### CHRISTMAS MOTTOES.

Mottoes, illuminated texts, words of welcome, etc., are very useful and pretty adjuncts to church decorations. especially at Christmas tide. To cut the letters out of cardboard or stiff paper and mount them on a firm pasteboard foundation, is the best way to make hese devices. It is a good plan to gum the letters, and then, while the gum is wet, to sprinkle them with rice or tapioca, and then over the whole a little Epsom salts. Silver letters can be made by cutting a piece
letters can be made by cutting a piece
of tinfoil about the shape of the letter,
in the hand and putting it on in its
a burglar armed with a revolver.
OLD-FASHIONED GUNS.
He walerside of the letter. Gummed
letters covered with fine cork, such
as fruiterers use for packing grapes.
and then frosted over with powdered
glass, are both rustic looking and
pretty, or the letters can be covered
with box leaves overlapping one and
other and sevn on. This is, however.
a lengthened process, and requires a
good deal of time.
A dark room should have all the
for a light room much more heavy de
corations are admissible, and more
masses of evergreens can be introduced.
The walls of the room should be well
covered, and if the pictures are few, a number of pretty devices such as
anchors the Maltese cross, heart
All these require to be cut out in letters can be made by cutting a piece of tinfoil about the shape of the letter,

# BRITISH ARMY AND NAVY.

LORD LANSDOWNE'S SPEECH ON IMPERIAL DEFENCE.

The Navy Must be Strong Enough to With-stand) any Combination Brought Against it—Arms and Munitions of Wa: —All Must be of the Most Modern Type. Addressing a great Unionist demon-stration at Plymouth, England, recent-

ly, in reply to a resolution of confidence in the Government, the Marquis of Lansdowne, Secretary of State War, said that their approbation of the Government was the more satisfactory because they had been passing through

moment. But they would not receive it in a cynical spirit because the coun try from which it had proceeded had not begun by setting a good example to its neighbours, and relaxing its own activity. They hailed with pleasure this indication that one, at all events, of the Great Powers would gladly see an abatement of the present tension.

Some were apprehensive that England might emerge from the Conference with less independence, less freedom, to provide for its own safety than it now enjoyed. That he thought a groundless apprehension. No country could consent to tie its hands, least of all England. Cheers. But if the Conference did not lead to disarmament, it might lead to a better understanding and a cessation of the policy of exasperation which had at times been adopted by one power against the other. In the meantime the Government might claim to be watching faithfully over English in terests abroad.

AN IRRESISTIBLE NAVY. After referring to the recent oping Lord Kitchener and his army. Lord Lansdowne continued:

At a time like this no Government would be worthy of confidence which did not maintain the army and navy efficiency. The navy must be irre- paper, and inclosed a self-addressed sistible, and he believed it was strong stamped envelope for reply. enough to withstand any combination

at home and abroad. It meant that the army and navy must be assigned

their respective shares of responsibility for the protection of the outworks of the Empire, which must be suitably defended and garrisoned

Unless such defences were provided for them they would be in a preposter-ous position. Successive Governments had given their attention to these matters, but there was no finality at out the given their attention to these the guns. Comparing the modern quick-firing guns with the twenty-live year old muzzle-ldading gun was like opposing a boy with a catapult to a burglar armed with a revolver. What m

tillery. They had given the cavalry a proper organization. The had decid-ed to accept the service of militia-men who desired experience of foreign service, and they had given financial assistance to the volunteers.

THE MATERIAL OF WAR.

THE MATERIAL OF WAR. With regard to material of war, they were building up reserves of all kirds the like of which had never been in the possession of the army of this coun-try. They had decentralized the cloth-ing stores formerly massed in London, and at the end of the month, they would carry out a much-needed reform under which the manufacture of cloth-ing would be entirely separated from the duty of storing and inspecting it, the work being placed in military hands.

because they had been passing through wery critical times, in which it would have been easy to make mistakes, and by no means easy to retrieve them. He did not suppose that there ever was a moment when so much inflammable material was only waiting for a spark to set it on fire. It was not a little remarkable that the Czar's message to the powers should have come at such a moment. But they would not receive

RECENT MANOEUVRES Dealing with the recent manoeuvres, which had cost something like £150,-000, he had seen it said that they were a great waste of public money. But he agreed with the gallant general of the Southern Army, that the manoeuvres would have been cheap at any price. They brought to light the strong and weak noins of the army which it may

weak points of the army, which it was good for the army and the public to know. Cheers. But they would not command the re-spect of the world unless they could make themselves felt as well as heard. Cheers. Within its recent history there had not heap a moment when Encland make themselves felt as well as heard. Cheers. Within its recent history there had not been a moment when England commanded a larger measure of re-spect among the communities of the world than now; that was because the nations knew that while Englishmen loved peace and would make sacrifices for its sake, they loved it only so long as it could be maintained consistently with their self respect as a nation, and with the glorious traditions of a great empire. Cheers

#### FLASHES OF FUN.

He-Nellie, just look at that man standing behind me. I don't think ] erations in the Nile Valley, and prais-ing Lord Kitchener and his arms the dear; you forget yourself!

The old friend.-I don't believe you realize the dignity of your position The new millionaire-don't have to. I've a butler hired for that.

George is so methodical. Yes? Yes. in a proper condition of strength and He proposed to me by mail on office

Is oratory a lost art? asked the polto which they could look forward, itical speaker. I don't know whether Cheers. But this meant not only that it's lost or not,' answered the camthey must have ships, guns and crews, but also strategic harbours and naval bases, dockyards and coaling stations ward for it.

He-What lovely flowers. Do you know, they remind me of you. She-Why, they are artificial. He-Yes, I know; but it requires close examina-tion to detect it. A woman's idea of a down-trodden

wife is one who, said the Cornfed Philosopher, does not ask her husband to account for every cent of his own mon-

Cholly-I hope the Scotch dialect will not become fashionable. Algy-I hope not, bah Jove! We had trouble enough in acquiring an English accent, dont-

Jour for her at his private house. Mit solution of port to allay a tiking in the orator's thread-off or the allay a tiking in the orator's thread-off or the allay a tiking in the orator's thread-off or the allay a tiking in the orator's thread-off or the allay a tike off or the allay a tike of the orator's thread of the orator's thread of the orator's thread off or the allay a tike the there allay a tike to take all this. The order allay a tike to take all the allay a the prive of a so the allay a tike to take allay the there allay a tike to take allay a tike to take allay the there allay a tike to take allay all the allay allay allay allay the there allay all the allay allay the there allay all the allay allay the allay all

ed. All these require to be cut out in stiff cardboard first, and then the coloring added. Perhaps the dried green moss stitched on, and then fluffed out with the fingers till the flat appearance has gone, is one of the best ways. To ornament this is easy; you wire a silver leaf, a holly leaf, and a few berries, and then bor-ing a hole through moss and card-board and passing the wire through, you have a tiny raised bouquet. All these requires to be cut out in sohemes of defence before asking the which would be necessary. They would not make the mistake of considering these as if they were artillery ques-tions only. A COSTLY EXPERIMENT. They would determine the kind of able, the extent to which the navy inght be relied upon to help them, the armament most suitable to the position, and whether they could without dif-ficulty provide the necessary considering and turned on his

#### COST OF FIRING MODERN GUNS.

The development of the science of ordnance has greatly increased the ex-pense of firing guns. It has been cal-culated that any nation which kept all its guns in action for twenty-four hours would thereby be reduced to bankrupt-cy. This is not only on account of the expense of individual shots, but be-cause of the great rapidity with which successive shots can be discharged.

#### TURNING NIGHT INTO DAY.

Does your baby give you much trou-

No. We've fooled it by having an electric light put up in front of our house.

laid aside by this time. Yes; he says if Christmas were only about six months off he would have some hopes

I was just going to ask you to subscribe to this purse for Jibble's widow.

A COSTLY EXPERIMENT. They would determine the kind of attack to which each position was li-able, the extent to which the navy might be relied upon to help them, the armament mosts suitable to the position, and whether they could without dif-ficulty provide the necessary garrison. They could not proceed too cautiously, for new armament was an expensive for new armament mean in 1660 the average cost of the gun was £2000, a 9.2 in. gun of the modern type costs between £11,-000 and £12,000. Still, so far from grudging the expense, the country would severely condemn them if they allowed the security of fortresses and harbours to depend upon batteries so badly armed that an enemy's ships might bombard them at a distance which would render it impossible to out doing something to make the ar-my stronger and more efficient. They n were adding eight battalions of in-fattry to the Guards and the line, and increasing both field and garrison ar-