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(Signed) J. B. ORLANDO, Cowichan.

A PAGE OF THE PAST: OPENED AT CHRISTMAS

BY JOHN STRANGE WINTER.

Margaret was the eldest and I the youngest of a very large family. Margaret married very young, and was a year old. There were six Miss Trevors, of Hillside, and the three boys made our number up to nine.

"Well, Miss Lucy," Nanny replied, "I really don't think you have. But what about your list? If you go right down the list, then I think you will feel yourself pretty satisfied."

"But you forget, Nanny, there's Miss Ethel's little girl. I have forgotten her. I must take something for Ethel's little girl, mustn't I?"

"Yes, I might do that." I went carefully down the list. No, I hadn't forgotten anybody, and one present, of which I had said nothing, was that for Nanny herself.

"Dear me, children," I remarked, "you seem to be extra full of glee to-day. Is something unusual on foot?"

"Oh, well, that will be one bedroom to the good. You are sure you don't mind?" "Not a bit."

"I shouldn't be surprised if the girls didn't have to tuck in still closer. One can't put people out, even bachelors."

"Why can't you tuck in together?" "We are; we're all tucked in together excepting Winifred," said two voices.

for the hall and the servants' hall. And the day after Christmas Day he's going to give an enormous treat to the laborers and their wives and children, with a Christmas-tree and goodness knows what for them.

"This was poured out by Helen, and as soon as she paused for breath, Winifred broke in. "Ah, on New Year's Eve all the tenants are to have a dinner, and we are having a dance in the middle of the week, and there's going to be a juvenile party on the next night, and a servants' ball on the third of January."

"But why, why this sudden craze for Christmas?" I demanded. "Where do you make ask father about that. Mother thinks it's a bore and a nuisance and an expense for nothing; but poor mother, every objection that she makes is instantly overruled! Father is Christmas, and all Christmas and nothing but Christmas; and, of course, none of us see why we shouldn't take all the fun out of his whim that we can get."

"Well, I was going to have a happy time this great Christmas that we had had, and I was going to have a gay and festive season, that was plain enough to be seen."

"I was so thoroughly unnerved by the knowledge that Colonel Brunton was going to stay under the same roof as myself that I did not like to mention him to any of my nieces; more particularly did I keep away from any subject which could lead up to any mention of him when Helen was near during that evening and the following morning."

"I had the room to myself for a little while, and I sat down by the fire to think over the bit of information which my sister had given me."

"I met him first—how many years ago?—when I had not yet entered upon my twenties. I remembered so well, as I sat by the fire in Winifred's bedroom that evening, so well, so well. It was not at a dance, I was sitting beside my chaperon of the evening feeling as if I wished that we were back in London, where I knew people when I went to a dance or a party, wondering if my hostess was going to leave me there all the evening watching other girls, not as good-looking, and not as well dressed, and not as young as myself, peering about while I was glued to the wall as if I were a hundred instead of nineteen. And then, just as my despair was at its height, a resplendent vision in uniform approached something to go into the pines, and there's going to be a Christmas-tree and a lucky-bag, and a fishpond, and a bran tub, and all sorts of things, both upstairs and down—I mean to say, both

to there he sat, and there he sat, and at last Margaret said that she must go and dress, and that Teddy must shew him his room now. I saw that all go, and then Margaret got up and went to go unsteadily across the room and up the stairs.

"Lucy, you are not well," said Winifred, when you got into our bedroom, where she was already half dressed for dinner. "I sat down by the fire 'I don't feel very well, Winifred, I replied. I think I took cold coming down yesterday. It seems to me bitter."

"My dear, it has been snowing hard for the last hour," she said. "Everything is white." "She pulled aside the curtain and looked out into the night—a horrid white night."

"I was so touched by the picture she had drawn of what Christmas might be, that she never noticed me any more. I did not attempt to dress. I washed my hands and smoothed my hair, and I slipped into the smartest tea-gown that I had—I believed that I should be warmer—and then, just to get out of reach of Winifred's chattering tongue, I went downstairs, as soon as I was ready. Truth to tell, I wanted to talk about as little as need be. I felt if I were safely enclosed in the big wing chair, I should be less under observation than if I entered when a dozen people were assembled. But when I had shut the door behind me, and came round the screen that shielded it, I saw that I was not the first-comer. In the wing chair which I had marked down for my haven of refuge, Colonel Brunton was sitting. He jumped up when he saw me, and came across the room to meet me.

"I was afraid to ask a question," he said, looking straight down at my eyes. "I never dared to ask you people where you were." He paused, and took my left hand in his. "No wedding-ring," he said. "Thank Heaven! Lucy, did you want for me? You understand why I left before—that I wasn't free?" But I needn't ask for your answer. Oh, my darling! My darling!"

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AN INDUCEMENT. WASN'T FORCED TO WALK.

Blily—"Does your mother give you anything if you take your medicine without you were?"

Pliry—"And because you couldn't find a penny to pay the fare did the conductor make you get off and walk?"

Jayson—"No, he only made me get off. I could have sat on the road if I'd wanted to."

Among the new taxes proposed by the Paris municipal council to replace the entry dues abolished at the beginning of the year, is a duty of 2d. on every book sold within the city limits.

MUNICIPAL

Collector's List of Lands or Improvements on Real Property Within the Corporation of the City of Victoria

To be Sold for Taxes, Interest and Costs on the TWENTY-SEVENTH DAY OF DECEMBER, 1901, at the City Council Chambers, City Hall, Victoria, B. C., at 12 o'clock noon, in pursuance of "The Victoria Real Property Tax Sale By-Law, 1901," unless in the meantime the arrears of Taxes, Interest and Costs due in respect of each Lot in the Schedule hereunder written be paid, or if sold the said Lands and Improvements will be chargeable with a proportion of the Legal Costs of and incidental to the obtaining of the Judge's Order confirming such Sale.

Table with columns: Lot, Block, Section, Assessed Owner, Registered Owner, Taxes, Interest, Total Arrears, Total Amount Due. Lists various lots and owners in Victoria.

John Moore Writes.

Foreman for the Dominion Coöperage Co., Praises the Oxygen Preparation, Powley's Liquefied Ozone.

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