There could be no doubt now. The vicar had left Tameleigh, refusing all the squire's offers and had set forth to walk home. Ever vone there know that he must have lost his vay, and in all likelinced have per-

ished.
"It do come like a judgment," whisper-"It do o'me like a judgment," whisper-ed Reziah 'oa friend out of the children's hearing. Ay, it do. He scolded and punished thou dear little souls just for feeling the frozon-out birds! Now-now he knows himself what it is—death in the

snow."

Rob began to cry because the women were crying, and he was frightened. Ray never shed a tear nor said a word; he only thought to himself with an unutterable horror, "Ged was angry!"
Christmas worning began to pass away. The beef lay unroasted; the pudding that had been in its pot all night boiled madly unnoticed; the bells of the church tolled without ceasing. Folks began to come in from the outlying parts of the parish as the skies cleared and the frost made the snow bassable. They all brought terrible tales. akies cleared and the frost made the anow passable. They all brought terrible tules of the past day and night; of sheep frozen to death, of caris blocked, of travelers lost, of horses killed, of boys drowned by the splitting ice, and of hamlets shut off from each other. It was even rumored that the great train from London, twenty miles away, was standing still all night with its freight and passengers, unable to move, and that some of them had been frozen to death. Kezish listened with a heating heart to

that some of them had been freezen to death. Kexiah listened with a beating heart to all these stories. It was now 3 o'clock; she had put away the Christmas dinner and fed the children on milk and bread and kept them quiet round her. There was no love in them to agritate their souls for their missing father, but the sense of some great calamity around weighed on them and kept them still and rightened. Ray was mute

and scarcely moved.

B) 4 it was once more quite dark. The villagers hung about, cowed and afraid like the children. Christmas day was passing, and there had been no service in the church. It seemed to them a thing so terrib, a that the in of it would lie on them forever.

All the hushed, whitened moor was with-

out a sound; the safely folded sheep bleated now and them, and the cattle lowed the the byre; that was all. Otherwise a silence the brret that was all. Utherwise a silence the like that of death enwapped the village and the church, and the people dared not speak above their voices. All at once Kezish rose and took the two little girls, one on each of her own strong arras, with their wooten hoods pulled over their Laxen beach.

theads.
"Christ's day must not go by without a prayer said in His church," she said to the folks in her kitchen. "Let us go and pray there for master. "Twill save the day from heathendom."

heathendom."

She went off into the deepening ; loom, into the air that was bitter still, but quite windless. Followed by the children, she went over the snow under the da k boughs of the trees to the church door, and cuterate the church door. ed it, the women going behind her with lanterns under their closks. They set down their lanterns in the middle of the down their lanterns in the middle of the alsie, and the light reade a little pale glow on the tomb stones that formed the pavement. Keziah kuceled down and prayed aloud, and the voices of the people echoed hers; when her prayers had ceased and all was silent, the little faint tones of Ray stole through the sti lness:

"God, pleaso do not be angry any more, because papa made a mistake; he did not mean, to be cruel. Please save the sheep and the birds, and save him. Please do not be angry any more."

Then his own little voice died away in a soh, and all the women, ku cling there in the cold and dark, wept too. Solemnly, as they had entered, they left the church; some one had said, "Let us sing a psaim," but no one could sing; their hearts were too.

some one had sand. Let us sing a passing, but no one could sing; their hearts were too full, for all their men were out on the moor, and who could tell what might chance there? Then Keziah, on her threshold, turned and said to her neigh-

threshold, turned and said to her heiga-bo 3:
"Now thank youll kindly but go to your hones. Goeighing is bad at such a time as this. For me, 1 will keep by the hearth with the children. The Lord succor their

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