his pale lips.
"Bethlum—and he got growed up—and cured folks——" but

Michael did not waken, or if he did,

Go to Bethlehem?" She smothed a laugh. "Rather an ambition for a little cripple. I should say, Striker.

to notice it. "Well," she instructed, "tell the nurse to show him how those electrical toys work—and that she'll find many boxes for him. There's one for her, too — in my room. Here's a remembrance and merry Christmas for you, Striker." Thank you, Mrs. Decatur."

He knew the remembrance. He always wished her merry Christmas return. It seemed he could not night. Indeed it would have pleased him to tear the good-sized bill into tiny pieces. She had gone. The fragrance of violets remained. Striker decided he would never like

"She's never been like a mother, really," he mused, "but she's never left before at Christmas." not even like a woman

When Sydney Everett had left the luxurious house which held her little patient, she found the sharp air good on her cheeks and the crunching of the snow as music. It was such genuine Christmassy weather, and the stir and bustle in jaded spirits. Even more heartenng, however, as she walked hastily along, was the sudden, welcome yoice which asked teasingly

Who's late, Miss Punctuality? I've walked up to your borrowed mansion twice and back two blocks, and am on the third quest as at last we meet.

Miss Everett laughed, a rippling laugh that seemed to take on a gay and yet a haunting music in the snowy atmosphere.

"Oh, Lawrence, so I did keep you waiting? "Long enough for me to make the make the its control of the contro

"Silly boy! Well, I was a little delayed." it on all girls. Poor little sick kid going to

have all the gilded perquisites of the season. I suppose "Oh, plenty of them," and the girl stamped a small foot noticeably as she fell into step with the

"And what's wanting?" he inquired. "Plainly something wanting to your exacting mind."

merely ran upstairs, radiantly dressed and evidently radiantly happy, and gave Michael a kiss and some of the table favors, but even that gave a few moments with his mother at Christmas."

wanted to be sure it was just right for the little fellow."

"Right? It's perfect! You're an artist, did you know it? But—it wasn't here last evening. It must have taken you all night."

"Mostly, miss, but it didn't seem

At the trace of tears in her voice, her lover spoke anxiously.

"Don't you worry, Sydney," he said, the little fellow won't miss her. Children know where there's real love and where there isn't."

"That's it exactly, that's the tragic part," the girl almost sobbed out. "That he won't miss her—his own mother—and that some day she'll probably wretchedly wonder why. It will be too late then."

"And I suppose, due to the motherly mother's pleasure trip, that you're going to try to make things up to the kid and I'm going to see you scarcely at all to-morrow?" he questioned.

"It might have been so, and you would have approved, too." "I might have magnanimously consented," the man interrupted, to

hear the calm reply.
"It would have been the same thing, really. But, listen, Lawrence. That perfectly splendid doctor has told me to take the entire afternoon and he will take care of Michael's

pleasure. What do you think of that?" "That he deserves your encomium and that—from me—is saying mighty much. And now will you listen, young lady." He turned her coat collar protectingly up around her throat and continued in almost an awed voice:

"That he deserves your encomium exited less though curious interest. Both the nurse and Striker wondered in he would speak of his listen, young lady." He turned her coat collar protectingly up around her throat and continued in almost all right, too, but not like the tree lall right right. The toys were returning cityward's, the devel that Michael did not realize they were returning cityward's, the dered if he would speak of his glow of the sunset added to the that they did not let him die of the they did not let him die of the sunset added to the sun

wed lovers are, whatever the season, and but little dreaming that Dr. Weatherly was at the same moment planning a holiday for the crippled child in gave no sign.

"Talking in his sleep. What did he say, Striker? Did you hear which held them enthralled, for after all the heaviful thoughts and

he say, Striker? Did you hear him?"

Striker returned from outside the door where he had stood at call when the mother entered the room.

"Yes'm, Mrs. Decatur, I heard him. He said Bethlehem, and how——"

"I won't have that nurse filling his mind with religious notions. It's not good for children."

"She only read from the Bible, Mrs. Decatur. The Christmas part,"

"She only read from the Bible, Mrs. Decatur. The Christmas part,"

"And after you and I have had christmas dinner," said Miss Everagain care for the fragrance of violets.

But when he dathementhrailed, forafter all the beautiful thoughts and dections are each one wrought of love.

Dr. Weatherly had entered his lonely house in no gentle mood. "And after you and I have had christmas dinner," said Miss Everagain care for the fragrance of violets.

But when he datementhrailed, forafter all the beautiful thoughts and with rof urther reference to an absent mother. Michael looked ready for but fighting his nap when he was told it must be before dinner today. Christmas dinner," said Miss Everagain care for the fragrance of violets.

But when he bad settled himself in an easy chair, had sent away his failing to suppress a yawn. "Guess"

his mind with religious notions. It's not good for children."

"She only read from the Bible, Mrs. Decatur. The Christmas part, you know, and he said—the little feller said as he'd like to go to Bethlehem himself."

But when he had settled himself in an easy chair, had sent away his man and had shaded the light to suit a mood for dreaming, the bitterness toward one apparently heartless woman was dissolved in heartless woman was dissolved in heartless woman was dissolved in "Anything you wish, Master Michael" heartless woman was dissolved in memories of another woman like to whom, he told himself, there could And be no other.

He looked at her in pained amazement which he made no slightest effect to conceal, but she seemed not to notice it.

"And the child! She would be made has boy's age now." He let his mind dwell on the first cruelly lonely Christmas seven years before. Minutes passed, hours, without his heeding time. Then he pulled himself up. "This will never do! I must plan how to brighten the day for another lonely heart—a little one. She, my gay but tender Mary, would be glad. That's it, that's it exactly!" He quite exulted in the thought as the sound of the bells of declared. old St. Philomena's rang clearly out in the crisp midnight air. "The creche!" The idea suddenly took out in the crisp midnight air. "The creche!" The idea suddenly took form in his mind. "The boy has never seen one. He may think it is his Bethlehem. Living alone has babied him some ways and aged that smote the doctor, so perfectly that smote the doctor, so perfectly

He was almost boyish himself as he planned how he would take the boy, how he would—yes, defiberately—let him, should he do so, who was coming in with a tray of think it was real. He would learn quickly enough whose child's heart had known almost nothing within its memory but sadly stark realism of pain and helplessness, however luxuriously surrounded. If he the crowded streets so heartening to realized, as was most probable, that the pious representation was only such, even that would be a pleasure and a partial satisfaction to his pitiful wish, if not, the doctor de-

Next morning Miss Everett and Striker bent loving endeavors to make a real Christmas for the boy who, having a mother, still, seemingly that the strick of the stores is closed and there isn't any place else to go Christmas. It ingly, to their outraged judgment,

was motherless.

"There's a bit of Christmas in here, Miss," said Striker awkwardly after his first greeting, as he led the way to a beautiful tree.

"Striker!" cried Miss Everett, amazed, "Michael had had Christmas trees, conveniently ordered and time she had forgotten. Probably she was remembering now and deciding that Striker and the nurse would make it all right some other. she was remembering now and deciding that Striker and the nurse would make it all right some other way, since it was now too late for a tree. And Sydney, last night, had thought with sinking heart that there would be none. But the one Striker had achieved was such as "To my heart, rather. Don't stalk of the child's mother to me please, Lawrence. It's wicked to feel as I feel towards her tonight."

Striker had achieved was such as even Sydney had never seen. Striker ones'd know where to show you, and Striker says as He comes every year like a baby, anyway."

She would know if it were exactly year like a baby, anyway."

The world be nowed as such as even Sydney had never seen. Striker was and Striker says as He comes every year like a baby, anyway." "To my mind she's lucky that you think even darkly of her in your white thoughts, but what's her thoughts, but what's her thoughts, but what's her the turned on the electric "She leaves for St. Louis on the midnight—and tomorrow's Christmas."
"No! She's not choosing Christmas to leave the kid." The man spoke more in assertion that in question.
"The man spoke more in assertion that in question."
"But, Striker, how—when?" she asked wonderingly.
"It wasn't much, Miss Everett, and the current and caused a brilliant star

question.

"But she is; for the first time she's done just that. I was there last Christmas evening, you know. She had a tree for him. True, she ran unstairs, radiantly for the little fellow."

"It wasn't much, Miss Everett, to pick up the pretties, and the lights were easy enough on account of all the electric fixtures, but I wanted to be sure it was just right for the little fellow."

long for hoping as the little fellow'd enjoy it. I just couldn't abide the thought of him without a tree, just because the missus-

"Forgot," supplied Miss Everett, in a tone that expressed all the man was thinking. "You're a trump; Striker, that's all."

He blushed like a schoolboy and then went with her to bring Michael, who, from the next room, was imperiously demanding "I hope he didn't hear us. I want

Let's hope you never knew it—may not know it now."

Then Dr. Weatherly went.

Michael stirred in his sleep as his mother leaned over him and kissed his pale lips.

"Do you realize that by another come when you're sleeping mostly, and kiss you're sleeping mostly, and kiss topped before the old church of his choice, to which he had led so skilfully for the effect he wished to faith in the Kingdom!

He who is not converted in the word of the salvation of the was here. Mothers come when you're sleeping mostly, and kiss topped before the old church of his choice, to which he had led so skilfully for the effect he wished to faith in the Kingdom!

They went along, absorbed as "Dad would 'uv stayed if he was here. Mothers come when you're sleeping mostly, and kiss topped before the old church of his choice, to which he had led so skilfully for the effect he wished to faith in the Kingdom!

He who is not converted in the word of the salvation of the was here. Mothers come when you're sleeping mostly, and kiss topped before the old church of his choice, to which he had led so skilfully for the effect he wished to faith in the Kingdom!

He who is not converted in the was here. Mothers come when you're sleeping mostly, and kiss topped before the old church of his choice, to which he had led so skilfully for the effect he wished to faith in the Kingdom!

He who is not converted in the was here. Mothers come when you're sleeping mostly, and kiss topped before the old church of his choice, to which he had led so skilfully for the effect he wished to faith in the Kingdom!

He who is not converted in the was here. Mothers come when you're sleeping mostly and kiss topped before the old church of his choice, to which he had led so skilfully for the effect he wished to faith in the Kingdom!

He who is not converted in the was here. Mothers come when you're sleeping mostly and country when the doctor when you're sleeping mostly and country when the doctor when you're sleeping mostly and country when the doctor when you're sleeping me once what it was. I don't produce. like violets. Show me again how Parking that track and cars work, Miss Everett.'

The sudden digression was most welcome, and the hours passed be-tween joy of the tree and playing

ened with wonderful stories suggested by the turkey and the dainty favors and the ice cream Santa Clauses, Dr. Weatherly came to find a happy little patient. The digni-fied doctor warmly accepted the invitation to "run the cars" and disposed of the "chewy" cat in sed of the "chewy" cat in short order that the giver

babied him some ways and aged him in others. Wanting to go there, that fine nurse said. Poor little cripple!"

Said the boy, with instant sympathy and an instant beautiful smile that smote the doctor, so perfectly was it the smile the boy's father had so often given him.

reply: "It is the m tree I have ever seen. It was after she had gone with a singing heart (for had not love made up greatly to Michael, and was not love waiting for her to crown her beautiful day?) that the doctor said casually, "Well, young man, we're going to have a bit of

as well as be pushed in your chair. Suppose Striker and I fix you com-

Then Michael found his voice: "And eat and drink and everything, Striker," he ordered heartily. The doctor laughed and the big

car glided smoothly away. Had there ever been anything like him to have the whole wonderful surprise," said Sydney.

He had not heard. He would not, anyway, have been surprised at a tree, but his wondering, delightful surprise at this particular tree to which they wheeled him was so numb, so poignant, that Striker loudly blew his nose and Sydney's eyes swam.

Had there ever been anything like this? The streets gay with laughing people, the snow glistening in not think of entering into the Kingdom. Sometimes the children of this world are in their generation wiser than the children of light, understand the management of and people, and then beyond houses and people, and then beyond houses and people altogether. Scrubby pine growths pierced through the snowy carpet in scattered spots numb, so poignant, that Striker loudly blew his nose and Sydney's eyes swam.

"Gosh!" the boy exulted. "I've and the "ermine, too dear for an never had a tree like that." He gazed long and joyously. He exclaimed over every tiniest feature of the truly beautiful tree. When the toys were brought to him they excited less though curious interest. Both the nurse and Striker won.

And Master Michael decided:
"Guess one of the caramel cats.
They're chewy and they last long."
After a nap and the Christmas dinner, which Miss Everett enliv-

"You must 'uv swallowed her

had so often given him.
"That," he pronounced, "is a

who was coming in with a tray of refreshments, nearly let it drop. His confusion at the praise was not greatly helped by Miss Everett's It is the most beautiful

pitiful wish, if not, the doctor to termined to tell him no untruth, but yet to leave the boy his dream but yet to leave the boy his dream out, you and I." Michael's eyes

isn't like we could go over to Beth lum, like it says in the story. But I'm going there some day," he finished with decision

' And who says we can't go looking, for Bethlehem today?"
The doctor's eyes twinkled, but the boy answered in the manner of one who would instruct the ignor-

like that idea of Striker's," said the doctor. And just suppose we—you and I—found the baby again! Yes, it might be very far," in answer to the surprised question in the boy's eyes, "and Miss Everett knows a lot. But maybe she forgot how awfully far you can go these days in a big automobile.'

"Aut'mobile," gasped Michael, but I can't—"
"Oh, yes," corrected the doctor,
you can go in an automobile quite

Suppose Striker and I fix you comfortable on the seat and wrap you tight in rugs. How about it?"

Michael's eyes were stars.

"You're fooling me, you don't mean it," he said, with a little break in his voice.

"I fool you, Michael?" The kindly stern voice steadied the boy who speechless with joy were presented.

who, speechless with joy, was pre-pared for the wonderful journey He heard the doctor's word to the chauffeur, "I'll drive myself, George. You and Striker get along until we come back."

which a beautiful star hung low—the thrifty Brother Isidore, who was in charge, having decided enough people were present to permit of the electrical aid to a religious and picturesque if not perfect imitation of Bethlehem. Laid gently on a bench close in front, Michael was absorbed, oblivious to stares of curiosity and pity and whispered commiseration. He had come over to Bethlehem. He could almost touch the wonderful Baby, and the sweet young mother, Baby, and the sweet young mother, there but, if he noticed the discrep-

Standing by and watching the utterly absorbed boy, the doctor thought, "The world is too much with us," and realized that to the child, as yet free of the world's sordidness, if not of a share in its suffering, this was indeed the Bethlehem of his dreams. Deliberately he leaned over and lifted the slight he leaned over and lifted the slight form before the miracle of joy and it. certainty should be in any way dis-

'Going?" Michael's tone was regret itself, when the doctor had tares ye root up also the wheat him again back in the car, he conwith them. Let both grow together "I-I didn't want to come tinued,

As the boy received this, the

was fast asleep. was fast asleep.

"I'll have a look at him when you have him in bed, Striker," said the doctor, and to himself: "I feel I want to kiss the boy good-night. It's Christmas—and for his father."

When, alone with the sleeping

child, he stooped and kissed the moist lips, Michael stirred but did Yes, dad," he muttered. "I like tobacco lots better than vio-

THE STORY OF CHRIST

BY GIOVANNI PAPINI pyright, 1923, by Harcourt, Brace & Company Inc. Published by arrangement with The McClure Newspaper Syndicate

The rich man delights in his property and it grieves him to have to give away even the smallest part of it because he thinks that this life will never end and that the future will be like the past. But death comes to him also, and when he expects it least. There was once a landed proprietor who had an especially profitable year in all his possessions. He had fantastic possessions. He had fantastic imaginings about his new riches, and he said: "I will pull down my barns and build greater, and there will I bestow all my fruits and my goods, the wheat, the barley and the other grains, and I will make other barns for the hay and the straw and other stables for the oxen that I will buy, and still another stable where I can put all my sheep and goats, and I will say to my soul: Thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink and be merry."

ease, eat, drink and be merry."

And the idea did not come to him even for a moment that from this largesse of the earth he could have put aside a portion to comfort the poor of his country. But on that very night when he had imagined so many improvements in his property, the rich man died, and the day after, he was buried naked and alone, under the earth, and there was no one to intercede for him in Heaven.

He who does not make friends

Parking the car, he lifted Michael in his arms and entered the building so dimmed by the early dark that its interior and furniture were almost effaced. The eye indeed was immediately and completely drawn to the arcake above. pellingly drawn to the creche above and succeeded in driving it away, which a beautiful star hung low The demon walked through dry

In the day of triumph laments the reverend St. Joseph, the ragged, rugged "shepherd fellers" and the "animules." The Kings also were rushes. Then will be made the last and irrevocable choice, like that of ancy, it did not disturb him as it had the fisherman who, after having an exacting lady to whose hyper-pulled up from the sea his net full criticism Brother Isidore had replied of fish, sits down on the beach and crisply. "The Kings would have been there if they'd got there in baskets and throws away the others. crisply. "The Kings would have been there if they'd got there in time, so I put them 'in time.'" A long truce is given to sinners, And the lady had submitted her that they may have all the time. chronological exactness to Brother necessary to change their hearts, Isidore's large accommodation to the Kings.

and came and told their master of

Wilt thou then that we go and gather them up?" But he said, "Nay! lest while ye gather up the until the harvest; and in the time Will the Baby be there all of harvest I will say to the reapers, ight?"
Gather ye together first the tares, and bind them in bundles to burn him away and put him to sleep, them: but gather the wheat into my barn.

As the boy received this, the dector called himself some not very complimentary names. "To remind him of his mother, just when I was grateful he didn't talk of her!" he multitude was about Him to listen to Him, and seeing all voice only said dreamily. "She looked like she loved the Baby lots and she didn't have violets. I think I like mothers without ? violets."

Thus like a good husbandman jets the day of the harvest. One day an immense multitude was about Him to listen to Him, and seeing all these men and these women who were hungering after righteousness and thirsting after love, He was about Him to listen to Him, and seeing all these men and these women who were hungering after righteousness and thirsting after love, He was about Him to listen to Him, and seeing all these men and these women who were hungering after righteousness and thirsting after love, He was about Him to listen to Him, and seeing all these men and these women who were hungering after righteousness and thirsting after love, He was about Him to listen to Him, and seeing all these men and these women who were hungering after righteousness and thirsting after love, He was about Him to listen to Him, and seeing all these men and these women who were hungering after righteousness and thirsting after love, He was about Him to listen to Him, and seeing all these men and these women who were hungering after righteousness and thirsting after love, He was about Him to listen, and 6% common kerosene (coal oil).

St. W., Montreal, is offering to send a lamp on 10 day's FREE trial, or even to give one FREE to the first user in each locality who will help him introduce it. Write him to-day for full particulars. Also ask him to explain how you can get the harvest, that he will send forth

laborers into this harvest."

His voice does not carry every-where, not even the Twelve are enough: others are necessary to proclaim the good news, that it may be carried to all those who suffer

and who await it. TO RE CONTINUED

CHRISTMAS NIGHT

At last Thou art come, little Saviour! And thine angels fill midnight with song; Thou art come to us, gentle Creator! Whom Thy creatures have sighed

for so long. Thou art come to Thy beautiful Mother;
She hath looked on Thy marvelous face:

Thou art come to us, Maker of Mary And she was Thy channel of grace. Thou hast brought with Thee plenti-

ful pardon. And our souls overflow with delight; 500 Rooms Our hearts are half broken, dear Jesus. With the joy of this wonderful night!

We have waited so long for Thee, Saviour, Thou art come to us, dearest, at

bless Thee, dear Joy of Thy Mother, This is worth all the wearisome

past! -REV. FREDERICK W. FABER

Next to acquiring good friends the best acquaintance is that of

OIL LIGHT BEATS **ELECTRIC OR GAS**

BURNS 94% AIR

A new oil lamp that gives an amazbetter than gas or electricity, has been tested by the U. S. Government and 35 leading universities and found and 35 agly brilliant, soft, white light

Dominion Folks

Prefer This

HOTEL LENOX has become a favorite stopping place for Dominion folks visiting Buffalo.

This modern, fireproof Hotel is ideally situated; refined and homelike in environment; handy to shops, business, theatres and roads to Niagara Falls.

Superior Cuisine. European plan. Every room an outside room. Rates from \$2.50 per day.

On the Empire and Great Lakes Tours. Write for FREE Road Guides, Maps or Hotel Booklet.

HOTEL LENOX

Clarence A. Miner

North St. at Delaware Avenue

BUFFALO, N. Y.

\$10. FREE WITH EACH PURCHASE OF

EUREKA

FROM NOW UNTIL CHRISTMAS

\$4.75 DOWN Balance Easy Monthly Payments

And Secure A Complete Set Of Attachments FREE

This offer expires December 25 and as our sup oly is limited, we urge you to act at once.

Phone, Write or Call Today and Avoid Disappointment

The Eureka Shop
PHONE 66
231 Dundas St. London, Ont.
256 King St. E., Hamilton
C. H. Smith Co, Wi dser
201 Ontario St., Stratford
652 Talbot St., St. Thomas

HEAD OFFICE

sides this wonderful free offer, upon request we will deliver to ir door on free cleaning trial a new Eureka. Use it without cost three days and if you wish to buy, pay only

COMPLETE SET OF ATTACHMENTS

Motorists follow Main Street or De

Buffalo Hotel

It is only a short way from uncharitableness to jealousy, which is one of the meanest vices.



Hotel Wolverine DETROIT

Newest and Most Modern

500 Baths Rates \$2.50 Up

EGGS and POULTRY WANTED

GET IN TOUCH WITH US C. A. MANN & CO. Lordon, Ont

REGO RADIATOR REPAIR "WE KNOW HOW

H. G. KAISER Phone 7249 M Nights 1006 J 150 Fullarton St. London, London, Ont

THE DARRAGH STUDIO SPECIALISTS IN PORTRAITURE 214 Dundas St. Phone 444

Photographer to the Particular

Whooping Cough

Asthma



COMPLETE

Catechism Series

(By the Bazilian Fathers) No. 1 — First Communicant's No. 2 - Junior Catechism

No. 3 - Revised Butler's

Special Prices in

Large Quantities

Canada Church **Goods Company**

149 Church St. Toronto, Canada

Everything — for Church, School and Hom

Free Until Christmas FUNERAL DIRECTORS

Telephone-House 378. Factory 548 E. C. Killingsworth

FUNERAL DIRECTOR

Open Day and Night

John Ferguson & Sons 180 KING ST. The Leading Undertakers & Embair Open Night and Day

389 Burwell St. Phone 3971 Established Over 30 Years SUTTON & SON Funeral Directors

PHONE SEN. 835



BRITISH AMERICA ASSURANCE COMPANY

Incorporated 1833 Fire — Marine — Automobile — Burglary — Guarantee

Security to Policyholders -\$1,981,642.19