

Young Canada Club

By DIXIE PATTON

A QUEER CHRISTMAS PARTY

You couldn't guess where I was Saturday—at the Children's Hospital to see the little ones get their presents from the Christmas tree. For the life of me I cannot remember at all accurately how many little ones there were. Like well children at such a time they seemed to be everywhere, the weller ones underfoot and the sicker ones in their cribs and chairs all about.

There was Peter, of about one and a half years, I should think, who had been brought in for some skin disease and had practically recovered. Peter stood bravely up in his crib and surveyed the world with complete satisfaction. He was too small a man to do more than observe with pleasure the bright colors of his toys and to reach out eager hands to grasp the forbidden fruit of other toys not for him.

Close to Peter there was a still, white-faced child who looked terribly ill, although she was able to sit up in her cot and play rather wearily with her gifts.

In a crib, at the end of the sunroom, flat on her back, lay a brave laughing little girl who had been very, very ill, I believe, but who was a good little soldier and laughed through it all.

She was evidently beloved by the nurses and by the lame little boy who wheeled himself in his chair to the side of her cot and compared gifts with her. This lame little boy was fairly beside himself with excitement and buzzed around the room like a bee in a clover bed, manipulating his awkward chair as cleverly as if it were a bicycle.

They were not quite as noisy and riotous a crowd of kiddies as one generally finds about a Christmas tree, but they were supremely happy and the little eyes fairly bulged out of the pale little faces in their excitement.

DIXIE PATTON.

GLADE'S UNLUCKY SLEEP

Once upon a time, far across the sea, there lived a little boy whose name was Glade. Glade's father and mother were awfully strict with him. So when he was twelve years old he ran away from school and went to sea.

He got a job on a merchant ship. Everything went well for two weeks. One day they saw land and Glade was the first one on land. They all went and picked a lot of fruit. But Glade went to sleep and when he awoke he found he was all alone, no ship in sight. He yelled and screamed, but no answer. At last he got tired of screaming so he wandered along the sea-edge. I forgot to mention that Glade had a dog and a gun and plenty of ammunition.

That night Glade slept in the trees. When he awoke he thought he saw a ship at a distance. Glade looked again and sure enough it was a ship coming. Glade built a fire so the people on the ship could see him. When the ship came Glade got on and sailed to the West Indies. There he stayed the rest of his life.

VAN HENDERSON.

Zenith P.O., Alta., age 11.

A WISH AND A NEW HOME

Many years ago a man and his wife lived in a little cottage on the outskirts of a small town. They were never discontented or lonely in their cottage, they were always happy and light-hearted. But they had one desire of their hearts, to have a baby girl. Now these people were very poor and they did not have the money to adopt a baby.

So they prayed earnestly to the great Goddess to bring them what they most desired in the whole world. Many years wore away and still they had not their desire. At last they had given up and they thought no more of it.

One day, as they sat alone earnestly conversing together, a stork walked in through the half-open door and came up to the old people and said, "I have heard your earnest prayers and have brought you a baby girl; be good to her, raise her and teach her to be a noble woman and you shall be rewarded."

Years elapsed and the child was nearing her seventeenth birthday. She had grown into a beautiful, noble woman. Every one who knew her loved her because of her kind heart.

Strolling by herself one sunny afternoon,

she came across a very old woman, bent low with the cares and trials of life. She carried on her arm a very heavy basket. She was very tired and the basket was more than she could carry. When Alice (for that was our little heroine's name) saw the poor old woman, her heart was touched to see her trudging wearily along with her burden. She ran forward to meet her and with loving hands took the basket and carried it for the old woman to her home.

With gratitude to the kind girl, she invited her to sup with her. Alice stayed till it was growing late, then arising, she left the old woman alone. Hurrying home Alice told her parents the story of her adventure with the old

woman. Not thinking anything more about it, the matter passed and was not again referred to.

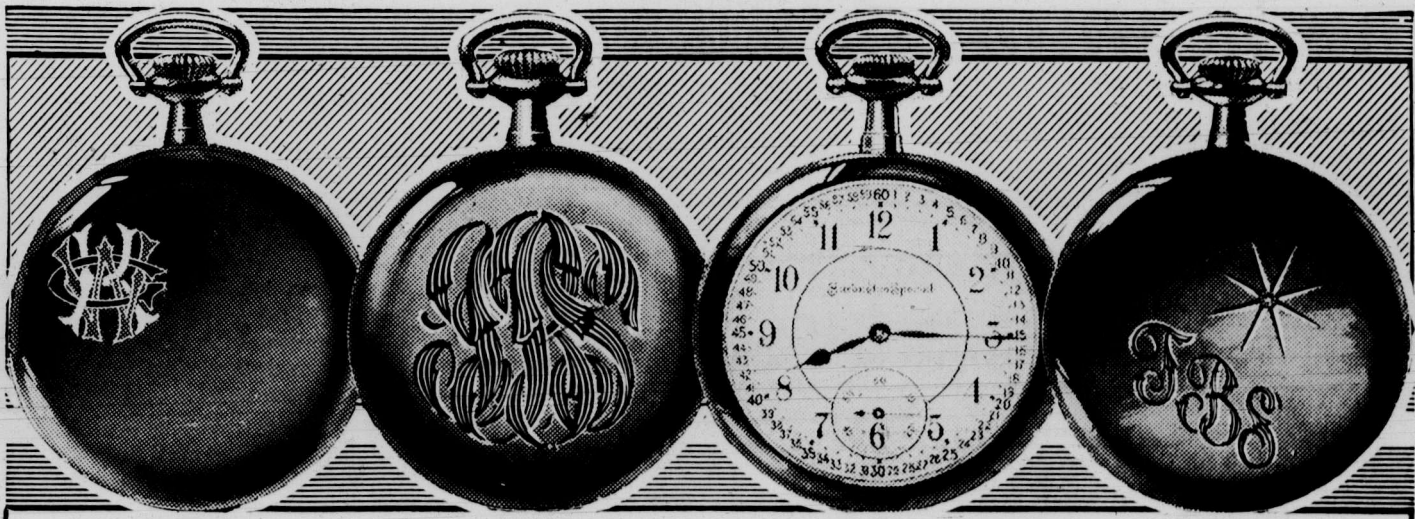
One day Alice chanced again to meet the kind-faced old woman. Stopping to speak with her a few moments, Alice, little thinking what would come of it, slowly drifted into a conversation. After talking some time, the old lady suddenly spoke up and asked the queer question, which very much puzzled Alice, "If you were asked to wish, what would you wish?" "I," said the girl, "would wish that you were a young girl again." Immediately there appeared before her a beautiful girl about her own age and size. Alice was so startled that she could not speak until the girl said, "I was once a beautiful girl like yourself, and because I would not do as my parents told me, a wicked fairy changed me into an old woman and I have been old ever since, till now, when you broke the enchantment by your wish. Go home now

and may you live happy many years.' Running home Alice stood before the little cottage that was once her home, but in its place was a beautiful brick structure. Rushing in she fell in the outstretched arms of her parents. Speechless with astonishment, they stood and looked with wondering eyes at the beautiful building that was now their home.

Many, many years they lived in their new home and they never forgot the kindness of the beautiful girl, and though Alice never met the beautiful girl again, she still remembered her as the old woman whom she had kindly helped to her home with her heavy burden.

"What are those fellows doing?" asked the boy as he approached the schoolhouse. "Putting in an electric switch," was the answer.

"Well, I quit right here," said the boy. "I won't stand for any school where they do the licking by electricity."



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