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ANDREW ARCHER, Editor

### CHRISTMAS IS COMING?

From the bright land of the elf-king, Where the bonbons gayly grow Just like sweets of summer gardens, When the tulips smile in row.

Feathery flakes are falling, falling, From the skies in softest way; And between are voices calling:
"Soon it will be Christmas day!"
Don't you know how in the springtit
Wintry snows are scattered wide

Feathery flakes are sifting, sifting, Through the chill December air— Here, and there, and yonder drifting, Making everything more fair; Laving whiter folds than linen On the houses and the trees, Softer than the richest damask

Soon the bonbons will be falling As the flakes have fall n to-day, And the children will be calling To their patron saint so gay:
"Ah! we know when came the snowflake
You would come, dear Santa Claus.—

See, the trees are fair as any
That elves have wreathed with snow,
Will be planted—oh! so many!—
In our better homes. And lo!
Something better far than snowflakes
Shall be hung about their green—
Candies, toys, and fairy taper,
Lichtway, the many scene

And the children dancing, dancing, Till all tired their little feet, Shall, with half-shut eves up-glancing Wonder: "Why is life so sweet?" And some tender voice shall whisper Flake-like falling from above:
"Christmas is so sweet, my darling,
Just because it's king is love!"

# THE OUEEREST CHRISTMAS.

voice indignantly.

'And acknowledge that your conduct has been disgracefully unlady-like, and treacherous, and—' will forget to fall in love with you! Carla, you may unbend your brows, the ogress has vanished! What's she

ed to write to papa, and tell him that his confidence in you has been all a mistake. That instead of obeying his injunctions to treat me with indulgence, and make me as happy as you let the joins me, you have made can till he joins me, you have made to the injunctions to treat me with indulgence, and make me as happy as you lat the joins me, you have made to the injunctions to treat me with indulgence and make me as happy as you lat the joins me, you have made to the joins me, you have made to the joins me account their wanderings, the invalid was house which was to be their abode, damped their vivacity.

The dreary, flat expanse of country, and she has said such dreadful things and she has said such dreadf

but not amiable-looking spinster, of uncertain age, frowned sternly as also surveyed the excited speaker. And yet it was a very charming picture she saw before her. Carla, the only daughter of her half-brother, the Indian judg, who had such improved the Indian judg, who had such improved the excited speaker. There's a great box of Maudie's the Indian judg, who had such improved the excited speaker. And yet it was a very charming picture she saw before her. Carla, the only daughter of her half-brother, the Indian judg, who had such improved the excited speaker. And yet it was a very charming picture she saw before her. Carla, the only daughter of her half-brother, the Indian judg, who had such improved the excited speaker. I should the door, and admitted the door, and admitted the correct term, now-a days, for every the experience, we'll improvise—that's the correct term, now-a days, for every the experience, we'll improvise the time of it? Cried Ernie, gleefully. There's a great box of Maudie's newest books with my luggage, and their gins and shot belts, all their border, who at the moment of your assurances. I should the door, and admitted the correct term, now-a days, for every built far the correct term, now-a days, for every built far the correct term, now-a days, for every built far the one of the was at the correct term, now-a days, for every built far the one of the fan. One of them was, as the others had built for the gods that the store will be a barquet of the fan. One of them was, as the others had built far the correct term, now-a days, for every built far the correct term, now-a days, for every built far the one of the fan. One of them was, as the others had built far the one of the was a very charming picture. The was a very charming picture as was for the fan. One of them was, as the others had built far the far thankful the correct term, now-a days, for every built far the far the far thankful the correct term, now-a days, for every built far the far thankful the down as in the care of the fan. plicit but mistaken confidence in his sister's good sense and generosity, lost of the millier's with such lost

The first all the first and th

caresses and loving whispers, was traction all along.'

You always do encourage Miss Carla Taunton in her contamacy, and it's a great impertinence on your part. How dare you—a girl I keep out of charity—a girl who has no home but the one I give her—dare to meddle in what does not concern you?'

Leave Drusie alone,' exclaimed 'Leave Drusie alone,' exclaimed on 'Leave Ben Drusie alone,' excl

You will retire to your father's estate in Cambridgeshire, and there was already applied for in Cambridgeshire, and there was issuing my. If she will not let you his cambridgeshire, and there was issuing my. If she will not let you his cambridgeshire, and there was issuing my. If she will not let you his cambridgeshire, and there was issuing my. If she will not let you his cambridgeshire, and there was issuing my. If she will not let you his cambridgeshire, and the looks in the carpet is his commands. I have already applied to the Lavingtons she cannot report the cambridgeshire was a command to a process of the power.

"Go to Percount" ["reid Carla, in in the label, but I cambridgeshire, and the was to in chairs and the blocks in the carpet is an any of the power of the power.

"Go to Percount" ["reid Carla, in the label, but I cambridgeshire, and the label of the power of the years."

"Go to Percount" ["reid Carla, in the label, but I cambridgeshire, and the label of the power of the years."

"And the label of the l

her temper too thoroughly to be politic; and, snappishly saying that she had no time to answer irrelevant questions, she marched out of the room.

'Apparently we are not well this morning,' was Ernestine's saucy com a box of gloves that we three morning,' was Ernestine's saucy com and an herress, but now she had lost her townshe had lost her temper too thoroughly to be politic; and, snappishly saying that she had lost her temper too thoroughly to be politic; and, snappishly saying that she retorted Ernie, merrily. 'But me again, papa. When did you arrive in Ergland? How long have sooner, 'she added, in very digntile the room. 'I am sorry I culd o not see you will pay liberally for the trouble we give you.'

'I am sorry I culd o not see you will pay liberally for the trouble we give you.'

'I am sorry I culd o not see you will pay liberally for the trouble we give you.'

'I am sorry I culd o not see you occasionally and do the rough work, how as the did you arrive in Ergland? How long have sooner, 'she added, in very digntile fashion; 'but Moggs has I hope, taken good care of you. Moggs is one a box of gloves that we three steed that the work in the control of the rough work, and the rough work, will pay liberally for the trouble we give you.'

'I am sorry I culd o not see you will pay liberally for the trouble we give you.'

'I how do we know that this is not a trick you are playing upon us? We taken good care of you. Moggs is one of our ancient retainers; useful if not ornamental.'

patient! whispered, pleadingly, herear). 'Acknowledge that I have acted in any way that would disgrace or even displease the dear father who placed me in your care! No, aunt, no, I will not so belie myself!'

Miss Taunton, a plump handsome, Miss Taunton bare and a chilly fog. But the very sight wrath. 'I am not going to the Lavanton and a chilly fog. But the very sight wrath. 'I am not going to the Lavanton and a chilly fog. But the very sight wrath. 'I am not going to the Lavanton and a chilly fog. But the very sight wrath. 'I am not going to the Lavanton and a chilly fog. But the very sight wrath. 'I am not going to the Lavanton beauton and a chilly fog. But the very sight wrath. 'I am not going to the Lavanton and a chilly fog. But the very sight wrath. 'I am not going to the Lavanton beauton and a chilly fog. But the very sight wrather the gos and a chilly fog of the Lavanton and a chilly fog of the Lavanton and a chilly fog of the Lavanton

palms of a girl a year or two her junior, who, with her blue orbs swim-

tremulous with alarm, was striving in vain to play the peacemaker.

'This is another insult!' said Miss Taunton, trying to be majestic but really sinking to the spiteful. 'You after he had pronounced himself of the unworthiness of the male sex!' added Ernesiine, veher half-whisper. 'No; she means to go in for the cambridge examinations, and be a girl graduate,' suggested Carla. 'Bad guessers, both of you. It's mently. 'I have seen a great deal of the greatures since Learne of age two around.

'Mo; she means to go in for the cambridge examinations, and be a girl graduate,' suggested Carla. 'Bad guessers, both of you. It's mently. 'I have seen a great deal of the greatures since Learne of age two around. Taunton, trying to be majestic but really sinking to the spiteful. 'You accuse me, the sister of your father, the guardian of your vouth, of suggesting a lie, as you elegantly termed gesting a lie, as you elegantl

Auciculturist.

the elder, a slender, scholarly looking gentlemen, in whose pocket there lay ma'am,' urged Gerald Power, wheel- her to hope he and his friends would Granton Danesborough, wondering

## CHAPTER III.

have the pleasure of our hostess's vitation was eagerly accepted,

her face as she answered primly, that Power, as he spread some potted ham Hayes was dressing for a drive, Carla when Granton as there is to this one. It has quite for you!

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peace a young lady, gaily as she glided into the room, touched the reach it? You, Ernie—you who have more a glided into the room, touched the reach it? You, Ernie—you who have more a leasant engagements than you can then affectionately kissed the cheek of Carla. 'Debaic, my little darling! the top of the morning to you! And what has happened? Did the cockatoo what has happened? Did the cockatoo was afraid to look in the glass, for fear I should find a chilblam on the time of my nose! But seriously—for you look strangely grave—has anything terrible occurred?'

Miss Taunton was generally civil in the rear. 'Sound find a chilblam on the time of the form of the morning to you as afraid to look in the glass, for fear I should find a chilblam on the time of the fear will be such an excellent of the polishments that the provided special cannot resist it.'

But how are we to reach it?' the next morning to reach it; then next morning and then engagements than you can be the whold find a chilb and not stumbled against the provided silk deers stood out stilly and the twill be such an excellent of the when the lack shill have to do everything for ourselves. Mrs. Moggs should find a chilblam on the time of the morning, said Miss and the whold find a chilblam on the time of the morning get frozen last night? How cold it was a When I awoke this was in When I awoke this was in When I awoke this was in When I awoke this when the ware in the eneck, "Intermeded, 'The mist is so thick we should not achile the ware this which we should not achile the ware the were all black fills the cockato of the whold not the were all them the earns, simultaneously.

'You, Ernie—you who have me to tereach it? How cond in the earl of wheels, of the when the were all when the midstance of the will can be be done of the when the theory the side of the whold not achile the were all black fills the cockato of the whold and the will be such as the wille

The snow had ceased to fall when the bells of the village churches began to ring merry peals in honor of of pretty Drusie, and Gerald Power Christmas Day. contrived to get Carla into a corner,
Comte St. Evremont was so much where, if her blushes and protesting

better as to be able to walk with a looks may be relied on, he tormented little assistance, and Granton Danes-borough said something at breakfast Ernestine, however, still kept up

> Three months afterwards, as Ernie usual excitement. Dearest Ernie, I have such news

study, and in spite of sundry feeble 'Poor Drusie! how could we for-What sweet, innocent eyes your protests, triumphed over all opposi- get her! exclaimed Ernie, suddenly, countrywoman have! Hers filled tion, and brought him down to din as she stood with the betrothed pair,

# Literature.

Feathery flakes are dancing, dancing, In the gray morn's frosty gleam— Heralds they of reindeer prancing— From the gardens of our dream—

re the lovely purple blossoms

Dare to peep from where they hide?

Spread our dainty guest to please

For we always (you remember)
Know the wind's way by the straws.

'If it offends you I can leave the room.'

'And sullenly defy me! No, Carla, you shall not go away till you have confessed that you have been in the offends you I can leave the blank in the shocked, his name is Bob, the retriever, and at the present moment have a lover.' Drusie made confession have a lover.' Drusie made confession have a lover.' There is ladies in the house by this,' said his companion, pointing to society.' Society.' The present moment have a lover.' But disgusted me.'

'I used to think it would be nice to a volume of a Greek author. There is ladies in the house by this,' said his companion, pointing to society.' Society.' The present moment have a lover,' Drusie made confession have a lover,' Drusie made confession have a lover,' Drusie made confession have a lover,' Brusie made confession have a lover,' Drusie made confession have a lov

distrusted, and, in fact, treated more soon blow over, for she will be asham like a wilful child than the beloved daughter who was sent to England to enter society under your auspices' each like a wild not let it appear. She paid the pare for dinner; and Ernie had spoiled enter society under your auspices' each like a wild not let it appear. She paid the pare for dinner; and Ernie had spoiled drivers of the fly and the cart that a lovely custard, at the last moment, enter society under your auspices'
'Very well, Miss Carla Taunton—
worst!' sighed Carla. 'All our plea worst!' sighed Carla. 'All our plea carried the laggage so liberally that very well!' cried her aunt, shaking with tears, real tears, when I deseated to her with pain I suffered last all.

'Ah! but you have not heard the drivers of the fly and the cart that a lovely custard, at the last moment, countrywoman have! Hers filled with tears, real tears, when I deseated to her with pain I suffered last all.

'I leigho! what a long day this has with tears, real tears, when I deseated to her with pain I suffered last all. very well? cried her aunt, shaking very between the passion. Your father shake the passion of the passion. Your father shaking the male specially appropriate the barging good and the passion of the passion

palms of a girl a year or two her junior, who, with her blue orbs swimming in tears, and her pouting lip tremulous with alarm, was striving in vain to play the peacemaker.

In mean to develop mysen, which are given. In thought Miss Taunton's approaching gave place to a faint tinge of more healthy coloring.

When he had pronounced himself of the better, his friends had leisure to draw. When he had pronounced himself of the better, his friends had leisure to draw. Whise Ernest hemmed and coughed, which are given. In thought Miss Taunton's approaching gave place to a faint tinge of more healthy coloring.

When he had pronounced himself of the better, his friends had leisure to draw. Whise Ernest hemmed and coughed, which are given. In exile.'

and till be joins me, you have made my life here a misery to me. I am my stery in this seclusion I sha'nt rest you let the ill-nature of a disappointed to mearly chopped her fingers as well as first had refired. There a confadulation went on that lasted till nearly have my revenge that I have consent-day, which was spent quietly, yet of the day. Druste had day, which was spent quietly, yet have my revenge that I have consent-day, in fact, treated more into which they were ushered to which the day. Druste had day, which was spent quietly, yet have my revenge that I have consent-day, in fact, treated more into which they were ushered to which the day. Druste had day, which was spent quietly, yet have my revenge that I have consent-day where meaning the penetrated.'

And other contretemps marred the mystery in this seclusion I sha'nt rest day, which was spent quietly, yet have my revenge that I have consent-day, in fact, treated more into which they were ushered to which the day. Druste had day, which was spent quietly, yet day, which was spent quietly, yet have my revenge that I have consent-day what on that lasted till nearly chopped her fingers as well as first had refired. There a confadulation went on that lasted till nearly chopped her fingers as well as first had refired. There a confadulation went on that lasted till nearly chopped her fingers as well as first had refired. There a confadulation went on that lasted till nearly chopped her fingers as well as first had refired. There a confadulation went on that lasted till nearly chopped her fingers as well as first had refired. There a confadulation went on that lasted till nearly chopped her fingers as well as first had refired. There a confadulation went on that lasted till nearly chopped her fingers as well as first had refired. There a confadulation went on that lasted till nearly chopped her fingers as well as first had refired. There are confadulation went on that lasted till nearly chopped her fingers as well as first had refired. There are confadula

NO. 37.

To-morrow, then. Perhaps Mr.

you shall not go away till you have been in the confessed that you have been in the wrong, and expressed some penitence for your shameful behaviour. I wish you would stand aside Drusilla.'

And now her wrath burst upon the little clinging creature, who, with caresses and loving whispers, was trying to soothe her aggrieved friend.

The bis travelling under the guard's with many blushes. 'I have always this, 'said his companion, pointing to society.'

Miss Ernest spread her fan before her always this, 'said his companion, pointing to society.'

Miss Ernest spread her fan before her acres said lonely, friendless little the Sevres china of Ernic's tea equipone he is travelling under the guard's with many blushes. 'I have always this, 'said his companion, pointing to society.'

Miss Ernest spread her fan before are a loose box.'

Miss Ernest spread her fan before hyby that it has made me long for some one to love and protect me.'

Yes,' assented Drusila.'

And now her wrath burst upon the little clinging creature, who, with caresses and loving whispers, was and he declared that Clara was his attraction all along.'

And now her wrath burst upon the face as she spread bear observed Gerald beat of their some one to love and protect me.'

'Do you know the price women have to pay for such protection?' ask—flight.

'Ladies,' feebly muttered the invalid the society.'

Lith's, said his companion, pointing to society.'

Miss Ernest spread her fan before her as a some one to love and protect me.'

'Drusie had dropped in her hasty whether she could yield to this required to have and again yesterday; but—but he has page; 'and this.'

'And now her wrath burst upon the last traces of Miss or the face as she spread bear of their staces of the society.'

And now her wrath burst upon the last traces of Miss or the face as she spread her fan before with the society of gentlemen, she did not know whether she could yield to this required fight.

'Ladies,' feebly muttered the invalid to the season were on the society.'

And now her wrat

has to her?" queried St. Evrement.

CHAPTER I.

One of our ancient retainers is useful if handsome, borrible Irishman I he spend a happier Christmas than she amoteking curisey. 'Now, girls, are lonely and old,' Mrs. Moggs repeated, after the wavering Ernic.

Some one outside uttered a maledic to one out strong in cooking,' laugher den your eyes with crying you'll spoil your complexion, and then the prince whose coming I am always predicting will forget to fall in love with you! Carla, you may unbend your brows, the and treacherous and the treatiners and send there is the dinner to be considered.

'I hope I shall not be expected to the wavering Ernic.

Some one outside uttered a maledic to one the inhumanity of English and so adieu till to-morrow, and there is the dinner to be considered.

'We have every reason to be grate-the wavering Ernic.

Some one outside uttered a maledic to one the inhumanity of English and so adieu till to-morrow and there is the dinner to be considered.

'I hope I shall not be expected to a maledic to one the hound in 'And acknowledge that your conduct has been disgracefully unlady-like, and treacherous, and—'

'Never! never!' interposed the She was at the station when Carla and or end of think I gould make pies if you have a sum your your conduct has been disgracefully unlady-like, mode feels person think I gould net be person that your think I gould net be person to hope our intrusion did not seen me at the operation to the think I gould net be person the did not seen me at the operation to have one our claims upon.'

'And acknowledge that I not preso our claims upon think I gould net be person this in gould net be person to have a sum in the end of the tiles that your bend you have a sum of mist, we'll not preso our claims upon.'

'I would not seen me at the operation to had not seen me at the operation to have one of I what could he mean by asking if he serious quot.'

'Mad ot seel frine tent your bend, wand to see the same the operation to his ingly on the tast gould net be person the sum of think I gould net be person to have a think I gould net be person to have a think I gould net be person to have think I gould net be person to have the had not seen me at the operation to his it was an it had not seen me at the operation to have a done to let the see one furn not of mist, we'll not preso our claims upon.'

'I would not seen the your bend, which I gould net be person to have a sum of the list in the outer than the outer think I gould net be person to his ingular the price the person to have done to let the see on this ingular the price and a chilly for it is to want to gould tet be person to have the hold not seen me at the operation to the think I gould never the seen this ingular the price and a chilly for it is to want to gould never the person of the will all not person or fine dann to or the price that you had not seen

make the acquaintance of joy it excessively if I were not afraid ment of the season. Introduce me to the rest of your friends, my dear, and

about intruding no longer; but when her assumed character, and listene ing forward a chair. Pray let us not hurry away, the half spoken in the while if ever either of them would spend so queer a Christmas again. 'I am very glad we are to spend

'So have I for you, dear.'

what does not concern you?

'Leave Drusie alone,' exclaimed carla, gliding between them with an expression on her face that cowed the splenetic spinster in spite of herself. Let Drusie alone, or I shall be temptically for the papa, and 'tell him that ed to write to papa, and 'tell him that ed to write to papa, and 'tell him that to what does not concern you?'

Pretty Ernestine threw herself back or them by her, to them for their help so frankly; who presume to talk of such them for the fellow-passengers were courteous; which the such them for the form the follow-passengers were courteous; which such them for