

HER DOUBLE ALLOWANCE.



WHEN the autumn days were shortening into winter, and the rain was beginning to wash the thousands of dead leaves on the sidewalks into sodden masses of decaying vegetation, the people out at "Pat's" were approaching a veritable slough of despond, brought on by dire poverty and distress. Felton was a farm house that had been standing since the early sixties at the foot of Cedar Hill, a few hundred yards off the high road from Victoria. It had



been occupied since 1880 by an old pioneer, George Henty, who, with his wife and son Jim, had come to this city from Nova Scotia. Jim married in the following year, and lived on happily with the old folks. They were a thoroughly united family, and when in time three bright-faced youngsters came to make the house brighter still, everything looked golden and hopeful. The two boys, Pat and Dick, clean cut, rosy-cheeked lads, were twins.



Dolly, the eldest child, was a handsome, fair-haired girl, making brightness wherever her little feet tripped.



After five years of peaceful content, during which time the little family had produced an ample income for their sustenance, trouble came suddenly, without a hint or warning, as it often does to unexpecting people. The young mother sickened in a week with a violent fever, and died. Then Jim, hardworking, honest Jim, worn out with grief and watching, caught the disease. Within a month both were lying under the green grass of Ross Bay cemetery. The three children were orphaned. Old George Henty and his enfeebled wife were childless.

Then a hard, bitter struggle commenced. It was poverty fighting for life. The cozy, comfortable farmhouse gradually grew more dilapidated. The farm, until by strong hands, went to ruin fast, and the old folks, with three little mouths to feed, fought hard to keep starvation away. Living in this precarious condition, the time went on until November, 1891.

It was a daily habit of Old George to go in the early morning to the well about a hundred yards from the house and draw the day's water in a large bucket. The old man was growing shaky and weak, and it was getting to be all he could do to perform this simple task. One day, it was the second Sunday in November, the ground was frozen hard. The air, crisp and cold, betokened beautiful weather, and the bright sun shone in full glory as George tottered out on his mission to the well. He reached it, drew his water, the old woman watching him the while, and then started back to the house with his load.

Half way back, his feet slipped on the frozen ground, and he fell heavily on his side.

"Oh George, be he hurt?" cried out the wife.

"Never you mind me. Stay inside. It's cold for you out of doors. I'll get up directly," Marthy, piped the shrill treble tones. "I'll get up directly."



And anxiously she peered out of the doorway. George did not get up. She went out over the steps. He did not remonstrate. Then, rushing across to his side, the old dame knelt down by him in the cold, hard earth.

George was dead.

It was the day before Christmas. Ever

since the old man's death Marthy had been growing strange. She talked wildly, and the sight of the wan, pinched faces of the once bright, healthy children drove her nearly mad. December had set in cold and snowy, and little Dolly, in fact all of them, heedless of their grandmother's heartache, kept continually speaking of and crying for a merry Christmas. Day after day they would cluster round the stern-faced old woman, and say:

"Granny, will we have a jolly Christmas like we used to, with the plum pudding and the brandy fire and all?"

And Marthy would break her heart with grieving.

On the day in question the little ones, unable to think or reason, were wild with excitement over the morrow, and had been chattering incessantly about what it was to bring forth.

At length Marthy could stand it no longer. She got the children to bed, put on her hat, and with a determined look in her face, started out on the road to Victoria. It was growing dark, and as she got nearer the town, the noise, and glare of many lights, proclaimed that the joyous Christmas Eve festival had filled the streets with laughing, merry crowds. She passed on over the bridge, up Government street, through rows of brilliantly lighted shops, from the dazzling contents of which the poor woman, turned with a sigh of longing. What had brought her into the city, she knew not. She wandered aimlessly on, and, at last, tired with her exertions, she stood before a grocer's window in which were set, in tempting array, plum puddings of every size, and rich with all kinds of dainty ingredients. The store was crowded, and Marthy, though she had not a cent in her pocket, following some uncontrollable impulse, walked in.

Suddenly, her hands were lifted to the counter, and, quick as lightning, she had seized a covered basket from it, and rushed out into the night. The grocer, who had been watching her, went along till she reached a corner where the electric light made the place look like day. Here she took the covering off the basket. In the corner was a pudding, and the rest was filled up with, innumerable Christmas eatables that made her eyes glisten. Fastening the bundle up again, she stood and laughed with joy—staid, sensible Marthy, who had never stolen a pin before in her whole life.

She walked quickly the three miles of the distance that separated her from home, and, on arrival there, threw herself on her bed and soon was fast asleep.

"To solemnize this day, the glorious sun stays in his course, and plays the alchemist: turning with his potent wand his precious rays, the meagre, cloudy earth to glittering gold: the yearly course of his day about, shall never see it but a holiday."

It was Christmas Day. Marthy, conscience-stricken but determined to carry her wretched act to the bitter end, showed the children the treasures in the basket, and told them that they had been left by a kind angel in the night. Then the table

was got ready and filled with the dainty eatables. The pudding, made hot in the stove, smoked in its place of honor, and there sat Dolly and the twins, happy once more.

"The old times has come back again, hasn't they, Granny?" asked Pat. "I knowed they would come by Christmas." It was in vain that the little ones coaxed the old woman to eat. She sat like a statue after helping them, and then, complaining of the cold, went and wrapped herself in her shawl and hood and got close to the fire.

There was a sound of wheels, followed by a sharp knock at the door. Marthy went to open it. Standing in front of it was a grocer's boy.

The lad nudged, and handing her a heavy parcel said:

"The boss gave me this basket to fetch out to yer, mum, and here's a letter with many of them to say 'A merry Christmas and many of them.'"

Marthy trembling opened the letter and read:

"Dear Mrs. Henty—Nobody knows better than I do, the poverty that is upon you now. So for your own sake, as well as that of the children, accept the accompanying hamper of goods with my best wishes. You would have had them last night, but for an unaccountable accident. They were all done up on the counter ready to be sent out, but somehow the first package put up for you was missed in the crowd that filled our store at the time, and I had to get it duplicated and sent this morning."

Yours sincerely,

Marthy had stolen her own Christmas present.



Xmas, 1891.

J. R. RATHON.

Robert Marwick, who was drunk and gave Police Constable Smith considerable trouble, on Wednesday night, yesterday, fined \$10 and costs, or thirty days in default.

LATE TELEGRAMS.

A Dreadful Organization in Fall Blast in China—More High-binder Outrages.

Almost a Green Christmas in London—Prospects of a Fat Churchyard.

Wired Workings—Dreadful Deeds. SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 25.—Hugh Craig, a Scotchman, connected with a mercantile firm in Shanghai for a number of years, has endeavored to post himself regarding the workings of the "Kohalul, or society of Elder Brethren in China." "The society is a political agency of rapidly growing power," said Mr. Craig, who has been in Philadelphia. The head of the family is insured for \$10,000, the wife for \$500, and each child for \$100, for all of which the said head is to pay one cent the first week, two cents the second week, and so on, weekly, by additions of one cent, the last payment of the year being of course 52 cents. Then he begins over again with one cent a week, and so on as before.

Wherever the head of the family is insured ten cents; when a woman dies, five cents; and when a child dies, one cent. "An important part of the transaction is one which invariably collected as an entrance fee."

The Insurance Observer of London tells of a novel fire-extinguishing scheme. It consists of an open iron box partly filled with cotton, wedding veil saturated with powdered sulphur, and suspended from the ceiling by a metal strap or wire fusible at 144 degrees of heat. The theory is that the insipid stages of a fire will melt the metal strap, when the box falling, a simple device ignites the saturated wadding, soon filling the room with sulphurous acid gas, rendering the air unfit for combustion.

Neither, we take it, would it be fit for breathing.

The Lancet, of London, which a year ago labored so zealously to induce the British life companies to grant policies on the lives of physicians, reduced rates, but with very meagre success, has again approached the several companies for the same purpose, and with about the same results. Some of the companies have been evasive in their replies to the overtures of the Lancet, and about a dozen, it is said, respond favorably.

As it has been clearly demonstrated that doctors, as a class, have a mortality rate of about one-third, very successfully on the part of the companies are not so rapid as to grant reductions for the sake of carrying risks which incur extra liability. Dr. Lyon, of the medical department of the Mutual Life of London, demonstrated, several months since, from the experiences of four different life companies, that the physicians assured had a mortality rate about six per cent, higher than the general mortality of the class of insured lives. Other statistics, gathered on different lines, show even more unfavorably for the doctors. But if, as a class, they were fully up to the average mortality standard, the absurdity of making the rates of insurance on the lives of doctors appear to need extended comment.

Insurance and Finance Chronicle.

SPIRIT OF THE SEASON.

Electricity has got into the Christmas toys.

It takes considerable hustling to get through the crowds of Christmas shoppers. If every man who believes in Christmas believed in Christianity the world would be all right.—Athenian Globe.

Job got his certificate for patience before he was obliged to go out and buy Christmas presents for his relatives.—Baltimore American.

Don't overdo it.—In buying your Christmas gifts get the useful, but not too useful, as it might be suggestive—soap, for instance.—Society News.

The Troy Times proudly recalls the fact that the greatest public display of the city was on Friday last, the body was discovered by a neighbor, not in bed, but lying, face downward, on the floor, near the register, and about them it was found a shirt, and bore unmistakable marks of violence, how received, it was, of course, impossible to determine.

The doctor, accompanied by Dr. Watson, Dunbar, and Constable Manning, visited the island farm, and found the body in the same position, by the fireplace. Dr. Watson made a post mortem examination, and found that death was the result of strangulation; the marks on the throat indicated that the unfortunate man had been choked to death.

The evidence was generally circumstantial, and the result of the jury's deliberations was that they found death to have been caused by strangulation, and indicted Jane Brown and James Barrington as the wilful murderers of John K. Brown. The coroner accordingly ordered both into custody, and they were taken to Nanaimo jail by the officers, there to await trial at the first court of competent jurisdiction.

The man alleged to have been killed by the wife and her paramour was a well-to-do and well-connected Englishman, who some years ago met and married the woman now in jail, in Egypt, where she is said to have lived a dissolute life. They courted and got along well, and for some time past he has spent most of his time in England, allowing her an annuity. He only returned from the old land a month or six weeks ago.

ST. PETERSBURG, Dec. 25.—A famished peasant in one of the poverty-stricken districts killed five men for the purpose of robbing them and buying food. He seemed to have been driven insane by hunger.

CONDENSED DESPATCHES. Eleven wheat-loading vessels are in port at Tacoma and there are thirteen en route to load wheat.

The King of Corea has bought a \$25,000 lot in Washington for a house for the Korean delegation.

Prof. Dyche, of Kansas University, is preparing for the world's fair an exhibit of stuffed animals. It will include 150 of the largest species in the United States.

Field Marshal Von Moltke was in the service of the Sultan of Turkey between 1836 and 1841. During that time he wrote several essays on Oriental military affairs and the geography of Asia Minor.

M. Jacques Morgan and his wife covered a distance of 12,400 miles in their recent explorations of Northern Persia, Lanatan and Arabistan.

C. H. Stackpole, of Coupeville, one of the older settlers on Whidbey Island, says: "We have more potatoes than we know what to do with. For example, E. J. Hanbleton, this season, twenty-three acres of new land and raised 14,000 bushels of potatoes, or over 600 bushels to the acre."

NEWS OF THE PROVINCE.

Murder at Salt Spring Island—James K. Brown Victim of His Wife and Paramour.

Death Caused by Strangulation—The Husband Only Returns from England to be Slain.

CEGAR HILL. The public examination of the Cedar Hill Public School was held on Friday, the 18th inst. Owing to the prevalence of measles, the attendance of pupils was much smaller than usual, but, notwithstanding this, the examination proved satisfactory, and showed that good work is being done in the school. The school-room was very prettily decorated for the occasion with evergreens, etc., and a visitor from Victoria remarked that these decorations surpassed those of most of the Victoria schools. The school-room at Cedar Hill was crowded on Thursday evening last by both old and young of the neighborhood, who had come to enjoy the annual Christmas Tree entertainment and tea—the great public event of the year in this suburb. Open handed hospitality and good will is shown by the free and bountiful supper and the well laden Christmas tree, scattering its fruits at the close. The little folks provided the programme, consisting of choruses, solos, dialogues and recitations, and the adults expressed themselves as particularly well pleased with their efforts. The school-room, too, had been decorated with more care than usual by the children and their teachers; festoons of green were looped from the ceiling, and formed a cornice around the room, contrasting finely with the white walls. The windows were outlined in evergreens, while the walls were decorated with wreaths and pictures tastefully arranged. Among the gifts on the tree were a beautiful workbox presented by the Presbyterian choir to their organist, and a richly wrought tea-cosy from the Ladies' Aid Society of the Presbyterian Church to Mrs. McRae, the pastor's wife.

The recent rains have improved the bridges by washing off the dirt; although the bridges and culverts have suffered.

The annual New Year's dance is to be held on the evening of January 1st. It is expected that the music will be particularly good on this occasion.

WESTMINSTER. New WESTMINSTER, B. C., Dec. 26.—A man calling himself Harry Hamilton played the bogus cheque trick very successfully on a city merchant on Wednesday. He was chased to Huntingdon, but escaped across the line.

Knox here was the merriest. Sleighing was good and the weather cold. The heavy snowfall last night blocked the tramway and the cars did not run until noon today.

Two hunters, one of them W. J. Proud, an old Wimbledon shot, are two weeks overdue from a hunting trip along the northern coast. Their friends fear they are lost.

VANCOUVER. VANCOUVER, B. C., Dec. 26.—A well attended meeting of the B. C. Drainage and Diking company was held this morning. It was decided to build a new scow at once to replace the old one.

The work of reclaiming the Pitt Meadows is progressing so favorably that it bids fair to be completed much sooner than the time originally estimated. When completed 33,000 acres of such arable land will be opened for settlement.

Only one car arrived to-day over the Westminister Electric road on account of the night's snow storm. Reports from up country show a heavy snowfall.

City engineer Tracy inspected the water works system, on Thursday. He has not yet made his report, but he admitted that everything appears to be working fairly well. The system betrays greater evidence of economy than of efficiency. It is evident expenses have been cut down, but a reasonable expenditure will add to the efficiency of the system.

The balance would go far towards rendering the outside portion efficient.

DUNCANS. The residence of Dr. Watson had a narrow escape from fire a few evenings ago, and had it not been for the providential waking of one of the family, choked by the dense smoke of a dark tragedy. It was, doubtless, been destroyed. As it was, the fire, the origin of which is a mystery, had gained considerable headway, and was only got under control with difficulty.

SALT SPRING ISLAND. The death of Mr. John K. Brown, which was mentioned in the COLONIST several days ago, and which was then supposed to have been due to apoplexy, it now appears points to the perpetration of a dark tragedy. It was on Friday last that the body was discovered by a neighbor, not in bed, but lying, face downward, on the floor, near the register, and about them it was found a shirt, and bore unmistakable marks of violence, how received, it was, of course, impossible to determine.

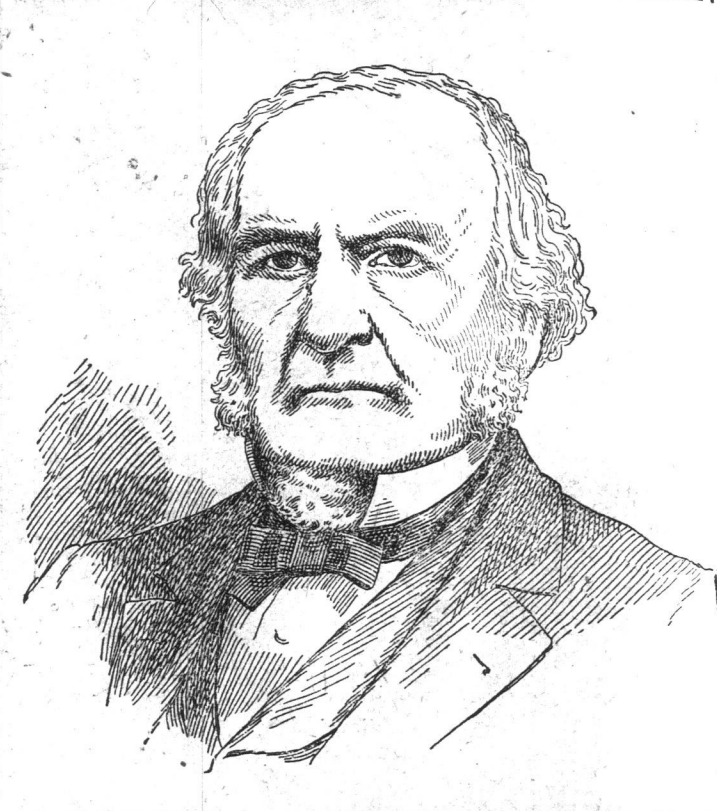
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THE GRAND OLD MAN.



Mr. HON. W. E. GLADSTONE, one of the greatest of living statesmen, speaking of the Encyclopædia Britannica, said: "For scientific research and as an educational factor this great work has no equal." Thousands of the leading men of the world think the same thing. But few comparatively could afford to pay from \$150 to \$200 for the old original ENCYCLOPÆDIA BRITANNICA. The ENCYCLOPÆDIA BRITANNICA REVISED AND AMENDED contains every article that the old work does, but some of the lengthy articles have been cut down, and many articles written up to 1891, giving an Encyclopædia up to date. Besides, the ENCYCLOPÆDIA BRITANNICA REVISED AND AMENDED contains over 4,000 biographies of living and dead statesmen not contained in the old work; even such men as the great Gladstone, Bismarck, Sir John Macdonald, Hon. John Bright, Hon. George Brown, and hundreds of other great men are not mentioned at all in the old ninth edition.

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CABLE NEWS.

British Establish Themselves on the Pamir—The Kaiser and Bavaria.

Italy and the U. S. Reach an Understanding—Prince George of Wales.

Prince George Convinces. LONDON, Dec. 30.—Prince George of Wales was able to leave Marlborough House to-day, where he has been suffering from typhoid fever. He has gone to Sandringham, the seat of the Prince of Wales.

The British Occupy Hunan. LONDON, Dec. 30.—A despatch from Canton says that the town of Hunan, not far from the Pamir frontier, has been occupied by the British troops without opposition. Tranquillity may be said to have been restored in that part of India.

John Dillon's Death. LONDON, Dec. 30.—John Dillon died that he threatened to retire in the event of the election of Redmond at Waterford. He says that he only spoke of such an event tending to make him less hopeful of Home Rule cause.

Congress of Chambers of Commerce. LONDON, Dec. 30.—The Chamber of Commerce has decided to hold a Congress of British Chambers of Commerce of the world next June. Invitations have been sent to all the Chambers of England, Wales, Scotland, Ireland, and all the dependencies of Great Britain beyond the seas, to send delegates. The purpose of the Congress will be to discuss the relations of England and the colonies, the recent continental treaties, a tariff legislation with the United States, Imperial Penny Postage, a decimal system of currency, and other subjects of Imperial interest. Forty Chambers have accepted the invitation, and in various parts of the world at home and many are expected to do so.

Agreement Between the U. S. and Italy. ROME, Dec. 30.—Notwithstanding a denial made by American officials, it is again asserted, apparently with good authority, that the Italian and American governments have agreed that an agreement shall be given in case of any victims of the New Orleans lynching, proved to be Italian subjects. These assertions, of course, are attributed in some quarters to the desire of the Italian government to resume full diplomatic relations with the United States. The American denials have cited much surprise and caused embarrassment to the government and its friends.

Financial and Commercial. LONDON, Dec. 30.—There has been a usual end of the year scramble for money to-day, and large applications were made to the Bank of England, where five per cent was charged for ten days loans and four per cent for the balance. At the beginning of the month the charge for the same was four per cent, except at the London and Westminster, where only three and a half was asked. As the settlement went on, the rate rose to five per cent, and a half to fully six. £200,000 went to-day to Russia, and £375,000 to the Americas. The money market was in strong request. There is a large investment demand, and American railroad bonds are limited demand at top prices.

The Amalgamated Engineers. LONDON, Dec. 30.—Tom Mann, who is candidate for the position of Secretary of the Amalgamated Engineers, is making a vigorous campaign, and is paying special attention to the American and Canadian vote. He realizes that the American and Canadian branches hold the balance of power in the union. Mann strongly advocates a complete system of local self government for the American and Canadian branches, subject only to the rules of the Amalgamated Engineers. He is also in favor of special rules that may be necessary. He does not see why the Americans should not speak as many branches and members as the British.

The Kaiser Vexes the Bavarians. BERLIN, Dec. 30.—Alarming rumors of a schism of differences between the Kaiser and the Bavarian regency. The Kaiser has been desirous of drawing the Bavarians closer to the Empire, in this respect departing from the policy of his grandfather, who withdrew as much as possible from it, in order not to excite the jealousy of the people toward Prussia. The Kaiser offered Prince Luitpold, the regent, the office of Colonel of the Imperial army, but he declined it on the ground of old age. The regent's brother, Prince Leopold, also declined for the reason that he preferred to live in Munich. It was noted that the Kaiser was afterwards cool as formal towards them, and it was soon after that he was seen with the Bavarian king, King Ludwig, who was in Munich.

Regis voluntas suprema lex (the will of the king is the highest law). Instead of the Kaiser's visit closing the breach between Bavaria and Prussia, it has steadily widened until now the Bavarian press teems with reflections upon the Prussian tendency to infringe upon Bavarian rights. It is reported that neither Regent Luitpold nor Prince Leopold will be at the Kaiser's reception in Berlin, on Friday. The people of Bavaria are deeply attached to the reigning house, and the Kaiser is looked on as having aimed an insult at the dynasty.

A Pair of Misers. DUBLIN, Dec. 30.—The funeral occurred at Tullyallen, Armagh, to-day, of James Murphy, a farmer, and his sister Mary, who were recently found lying dead in a pile of filthy straw in their miserable cottage, having died of slow starvation. Everything in their surroundings and manner of life indicated a wretched poverty. It was known that the neighbors that they were well off, and, in fact, after death, it was found that they had deposits in banks amounting to £7,000, the receipts for which were found in a way in different parts of the house. They also owned a large amount of land, the farm upon which he lived. The value of the estate is estimated at £25,000. It is believed that the Murphy had relatives in America, who inherit the property, but whose whereabouts cannot be present be learned.

German Ministers to be Transferred. BERLIN, Dec. 29.—The North German Gazette says that it learns from reliable sources that Dr. von Hollenbusch, at present German Minister to Japan, will be transferred to Washington City, where he will