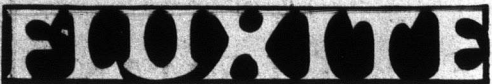




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when he opened the door of the mission rooms. Such a dazzling tree all lighted with candles from top to bottom and covered with shining balls and hearts and stars, and the boughs bending with curious packages that might hold almost anything a boy would like.

Before the gifts were taken from the tree the Bethany Sunday School gave the programme they had had at their own entertainment. There was singing, and playing, and speaking pieces, and by and by the superintendent said, "We will close with a solo by our 'star-singer'."

As the superintendent finished speaking a little boy dressed in a black velvet suit came to the edge of the platform. He had soft curly hair and his eyes were blue and sparkling. He began his song. He sang a verse, then with all the power of his clear voice struck from the ringing chorus:

"Good News! Good News from Bethlehem!"

But he had only sung this one line when there was a noise in the rear of

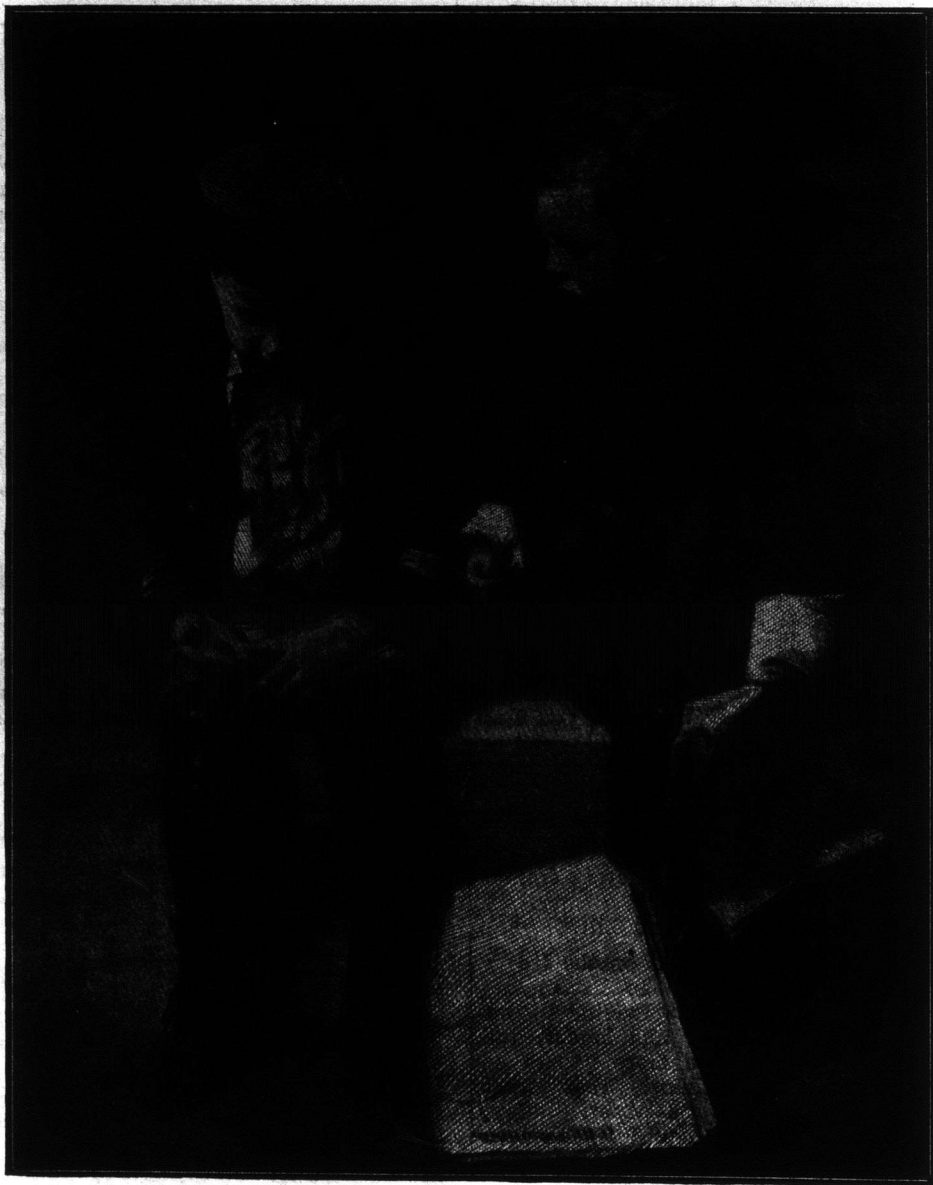
story? Why, it adopted Jimmy right then and there, for it had a fund which could be used for kind deeds. Jimmy is now Mr. Lawrence's office boy mornings, and goes to school every afternoon; and he says it was a good day for him when he met his Beth'lum pardner."

Jimmy can't sing, but he is generally whistling the chorus of Ward's Christmas hymn.

## The Three Oriental Kings

In a little town in Spain once lived a poor widow whose three little boys had grown to the ages of eight, six and four and never received a Christmas gift!

But these little boys, as well as other Spanish children, had heard of the Three Oriental Kings. They were very fond of talking of the one of the Three Kings who was very black; this one, they had heard, went about on Christmas Eve leaving presents upon the balconies, where the children were told to hang



Counting the Stock

the room. A little ragged boy, wearing a very good overcoat several sizes too large for him, scrambled down from his seat and ran forward crying out, "Oh, it's my Beth'lum pardner, my Beth'lum pardner!"

Up he ran to the platform, and caught hold of Ward's hand. "Oh, pardner," cried he, "I've got yer money an' here 'tis!" Diving his hand down into his pocket he drew out the little clumsy package of change.

"Of course the singing had stopped; but now the superintendent came forward and, after a question or two, holding Jimmy by the hand, Ward finished his solo, and when he came to the last verse all the children rose and sang the beautiful chorus with him.

While the presents were being distributed the superintendent found out from Jimmy how Ward had been his partner for one day and also found out a great deal about Jimmy himself. After the distribution he took Ward by one hand and Jimmy by the other and standing on the platform with them he told the Sunday School all that he had learned about the newspaper partnership.

And what do you think the Bethany Sunday School did when it heard the

their stockings and set their shoes so that there would be something ready in which to store the presents. Once when they went to the Padre's house, where their mother did the washing, the Padre's little nephew had shown them a candy dog and parrot which he said had been left for him by the Kings. And last Christmas the baker's five-year-old Marita had come running in with a bag of sweetmeats which had been left for her. Who else, she asked them, could have put the bag on the balcony but the Three Kings who brought goodies when children remembered to obey!

The washerwoman's little sons had never thought of the Kings coming their way. The hut in which they lived had no balcony and they supposed the Kings would look for their stockings nowhere else.

Well, this year the mother of these little boys made up her mind that they as well as other children should have Christmas gifts. She worked harder than ever, and the people of the village who knew how she felt gave her all the extra work they could afford to pay her for doing.

One day, when Christmas came near she said to her boys, "My children, the

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