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d of later-but gay and festive d in their new ks, David in his all the others in Mother was in y in black silk, in a rose-pink able was perfect. 1 robins standing rs and holly and ate.

ugh, found the g. They were their surprise to see the presents

erself that every rnt out when her "Now, then, for in the drawing-"Children, you the lights are

December 26, 1912.

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did not know till later what happen- be open," she said. ed, she thought she heard him stumble and give a little cry, but when she had turned up the light and looked round, David was nowhere visible.

David was meanwhile seated under a big table in the corner, concealed by the cloth, and was looking in dismay at his blue suit, wet from knee to chin, and trying to understand what had happened.

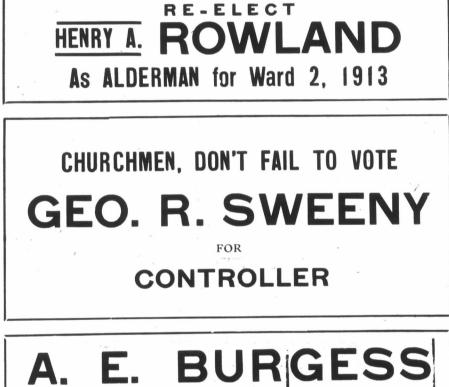
"Oh, dear, how cold it is," cried stared anxiously at the floor. He was Granny. Aunt Florence turned at standing in a pool of wet slush.

David reached the room first. Betty once to the window. "It surely must

ately, and Aunt Florence turned away. Enid and David sobbed and cried un-As she passed Betty the train of her ashamed, Noel and Bob felt they rose-pink gown swept across her feet. could never leave their beds again 'Why, my feet are wet!'' cried Betty, and face a jeering world. staring dawn at them.

"then there can be no draught."

Father obeyed, at least he was going to when he stopped suddenly and the night nursery. "I say, kids," he



CANADIAN CHURCHMAN

"What on earth is this !" he cried, "someone must have left the windows open, and the snow has drifted in; what gross carelessness !" He was quite angry, and before anyone could stop him had flung the curtain back, and there-

Instead of the great snow-white ball, glowing under its crown of candles and holly, there was nothing but a collapsed mass of dirty snow.

Betty shrieked. "Oh, my presents," "You are all to go to bed at once,"

commanded their father. Dismay fell on everyone, but no one disputed the order, and four miserable figures straightway crept up the stairs. Bob was already there when they got there, and in a very short time five small beds contained five of the most dejected, unhappy little persons that "I'll-I'll see," cried Noel desper- surely beds ever supported. Betty,

Noel did, though, and before very "Shut the shutters as well, will long. "P'raps it's better to tell you, dear?" mother said to father, them," he said to Bob, and jumping out of bed drew out the bath from under it. A moment later he was in said in a strange voice, "it isn't quite as bad as it seems; look !" and in his arms he held all their curiously shaped and tied-up parcels. "We forgot them, and—and we didn't like to tell you. I was going to slip them in somehow when we smashed up the snowball. I'm awfully sorry, but it's a good thing now." It was indeed. It was not everything, but it was some comfort to know that the things they had saved so long and hard for were still in existence.

"But-but nobody will care to have our presents now," sobbed Enid, and this gave them the keenest pain of all. Their mother, coming to the door at that moment, heard the sobbing remark, and with her eyes misty she turned and went down again. David had caught sight of her.

"Mother, don't go away," he cried, with a catch still in his throat. "I will be back in a moment," she

said rather huskily. Their father was with her when she returned, and father's voice was

a trifle husky too. "I believe our snowball has given them cold," in every four suffers more or less thought Betty.

Christmas & New Year's Meetings Rev. W. J. Mayer's and Dr. Barnardo's Boys Saturday, Dec. 28 - Western Congregational Church, Spadina. Monday, Dec. 30 - Church of the Redeemer, Bloor Street. Bloor Street. Wednesday, Jan. 1, 1913-Chalmers Presby-terian Church. Thursday, Jan. 2-St. Anne's Parish Hall. Friday, Jan. 3-Walmer Rd. Baptist Church DECTURED PICTURES ISTORIES MUSIC Admission Free Collections for the Work MUSIC Please send a Christmas Contribution towards support of the "Largest family in the world" in Dr. Barnardo's Homes. Any gifts, large or small, will be gratefully received by Rev. W. J. Mayers, 50/52 Peter Street, Toronto.

sonny. It is because I love you so much. You don't understand that, do Vou."

"No," said David, "p'raps when l'm grow'd I shall."

"It's what we all have to understand," sighed father.

"Peace on earth and mercy mild," sang the waifs outside.

"I understand that, Daddy," said David, reassuringly, as he nestled down against his father's shoulder; "I wish I'd got a better present for you."

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