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—And what to buy are serious questions to many.  
This year we can show you a greater range of

### Christmas Gifts

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Gifts that combine usefulness with beauty are always appreciated, such as:  
Fine Ebony Hair Brushes  
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For a cold to catch you. Have a bottle of Radley's Cough Balsam in the house to catch and cure the cold.  
A few drops relieves the cough and allays the irritation. Part of a bottle usually cures.  
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Two vacant lots, each 60 feet front by 164 feet.  
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Money to loan on mortgages at lowest rates.  
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W. F. SMITH, Broker,  
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Minard's Liniment—Lumberman's Friend.

## The Mystery of Agatha Webb.

By Anna Katharine Green.

Author of "The Leavenworth Case," "Lost Man's Lane," "Hand and Ring," Etc., Etc.

Copyright, 1900, by Anna Katharine Green.

"She went. She was not taken, no one, not even myself, could keep her back after she had heard that a murder had been committed in the town. She even intruded into the house and when ordered out of the room of death took up her stand in the yard in front, where she remained until she had the opportunity of pointing out to us a stain of blood on the grass which might otherwise have escaped our attention."



"Impossible! Amabel do this! You are mocking me, sir."

do this? You are mocking me, sir, or I may be dreaming, which may be the good God grant."  
His father, who had not looked for so much emotion, eyed his son in surprise, which rapidly changed to alarm as the young man faltered and fell back against the wall.

"You are ill, Frederick. You are really ill. Let me call down Mrs. Harcourt. But no, I cannot summon her. She is this girl's aunt."  
Frederick made an effort and stood up.

"Do not call anybody," he entreated.

"I expect to suffer some in casting this fascinating girl out of my heart. But I will conquer the weakness ultimately. Indeed I will. As for her interest in Mrs. Webb's death—how low his voice sank, and how he trembled—she may have been better friends with her than we had any reason to suppose. I can think of no other motive."

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STUDIO, SMITH BLOCK  
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tive for her conduct. Admiration for Mrs. Webb and horror."  
"Breakfast is served, gentlemen," cried a thrilling voice behind them. Amabel Page stood smiling in the doorway.

### CHAPTER VII. A CHOICE BETWEEN WEDLOCK AND THE GALLIES.

"Wait a moment. I must speak to you."  
It was Amabel who was holding Frederick back. She had caught him by the arm as he was about leaving the room with his father, and he felt himself obliged to stop and listen.  
"I start for Springfield today," she announced. "I have another relative there living at the—house. When shall I have the pleasure of seeing you in my new home?"

"Never." It was said regretfully and yet with a certain brusqueness occasioned perhaps by overexcited feeling. "Hard as it is for me to tell you that after our parting here today we will meet only as strangers. Friendship between us would be mockery, and any closer relationship has become impossible."  
It had cost him an immense effort to say these words, and he expected, fondly expected, I must admit, to see her color change and her head droop. But instead of this she looked at him steadily for a moment, then slipped her hand down his arm till she reached his palm, which she pressed with sudden warmth, drawing him into the room as she did so and shutting the door behind them. He was speechless, for she never had looked so handsome or so glowing. Instead of showing depression or humiliation even she confronted him with a smile more dangerous than any display of grief could have been, for it contained what it had hitherto lacked, positive and irresistible admiration. Her words were equally dangerous.

"I kiss your hand, as the Spaniards say." And she almost did so, with a bend of her head which just allowed him to catch a glimpse of two startling dimples.

He was astounded. He thought he knew this woman well, but at this moment she was as incomprehensible to him as if he had never made a study of her caprices and ever shifting expressions.

"I am sensible of the honor," said he, "but hardly understand how I have earned it."

Still that incomprehensible look of admiration continued to illumine her face.

"I did not know I could ever think so well of you," she declared. "If you do not take care, I shall end by loving you some day."

"Ah," he ejaculated, his face contracting with sudden pain, "your love, then, is but a potentiality. Very well, Amabel, keep it so and you will be spared much misery. As for me, who have not been as wise as you—"

"Frederick!" She had come so near he did not have the strength to finish. Her face, with its indefinable charm, was raised to his, as she dropped these words one by one from her lips in lingering cadence, "Frederick—do you love me, then, so very much?"

He was angry; possibly because he felt his resolution falling him. "You know," he hotly began, stepping back. Then with a sudden burst of feeling that was almost like prayer he resumed: "Do not tempt me, Amabel. I have trouble enough without lamenting the failure of my first steadfast purpose."

"Ah," she said, stopping where she was, but drawing him toward her by every witchery of which her mobile features were capable, "your generous impulse has strengthened into a purpose, has it? Well, I'm not worth it, Frederick."

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More and more astounded, understanding her less than ever, but charmed by looks that would have moved an anchorite, he turned his head away in a vain attempt to escape an influence that was so rapidly undermining his determination.

She saw the movement, recognized the weakness it bespoke, and in the triumph of her heart allowed a low laugh to escape her.

Her voice, as I have before said, was unusual though effective, but her laugh was deliciously sweet, especially when it was restrained to a mere ripple, as now.

"You will come to Springfield soon," she avowed, slipping from before him so as to leave the way to the door open.

"Amabel!" His voice was strangely husky, and the involuntary opening and shutting of his hands revealed the emotion under which he was laboring.

"Do you love me? You have acknowledged it now and then, but always as if you did not mean it. Now you acknowledge that you may some day and this time as if you did mean it. What is the truth? Tell me without coquetry or dissembling, for I am in dead earnest, and—"

He paused, choked and turned toward the window, where but a few minutes before he had taken that solemn oath. The remembrance of it seemed to come back with the movement. Flushing with a new agitation, he wheeled upon her sharply.

"No, no," he prayed; "say nothing. If you swore you did not love me, I should not believe it, and if you swore that you did I should only find it harder to repeat what must again be said, that a union between us can never take place."

"Well, well! Why do you stop? Am I so hard to talk to that the words will not leave your lips?"

"I have promised my father I will never marry you. He feels that he has grounds of complaint against you, and as I owe him everything—"

He stopped, annoyed. She was looking at him intently, that same low laugh still on her lips.

"Tell the truth," she whispered. "I know to what extent you consider your promise."

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**Liquified Ozone**  
Cures these Terrible Diseases  
Permanently

The peculiar construction of woman makes her liable to suffer from many disorders which are especially painful and wearing. Many a woman bears these troubles in silence, rather than consult a physician. Powley's Liquified Ozone, the new system of treatment, will give prompt relief and a permanent cure for any of these afflictions. A special booklet will give you all information that I can as well as I ever have to go to the hospital, as the doctors said I must go there to get rid of my trouble, which was female kidney trouble and general run-down system. I had my doubts, as I had tried so many [so-called] patent medicines, and they had proved of no avail. I had not used Ozone for two weeks until I knew I was on the right track. It just took four months' treatment, and in that time I used five large bottles and now I thank God to say that I am as well as I ever was in my life. The best part of it is that I have not had occasion to take any for months. I have been the means of getting others to use Ozone and will always speak a good word for it. With great thankfulness, yours,

Signed, ALLIE GOULD,  
Reed St., Toronto Junction, Ont.

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father's wishes. You think you ought not to marry after what took place last night. Frederick, I like you for this evidence of consideration on your part, but do not struggle too relentlessly with your conscience. I can forgive much more in you than you think, and if you really love me—"

"Stop! Let us understand each other." He had turned mortally pale and met her eyes with something akin to alarm. "What do you allude to in speaking of last night? I did not know there was anything said by us in our talk together—"

"I do not allude to our talk."  
"Or—in the one dance we had—"

"Frederick, a dance is innocent." The word seemed to strike him with the force of a blow.

"Innocent," he repeated, "innocent," becoming paler still as the full weight of her meaning broke gradually upon him.

"I followed you into town," she whispered, coming closer and breathing the words into his ear. "But what I saw you do there will not keep me from obeying you if you say: 'Follow me wherever I go, Amabel. Henceforth our lives are one.'"

"My God!"

It was all he said, but it seemed to create a gulf between them. In the silence that followed the evil spirit latent beneath her beauty began to make itself evident even in the smile which no longer called into view the dimples which belonged to guileless mirth, while upon his face after the first paralyzing effect of her words had passed there appeared an expression of manly resistance that betrayed a virtue which as yet had never appeared in his selfish and altogether reckless life.

That this was more than a passing impulse he presently made evident by lifting his hand and pushing her slowly back.

"I do not know what you saw me do," said he, "but whatever it was it can make no difference in our relations."

Her whisper, which had been but a breath before, became scarcely audible.

"I did not pause at the gate you entered," she said. "I went in after you."

A gasp of irresistible feeling escaped him, but he did not make his eyes from her face.

To be Continued.

**THE MAJOR'S STRATEGY.**

It changed his traveling companion, but fooled the robbers.

"Speaking of train robberies," said a veteran railroad man, "did any of you fellows ever hear that story about Major Patterson? The yarn is not new."

He continued, "and I thought some of you might have heard it before, but it happens to be true and is worth telling again."

"Years ago the major was traveling on the railroad through western Kansas when he fell into conversation with a very agreeable chap from St. Louis. Train robberies were frequent in those days, and when the conversation finally turned to that subject the St. Louis man remarked that he had an excellent scheme for hiding his money in such an emergency."

"I simply put it under the sweatband of my hat," he said, "and no robber in the world would ever think of looking there for cash." With that he pulled off his hat and showed where he had \$250 "stashed" as he described.

"About an hour later the train was suddenly halted while it was turning a lonely ravine, and in a few moments a masked man entered the car and began to systematically loot the passengers, while two other robbers kept them covered with shotguns from the doors. When the fellow reached him, the major looked up coolly and declared he had less than a dollar in his pocket. "Now, if you'll leave me that and my watch, he said, 'I'll tell you something worth knowing. That fellow in the next seat has 'All right,' said the robber, 'keep your watch and chicken feed.' And he proceeded to confiscate the other passenger's cash."

"When the robbery was all over and the bandits had departed, the St. Louis man turned around, bursting with rage and indignation. "That was a dirty, low-down trick," he roared, "and I'm going to hold you accountable for every cent of my money." I expected you to, my friend," replied the major quietly, "and here is the amount. You see," he added, "I happen to be a paymaster in the United States army, and I have a matter of \$40,000 in this valise by my feet. Under the circumstances I felt justified in temporarily sacrificing your little \$250 to divert attention. I shall charge it up to the government as extra expense in transportation of funds."—New Orleans Times-Democrat.

**The Blind Englishman.**

During his short stay in England some years ago the king of Portugal frequently took various little trips by train secretly and accompanied by only one of his suit. Traveling down to Hatfield once in a second class compartment, the Portuguese king entered into conversation—the king speaks English fluently—with a typical, plain spoken "John Bull."

"They seem to be making a deal of fuss over the king of Portugal, sir, who is now in London. Have you seen him, might I ask?"

"Yes," replied the Englishman. "He ain't much of a king to look at. Why, sir, his stomach ain't no fatter and his face ain't no more intelligent than yours."

His majesty said afterward that he could understand why the English people were called "plain spoken."

**Brazil's Coffee Jags.**  
A visitor who returned from Brazil says that the whole country is perpetually intoxicated by coffee. It is brought to the bedside the moment one awakes and just before sleep, at meals and between meals, on going out and coming in. Men, women and children drink it with the same liberality, and it is fed to babies in arms. The effect is apparent in trembling hands, twitching eyelids, yellow, dry skin and a chronic excitability worse than that produced by whisky.

A woman is never so mad as she is when she sees a hat that is terribly cheap right after some smooth man has talked her around to buy an encyclopedia.—New York Press.

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Castoria is for Infants and Children. Castoria is a harmless substitute for Castor Oil, Paregoric, Drops and Soothing Syrups. It contains neither Opium, Morphine nor other Narcotic substance. It is Pleasant. Its guarantee is thirty years' use by Millions of Mothers. Castoria destroys Worms and allays Feverishness. Castoria cures Diarrhoea and Wind Colic. Castoria relieves Teething Troubles, cures Constipation and Flatulency. Castoria assimilates the Food, regulates the Stomach and Bowels of Infants and Children, giving healthy and natural sleep. Castoria is the Children's Panacea—The Mother's Friend.

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**Castoria.**  
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