THE BALLAD OF CALNAN'S CHRISTMAS.

HPLEN GRAY CONE IN THE CENTURY MAGAZINE.

hen you hear the fre-gongs beat flerce along the startled street. See the great-limited horses bound, a. d the gleaming engine away, nd the driver in his place, with his fixed, herole face, Say a prayer for Caluan's aske—he that died on Christmas day!

Oling! Cling! Each to his station! Claug! Clang! Qulok to clear the way! (Christ keep the soldiers of salvation, Fighting nameless battles in the war of every day!)

In the morning, blue and mild, of the Mother and the Child,
While the blessed bells were calling, thrilled the summer
In the morning, blue and mild, for a women and a child
Died a man of gentle will, plunging on to fight the fire. s through the wire

Ring, awing, bells in the steeple!
Ring the Child and ring the Star, as aweetly as ye may!
Ring, awing, bells, to tell the people
God's good will to earthly men, the men of every day!

"Thirty-four' swung out agleam, with her mighty, bounding team:
Horses' honor pricked them on, and they loaped as at a goad;
Jimmy Cainan in his place, with his clean out Irish face,
Iron hands upon the rome, oyes a strain upon the road.

C .ug! Clang! Quick to clear the way! (Sweetly rang, above the clang, the bells of Christmas day.)

Tearing, plunging through the die, scarce a man can hold them in :
None on earth could pull them short : Mary Mother guard from harm
Yonder woman straight ahead, stony-still with sudden dread,
And the little woman-child, with her waxen child in arm!

Oh, God's calls, how swift they are! Oh, the Cross that hides the Star! Oh, the fire goug beating fierce through the bells of Christmas day! Just a second there to choose, and a life to keep or less—To the curb he swung the horses, and he flung his life away!

Ring, swing, bolls in the steeple!
Ring the Star as d ring the Cross, for Star and Cross are one!
Ring, swing, bells, to tell the people
God is pleased with manly men, and deeds that they have done!

Ring the Site at drug the Cross of or Ster and Cross are one!

Ring the Site at drug the Cross of or Ster and Cross are one!

ANY DESTINY

I was travelling southward in many many and deeds that they have done!

Any contented moved—at least it pleased me to think that I was go grant gagnatur my will and solely out of respect to a distant relative of my father, who and summoned me to the least of my blood a little had I chose to give my fancy range.

But youth is the most uncertaint high in the world, and since the affair was none of my doing I chose to give my fancy range.

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But youth is the most uncertaint high my fall my fa

ment in seven in the consequence of the content of

doubt, after all, whether thes were more than paste. He would have seated himself close to the foly and would have seated himself close to the foly and would have well-there with her, but she gave him no encouragement at which, milling grimly to himself, he watched her as a cat watches a frightened bird.

I went on eating for some time, and applied myself with grant attention to the wine, in order to spur a somewhat tarry tongue. In half an hour I knew my arriage would be ready, and that was but a short time to succer beauty in distress, for that was what my heart conjectured the scene before me to represent. At last, leaning back in my chair, and uttering a sigh "satisfaction, I found my volce.

I give you good-day, st. This time forces fair streshment, and is better than it looks."

I have known worse, he said, glaming and the table, then he turned his back on me ag thi.

"You travel fair," I said, "as though upon some releasant crand."

"The said.

"No not ton thou, surely, would reject to it may be wrong. I limging the that to be my business."

"Come," and I, "don't e anery, but dishe a glass of wine with me. We not worked.

meet only to part, and good liquor of dwell better in the memory than our words.

worth after in the memory than our worth."

"Sir." he answered, eyeing me sayagely, "I de she mether you liquor nor
year acquaintance, and you may drink
your wine yourself."

Now, although he was perfectly
within his right in refusal, and my blood
began to warm, the more particularly
as the girl had failen aagin to quiet
weeping.

"I thank you," I said, "for so graclous a permission, and may you bearn
clous a permission, and may you bearn
better manners before you grow too
old."

lective manners before you grow too old."

'The devil!' he said. 'What alls the pair of you? The boy is impudent and deserves a whisping, and you.' turning to the lady, 'not much less. Stop snivelling and be done with this monsense."

'As for the whipping, 'said I. dropping a hand on my sword. "I take and I've only whipping with steel."

'Brave!' he sneered. 'and a pretty hand you make at the game, I'll be bound."

'I'm at your service, sir,'' I said, draining my glass.

The fellow was terribly put out, but I could see that he land good reason to

The fellow was terribly put out, but I could see that he lind good reason to avoid a ouerei; he looked from me to the window, and from the window to the lady, and bit his lip with rage. After a pause he said more quietly:—"I fight only with men, and throw with such as can show beards."
"For the lack of the beard," said 1, "you have to thank my rezor."
"Indeed," he said; "then the razor must be like the Lord Chancellor's, and do little work."
"You have a pretty wit, sir."
"I have often been commended for it."

Doubtless by men, then, for it bites

Doubtless by men, then, for it bites too sharply for women."
Nay, you mistake, for women are my greatest flatterers." He smiled so grossly at the girl that if my life had to answer for it I could not have held my tongue.

'Is it a woman's way to flatter by tears?" asked.
'You young dog! If I had time and were unencumbered, I'd slit that saucy trague of yours!" he cried.
"I asked for information, sir, not for threats. I thought that in your charming seciety, which I enjoy immensely, women might find their pleasure in tears."

women might find their pleasure in tears."

"You think too much, boy." he said, and then with an oath he left the room, and I heard him cursing the landlord for his delay in serving him, calling irim more foul names than were proper for a girl to listen to. That was my upportunity, and I was quick to take it, the more readily as the lady's imploring cys: met mine again in full gaze.
"Madem," said I, "If you are in any trquible and need a protector my sword and life are at your service. I cask in questions—It is yours to command."

"Oh, sir," she answered, "I have

mand."

"Oh, sir." she answered, "I have been wicked and "its now too late." and she fell to weeping afresh.
"Dry your tears, dear lady. Foolish you may have been, but never wicked Anyway, this is no time for repenting. Do you travel willingty with this geniteman or do you wish to be rid of his company?" Yes, yes, to be rid of him-and to

"Yes, yes, to be rid of him-and to forget."
"His name is 7"
"Northfield." she murmured, as his seep sounded outside the door.
He entered, scowling, and glanced suspiciously at us; but as I had not moved, and the lady was still trying to dry her tears, he said nothing, and sat down again at her side. A moment later food and wine were brought, and as they took their places at the table I rose and occupied my old station at the window.

and as they took their places at the table I rose and occupied my old station at the window.

My blood was up, and by this time I had forgotten all about the object of my journey; the lady's youth and beauty had made so subtle, and at the same time so utrong an appeal to me that I stopped to consider nothing more. I have never in all my life been able to stand against a woman's wepning, and at the ago at which I then was, just in the first flush of freedom, I was in no humour to reason with myself. I stood at the window, but 'in such a way that I missed nothing that peased at the table, and the more I saw the more I saw the more I stond for battle.

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nealthy mothers. An honest dealer will be durge an infection substitute upon you would be used to the control of the control o

Adviser," or a cloth-fount copy A medical library in one volume.

Northfield ate largely and drunk deeply, but the girl hardly carried a morsel to her mouth, and when she did the quivering of her lips was pitlut to see. He urged her to take more, but she only shook her head and take put down her kinfe and fook along the comparison of the control of

her.
"You are mistaken," said I; "that

her.

"You are mistaken," said I, "that carriage is mine."

The girl had put out her hand to take the kines, but as I spoke I moved toward the door and purposely atumbled against her arm the glass was overset, and as the liquor soaked into the citoth there the powder lay upon the surface like fine gray sand.

"A thousand pardons!" I said.

"You clumsy foo!" cried Northfield, rising as though to strike me. But he thought better of it, and took the lady roughly by the arm.

"Come, we will leave this gentleman to play the fool alone," he said.
"I'm going back," she said. "I will—go—no further with you."

"Come!" he said, and tightened his hold upon her until she cried out.
"Sir," said I, staring at the stained toth, "did you ever know red wine to have gray dregs before?"

He turned paic, and the girl cried out again; she tried to free herself, and called in terror that she would not so. He clapped a heavy hand over her mouth.

"Mr. Northfield, If that is your true mem." I said, "your ea orgue, and

on He clapped a heavy name her mouth.

"Mr. Northfield, If that is your true name." I said, "you're a rogue, and the lady shall not stfr a step."

He released her suddenly to confront me, and in answer to a signal she ran round and stood trenbling by my side.

"You see, she puts herself under my protection," I said, "It is not nice for a gentleman to drug a lady's whe; indeed, the law might have something to say." he cried, his face

in for a gentleman to drug a lady's wine; indeed, the law might have something to say."

"By Heaven," he cried, his face white with passion, "you shall pay for thus. Bis my wife."

He toosened his aword. I glanned or of the window and saw ti. my carriage was almost ready.

"No, no," cried the girl.

"Keep close to me," I whispered to her, and we moved toward the door. But. Northfeld was there before us, and stood with his back against it, sword in hand. I drew and, begging my companion not to spoil the chances of rerescape by crying out. faced him with steadler nerves than I could have given mysalf credit for.

"Stand antie!" I cried.

"Fool, do you want your lungs pricked?"

"They are is fair target—try, if, it pleases you." He made a pass at me, and in a wing we had engaged. I was a fair swordsman, but he was a better. I, however, had the salvantage in coler nerves and the better jowiton, for so long as I could keep him to the door he could not fall back. I was rearful every second that the ring of seed would bring the servants about us, and therefore, at greek risk, I tried to end the matter quickly. I tried to end the matter quickly in the servants about us, and therefore, at greek risk, I tried to end the matter quickly. I tried to end the matter quickly in the servants and the shirt open; the wound was nasty, but, I gladly thought, not serious; I had to fancy to have the man's death on my conscience.



been asleep after all i
"Madam. I so d, "we are now travclimated such ward, and if your home lies
in this direction I will bid my men
drive you there."

irive you there."

"Oh. no, no; not home! she cried.
"Where, then, if not home?

"Anywhere but home," she said; "my other will never forgive me."
"He could not surely withstand your deading?"

She opened her eyes, and shook her end.

" He would never forgive a runaway. she said.
"Not even when the runaway thinks latter of it and returns?"
"Ah, but that is not all. If you only knew how wilful I've been!"

keeping, if you will trust me, as in an aversery."

"I will trust you—yoe," she said:
"You saved me."
"Ah." said I, "If I had such a sweet matt as you for a sister."
"A will be your sirter." she said:
"And said I, "If I had such a sweet matt as you for a sister."
"I will be your sirter." she said:
"And manne," cited I, "Is Nici Gray, very much in leve with Audrey! wour much in leve with Audrey!
"For a n.omenk we gazed into each other's eyes in a kind of transport, and then will hout more ado I look the little lady in my arms and kinsed her. At first she tried to be a little prim and coy, but later she clasped her arms alout my arms, and in spite of which I could have spent hours, yet the carriago was still fishing at to; speed toward my destination, and if the lady would not tell ine where she lived what was I to do? In all my uncertainty, however, and in spite of MR. T. Wigs, better known to every use in the vicinity as "Usele Mina," was treabled for over a year with leidang place, At those he was no bed he would have a get work. The irrestore beaust believed and would hold. It had been send by nany physicina, bet found solding has greek her privately exactly what had all-rady could not be without it is first to be well and sufficient as he was no bed he would have a large place and her are defended in the paper the ourse of a fire of what he had been send by Dr. Cheave Giaconsot, be procured a box. After the third application by great the first constraints hight sheep be had edityed la year. The cone bear made a complete our, and he say be wand so be without for \$90 a but If it could not be replaced. Mr. Wile is a wealthy a press, well known in the common by the was allificed, and he has mere had a sheep of the procured a box. After the sheet were by a sent who he was allificed, and he has mere had a sheet or the procured a box. As for Audrey, no sweeter woman ever the year who he was allificed, and he has mere had a sheet or the sent of the country, and was heard of language and the paper and the hear of the STANDING

M. T. Wigle, better known to every one in the vicinity as "Unoits Mike," was troubled for ever any years with its biding plan. At times he was to be his would have to quit work. The irretation became as intense with constant rubbing that they became to create any party physicians, but found nothing that gave his more than the property of the plant of the property of the plant of the property of the plant of the plant, and been reacted by passes of the property of the plant of the plan

Physicians fall to make a cure n Dr. Che

"That must be Box Hill!" I cried.
She started and laid a hand on my
arm, leaning to my side of the chaise
to look
"Box Hill!" she repeated, and her
face paled and her voice shook.
"Who

face passed and her voice shoots.
"Why not low Hill?" I said.
"We're close to Dorking how."
"Dorking!"
The poor child shook with fright and hid her face in her hands.

"Oh, you're taking me home," she cried, 'and I did so trust you!"
"Dear lady," I said, "if your home is here, 'tis no fault of mine that you are back again. Remember, I besech you, that you never told me where you lived, nor did I question you."

you."
She took no heed of me, but wrung her hands and cast herself back against

"Ah, but that is not all. If you only knew how wilful I've been!"

Deat lady, you make much of little. I dare take my oath you have no heavy sin upon y ur conscience. Suppose you did run away with this rascal Northild, there's no great harm done, and you've stopped in time."

To come back after all!" she cried. I was wicked to run away, I know, how te come back the same day like a child trunt! I never really loved me, and I was so unhappy. But he was, oh, as rough, so crue! I hatel little the same has and many here is a summer of the me again. I was sorry that my sword hat not pricked deeper the man who could plot evil against so fair a life as this dearved no pity.

"Think no more of him," I said. "You are now with me, and as safe in my keeping, if you will trust me, as in a pursery."

"I will trust you—yos," she said.
"you saved me."

he was better appreciated than he ever was here.

As for Audrey, no sweeter woman ever breathed than my wife, and she has made up to me a tiousandfold for thinking so lightly of me before she had even seen my face. And for myself, though I have had many nenounters since then, and against heavier odds, none ever had so fair a raward.