yet. Wish I could walk though."
"Where would you walk first?

asked Hildreth, smiling.
"It's this way, see?" said the
boy. "I promised to stake 'Lefty' boy, "I promised to stake Leity to his Christmas dinner. He's had hard luck, an' he's lame, an' he ain't as big as me, so I told him I'd blow; but now I can't," with a look at his bandaged leg outlined beneath the sheet. Hildreth made a sudden resolve. If he could not be happy himself, he could at least make an effort to bring happiness to the sick and unfortunate

How would you like to have me hunt 'Lefty' up, and give him the money for his dinner and tell him why you can't be with him?" he

'Great!" cried the boy eagerly "He'll be on Broadway in front of the park, an' you'll know him, 'cause he wears a crutch, and his right leg's crooked." "Here," he went on handing out the dollar, "you'd better give him this an' tell him to keep the change; he

Hildreth took the money.

"How do you know that I won't keep it?" he asked.
"You won't," said the boy confidently. "An' I want to say," he went on awkwardly, "that I'm obliged to yer, an' some day mebbe I kin do something for you an' something fer you an' -Merry Christmas

Before leaving the hospital Hildreth sent his card to the superintendent and had an interview with him, after which he hailed a passing taxicab and drove off. An hour or so later the same taxicab whirled the hospital entrance and Hildreth assisted a very small boy ng" a crutch and a half-half-expectant smile, to wearing The driver followed them up the steps with his arms full of bundles of various shapes and

Johnny Dugan lay in his bed, his eyes half closed. He was lonely, but the nurse had told him that he would have his dinner before long, and he was wondering if they would give him turkey, and how was getting along without him, when there came a familiar tap, tap along the corridor. He raised his head expectantly and Lefty's grinning face greeted him from the

"Hullo, Johnny!" he cried; and then, as his eyes took in the unusual whiteness of the bed and its fittings to say nothing of his friend him self, he stumped over to the bedside

and fell upon his knees. "Hey Johnny," he half sobbed "you ain't hurt bad—you ain't goin' to die, are yer? Tell me yer ain't. A feller brought me here in a taxi an' he said you wanted to see but I didn't look for nothin' Honest I didn't Johnny. A shade of impatience and some-

thing akin to contempt passed over only me leg. Ain't you never seen any one clean before? That's all the matter with me.'

Hildreth came in. He had heard the last words and there was an appreciative twinkle in his eyes. "Well, Johnny," he said, "I've managed to fix it so that you and

Lefty and I can have our Christmas dinner together. It is your party, and," handing him the dollar, "I guess you had better keep this so that you can settle the bill.

That was a dinner to be remembered. Hildreth and Lefty sat at a she whispered. small table beside the bed, while here Johnny, with the assistance of a Who do I pay

when the tray had been removed.
"I don't know," said Hildreth,
seriously, "but I'll find out for "what will they thin

you."

He left the room and soon returned with the superintendent.

"Dr. Thomas," he said, as they entered, "I wish to thank you in behalf of Lefty and myself for permitting us to dine with our friend Johnny here. It has been a very happy occasion for all of us."

"How much does it come to?"
"How much does it come to?"
"They'll think!" he exclaimed. "They'll think we're having a 'bully' Christmas, too."

"An' I hope yer will," said Johnny Dugan soberly. "If she's a particular fren' of yours I don't want you to do nothin' against her. It wasn't her fault any way, an' I ain't goin' to have no law on her—not this Christmas."

The girl's eyes were misty as she

"How much does it come to?" asked Johnny. "I want to pay for him too," pointing to Hildreth.

The doctor looked group.

"We couldn't have done better at Casey's," and he handed over his dollar and put the quarter behind his pillow.

The packages were opened, and a wonderful electric engine which whizzed delightfully at the simple turning of a lever, was set up. There was also an overcoat, as well

Conflicting emotions were tugging at Johnny's head and heart. Here was the owner of the car which had injured him and from whom he ex-pected to demand a money balm for his pains. She was so beautiful so evidently sorry, he felt ashamed to anything against her. So in his confusion he turned to the one who

He's me lawyer."
"Is this true?" she asked with

Is this true the slightest tilt of her chin toward It is quite true," he replied.

"It is only fair to say that neither my client nor myself knew the owner of the car." Since when have you taken ident cases?" she inquired a

accident cases? little scornfully.
"Since this morning," he answered, looking at her steadily.
"This happens to be my first."

She knew that she had hurt him, but the situation was trying and she felt ill at ease. He had not attempted to explain his presence and his interest in the boy, and she could not understand.

She had come with the Christmas spirit in her heart on what she regarded as an errand of justice and mercy, and then to find John Hildreth of all men, and arrayed

against her, too! There was an awkward silence which was broken by Lefty.

"Hey Johnny, what yer think? he began, but paused abruptly. Janet Gunther's eyes softened as she saw the pathetic little figure with its battered crutch. She had never before been in close touch with the lame and the halt, and the

realness moved her strangely She took a chair by the bed and began to talk to the boys, while walked to the window, glad that all was working out as he nad so hurriedly planned, and yet-Johnny Dugan's voice broke in

upon his thoughts. It's funny how things come," he said. "Last night I was because I was hurt, and me an' Lefty couldn't have our Christmas, an' I was lonely, an' then he come an' give me a dollar, an' he went an' got Lefty an' all this stuff, an' we had a good dinner—that was mine, though,' he put in with boy-ish pride, "an' I don't know why done it, but he did, an' it's been a bully Christmas after all-

The girl had listened intently to this recital. She understood now She had hurt him again as she had hurt him before. As she raised her head a motto upon the wall met her

And a Little Child Shall Lead

Them."
She glanced at the boy's head upon the pillow. She wanted to be led—to him. But could she put aside pride, convention and all bitterness of past years for this impulse? And as she confessed to Johnny's face.
"Die nothin'!" he said. "It's herself that she could, she knew that it was not impulse but some herself that she could, she knew thing stronger than she had ever felt before - even for him. walked over to where Hildreth stood and he turned to meet her. eager longing in his eyes was not to misunderstood.

John," she said, "you are doing so much to make others happy. Can you not forget—everything—and

Do you mean?" he said in a When the radiant Star of Shone on the Holy Night. low tense voice.

'Don't make me say it all, John,' whispered. "It's not easy-My darling!" he said tremu

ng nurse, did the honors. Vho do I pay?" asked Johnny, astonished eyes he took her in his

Hildreth, out for "John," she protested faintly, "what will they think?" "Think!" he exclaimed. "They'll

"How much does it come to?" asked Johnny. "I want to pay for him too," pointing to Hildreth.

The doctor looked grave.
"These Christmas dinners are expensive," he said. "I guess I'll have to charge you twenty-five cents apiece."
"That's all right," said Johnny.
"We couldn't have done better at the said Magazine."
"Now Idea Magazine."
"Now Idea Magazine." in New Idea Magazine.

CHRISTMAS

It comes as a sudden sun in the darkness of midwinter. Its illumination as a hope stretches far back as warm caps and gloves for each into the gloom of November; and as warm caps and gloves for each boy.

As they were engaged in inspecting the gifts, the door opened, and the boys beheld a beautiful young woman, while Hildreth's heart bounded, seeing Janet Gunther standing before him.

"This is quite unexpected," she said with an effort of lightness, coming forward and holding out her hand. "I wish you a Merry Christmas."

Hildreth shook hands and repeated "Merry Christmas" mechanically. The girl's radiant beauty had shaken him.

"The girl's radiant beauty had storms of January. Weary men look to it as a time of armistice or truce when they may forget they are enemies, and believe they are enemies, and brothers. For alas! that it should be true, all men accept the verdict of the stricken Job, and believe that life is a war-fare; and most men think themselves Ishmaelites, with the hands of the rest of mankind against them. They do not like it—this struggle for survival of the fittest. It is hard, scientific, brutal. But so they are taught; and so they learn while firm to the gloom of November; and far forward, as a memory, into the fold and storms of January. Weary men look to it as a time of armistice or truce when they may forget they are enemies, and believe they are enemies, and believe they are enemies, and brothers. For alas! the should be true, all men accept the verdict of the stricken Job, and believe that life is a war-fare; and most men think themselves Ishmaelites, with the hands of the rest of mankind against them. They do not like it—this struggle for survival of the fittest. It is hard, scientific, brutal. But so they are taught; and so they learn of the fold—

We may open our hearts to His coming, and the solves Ishmaelites, with the sheat the stricken Job, and believe that life is a war-fare; and most men think themselves Ishmaelites, with the hands of the rest of mankind against them. They do not like it—this struggle for survival of the fittest. It is hard, scientific, brutal. But so they are taught; and so they learn of a more farmistice or truce when they ally. The girl's radiant beauty had shaken him.

"And this must be Johnny Dugan," she went on, taking a seat beside the bed. "Johnny, I only learned a short time ago that' you had been hurt by my car, and I came as quickly as I could to see if I could do anything to make it easier for you. I can't tell you how sorry I am, and on Christmas Day, too."

It is hard, scientific, brutal. But so they are taught; and so they learn all too aptly. They would fain unlace their helmets and unbuckle their armor and unloose their greaves; and lie down by the common stream to drink and repose, So catch a gleam of the light common stream to drink and repose, again. Well Christmas is just such a time. The little Child suddenly appears; and contention is hushed.

We may open our hearts to His they are taught; and so they learn all too aptly. They would fain unlace their helmets and unbuckle their armor and unloose their greaves; and lie down by the common stream to drink and repose, so catch a gleam of the light that they are taught; and so they learn all too aptly. They would fain unlace their helmets and unbuckle their armor and unloose their greaves; and lie down by the common stream to drink and repose, so catch a gleam of the light their armor and unloose their greaves; and lie down by the common stream to drink and repose, so catch a gleam of the light their armor and unloose their greaves; and lie down by the common stream to drink and repose, so catch a gleam of the light their armor and unloose their greaves; and lie down by the common stream to drink and repose, so catch a gleam of the light their armor and unloose their greaves; and lie down by the common stream to drink and repose, so catch a gleam of the light their armor and unloose their armor and unloose

Humanity asserts itself in Him who assumed it, and all the belligerents bow down. Courtesies are inter-changed; the finer feelings come uppermost; men grasp one another's hands in friendship. They touch the fingers of those who are far off.
They allow a tear to gather and fall. It is well! Soon they must take up the weapons and go forth; had been good to him.

"I guess you'd better talk to him," he said, indicating Hildreth.
"He's me lower " humanize them.-Canon Sheehan.

OUR STRENGTH AND SHIELD

Beneath Judea's sky of midnight Shepherds and kings, on humble homage bent, Star-guided, all the silence through Still sought their King, though weary and forespent.

O Thorn-crowned One, we too are seeking Thee At this late day. Afar, Thy Star we see, May it shine clearer! Drawing us nearer,

Saviour, to Thee Thou knowest all. How far we are from joy, far from Thee and Thy celestial peace. The sin-mists thicken, earth's barbwires annoy, wires annoy, while on. Will worry never We stumble on. We faint, dear Babe, so tangled is

Send us Thy Morning Star to bring the day, Bidding it guide us Shining beside us! Hear us, we pray.

the way

Have pity, Thou! Our land is groping dim
After the Way. Is our old Faith all gone?
Is silence all? Is no Angelic hymn To pierce the azure as we journey

Fair Jesus-Babe, Thy touch is firm and sweet; Oh, gently guide our wilful, wandering feet. Till our whole nation With loves adoration

Thy coming shall greet. Such grace betide us that its silvery Shall draw us closer to Thy Mother's

There shall her prayers hasten the blessed hour When souls forgiv'n shall know love-lighted rest From Bethlehem bestow the gift we

Thy Spirit's Presence—in His Might to brave Will o' Wisp evils, Doubtings and devils

Shield us! And save!

THE HOLY NIGHT

In the hush of the solemn midnight, As out of the purple skies The golden host of stars look down With myriad shining eyes, Their ordered splendor seems

breathe Of a yet more glorious sight, When the radiant Star of Bethlehem

And the silent world seems listen-

As if to catch again ome echo of the wondrous hymn, The rapt, triumphant strain,

Oh, to have watched with the Shepherds, And heard that matchless song!

Oh, to have seen with raptured eyes
The bright, angelic throng!
Oh, to have hearkened the tidings,
With which the heavens still ring, And been the first to be bidden Unto the court of the King!

Ah, happy, blessed Shepherds, Tell us what found ye there?— A Child who lay in a manger, A Mother who knelt in prayer, The breath of the beasts to warm

Him The straw for His lowly bed, While the songs of angels filled the

And the great Star burned o'erhead. Oh, to have knelt with the Shep-

herds, To worship and adore The Lord who came as an infant, Humble and weak and poor! To have brought to His feet in off'ring

"THE STORY OF CHRIST"

HOW AN ITALIAN SCEPTIC FOUND HIS WAY BACK TO THE FAITH

The sensation caused in literary and religious circles by the appear ance of Giovanni Papini's di Cristo" makes especially timely a character study of the famous Italian writer by Charles Phillips which appears in the November number of the Catholic World.

The meeting with the man whose writings as a skeptic had attracted the admiring attention of Bergson and William James, and whose work since his conversion has compelled the attention of thinkers in every civilized country, was a surprise to the interviewer.

"Atrocious portraits of printed in the papers," sa Phillips, "pictures that says Mr. more like caricatures than portraits -coupled with a slight acquaint ance with his handwriting, which at first glance seemed to suggest all sorts of imaginable eccentricities had somehow given me the impression that he was of the fire-eating type, that he belonged to that type, that he belonged untidy category of erratic and untidy labelled minds so frequently labelled 'genius.' True, I had not quite ucceeded in reconciling that impression with the cameo-like cutting his wonderfully lucid prose. Nevertheless that was vaguely my preconceived notion of Giovanni I had even imagined him tousled and undersized!

PEN PICTURE OF THE AUTHOR

"How different the reality! A tall, spare man, easily over six feet in height, erect and soldierly, with a face at once strong and astonish ingly youthful, indeed boyish, greeted me, and ushered me into a study that might have been the private office of a railway director for all the signs it gave of the average literary worker. The heavy oak writing table by the window, very plain and solid, instead of being littered with papers, fairly shone with order and precision. There was nothing on it but a blotter, an ink bottle, and one book, even any cigarette ashes, although Papini smoked continu-The walls of the little room ally. were lined from floor to ceiling with books-but they were all in place, and there were none either on chairs or on the floor! Only a big bowl of lilacs, their petals falling to the carpet, spoke the severe rigidity of

the author's workroom. But Papini was not rigid. With his slim figure dressed faultlessly in the dark gray tweeds of a business man, without a trace of Byronic tie or other literary negligee, he was as easy and as precious as his own flowing Italian. There was about him the quiet charm of a man completely and unconsciously in posses-sion of himself. ('This conversion,' I commented inwardly, 'is no flash in the pan, no new coat to be worn only while its colors seem bright,

This man knows what he is about. "His shaggy head is the only mark on him of the artistic celebrity or of his first erstwhile days of anarchy. Despite the boyishness of his face, it has a rugged sculpturing; and the eyes are rather worn with study. When he was obliged to peer close at a paper he was writing, I learned the secret of his odd penmanship, which after all is remarkably clear and exact, despite its first appearance of careless-

A BORN MISSIONARY

Burst from the opening sky.

Proclaiming peace on earth to men; spoke of himself when questioned with the directness and simplicity of a legal mind. He should have of the Cospels. of a legal mind. He should have been a lawyer! Of course, he is long ago accustomed to this sort of thing; a man who has given his life to the literature of opinion is not to be embarrassed by a few queries from a stranger. But, all that he told me seemed somehow to the stroy of the construction of the study of the same terrible things, more or less according to proportion and form, had always been happening for the same old that he told me seemed somehow to be in the spirit of an offertory—the be in the spirit of an offertory—the same spirit that one feels permeating his 'Storia di Cristo'; told frankly in the thanksgiving for what he has gained, and not reluctantly, if others may benefit by it. He is, in fact, like all radicals—even anarchists—a born missionary. 'The whole inclination of my character,' he explained to me later, acter,' he explained to me later, acter,' he explained to me later, acter, and the did the world need?'

"'The question was, how to make them happen less often—how, in fact, to put a stop to them altogether. All our external systems of politics, economics, etc., were good for nothing. Changing our social regimes—Democracy, Communism, and so on—were equally useless. They did not alter the fact. What was to be done? What

'The whole inclination of my character,' he explained to me later, 'has always been, even during the long period of unbelief and negation, toward the desire of helping and illuminating others.'

"Papini is only forty—and looks no more than thirty—yet in his short career he has produced twenty-three volumes of published works which have run already into fifty-seven editions. 'You see, he laughed,—just to show me his acquaintance with things American—fifty-seven varieties!'

"'No,' he answered, 'I never dictate and have never used a type-writer. All my work, for twenty years, has been done in manuscript.' (You are a human dynamo, then,' I commented to myself—a dynamo that runs so smoothly, there is neither noise or vibration.) 'But, for all that I have been able to turn out,' he went on, 'I am very lazy! Sometimes I go whole months without even writing a letter. Then out even writing a letter. Then comes periods of abundance and

are all born dynamos! Papini had begun, I had been told, as a mer begun, I had been told, as a mer boy. I asked him if this were so. 'Yes,'

'And were there any influence in your youth tending toward literary expression? Imean, were there any writers in your family? None whatever

"'And about other influence toward radical thought?' which he had early b

""'As to that, yes. My father was an ardent anti-clerical, a Garibaldian soldier, a follower of Mazzini—so much so that, when I was born, my mother had to have me secretly baptised.' THE BOOK THAT MADE HIM FAMOUS

Papin's first book, 'The Twilight of the Philosophers' (Crepusculo dei Filosofi), published in 1905, was a vigorous and radical attack on all the modern schools of thought from Kant to Nietzsche. It made the name of the Italian known throughout Europe, and although never translated into English, was introduced to American readers by James, who published a lengthy review of it in the Journal of Philosophy of New York (1906.) This ok was quickly followed by a still more brilliant work, a mixture of philosophy and phantasy, called "The Laily Tragedy" II 'Tragico Quotidiano, published in Florence 'I was curious about Papini's

literary associations and influences during these first years of his success. I found them, as I had expected, of unusual interest. Naturally, so youthful and brilliant a writer was distinctly in the ring when it came to knowing the people of his own country who writing, especially those who were leading or following in the same free lines that he had chosen.

Giuseppe Frezzolini author of the sinless passion of sacrifice. Incomparable in its sublimity, interference is sacrifice. Giuseppe Frezzolini, author of a is mockery. read work on Moderism Morselli, poet and dramatist—'He is dead,' Papini explained: 'at Rome, just a few weeks ago; and he died the death of a saint Soffici, famous skeptic and cubist; Giuliotti, anarchist-since a fervent Catholic, 'the Veuillot of Italy,' as Papini calls him; these and many others of the busiest and most brilliant of modern intellectuals in Europe were Papini's intimates—even a bare review of whose names today shows straws in the wind of Papini's prophecy of coming Catholic renaissance.

"At the same time his reading was playing its role in Papini's development. There was Carducci, stylist—and Satanist. 'I felt influence of Carducci very strongly, said Pappini, 'and especially in my youth I owed much to him as a model of literary style. In 1917 I published a volume treating of Carducci L'Uomo Carducci — Carducci the Man), but in that work, as you will see, I did not pass over his spiritual limitations or his anti-Christian animus. By that time I was getting on to Christian ground

"'So I went on. But no, not any particular personal event precipitated my conversion. (As you see, it was not precipitate at all.) It was one big universal fact—the

really began to ponder how men,

'The question was, how to make

did the world need?
"'I arrived at the conclusion that we must change the spirit of man. To leave it as it is, is to man. To leave on going wrong, persimply keep on going wrong, perpetuating the evil. We must change our instincts.

"How was that to be achieved? What was the doctrine which most perfectly revealed such a transformation—the actual changing of the instincts of man? That of the Gospels. Coming to this copalusis. acquaintance with things?

"fifty-seven varieties!"

"How do you do it? I asked. I had a mental picture of a roomful of typists and secretaries in the Evangelists. I was convinced now of my immortal soul. But of course, of typists and secretaries in the offing.

"Yoo," he answered, 'I never dictate and have never used a type-writer. All my work, for twenty years, has been done in manuscript.' You are a human dynamo, then,' I commented to myself—a dynamo that runs so smoothly, there is that runs so smoothly, there is the control of the Catholic Church, the Church of

One of our illusions is that the present hour is not the critical, decisive hour. Write it on your work, in which I compose with great rapidity.

"Only forty; born January 9, 1881; but a Florentine. That explains a good deal. The Florentines decisive hour. Write it on your heart that every day is the best day in the year. No man has learned anything rightly until he knows that every day is doomsday.—
Emerson.

HOLY MOTHER LOVE

The world has thrilled and melted to the tender pathos of "Mother Machree" as sung in silvery tones by the inimitable John McCormack; it has been touched to tears by the intensity of feeling throbbing in Kipling's "Mother o' Mine," but in all literature there is hardly a tribute to the divinity of motherhood and the protecting holiness of a mother's love comparable to that a mother's love comparable to that paid in the United States Senate on Friday, July 22, by Senator James A. Reed, of Missouri, in an eloquent speech on the Maternity Bill, then being debated on the floor of the Senate.

It was part of a protest against handing over to the Children's Bureau proposed by the Bill, the care of maternity and childhood and vesting that care in an officious board composed mostly of spinsters and meddling "maiden ladies" who had never known the holy meaning "I care not how estimable the

office-holding spinster may be, nor dream children she does not possess her yearnings can not be substituted for a mother's experience, said Mr. Reed. "Official meddling can not take the place of mother love. Mother love! the golden cord that stretches from the throne of uniting all animate creation of divinity. Its light gleams down the path of time from barbarous ages, when savage women held their babes to almost famished breasts and died that they might live. Its holy flame glows as bright in hovels where poverty breaks a meager crust as in palaces where wealth holds Lucullian feasts. It interference is sacrilege, regulation

"For mother love there is no substitute, even though it bear an official stamp. If there be truth in religion, then this holy was planted in woman's heart by the hand of God It has made life possible. It is in truth the very source of life itself. When all other passions are dead it survives. It will pass through the fiery furnaces of disgrace and yet live It will endure the scorching breath contumely with unwavering

"A mother will enter prisons of shame and kiss a felon hand thrust through the bars. She will sit beside the accused in courts of law, when the mob jeers and the heartless machinery of justice grinds its grist of agony, and with unwavering faith maintain her child is innocent. She will stand at the foot of the scaffold and, when the trap has fallen, cover the condemned body with kisses and flowers. It is still to her the innocent suckling she once hugged to her breast.

"But if the path of life has led her son to fields of honor, her heart will glow with pride, ineffable unspeakable. If he is called to war, she will bid him good-bye with dry "At first I took the War with the upon the tented field her spirit will everyday indifference that characterized so many of us. But in 1916 I began to suffer, I myself, from all that was afflicting the world—the misery of it, the ferocity, the falsehood, the death! Then I the falsehood, the death! Then I search for him amongst the slain, and try with kieses to warm the and try with kisses to warm the dead and unresponsive lips to life. She will coffin her heart with the beloved body, and her soul will

"Mother love! It has produced, fondled, reared, inspired and glorified all of the shadowy hosts who have passed across the 'bank of time' since man first raised his eyes toward the heavens. It is, I say again, the golden cord that binds the earth to God. Official interference between the mother and her babe is tyrannical and criminal." -Catholic Columbian.

It is a great deal easier to do that which God gives us to do, no matter how hard it is, than to face the responsibility of not doing it.

some hope, some physical suffering, or bitter disappointment. We can-

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When 4 Days Old. Cross

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