



#### A Christmas Dream.

Twas Christmas-eve, snow drifting deep, But all the house was warm and bright ; And grandmamma lay fast asleep,

The scarlet silk and laces white Making a glow of tender grace Over the calm and placid face, Where smiles were flitting to and fro,

Where sudden lights and shadows fall. " Children, step lightly and speak low,

And softly spread the fleecy shawl ; Her dreaming soul mayhap doth keep Some fairer Christmas in its sleep.

Then quickly o'er the household steals The hush of thoughtful, loving calm. Until through waiting silence peals,

Like jubilant, triumphant psalm, The ringing, singing bells that say, "To-morrow, friends, is Christmas-day."

The sleeper woke, and lay serene

With clasped hands upon her breast, "Dear God !" she said, " so sweet a dream

Could it come true, I were so blest, So blest ! such Christmas feast to keep. Ah, Mary, I have been asleep,

"And dreaming, dear-a wondrous dream : I saw my home so strangely fair ;

Its halls with such soft lights did gleam ; its gardens were beyond compare ; And, lo ! I heard a voice which said.

Come, love, the Christmas feast is spread. our father s voice, dear child, I know :

It ringeth yet through heart and brain ; It called me fifty years ago, "Just so it called to-night again.

O faithful love ! O blessed home ! Do I not weary till I come ?

She lay all night with wistful eyes To earthly love both deaf and dumb ; But just as dawn touched Christmas skies. She cried aloud, "Sweet love, I come ! And none could weep, for that they knew Her happy Christmas dream was true.

## THE SINGER'S STORY.

WAS a born musician. When I was a child of two, I would spend hours softly touching the piano-keys, and listening with exquisite delight to the sounds. More, I had a beautiful voice so beautiful, that when I sang lullabys to my dolls, strangers would stop at the door in passing.

I was a fisherman's daughter.

I grew up healthy and free, and my voice be-came stronger and sweeter. When I was sixteen, my uncle took me to Philadelphia, and commenced my musical education.

I loved refinement and art ; I was pretty ; and soon they adopted me. All that sympathy, encouragement and education could do for me became mine. My uncle Archibald was very proud of my voice, and determined that it should reach its full compass. "You have a bird in your throat which can

win you both fame and gold, Gabrielle," he used to say

Not that he had any definite plans for me. It was enough for him to sit and listen while I played and sang in the twilight-to have the crowded room suddenly hush when my voice took up the song. He took the most exquisite pleasure and pride in my successes.

When I was eighteen, he gave me a reception, at which people of high rank and talent paid me so many compliments that I could not but believe in my own powers.

I had not naturally much confidence in my

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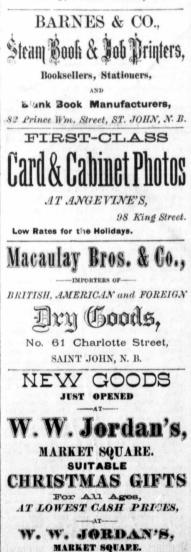
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self, and it always required a considerable effort to play or sing before strangers. I always made it, however, when Uncle Archibald wished. I realized that I owed it to him that I was a well-educated, accomplished young lady, instead of an ignorant girl, living obscurely and humbly. I had no taste for the sphere of life into which I was born, and gladly escaped it. After five years' residence with my uncle, I seemed always to have lived in Philadelphia.

One evening when I had been singing to him. he said :

"Gabrielle, I am going to send you abroad." I turned, and saw that he was in earnest.

"When ?"

"In a few weeks-as soon as you can be ready." "How ?"

"In care of your pastor's family, who will start this Spring. But you will not go solely for sight-seeing ; you go to study. Your musi-cal education can be finished only in Paris."

I was pleased at the thought of going abroad, although I did not much enjoy the company of my pastor, who was aged, cold and formal. His wife and daughters were also very dignified and precise. But this was the arrangement my un-cle had made for me, and I found no fault with it, for I knew, if not congenial, the Sunderlands would keep me strictly to my lessons and practice.

In a month we set sail.

I spent two Winters in close study in Paris. The remainder of the two years I traveled with my friends. Of all lands, I loved Italy the my friends. Of all lands, I loved Italy the most dearly. The golden-blue skies, the land-scapes, the people, the songs, all gave me the most exquisite pleasure, and I vowed never to forget this land of beauty. I felt that I owed it a debt of gratitude for all I had enjoyed there.

We had returned to Paris, where I was finishing a course of lessons, when there came a startling letter from my uncle. I was recalled home. He had failed in business

I crossed on the steamer alone, and hurriedly sought my uncle's house. Closed shutters, silence, darkness.

I hurriedly questioned the servant. Her master was very ill.

Worn out with striving and disappointment, my good Uncle Archibald lay in a darkened chamber—a shadow of his former self. Though this disaster in business had been feared for a year, he had kept me at my studies and pleasures abroad, and never let me know the trouble he was in.

And you are a poor man now, Uncle Archibald ?

"I shall be, as soon as my house is sold."

I bent and kissed the forehead of this noble and kind old man, who had been my greatest earthly benefactor, vowing that his home should never be sold. While he had wealth he had given it freely unto me. Now that he had it not, I would restore it to him

Yes, I would commence public life as a singer ; though, as I said, constitut<sup>2</sup> onally timid, shrinking from whatever made me conspicuous, I promptly decided upon this course of life.

For the first time delighting in my powers, I hastily sought the leader of a superior opera troupe and offered my services. He was much picased. He knew me well,

having heard me sing several times at my uncle's house, and he had repeatedly advised me to sing

"But you would need more courage, more "But you would need more courage, more success," confidence. It would greatly aid your success,' he used to say.

Now, on my application, enthusiastically in earnest and quite forgetful of self, I must have appeared differently, for he said :

"So you begin to understand yourself-to appreciate our powers. That is good. I shall have great delight in ringing you out." I had a few weeks of preparation, which were,

however, sufficient.

"Don't hurt your health by too close study;

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that will weak in your voice and spoil every-thing," sain my friend. "You must take a long, brisk walk daily." In compliance with this advice, I daily threaded the public streets with a free, light step. In all

the public streets with a free, light step. In an my life I had never been so happy and courageous. I seemed upheld on wings. I knew I should succeed in my undertaking, of which my uncle as yet knew nothing. His sad, patient face had a fi-scination for me, feating as I was on the thought of how glad and hopeful I would soon

make it appear. I was passing rapidly along a crowded square, one morning, when a hand touched my arm. It was that of one of two beggar children. Italiana. A thrill went through, me as Llooked into the

to the second of the second se gift.

What could I give this destitute child of my beloved Italy I Studdenly a thought came to mc-I would give her a song. Throwing back my vail, I put the children before me and began to sing. As if a magic spell had been dropped upon them, they all stood silent around me; only liner was a little stir on the outside of the crowd which I folt pressed in-ward and widened-for I was intent only in giving of my sweeters and best in this happy charity. I knew no one in that crowded mart, and did not fearwecognition ; and in the musical Tuscia works I loved, I caroled load and clearly. Then I seized the child's brown wrist and lifted

Then I seized the child's brown wrist and lifted Then I seized the child's brown wrist and lifted her thin padm; silver and even gold dropped into it. I caught a glinnse of many wild, de-lighted eyes; then, as they hustled around the children with a shower of precious coin, so that each joined her liftle hands to receive it. I slipped aside and ran home with a gay heart. That night I was to sing. I had kept my health, and as my maid dressed me in the shim-mering evening robes, she declared my beauty to be wonderful.

But, as I turned from the mirror, a sudden sickening realization of the strange concernse awaiting my coming filled my heart. The old forgotten dread returned and overwhelmed me. I began to tremble. A wild, shaking for filled me. I felt for the first time the importance of the occasion. These five thousand peoplesuwhit-ing my singing were not my friends or my nucles. They had cold, strange hearts for me. They would listen sharply and judge me rigorously. Of. Gol, how frightened I was: The manager was at the door. He bent to button my glove. "Goot heavens, what pale checks I he eriod in dismay. "Marie, rougo her." But, as I turned from the mirror, a sudden

But I motioned the girl away. I came for-ward, slowly. I seemed to see my old uncle's pathetic eyes, and braced myself accordingly. moved unclassically upon the stage, feeling blindly for the first words of my song. I had not lifted my white face, when peal

after peal of welcome broke upon me. Kind ? Did they mean encouragement? I raised my lashes, feeling a little color running into my pale lips, but the clapping of hands grew louder. A tumult of applause filled the building. The air rained flowers and fragrance. I heard enthusiastic words. Ladies kissed their hands to me. I felt my frozen face soften and brighten, until I met smile with smile.

Still the clapping of hands-still the rain of flowers. This was not merely kind encourage z. ent. It was approval, enthusiasm, delight. I gazed upon the radiant faces wonderingly. \* "Sing the ditty you sang this morning for the beggars !" they cried. My heart's blood filled my cheeks. I trembled.

For a moment I stood fall, ving like a shy child, Then, as they sympathetically hashed, awaiting the first words of my song, I softly syllabled the first strain, and caroled to the end the simple Tus-

can ditty. Ah, how pleased they were ! how kind ! how warm Ah, how pleased they were ! how kind ! how warm An, now precise they were now kind ; how warm my heart : I feared no longer. I could have sing for them all night. When I retired, the old mana-ger, my friend, embraced me. "It is all right, my child. They know you—they

Aby Jore you !" Ah! I lived years in that beautiful evening. Heaven only knows how my heart trembled with gratitude that it was a success. I flew home to my uncle; I knelt down by his pillow and kissed his cheek. He looked at my dress, my loose hair full of flowers, my burning cheeks and dancing eyes. "Gabrielle !" he cried, "you have been in

opera !

opera !" And then I confessed, and told my glad tidings. Ah, success is sweet | I had been favored --my feet, so timid, were set in a flowery path. The way has ever been bright and fair. Hove my vocation. But sheet The

has ever noos bright and fair. Hove my y quenched, Lapsed way as guylt the frig f have secured, and made it the ratio I have secured, and made it the resting pl fond old Last. I have filled it with all the ies which money will buy, and many frand it; but though triumphe guyed around m will ever, I chink, because were as my first -Frank Leslie's Monthly. a my first su

#### . Seeing A Man Home.

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"I am on the press," said John Honry, as he folded his girl in one sweet embrace. "Well, that's no reason why you should ity to pi the form," she replied as ahe rearranged her tumbled collar and pinned up her hair, which had been undone.



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He Got It.

To Morrow.

