

THEIR EVE OF NOEL BY Virginia Louisa Wentz



MERCY, monsieur!" cried the comrade as he cheerfully took the silver coin. "A happy Noel, monsieur!"

then the window was lifted. She threw out some crumbs to some cold looking sparrows. The last rays of the winter sun touched the fine, white parting that separated the burnished waves of hair.



IF HE ONLY DARED SPEAK TO HER!

Drake was picking up his pen again when— The snow lay on the ground. The stars shone bright.

Presently they went out and hailed a fiacre. "Where shall it be?" asked Drake. "Laure's? Voltaire's? Peter's? No, I have it Marguery's."

I told you a little while ago it was your friendship I wanted. I was wrong. She made no answer, but stretched out her little gloved hand to him, then drew it back quickly unnoted, a singular smile on her lips.

Then she, laughed joyously, delightfully. "You are mistaken," she said. I have known you for years. I used to chum with your sister Gertrude at school, and you used to come down from your university, and we'd take walks.

The snow lay on the ground. The stars shone bright. He bowed his head in his hands for the great gift that had come to him— When Christ our Lord was born On Christmas night.

That first Christmas was the mother's coronation day. Each recurring Christmas perpetuates the memory of her great glory. In public and in private celebrations of it hers should be the central figure.

The Navy's Christmas. Christmas in the regular navy is observed as one of the big holidays of the year. Starting off with a grand dinner in the middle of the day, discipline is from then on relaxed, and the fun is fast and furious till sundown, and often the evening is enlivened by amateur theatricals.

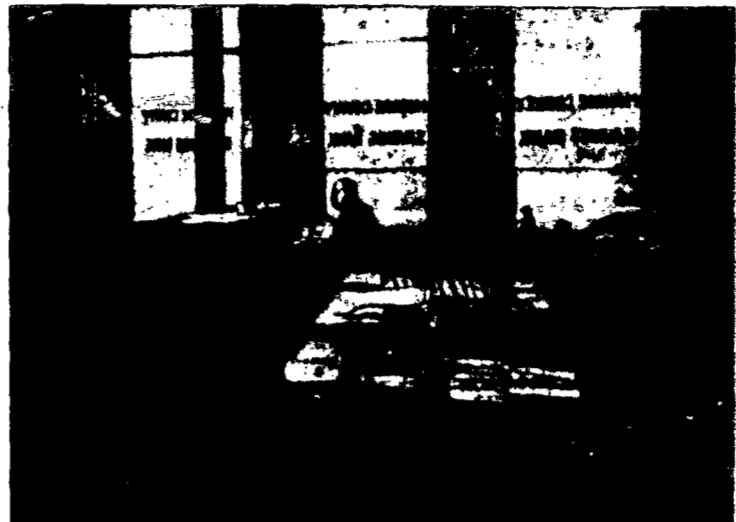
Self Help. Dasherway—Well, Uncle Jasper, how are you getting on with your Christmas dinner? Uncle Jasper—Fast taste, sah. Colonel Winterblossom done give me a present of a fine fat turkey, sah.

When Mistletoe Was Banned. Because of its association with pagan rites the mistletoe was for centuries forbidden a place in English church decorations at Christmas, and it was not even mentioned in old chronicles until the seventeenth century.

Circumstances Alter Cases. Crawford I thought you were perfectly delighted with the Christmas present your wife gave you. Crabshaw—At that time I didn't know she'd had it charged.

How It Was Done. She—The ideal! And we weren't even standing under the mistletoe! He—No, I did that sub rosa! Brooklyn Eagle.

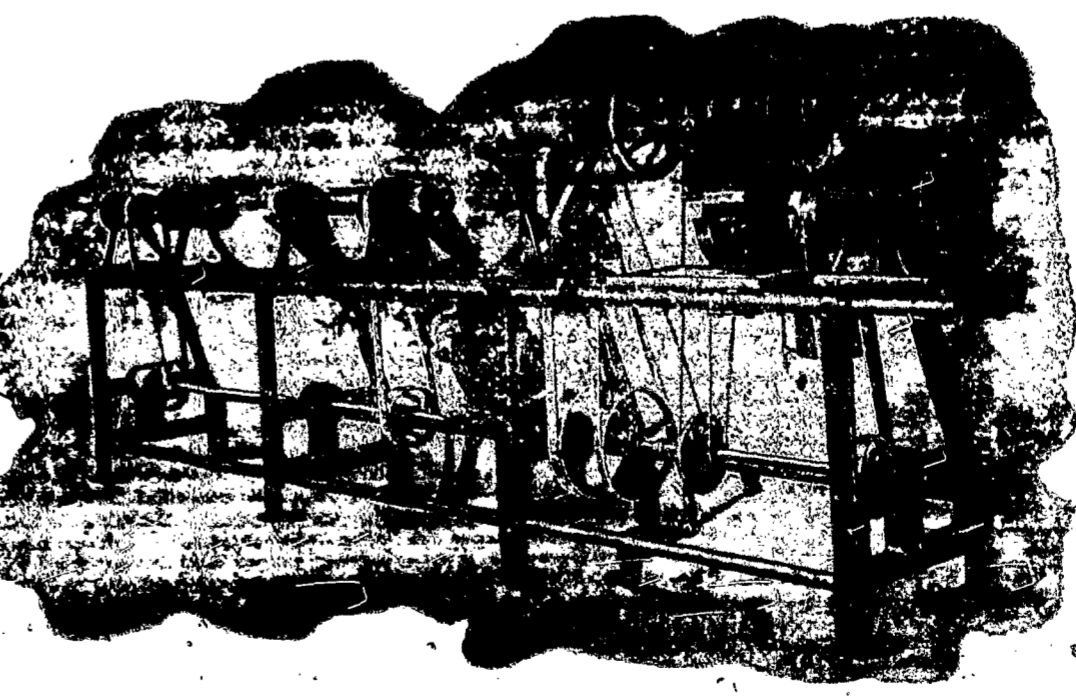
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