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**A Christmas  
Movie**

By ALDEN CHAPMAN

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THE sweet voiced Christmas chimes were echoing out a chorus melodious and reverential and Mabel Durand sat in the parlor of her cozy little flat absorbed in reveries that the season naturally brought to her. Her face was not a happy one, for her memories were freighted with a sadness that had shadowed her life for nearly ten years.

She had wedded Rodney Durand, a close friend of her brother, now dead, and both had been employed in the prosperous mercantile house of her father. He, too, had now passed away and Mabel was alone in the world, except for her little daughter, Erna, only ten years old. The little one came tripping joyously into the room at that moment.

"Oh, mamma," she cried, "what do you think? Our neighbor in the next flat, Mrs. Brayton, wants us both to be ready in an hour to go with her to the movies."

Mrs. Brayton had been a cheering element in the lonely life of Mabel Durand for over two months.

Mrs. Durand had more than once during their brief acquaintanceship conversed with the neighbor she seemed to especially like about her past history. It was a tragic one. Two years after her marriage to Rodney Durand her husband had been arrested and sentenced to prison for embezzlement from her father.

"I loved Rodney and I always shall," insisted Mabel. "There must be some mistake in the fearful charge they have brought against him."

"There is none," replied her father sternly. "He has disgraced us. He stole from me boldly."

Still Mabel hoped and waited and at the end of two years when Rodney was released from prison she bore silently the reproach of never hearing a word from him.

So Mabel had talked of her broken life and now it was Christmas time again and the occasion brought a sad remembrance of those days in the happy past when she and little Erna had known a tender-hearted husband and a gentle indulgent father.

Mrs. Brayton, chatted casually all the way to the theater and told her she had seen the picture play twice and was greatly impressed by it.

"It is the story of the life of a wronged, misjudged man," she said, "and I know it will interest you."

The screen outlined the course of business in a modern counting room. Then as there entered a new figure, little Erna pressed close to the side of her mother and exclaimed:

"Oh, mamma, that actor looks just like the picture you brought home."

Mrs. Durand gasped and tottered



In Plain View Rodney Destroyed It in her seat. The gentle, soothing hand of Mrs. Brayton steepled and quieted her.

"Do not be startled or excited, dear friend," she whispered. "I had a purpose in bringing you here, as you will soon know, perhaps, gratefully. The principal of this movie is Rodney Durand, your husband and my brother. For his sake I have got acquainted with you; for both your sakes I have brought about this climax."

The story of the embezzlement crime was faithfully depicted and it showed another as the real criminal, her own brother. Her husband had taken his blame, bearing the penalty and reproach to save her brother from disgrace.

At a critical moment her brother had sent a full confession to Rodney, taking the blame for the crime. In plain view Rodney, in the action of the piece, destroyed it.

"Do you comprehend now?" questioned Mrs. Brayton softly.

"Oh, how we have wronged my poor, dear Rodney," sobbed Mabel. "Can you forgive him? Will he ever forgive me? Oh, that I could find him!"

"You shall," and when they reached home, Mrs. Brayton left her friend for a few moments to reappear with her brother.

Higher swung the gladsome chime bells, merrily echoed the happy sweet voices and led to the little Christmas tree that had been trimmed for Erna. Those three earnest souls joined in the joyous knowledge that their paths would lead together from the threshold of that Christmas eve into broad sun-  
shades of love and happiness.

**HANGING UP THE STOCKING**

Time-Honored Christmas Custom Dates Back to the Days of St. Nicholas of Padua.

FROM Italy comes the legend from which we are supposed to get the time-honored custom of hanging up the Christmas stocking.

Good old St. Nicholas of Padua used to throw long knitted purses tied at both ends, into the open windows of the very poor people. These purses were made of yarn not unlike a footless stocking. Finally it became the custom of the people to hang them outside of their window on the night before Christmas, so that St. Nicholas could put a gift into them as he passed by. By and by, when coin became scarce, toys were put in for the children, and useful presents for grown people. In the North country where it was rather chilly at Christmas time, the purses were hung on the mantelpiece, and it was believed that the good old saint would come down the chimney and fill them. When these purses were out of use, stockings were substituted and have been used ever since.

**CHRISTMAS TIME IN FRANCE**

Yuletide Season Great Time for Display of Green Plants; Houses Filled With Decorations

IT IS the Le Petit Jesu that brings gifts to the French children at Christmas time. He never forgets a good child and is sure to slip something into the wooden shoe of the child if it is left at the door. He has, however, been known to leave pebbles in the shoe of one who has been naughty.

To the French, Christmas is the great time for greens. Everywhere one sees the brilliant poinsettia flower displayed. The houses are filled with mistletoe and holly, and half the fun of Christmas consists in getting the greens and decorating the houses. The houses are then ready for le Jour de l'An, or New Year's day, which is the gayer of the two festivals.

**The Hodening Horse.**

ABOUT the middle of the nineteenth century it was the custom in Kent for the male farm-servants to go on Christmas eve from house to house with the hodening horse, which was an imitation of a horse's head 18 inches and made of wood, and fastened on a stick about the length of a broom handle. The lower jaw had hinges and was arranged by means of a cord so that it would open and close. The strongest of the lads was selected for the horse. He stooped and supported himself by holding to the stick. Then he was covered with a horse cloth, and one of his companions mounted him, and such a kicking rearing and gnashing of teeth as there was! They made the rounds of the houses begging a gratuity.

**Wandering Jew's Christmas.**

There was a common belief in some countries that the spirits of the lost had rest on Christmas night, and that when the hour comes that ushers in the holy season, the wandering Jew rests his weary feet, and with sad, upturned face gazes in the direction of Jerusalem where he struck the Savior in the time of his trial. A lamp or candle must not be permitted to burn to its end on Christmas, as that forbodes a death in the family during that year. For the same reason a live coal must not be taken out of the home on that day.

**Celery Soup.**

Take the coarse outer stalks of a bunch of celery and scrub them well. Cut into small pieces; cover with boiling water and boil until tender in an uncovered saucepan. Drain and save the water. Mash the celery through a colander, return to water and boil for ten minutes. To each cupful of celery water add a cupful of hot milk, two level table-spoonfuls of butter and one level table-spoonful of flour rubbed together. Season with salt and pepper. Sprinkle chopped parsley over the top of each bowl and serve with croutons.



**START NOW**

To save a little From the cost of living; Christmas time is coming, With its time of giving.

**Christmas in Peru.**

A midnight mass is generally held the night before Christmas in Peru. Christmas day is generally celebrated by a huge spectacular bull fight, and after this has taken place, a religious procession follows, at the head of which usually is held a statue of the Virgin. When this ceremony is over people are free to enjoy themselves as they please for the rest of the day.

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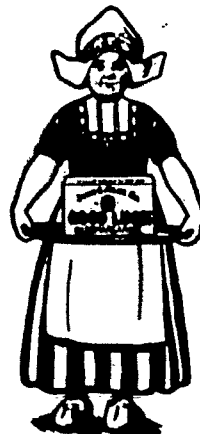
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