Lesson XIII. December 26, 1915. Je

lovah's Gracious Promises to Israel -Review.-Hosea 14: 1-9. (A reading lesson only).

SUUMMARY.-Lesson I. Topic: A elimax reached. Places: Samaria, the capital of Israel; Jezreel, one of Ahab's dwelling-places. Naboth had beautiful vineyard close to one of King Ahab's palaces, and the king wished to buy it. Naboth refused to sell it because it was his ancestral inheritance. Jezebel, Ahab's wife. wickedly plotted against Naboth and had him slain. Ahab took the vinerard. Elijah met him and reproved him, telling him that he and his wife would be slain.

II. Topic: Perseverance rewarded. Places: Gilgal, Bethel, Jericho, the Jordan, a place east of the Jordan. Elijah's work was nearly done. Elisha had been appointed his successor, and knew that Elijah was to be taken away from earth. He asked that a double portion of Elijah's spirit might rest In recking slum and tenement upon him. This petition was granted on the condition that Elisha should see Elijah when he should be taken away. Elisha would not leave him, and he saw him taken up in a whirl-

III. Topic: The divine Healer. Places: Damascus, Samaria, the Jordan. Naaman was the commander of the Syrian army and an able man, but he was a leper. Through the words of a Hebrew captive he learned that ne might be heared in Israel. He went to the king of Israel who could do nothing for him. He came to Elisha's home and because the prophet simply sent word to him to bathe seven times in the Jordan, he was angry and refused to follow his directions. Later he dipped in the river and was healed. Gehazi, Elisha's servant, was stricken with leprosy for getting a present from Naaman under false pretences.

W. Topic: Elisha's body-guard. Places: Dothan, Samaria. Elisha told the king of Israel of the movements of the Syrian army, which was attacking Israel. The king of Syria learned where Elisha was and sent an army to capture him. The army was smitten with blindness and he led them into Samaria and treates them generously,

W. Topic: Revolution in Judah Blace: Jerusalem. Athaliah usur) d the throne of Judah and occupied ' for several years. Joash, whose life Bad been saved when Athaliah sought to kill him, was the rightful heir to the throne. When Joash was seven years old the people rose up and legosed and killed Athaliah and made Joseh king. The worship of the tr God was restored.

VI. Topic: Foundation reform. Flace: Jerusalem. Jehoiada, the priest. was counsellor to Joash, and under his guidance the young king ruled well. He undertook to repair the temple. At first he did not succeed because those who were to collect money failed to secure enough. He took a chest and placed it in the temple that the people might put their

This plan o

and the temple was repaired. VII. Topic: Youthful integrity. Place: Babylon. Daniel and his three companions were Jewish captives in Babylon, and the king desired thera temple until of proper age to be de-clared king of Judah. The piety of to be placed in training to become his trasted servants. They desired not to those foster-parents was so fervent out the food that came from the king's and enduring, that by studious effort table and to be allowed to eat the simple food to which they were accused. They would not drink wine, but chose water. The test showed that they were superior to the youths who ste the king's food and drank his

VIII. Tonic: Jonan's mission. Flaces: Israel; Nineveli. Jonali was a prephet of Israel whom the Lord the people. He tried to run away from duty, but later went as the Lord commanded. He preached what the Lord mave him for the people, and they repented. The Lord spared the city. Joseph was displeased at God's mercy, But God gave him needed instruction m the lesson of the gourd and the WOFT.

IX. Topic: God's message to Israel. Places: Tekoa; Bethel. God called Amos to be a prophet to Israel. Amos amented over the sin and desolution of his nation. He called upon the people to seek the Lord. His rebuke to them called forth their hatred. He gave them encouragement that they would live if they would seek him. The great mercy of God is etrongly him a missionary to a heathen people set forth in the prophet's message. whom God sought to redeem from sin Jonah's part brought corresponding

X. Topic: Ungoverned ambition. Place: Jerusalem. Uziah commenced to reign at the age of sixteen years. At first he was godly and prospered. Leter his heart became proud and he ventured to do the duty of a priest contrary to God's commands, and became leprous. He never recovered. His course and punishment are a striking warning against pride and worldly ambition. His early goodness sid not relieve him from the result of

wrong conduct. XI. Topic: Israel's history. Place: Kingdom of Israel. The Lord gave His prophet Hosea a message to Israed. The Lord greatly loved His people and dealt tenderly with them. They turned from Him and with great andress He called upon them to return to Him. He would still have

mercy upon them. XII. Topic: A world message. Place: Bethlehem. While Joseph and Mary were at Bethlehem to be enroiled, Christ was born. An angel told the news to shepherds in the fields at night and the heavenly host mised God. The shepherds went to Settlehem and found Jesus. They refolced and told the news to many others. The example of the shepherds has been followed by the long fine of those who have found the Say-

PRACTICAL SURVEY. Topic.—Character sketches.

L. Of individual piety. II. Of national proclivities. I. Of individual piety. The lessons the courter deal with individuals who can't get it coming their way.



Dives feasts upon his golden plate And Lazarus is at his gate.

From nimeteen hundred years ago, The children whimper, wan and spent, And hunger sharpened tongues deride

The mockery of Christmastide, Along the Highway of the World;

and nations in a way to reveal the

power of godliness and the power of

ungodliness. Through single indi-

viduals God caused nations to recog-

nize the sovereign power, His love and

mercy, His justice and judgments. The

opening lesson presents Elijah in his

characteristic office as judge, where he

pronounced the doom of Anab's fam-

ily, which is recorded in this quarter's

study. In this event God vindicated

the cause of the innocent and pro-

claimed his purpose to uphold the na-

tion. Thus proving of Elisha's fitness

to succeed Elijah was seen in his de-

votion to the cause of God and his

earnest desire for personal piety. The

Hebrew captive made stands out in

history as one whose faith and charity

made her God's instrument in intro-

ducing Israel's prophet to Syria, a con-

tending and heathen nation, in the

healing of Naaman, who became a

worshipper of the true God. To im-

press the Syrians still farther with his

willingness to show mercy, and to lead

them to acknowledge and worship the

true God, Elisha was enabled to frus-

trate all Benhadad's efforts to subdue

Israel and finally to prove God's mercy

when Elisha refused to alow the Syr-

ian army to suffer death, and they

were led by him to Samaria in their

blindness. In preserving the life of

his prophet God thus overcame the

evil designs of Syria against his people

Israel. In the complete carrying out

of the destruction of Ahab's family it

seemed that the family of David was

The hatred of Jezebel lived in her de-

scendent, Athaliah, whose natural af-

fection was far less than her ambition

to sit on the throne of Judah. All her

vent the fulfilment of God's promise

to David. Through Jehosheba, of

royal blood, and Jeholada, the priest,

the infant Joash, of the family of

David, was spared and reared in the

there was brought to pass an almost

bloodless revolution. Athaliah, the

usurper of the throne, was called upon

to see her place occupied by its right-

ful king, and the family of David con-

tinued upon the throne and the wor-

ship of Jehovah reestablished and

Bal-worship overthrown. Foundation-

al reform was the mission and work

of Jossh by the support of the godly

Jeholada. The repairing of the temple,

the destruction of Baal-worship and

the recovery of national interests

marked the presence and power of

God in behalf of his vacillating people.

When at last the day of captivity came

to Judah, God had in the youthful

Daniel and his companions the rem-

nant which should perpetuate his

church amid the luxury and heathen-

ism of Babylon. The youthful integ-

rity of Daniel was based upon his true

piety and loyalty to religious convic-

tions. As a reward for his steadfast-

ness he was blessed in body and soul

and given a place of influence which

enabled him to declare the power of

his God to the heathen world around

him. In the character of Jonah God's

mercy and love shine forth in making

and its punishment. Obedience on

sincerity in repentence and reform in

Nineveh. In the person of Uzziah was

portrayed the prosperity of half a

century under God's guidance and

blessing. Personal and national piety

marked the larger part of his reign.

When he seemed to have reached the

summit of success, he met the temp-

tation which overcame him in his de-

sire to add to his temporal power and

II. Of national proclivities. In the

days of declension from God, the ten-

der, compassionate and yearning pro-

phet Amos, was sent to Israel to de-

fine their situation and declare God's

call for them to return to righteous-

ness. Their many-sided and deep

corruption was made plain. Israel

had fallen. Her glory had departed.

She was marked for destruction. The

end of false security had come. Amend-

ment was her only hope of salvation

The prophet Hosea was also sent with

strong denunciations against sin. Over

against his recital of sin was the won-

derful unfolding of God's fatherly care

in manifold ways, which he had exer-

cised in Israel's behalf from their

earliest history and would still excr

A WORN-OUT WARNING.

That old gag about Santa Claus only

coming to good little boys and girls doesn't work worth a Yankee cent on the

(Guelph Mercury)

T. R. A.

A soft snap is pretty hard on those and the like o' that?"

cise to every repenting soul.

everage youngster now.

ecclesiastical authority.

destined to recome extinet.

In flaring light and glaring hall Vice holds her strident carnival, The same starved beggar whom we And mortals fight and steal and lie For gold to join this revel high; Men sell their truth, their souls,

their fame, And woman know the taint of shame By greed and passion downward For in the deeps of every heart

A War-Time

Christmas

W. E. Montgomery, of Macon, Ga.,

one of the characters in the following

true story, received only a few years

ago the following letter, bringing to

him the blessings of the children,

whom he, with his army friends, be-

friended during the Civil War in the

Dear Sir and Friend,-I am writing

this to you by direction of my grand-

father, who but recently learned your

whereabouts through an army journal.

He has been trying to locate you ever

since the war—the civil war, you

know. He is now sitting by my el-

bow, telling me what to write, but

I am afraid my poor pen will fail to

convey to you my earnestness and his

He says you will remember that

time way back yonder when mamma

was a little half-clad girl in the moun-

tains of Virginia, when you and those

good soldier friends of yours played

Santa Claus to her and her little sis-

ter while he was away from home

carrying a musket in the army of

he has thought of you and praved to

The incident occurred one December

during the civil war. The Army of

closely every move on the great chess

board of strategy. Sergt. Montgomery

and a few men were ordered to guard

a certain narrow pass through the

mountains. It was a narrow trail,

much used, an important though iso-

Orders were strict to permit no one

to pass no matter what the errand.

The tension was high; spies were ev-

erywhere; a loosening of vigilance.

anywhere along the line might mean

disaster. It was the enemy's coun-

try, and the enemy seemed never to

Not far from the picket post was a

small house, part log and part frame.

There lived a young wife and two lit-

the Confederate army. The wife was

left with two cows and some potatoes

times a few eggs. The soldiers gave

plain rations from the quartermas-

lived with the utmost frugality; the

clothing of the little girls was frayed

and ragged, but clean. They needed

heavier garments for the cold winter,

and Sadie; they always came to camp

together; sat down on a log very close

to each other, and conversed with the

soldiers, who called them the fairles.

They said they liked soldiers; that

their papa was one, and that they

knew he would be glad to see these

soldier friends of theirs if he could

only get off, but he was so busy

somewhere shooting at the Yankees

One day as the month was drawing

to a close Suste, the smaller of the

two asked the sergeant why they

were always looking up and down the

one," said the grizzled officer; "our

orders are to shoot anybody who at-

Instantly Susie laid her head on her

sister's shoulder and cried as if her

heart would break. The big sergeant

was very much embarrassed; he saw

he had put his foot in it, but couldn't

"There, there, girlie," he said," don't

you cry; we ain't going to shoot any

"I know you ain't," said Susie, try-

ing to dry her eyes, "but we been a-

years, an' it's most time for him to be

Two days later he rode down the val-

ley to the army headquarters and

ones, and warm; forty pounds of cof-

fee, a case of sweet crackers, and

some ginger snaps, if you got 'em,

any canned goods, pears and peaches

and some sugar, and let me see go

"I want two blankets," he said. "big

sought out the quartermaster,

"To see if anybody's coming, little

that they wouldn't let them leave.

The names of the girls were Mary

back in the mountain wild

With loving gratitude,

And he says for me to tell you with

States half a century ago:

gratitude.

lated point.

sleep.

and corn.

and better shoes.

pass so close

tempts to go by here."

understand just how.

of your neonle."

along here."

Ah, Gentle Saviour, pierced and torn, It was for this that You were born!

And yet—though toilers taste distress While wasters roll in idleness, Though Mammon seems to hold in The people of this later day,

It is but seeming truth and right Are leading all the world to light, And old abuses fall to dust Before our new-found faith and trust.

We are not heedless-Christmas chimes Ring the true spirit of the times Of 'Peace on Earth, Good-will to Men' Brave words that thrill and thrill

The little flames of fervor start, And grow and grow until we burn And true men cry, in wrath and scorn And mothers weep in woe forlorn— Till all the world we're children of

Was it for this that Christ was born? Was it for this that Christ was born? Shall know the perfect rule of Love! you fellers going to have some duke

up there for Christmas?"

"Don't make any difference who were going to have," retorted the sergeant; "these things are necessary for the service. Here's the order. Fetch 'em out." The day before Christmas was clear and bright. The troops were walking about their campfire, their guns stacked, but within easy reach

The sergeant was not there. Pretty soon the little girls came out from the cabin, hand in hand. They had hardly reached the camp when the captain of the guard suddenly straightened

"Halt!" he cried, "who comes here?"

The soldiers sprang for their guns and stood across the trail. Climbing down a hill bordering the trail was a man with a long white beard and a fur cap. He was laden with parcels. Susie saw him and uttering a glad cry ran to him and stood between Santa Claus and the soldiers.

"You shan't shoot him," she shouted: "you shan't shoot Santa Claus! He ain't got nothin' to do with your war; he's comin' to see us."

The soldiers grounded arms and laughed until they couldn't laugh any more. Susie stood perplexed, not knowing whether to be angry or to join in the laugh. But just then there was a sound of a horse's hoofs on the rocky trail. It was an unusthe best words I can use how often ual thing; there was no joke this time. The soldiers straightened up, the good God that it may always be ready for action. Santa Cluas dropwell with you and your for the kind- ped his parcels and gripped his reness shown two forlorn little girls volvers.

them. It was a high officer in the pound of beef suct, put all the dry oment the rider was am Federal army and he giared about in ingredients into a large basin, strain "What means all this buffoonery?" Tennessee was in Virginia, watching

he growled, his keen eyes boring through Santa Claus.

The little girls had shrunk to one side and were clasping each other about the waist. Then, Santa Claus, entirely unabashed, told the story, omitting nothing. He said the father of the litle girl was in the Confederate army and that they and their mother were alone in the mountains: that the winter had come on them unprepared, and he had ordered the quartermaster to get together some things to tide them over Christmas; if there was anybody to blame it was six apples, pare, core and chop finely. the sergeant of the post, and he was And half a pound of soft sugar, a ready for the consequences.

The gold-braided officer looked into the fearless eyes of the sergeant, the tle girls. The husband had joined men standing respectfully about him, and then at the halfclad little girls ly thin, cut round with a cutter. Put and their blue hands and lips.

Two of her little girls brought the tirely all right. I got a couple of lit- the paste. Catch up on all four sides Union soldiers milk and butter: sometle chaps o' my own back in the hills of Kentucky, and I hope the good edges firm, and bake in a moderate Lord will raise up friends for 'em her what coffee they could spare and same as ovu folks have been to these ter's stores. The mountain family Gcod-bye!"

Then he rode on down the trail. That night the Yankees and the little family of the Confederate soldier had a Christmas dinner in a cosey little mountain cabin all decked with red berries and evergreens and things. little custard cups. which looked homelike and cheerful under the glow of the backlogs on the wide, old-fashioned hearth.

A CHRISTMAS LITANY.

From the man who stands with face a yard or so in length and sadly cries:
"This Christmas Day will be as hard and soggy as stale cook-school pies,"
from maiden aunts who send us socks when we would fain have cigarettes; from ninety-eight cent gilded clocks from bargain-counter statuettes; from the lugubrious lubber who declares this war will sliver us, and from the Christmas neck-tie, too. Good Santa Claus deliver us!

Good Santa Claus deliver us!
From photo albums made of plush;
from Yuletide stuff that artists do; from
the last-minute Christmas rush and from
the Christmas poem, too; and from the
man who sends cigars he saved from
Christmas Nineteen-Four; and from the
man who talks of Mars, and oattle-fields
and nothing more—He does his best the
day to mar; why should he shake and
shiver thus?—and from the painted calenday to mar; why should he shake and shiver thus?—and from the painted calen-

Good Santa Claus deliver us Good Santa Claus deliver us!
From office boys as good as gold who tell us Christmas draweth nigh; from sticky candy, and from cold and from cigars that women buy; from worsted slippers, and from jars, hand-painted in pale, sickly hues; from men who give their wives new cars, then an about and pale, sickly nues; from men wno give their wives new cars, then go about and spread the news, and brag of how they spent their kale—Why should the wealthy lookin' for Santa Claus for years an' giver fuss?—Oh, from his weary, ceare less tale.

tale. Good Santa Claus deliver us! Iong here."

The sergeant was dumbfounded. That, Santa, you are just a fake; from ginger ale when we're in m ginger ale when we're in mood some real old Yulet'de cheer to take; from those who tell us Christmas post-card crime, and from plum-pudding in a can; from and from plum-pluding in a can; from men who eat until they seem like unto beasts carnivorous; and from the after-Christmas dream.

Good Santa Claus deliver us!

-Ben Deacon in Beck's Weekly (Montreal).

The principle difference between luxury and a necessity is in getting "Gee," exclaimed the quartermaster, used to it.

ROAST TURKEY.

a fleshy bird, and see that the eyes are not sunk, the feet very dry and rough, or the spurs long. Very large birds are apt to be tough. Fill the breast with force meat, cover breast with buttered paper, roast from one hour and a half to three hours, according to size, basting well. Ten minutes before serving, remove the paper, dredge the bird lightly with flour, and baste with butter melted in a lable. Serve with gravy, bread sauce and sausages.

SAGE AND ONION STUFFING.

Peel four large onions, place them in hot water, and simmer gently for five minutes. Drop ten sage leaves into the pan, just before removing the onions. Chop onions and sage together, add four ounces of bread crumbs, an ounce and a half of butter, and work all well together with the yoke of an egg, seasoning with salt and pepper. A tablespoonful of milk may be used instead of the egg.

SANTA CLAUS JELLY.

Dissolve a pint jelly over some hot water, and when quite liquid add a pint of cold milk. Pour into a mould, and, when set, turn out onto a fancy glass dish which has been lined with sponge cakes cut in halves and spread with jam. This is a splendid dish for a children's party.

PLUM PUDDING.

Puddings greatly improve by keeping, and if not already made should at once be commenced. The following receipt will be found excellent. Chop very finely, after it is freed from all skin, one pound and a half of good beef suet, mix it with a half pound of flour and a pound of finely sifted bread crumbs; stone a pound of raisens, and chop; wash well the same quantity; cut up three-quarters of a pound of mixed peel finely, and rub in flour, to clean a quarter of a pound of sultanas. Mix all these ingredients well with the flour and crumbs, add a pound of brown sugar, four ounces of sweet almonds (mixed) an ounce of baking powder, a pinch of salt, and one teaspoonful of mixed spice. Stir well, then bind with ten eggs (well beaten) the strained juice of two lemons, and a little milk if necessary. The more this mixture is stirred the better will be the puddings. A little brandy may be added if the flavor is liked. When ready, press the pudding into buttered basins, cover with scalded flour-cloths, tie down tightly, but not too tight to prevent a slight swell, and boil for six hours. When ready hang in a cool, dry place until required ed for use, then rebeil for two more hours. Turn out, garnish with a sprig of holly, and serve with sweet or brandy sauce.

MINCE MEAT.

Prepare one pound of raisens by stoning, wash and pick the same quantity of currants, pare and chop pound of apples, and clean in flour half a pound of sultanas. Cut up finely a quarter of a pound of mixed ong of sweet almonds. Chop finely one in the juice of a large lemon, and the grated peel of half, and one pound of sugar. Mix well, and add a spoonful of mixed spice, and a quarter of a bottle of brandy. Leave the mixture all night covered over with a cloth to blend. Next morning stirwell, put into jars and cover. Keep in a dry place until required to make into pies. Puff paste should be used for mince pies.

CHRISTMAS TARTLETS.

Wash and clean a pound of currants; boil gently for three hours, then take out and strain. Now take grated nutmeg, and a little cinnamon. Mix all with the currants, adding a dust of flour to take up any moisture. Make a nice short crust, roll out faira tablespoonful of mixture on the "It's all right, boys," he said, "en- middle of each, and wet the edge of towards the centre, pinch to make oven for forty minutes.

> VANILLA CUSTARD. Pour into an enamel saucepan half a pint of milk, a quarter of a pound of sugar, two eggs (well-beaten), and three or four drops of vanilla flavoring. Stir gently over a low fire, or gas until it thickens, and then pour into

The Puzzle. The Janitor is kind, of late; I wonder why? He's awfully considerate; I wonder why?

The milkman and the grocer's boy Show courtesy without alloy, Their sunny faces beam with joy; I wonder why? My office help are really fine: I wonder why?

They roar at every jest of mine; I wonder why? The waiter at my luncheon place Regards me with a sining face And serves me with unequalled grace; I wonder why?

My familly are extra kind; I wonder why? They surely have my ease in mind; I wonder why? They put my slippers by my chair. My pipe and paper they prepare, They surely coddle me for fair; I wonder why?

Yes, everybody's nice to me; I wonder why? The reason isn't plain to see; I wonder why? Can you explain? What's that you say That Christmas isn't far away? You're right, old scout, it's clear a

dav-The reason why!

-Berton Braley.

A CHRISTMAS TRAGEDY. (From Beck's Weelily, Montreal) He held the mistletoe aloft. And in the darkness kissed her: She switched the light on suddenly. And lo! it was his sister.

of mistletoe at Christman time. few of us know the history of it as a Yuletide symbol. Pretty girls kissed under it and a great deal o fun and nonsense is carried on ap of it, but no one stops to think of home ancient a decoration it is or here

sacred it was once thought to be. Almost everybody has a knowledge that the Druids of old had something to do with the gather mistletoe, but just what that thing was is not clear to the ar mind.

The fact is that the ancient Cel their druidical religion had two gradestivals, one in June and the other le December, the latter being equivalent to our Christmas. In both of the great festivals the gathering of the mistletoe was a sacred rite.

Pliny in his Natural History scribes the ceremony. Speaking of the Druids' worship of the cak, he says. "They believe that whatever grows on these trees is sent from heaven and in a sign that the tree has been chosen by the god himself. The mistletoe in very rarely to be met with, but whe it is found they gather it with sole ceremony. This they do especially of the sixth day of the moon, because by the sixth day the moon has plenty of vigor and has not run half to course.

"After the preparations have be made for a sacrifice and a feast under the tree, they hail it as the universal healer and bring to the spot two white bulls whose horns have never been bound before. A priest clad in a white robe climbs the tree and with a golden sickle cut the mistletoe, which is caught in a white cloth. Then they sacrifice the victims, praying that God may make His own gift to prospec with those upon whom He has stowed it.

"They believe that a potion prepared from mistletoe will increase their flocks and that the plant is a remedy against all poison."

It was believed to be a remedy for many ills, and this belief is still to be found in many remote places in Europe. In Holstein, for example, the mistletoe is regarded as a healthan remedy for wounds, and in Lacaune, France, it is always administered by the native people as an antidote for poison. They apply the plant to the stomach of the patient and give him a solution of it to drink as well. The Gaelic word for mistletoe is "an t'nil ioc," which means all healer, and this is probably what the Druids called

in ancient times. In the northeast of Scotland peop used to cut withes of mistletoe at the March full moon; these they bear? circles and kept for a year to cur heetic fevers and other troubles. ome parts of Germany the mistles is especially esteemed a remedy for the ailments of children, who some-times wear it hung around the neck

as an amulet. ln Sweden on Midsummer eve mistletoe is diligently sought after, the people believing it to be possessed of many mystic qualities, and that if a sprig of it is attached to the ceiling of the dwelling house, the horse's stall or the cow's crib, the trolls will be powerless to injure either man or beast. Branches of the plant are commonly seen in farm-houses hanging from the ceiling to protect the dwellings from all harm, but especially from fire, and persons afflicted with the falling sickness think they can ward off all attacks of the malady 'yy carrying about with them a knife which

has a handle of mistletoe. A Swedish remedy for other complaints is to hang a sprig of mistletoe round the sufferer's neck or to make him wear on his finger a ring made from the plant. Moreover they fashion divining rods of mistletoe or of four different kinds of wood, one of which must be mistletoe. The treasure seeker places the rod on the ground after sundown, and when it rests directly over the treasure the rod begins to move as if it were alive. Like their Swedish neighbors, many

German peasants consider the mistletoe a powerful charm against evil spirits. A similar belief seems to have lingered among the Romans. whose religion at a very early date was somewhat similar to that of the Druids. When Aeneas descended into Hades he gathered to protect himself from the infernal powers a pranch of mistletoe, which Virgil calls the golden bough.

HE WANTED TO KNOW.

She had evidently been permitting her little boy to have a look at the Christmas toys. Sitting opposite them in the car was a man who had long whiskers and a preoccupied air.

After the little boy had looked for a long time he turned to his mother and asked: sked: "Would papa's grow as long as that is he'd let them?'
Sh-sh, dear. Look at the funny
picture. Can you spell the word under "Mamma, does he bend his head that may because they are so neavy?"
"Oh, look out the window. See what a high building that is."
"Would you like papa if he let his grow that way?" Here dear, do you want one of these "He has hardly any face to wash, has he mamma?"
"Darling, please be quiet. Don't you want to lean against mother and go How long did it take them to grow that long? that long?"

"Come, sit over on this side. Oh, see how fast we are going."

"If he never got them cut would they grow clear down to the ground?"

"Can't you be quiet? Here, look at the pictures in the paper."

"Do you think they hurt when he has to have them combed?"

"Come, let's sit back here."

to have them combed?"

"Come, let's sit back here."

"I don't wanna. How does he eat?"

"I don't wanna. How does he eat?"

"Look! We are going around a curve."

"Does he let them hang that way when he goes to bed?"

Another passenger laughed so loudly then that the man with the whiskers came out of his reverie. The little boy was about to ask another question, but his mother had an inspiration. The train was halting at a station, and half diagging her son after her, she rushed to ward the platform saying:

"Come! I have just happened to member.

To-morrow-Christmas!

On the streets and in

tired, hurrying, laughing

Christmas crowd, bundle-

darkies selling holly wrea tietoe disputed the curb faced, raucous-voiced your fingled the small silver in ets and loudly besought stop and watch the antics the Box and the Tumbling children with pinched, hopeful faces, scurrying t crowd hand in hand, taki christmas joy in the ing, buying, planning, seizi sures of the moment, enjoy pect those of the morrow. nival in honor of Father with peiting snowflakes for Christmas-yet not Chris the spirit of the feast is never since the angels san spired message to the she

Bethiehem had war so r

world.

"Men of good will" who ear ago had come home gi to-day huddled unde mket of earth, with th wa for coverlet. Over half Europe their homes ged teeth, a bit of br cold chimney. Wives ere departed. No good fill the little shoes ys and sweetmeats. ed the jolly old sa e little shoes were less miles of wayfa big, hurrying city o ere Jason Blake une the war, thank ore than a many-ree motion picture

ning and night on the pri of the newspapers. It the rested its huge audience Sometimes it drew tears of the many, and money ckets of the few. Moneyed lason Blake, had damned whole-heartedly at first, but n to smiling contentedly in reign exchange got back to a basis and foreign orders d blankets and automobile ain and beef and army mul sing a golden song over th cables.

reputation as "a hard m paper paragrapher had is d him as a "commercia ht." Blake had shown t ping to some of his cronies he had observed with a please peusness, "is sometimes vul The best of us have our wer Now, I think mine must be m ness for children. I could ne harsh to my child."

was what he wanted to hear. Blake was the more complace this "admirable weakness" beca 10 year old daughter, Doroth the image of her mother, w! used the banker very badly, He would not have minded being a widower or a divorcee. ren off-not to be with anoth to be away from himself. He he was indulgent to little De with her spun gold hair with it of curling in little tendrils abo temples, just as her mother done, and her mother's imperio mantic, knight-errant temperar

The banker was spending h noon in his office downtown report on some timber properti The report pleased in snowflakes he could see rai of his eyes from the ty ing hard, which he thought was the roper thing for the day Christmas. He liked snow. It inconvenience him. The chi the wet helped him be thanks fur-lined coat and electr

he never spent Christmas home. It was on a Christmas eve sears ago that his wife had ome. There had been an unpl scene. She had told him that ! money bag for a heart and th money in it was counterfeit. He ed to think of it. Poor man! His offence was that he was ten older than the girl he had mar and a man of affairs. He had g her everything that a rightly-or ized woman's heart should craft jewels without stint, dresses bey telling French maids and Fre motors, a cottage at a modish wa ing place, a town house that was envy of their fashionable neighb

son Blake was secretly "An admirable weakness, friends told him-which, of

heated limousine. He would be comfortable at the club this ev It was one of his idiosyncruci

And yet she had gone. The fact he had given her so little of his ciety and less of his love was