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A Case of Christmas Telepathy

It all came about because Mr Denslow sud-
denly changed his mind. He had said during
dinner that he must go over and see Allen
about that matter—it had been neglected
long enough. Later when Mrs Denslow
came down from putting Bobby to bed and
saw nothing of her spouse she naturally con-
cluded that he had gone, and sat down to her
embroidery.

Now, Mr Denslow fully intended to go,
and went so far as to open the front door to
see if it were still snowing. The weather was
much colder and as the icy air struck him the
Allen matter suddenly seemed less important
—anyhow there was no hurry; he would lie
down on the couch in the library until Mary
came down. The library was warm, the
couch very comfortable and enough light fil-
tered through the drawn portieres to make a
semi-twilight, very conducive to repose.

Suddenly—or so it seemed to him—he was
hearing voices from the sitting room and real-
ized that he had been asleep. His mother
who lived near, had the pleasant habit of
dropping in evenings, using the back en-
trance. One voice was hers and the other
was his wife's. He started to get up but his
whole body protested. His business was one
in which the Christmas rush had to be rec-
ognized with, and now that it was over, tired-
ness seemed to abide in the marrow of his
bones. Anyway it didn't matter about his lis-
tening, he thought, they were only discussing
embroidery, but suddenly his mother asked:
'Where's John to-night?'

'He's gone over to Mr Allen's.' There was
a pause—then his mother spoke again and
her tone was embarrassed.

'Well, Mary, how do you like your new
lavender crepe? John showed it to me the
day before Christmas when I was in the
office?'

Mary's voice too sounded odd, as she an-
swered, 'The material is very beautiful. How
do you like the silk he gave you, mother?'

'It is a lovely piece of stuff,' she replied;
then both laughed a little half-heartedly to
the perplexity of the listener.

He could hardly credit his hearing when
his mother said comfortingly: 'You mustn't
mind, dear, I don't. Of course I already
have two black silks—this will make three—
and I'd love to have a lavender crepe to wear
at Anne's wedding, but—'

'And I'd just see my heart on a black silk
suit for next spring. Oh dear, can't we ex-
change? I hate lavender and I don't need an
evening dress now.' Mary's voice trembled
as she went on; 'I wouldn't breathe it to any
one but you, but why will John insist on buy-
ing me dresses? I don't need so very many not
so many as I have—but they ought to be just
right. Eight of the ten Christmases since we
were married he has given me dresses, and
only once has it been the kind I needed.'

'I know, dear,' said his mother soothingly,
but we'll have to make the best of it. He
means to do the right thing, but he doesn't
understand. His father was the same way—
couldn't see that there was anything to be
considered in buying a gown but beauty and
durability in the material. I remember well,
she went on, musingly, 'when John was a
month old his father bought me a rose color-
ed silk. Oh, it was beautiful enough for a
princess, and I told him so.'

'Well, then, it's just right for you,' he
said. 'You are my princess.' How could I
remind him after that that my street dress
was shabby, and with the extra expenses on
account of the baby, would have to do another
season. Besides there wasn't a place that
I went in those days [that a pink silk would
n't have made me ridiculous.'

'What did you do with it?' Mary asked sym-
pathetically.

'Kept it in a drawer until Ella was old
enough to have it made into a party dress.
Her father didn't live to see her wear it,'
she added sadly, as she rose to go.

'Better stay till John comes, it won't be
long now, and he can go home with you,' ad-
vised Mary.

'No, I told the folks I'd be home by nine:
it's only a few steps.'

Under cover of the noise of opening and
shutting the back door, Mr Denslow tiptoed
into the hall, hastily donned his overcoat and
hat, then opened and closed the front door,
noisily. His wife heard him, and called hur-
riedly, 'Don't take off your overcoat, John.
Your mother has just started home, and you
had better go with her. I'm afraid she will
slip.'

'All right,' he answered, 'I'll go out the
front way.'

Ten minutes afterward he came in glowing
from his short walk and looking not in the
least like a man who had lately taken a nap.
'Did you settle the Allen matter?' queried
Mrs Denslow.

'Not quite,' he evaded. 'It will take an
other evening to close it up.'

A few days afterward Mr Denslow found
wife and mother absorbedly studying a fash-
ion paper.

'Hard at it?' he asked lightly.

'Yes,' returned his mother, without look-
ing up from the pictured page, where a state-

ly white haired lady in evening garb swam
majestically. 'I'm going to have my new
black silk made up soon to wear at the wed-
ding.'

'Isn't it a bit somber for evening?' he wask
ed casually. 'Seems to me you ought to
wear something light on the joyful occasion.'

I don't think I can afford it just now, she
said, absently, 'and the silk is such a beau-
tiful piece of stuff.'

'Speaking of clothes,' said Mr Denslow
later on at the dinner table—he was helping
Bobby to pudding as he spoke and seemed
almost to forget what he had begun to say:—
'Speaking of clothes, Mary, I saw your friend
Mrs Gardiner today wearing a black silk
dress that was certainly fetching.'

'Yes, they're the thing now,' she replied,
I know she was having it made.'

'Now, I have an idea,'—he spoke as if he
had that moment acquired it—'Mary, why
don't you two exchange dress lengths—or
don't you like lavender, mother?'

'I adore it,' she said eagerly, 'and I never
had a lavender thing in my life.'

'Oh wouldn't you really mind, John?' ex-
citedly asked his wife.

'Certainly not, why should I? If you are
both suited, I'm sure I am. Lucky I thought
of it.'

Later Mrs Denslow grew suspicious.
'You're sure you didn't say anything to
John about our talk, mother,' she said anx-
iously.

'Never a word, dear. Are you sure you
didn't?'

'Perfectly sure,' she affirmed. 'The sub-
ject was never mentioned.'

'Well, then, it must be a case of telepathy
or thought transference that the magazine
are so full of lately,' said the elder lady. 'I've
always thought there was something in it,
and now I'm sure. I've known John Den-
slo ever since he was born and he never
thought of that all by himself, I'm cer-
tain of that, so the only explanation is
that the idea passed from your mind to his
somehow.'

'If that's the case,' said Mrs Mary cheer-
fully, 'I think I'll begin now to concentrate
my mind on the thought of a brown travel-
ling bag with silver trimmings for next Christ-
mas.'—The Montreal Witness.

The Israelites; or the Holy People

Where is the world's largest prayer
meeting to be found? In Christian Amer-
ica, or Europe? Not so, but in heathen
Corea. Secretary A J Brown says: 'I
attended the prayer meeting in the Yua
Mot Koi Church, in Seoul. It was a dark
and rainy night. A Corean was to lead,
and the people did not know that a travel-
ler from the West would be present, but
I found about 1,000 Christians assembled.
No visitor, however distinguished, would
bring out 1,000 American church mem-
bers on prayer meeting night in any city
in the United States, but 1,200 people
packed the Syen Chyun Church the even-
ing we spent there. It was worth going
far to hear these Christians pray. They
bow with their faces to the floor, as those
who know what it is to have daily audi-
ence with God. This spirit of prayer per-
vades their daily lives.'

The Russian expedition under the geolo-
gist M Rusanoff has discovered a warm ocean
current around Nova Zembla, but not passing
through the Kara Sea, where Nansen and
others sought for such a current. It is ex-
pected that in consequence of the discovery
the maritime route to the mouths of the Si-
berian rivers will henceforth be to the north
instead of to the south of Nova Zembla.

The United States Secretary of War, Mr
Dickinson, gives little encouragement to the
aspirations of the Filipino people for political
independence in his special report on his
visit to the Philippine Islands, which was
transmitted to President Taft. While many
Filipinos, Secretary Dickinson says, are well
educated and capable of self government, the
great mass of the people are unfit for politi-
cal responsibilities.

GETTING DESPERATE

Some of the office buildings in the large
cities are constructed apparently with the
idea that every possible square foot of space
must be utilized for renting purposes. The
corridors are narrow, the passage ways to the
elevator shafts hard to find, and the stairway
located in obscure corners. There may be
fire escapes, but they are equally obscure,
and a stranger would not know where to look
for them.

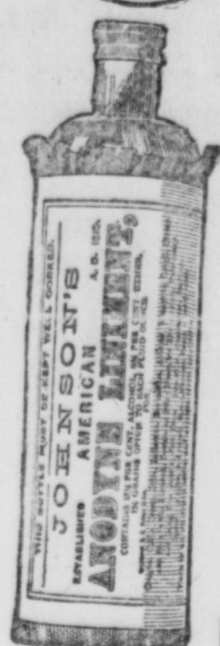
The occupants of a room on the seventh
floor of a building of this kind, devoted to
the uses of a fire and life insurance compan-
ies' agent, were surprised one day by the sud-
den entrance of a wild eyed man, who seem-
ed to be laboring under strong excitement.

'Say,' gasped the intruder, 'will some of
you fellows please throw me out of this build-
ing!'

'What for?' asked one of the clerks.

'I've been crying for fifteen minutes to find
a way out of it, and I can't!'

They did not throw him out, but piloted
him to the elevators, and he succeeded at last
in making his escape.—Youth's Companion.

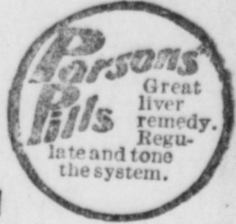


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Felicitating Pa

My pa says when he was a boy,
W'y, all he'd get was just one toy—
A jumpin' jack; or pop-gun, when
'T'uz Chris-mas-time where he live then,
He never looked for any more—
He didn't 'spect a whole toy store!

My pa says 'at in those days
Folks did things dif'rent, anyways,
He says he never got a stick
O' candy more'n he could pack.
Two sticks o' candy's all he got—
An' he'd think that was a lot.

My pa he says when he's a child
Folks didn't all try to go wild
An' make their children think they'd get
Enough to run their pas in debt.
O' course, it wasn't from their pas
But always came from Santa Claus.

He tells me that I should be glad
I don't have Chris'mas like he had—
He says there's lots he was denied
But he learned to be satisfied;
He never dreamed, he says, that boys
Should have a whole room full of toys.

I tell my pa I'm awfully sad
About th' hard times that he had,
But that he's relly lucky now—
He's in our famby, anyhow,
An' that he shouldn't raise a fuss
But be real glad he lives with us!
—Wilbur D Nesbit, in Chicago Evening
Post.

Sweden has decided to spend 93,000,000
kroners (\$23,000,000) annually for eight
years upon national defences. The construc-
tion of four battleships is provided for.

A committee of the French Chamber of
Deputies has favorably reported a bill con-
ferring upon women the right to vote for city
and departmental councillors, and making
them eligible for election to these offices.

Mrs James J Hill, in a paper read before
the Canadian Society of New York, urges the
immediate fulfilment of reciprocity between
Canada and the United States, declaring that
should the opportunity be missed now, it may
vanish forever.

President Taft's speech, on the meeting of
the United States Congress, December 6th,
referred to the negotiations with Canada
looking to more liberal tariff arrangements,
the hope being expressed that, when the
tariff conference is resumed next month, 'the
aspiration of both governments for a mutu-
ally advantageous measure of reciprocity will
be realized.'

It has been recommended by Dr P H
Bryce, chief Medical officer of the Dominian
Government, in his annual report, that all
immigrants for Canada should undergo med-
ical inspection before leaving the Old Coun-
try. Deportations in the past year show a
decrease.

With a coalition majority of seventy seven
the British Government announces that it is
confident of passing the Lords Veto Bill, and

THE ROYAL BANK OF CANADA
Pays special attention to
Savings Accounts

a Home Rule measure. With 91 seats yet
to be contested the standing of the parties is;
Liberals, 220; Laborites, 38; Irish National-
ists, 61; and independent Nationalists, 9;
making a total of 328 as against 251 Union-
ists. Addressing a meeting at Dartford, Kent
on Monday, Mr Balfour intimated that when
a Unionist Government was returned the
Lords veto power would be restored.

Desperate fighting, necessitating the call-
ing out of military, took place on Saturday in
Calcutta between Hindus and Mohammedans
many of the combatants being killed. The
trouble began when the Hindus protested
against the approaching Mohammedan relig-
ious festivals at which it is customary to sac-
rifice cows, animals which the Hindus hold
sacred.

The total population of the United States,
according to the thirteenth census, was an-
nounced on Saturday by the Census bureau
at Washington. The population of the Unit-
ed States inclusive of Alaska, Hawaii, and
Porto Rico is 93,202,151. That of the Con-
tinental United States is 91,972,267.

Great damage has been done by heavy
rains and consequent floods in the west dis-
tricts of Spain.

Two trains conveying representatives of
over three hundred grain growers' associa-
tions in Western Canada have arrived in Ot-
tawa to petition the government for a reduc-
ed tariff.

The Russian anarchist, Sassanoff, who as-
sinated M Plehve, Minister of the Interior,
in 1904, has committed suicide in prison. Op-
position parties in the Douma charge that his
death was only one of many among the con-
victs driven desperate by corporal punish-
ment and they demand an inquiry.

CHRISTMAS FEASTS

St Francis, of Assisi, desired that in mem-
ory of the humble wretches of our Saviour's
birth, they should give all the oxen and asses
better provender than usual on that festival.
Carried this idea still further in imagin-
ation. 'If I can speak to the Emperor,' he
said, 'I will beg him to make a universal
edict, obliging all those who have the means
to spread corn and grain along the roads,
that the birds, especially our Sisters, the
larks should have a feast.'