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Bradford 2330(2)

# The Cream City Star.

A Monthly Journal Devoted to the Public and Advertisers.

VOL. I.

DECEMBER, 1891.

No. 4.

## Christmas Stocking.

"Dear Santa Claus," wrote little Henry in letters truly shocking, "I've been a good boy, so please fill a heapin' up this stocking. I want a drum to make pa sick and drive my mamma crazy; I want a doggie I can kick, so he will not get lazy. I want a powder gun to shoot right at my sister Annie, and a big trumpet I can toot just awful loud at granny. I want a druffle big false face to scare in fits our baby. I want a pony I can race round the parlor, maybe. I want a little hatchet, too, so I can do some choppin' upon our grand-piano new when mamma goes a shoppin'. I want a nice hard rubber ball to smash all into flinders the great mirror in the hall and lots and lots of windows. And candy that'll make me sick, so ma all night will hold me, and make pa get the doctor quick and never try to scold me. And, Santa Claus, if pa says I am naughty, its a story. Just say, if he whips me, I'll die and go to kingdom glory."—*D. Berger.*

Written for the Cream City Star.

## The Best Batsman.

Jack Wilkins was the most enthusiastic cricketer in Halifax. He belonged to the "Paladins," the best civilian club in the town, the one that was always pitted against the military. But unfortunately Jack was the worst player in the club. As a fielder he would pass muster, but somehow he couldn't bat. He read Lilywhite and all the other authorities on the game, but still he failed. He practiced a good deal, but couldn't get the hang of it.

Jack was intending to study dentistry and he was in love. The name of his sweetheart was Letitia Burns, a girl as pretty as a picture and considerable of a tease. Letitia laughed at Jack when he grew sentimental, but didn't refuse to go about with him: Jack was to go to Philadelphia to the dental college, and the only regret he felt at going was that he was leaving Letitia to be bearded around by a possible rival. He couldn't get her to make him any promise until the night

before his leaving Halifax for Philadelphia, when Letitia, laughing, said to Jack's oft repeated importunity: "I'll tell you what, Jack, I'll give you an answer when you become the best batsman in the Paladins." Jack looked rueful and rubbed his head. He was going away from Halifax for two years, and how could he become the best cricketer in the Paladins? Letitia's condition was impossible of fulfillment. The best batsman in the Paladins! Why there was now not one poorer than he.

But Letitia shook her short black curls and was inexorable. Jack had to go away in disgust without his promise. But when he got to Philadelphia he found out that they knew there quite as much about cricket as the Haligonians. He resolved that he would devote all his spare time to mastering the game. He was going back in two years and perhaps in the meantime he could learn some cricket. There was a professional cricketer there named Tyner, an Englishman, who had coached some of the best cricketers in England and America. Jack went to Tyner and got him for a consideration to take him into his club. Tyner put Jack at the bat, who, as usual, mad a miserable failure. Jack went to the professional man and said: "I suppose you are going to drop me; I don't think I will ever learn to bat." Tyner pulled out his pipe and filled it, looking at Jack all the while. "I can teach any man I ever saw to bat who is not a born idiot," he said. "The trouble with you is that you've learned a bad style. You stick your bat slantways on the ground and bend over as if you are sawing wood. Now that is no way to bat. You should stand upright or bend very slightly, and hold the end of your bat at least two feet from the ground. You are then ready to take advantage of any ball that comes near the wicket. Of course none but a sure hand may attempt to drive a ball that's dead on the wicket. If you've perserverance I'll make a tolerable batsman of you in six months."

Tyner took Jack in hand and coached him continually. At first he could do nothing with him, but at last Jack got

into Tyner's methods and made rapid progress, and in six months was a tolerable batsman. His old timidity disappeared and he began to be looked upon as a "slugger." At the end of the two years he returned to Halifax with an excellent record as a batsman and with his dentist's diploma in his pocket. He wasn't long in calling upon Letitia, when he saw with relief that the coast was still clear. But Letitia gave him as little satisfaction as before. Jack reminded her of her promise that she was to give him his answer as soon as he was best batsman in the Paladins. "Well, are you?" said Letitia, demurely. Jack did not answer this question but went to the captain of the Paladins and was reinstated as a member of the club.

He then strolled out to the grounds and watched the club practice, and his eye quickly detected in some of the players the very faults that Tyner had cured him of. There was a cricket match soon to come off between the Paladins and the Officers' club, which latter was then a remarkably strong one. The clubs were daily out on the common practicing, but just before the match was to come off one of the best batsmen of the Paladins fell sick, Jack saw his opportunity and went to the captain, an old friend of his. "Bishop is on the sick list," he said, "and you'd better take me on in his place." The captain stared and laughed.

"What in the name of thunder, Jack, are you thinking of? Bishop is a first-rate man, and you aren't even third rate. The thing is nonsense."

But Jack laid the case before him. The captain had a great respect for Tyner's reputation but was loth to take Jack on. However he yielded after a while, and said: "Now Jack, I'm taking you on your word. For Heaven's sake don't disgrace us. As you want the matter kept mum, why, of course I'll not say anything about it, but I warn you the boys will cut up rough when they hear you are on the team."

So the matter was settled. But it turned out as the captain had said, and there was much grumbling all around, especially from those who were candidates for Bishop's place. Some in disgust predicted a walkover for the Officers' club and many uncomplimentary remarks were passed about Jack.

The eventful day arrived. All Halifax, civilian and military, was present to witness the most important match that for years had been held on the common. Ladies with gay parasols and officers in scarlet uniforms were mixed through the crowd. Letitia was there and started in astonishment when she saw Jack take

his place with the Paladins in the field. The officers had their first inning at the bat, and they rolled up a large score. When the last wicket fell they had 267 runs to their credit. A cheer went up from their sympathizers in the crowd and the faces of the Paladins looked grave.

The only chance we had was Morrison when Bishop caved in," said Peterson, one of the eleven, "and Sugden has put that jackass of a Wilkins in his place. He'll get a 'duck's egg' before he knows what he's about. A fine bat to put up against such bowlers as Jones and Coulthorpe. It's not particularly my funeral, but I'll venture to bet we don't see a hundred."

The Paladins went to the bat and Jack and Sugden, the captain went to the wicket. A titter ran through the crowd, for they remembered what a disgraceful failure Jack had been two years before. Coulthorpe was bowling for the military at Jack's wicket. The ball came dead on the wicket and Jack stopped it cleverly.

"Well done Jack," shouted some of his friends, encouragingly. What was their amazement add joy when Jack took the second ball with a full sweep of his bat and drove it to a far corner of the field. The crowd almost shouted themselves hoarse. Four runs! and Jack came panting and happy back to his wicket.

"By Gad, where did the fellow get his form?" exclaimed Peterson. "Nobody ever saw him knock the ball that way before. He stands well too. I may have to alter my my opinion."

Jack gained two and three runs more before the over was finished. He was finished. He was playing in splendid form, and he knew that Letitia was somewhere in the crowd looking on. In the next over Sugden was clean bowled, and Peterson took his place. Jack and he rolled up fifty, and then Peterson retired amid a thunder of applause. All eyes were fixed upon Jack as one after another of the Paladins went back and left him still standing bat in hand.

"He's made fifty," said the captain, chewing a straw as the sixth man dropped his bat. "I made no mistake in putting him on. But its the biggest mystery that I ever tackled in cricket."

Jack still struck to his wicket, and drove, cut and slipped the balls, in spite of every effort of the Officers.

Along came the eighth man, a wiry little fellow called Irving, and he and Jack made a splendid defense and passed the 200 amid great cheering.

"If he only holds out, we'll beat them," cried Sugden, delightedly.

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And Jack did hold out, and carried his bat from the field with the magnificent score of 103, having batted four and a half and having played every man of the Paladins down. His comrades made an enthusiastic rush upon him and carried him off upon their shoulders in triumph. They had beaten the Officers by just twelve runs!

But Jack, tired and triumphant, was thinking more of a certain promise than he was of the noisy congratulations of the Paladins. He mopped his face, combed his hair, brushed the dust off and started, as soon as he could get away, for the Burnses.

The house was some distance in the suburbs, and what was his surprise and joy as he came over to see Letitia slowly, sauntering home, swinging by a ribbon her gay parasol. He overtook her and she turned to greet him with a sweet smile. He did look handsome in his cricket suit of white flannel, flushed as he was with his brilliant achievement. Nothing excites more admiration for a handsome young man in the breast of a woman than an athletic hero.

For the first time Jack noticed a slight bashfulness in Letitia as she offered him her congratulations.

"Do you remember your promise, Letitia?" he said.

"What promise?" she replied, with a most innocent expression.

"That you would give me an answer as soon as I became the best bat of the Paladins."

"Well, are you *sure* you're the best bat?"

"Haven't I proved it?"

"What a conceited fellow you are!"

"Come, come, Letitia, fair play! Do you think I'd ever been able to do what I've done to-day if it hadn't been for my agreement with you? Letitia, nothing under Heaven would have made a cricketer of me if I hadn't loved you! Why, I was the worst muff in the club! And it was the chance of a lifetime getting on the match team. I'm not superstitious, but I believe that Heaven sent the thing right to my hands. Come, Letitia, I've waited a d-uce of a while, and I want an answer. Remember your promise."

"I didn't tell you I'd give you a favorable one."

"But that's what you meant."

"How do you know what I meant, you impudent fellow?"

"You don't deny it?"

"Perhaps I do."

"Letitia, it's Halifax or Philadelphia with me."

"Is Philadelphia a nice city?"

"How you do start away from the subject. Of course it is!"

"Nicer than here?"

"Not nicer without you, Letitia. Hang Philadelphia."

"Why hang it,?"

"Letitia, you'll drive me mad. You won't give me an answer?"

"No, then."

"Do you mean it?"

"Why shouldn't I mean it?"

"Well, then I'm off!"

"Where to, Philadelphia?"

"Yes, anywhere!"

"Don't you want to take me along, Jack?" said Letitia, dropping her eyes.

### Partners in Misery

Two desperate men ran against one another when at the very brink of the deep, swift stream. They stopped and eyed each other with suspicion.

"Out of the way, sir!" shouted one of them. "Why do you seek to prevent me from putting an end to this useless life?"

"Out of the way yourself!" yelled the other: "you are hindering me from terminating a miserable existence!"

"Who are you?"

"I am the inventor of a new snowplow."

"And I am the owner of a toboggan slide!"

Then they fell on each other's shoulders and wept and then went and drowned their sorrow in the strong waters of a consolation bazaar around the corner.

### Christmas Hints.

Already the little boy begins to insinuate about Christmas.

"I dreamt last night that you gave me a five-dollar gold piece for Christmas and that pa gave me a ten dollar bill."

"My little boy, don't you know that dreams go by contraries. You will be disappointed," said the mother.

"No I won't. If the dream goes by contraries, then you will give me the ten dollar-bill, and pa will give me the five-dollar gold piece. I am safe, anyhow."

### The Superiority of Man.

Jack—I don't see why you girls shouldn't hustle around like the rest of us and do things for yourselves! You could save lots of money by making your own hats and gowns.

Laura—I'd just like to know what you do for yourself?

Jack—I? Why, I've been making my own cigarettes ever since the first of October!

THE CREAM CITY STAR.

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The Pearl, published monthly by Wm. H. Eck, Pleasant Plain, Iowa, is a fine publication of eight pages and a neat cover, as its contents are pure and original, printed on fine paper with bright, clear type, and the subscription rate is only 25cts per year.

Another daisy is the Illuminator of Indianapolis, Ind.

We have received the Youth's Delight of Fruitport, Mich.; Griffins Monthly, Deep Spring, Tenn.; The Pearl, Pleasant Plain, Iowa; The Philatelist Fraud Reporter, Stromsburg, Neb.; The Little Chief, Portland, Ore.; The Monthly Visitor, Haverhill, Mass.; The Illuminator, Indianapolis, Ind.; The North Star, Midway, Minn.; The New England Gem, Waterville, Mass.; The Hawkeye, Atlantic, Iowa; Dawson's Monthly, Cape May City, N. J.; The Agitator, Augusta, Me.; The Waconia Aurora, Waconia, Minn.; The Collector Era, Moreland, Ill.; One Dime, Kossuth, Ind.; The Boys and Girls News, Avon, N. Y.; The Agent, Advertiser and Home, Cinnaminson, N. J.; The Summit, Winsted, Ct.; Everybody's Journal, Chicago, Ill.; The American Youth, Nashville, Tenn.; The Junior Press, Springfield, O.; The Yankee Youth, Hardin Springs, Ky.

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"Why, two fives for a ten! Isn't that what you said?"

"Possibly I did. Possibly I did," he said reflectively, "but I meant ten cents."

She Didn't Know.

Little Girl (looking over advertising page)—Mamma why do all these boarding-houses object to children?"

Fond Mamma—I m sure I don't know. Go see what the baby is yelling about, and tell Johnny to stop throwing things at people in the street, and make George and Kate stop fighting, and tell Dick if he dosen't stop banging the Chinese gong so hard I'll take it away from him.

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