

THE GIFT

Della and James lived in a small flat. They had very little money. It was the day before Christmas and Della only had one dollar and 81 cents to buy a Christmas present for her husband. She didn't know what she could buy with 1.81. She needed more money.

James had a gold watch that had been his father's and his grandfather's. He was very proud of it but he had no chain for it.

Della had the most beautiful long thick hair and she was very proud of her hair. Della went out to try to find a present for her husband. As she walked along the street she saw a sign. The sign read: "Mme. Sofronie. Hair Goods of All Kinds." Della went into the shop.

"Will you buy my hair?" asked Della.

"I buy hair," said Madame S. "Take your hat off and let me see."

Della showed the woman her beautiful hair.

"Twenty dollars," said Madame S.

"Give it to me quick," said Della.

Della took the money and went to buy the perfect chain for James' pocket watch. She found it at last. It was simple and elegant in design. She paid 21 dollars for it and went home.

At 7 o'clock the coffee was made and she was waiting for James to arrive.

Jim was never late. Della was worried about cutting her hair. James loved her hair.

The door opened and Jim stepped in and closed it. He looked thin and very serious.

"You've cut off your hair?" asked Jim

"Cut it off and sold it," said Della.

James was shocked. He took a package from his overcoat pocket and put it upon the table.

"Unwrap your Christmas present Della and you will see why I was confused."

Inside the package was a set of hair combs which Della had been looking at in the shop window for months. They were so beautiful but now she had no long hair to hold back with the combs.

James had sold his precious pocket watch to buy the hair combs for Della.

They loved each other so much they had each sold their favourite possession to give the other a gift.

"My hair will soon grow back James. I love you. Merry Christmas."