

**A MINNESOTA
CHRISTMAS:
AND OTHER VERSES**

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A Minnesota Christmas: And Other Verses by May Stanley

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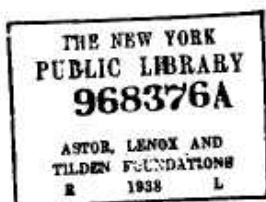
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by
MAY STANLEY



Decorations by
ARTHUR G. McCOY

[c. 1914]
P. R. S.



Seek thou the Angel of the Cross Roads when thou goest upon a journey, and she will give thee the wisdom of the Four Corners.—Egyptian Proverb.

The Angel of the Cross Roads said to me: "And wisdom comes by looking eye to eye, each seeing his own soul as in a glass; so shalt thou find the Lodges of the Wise, the farthest Camp of the Delightful Fires."

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A Minnesota Christmas.

"When the frost is on the pumpkin"
Moved the Hoosier bard to sing
Of the gladness and the beauty
Which the days of Autumn bring;
But we, of Minnesota,
When to music we incline,
Lift our voices in a paean
When the frost is on pine.

No one knows the joys of Christmas
Till they've lived the ones we know,
When the snow has heaped the branches
And the mercury drops low;
When the tingling sunlight thrills through
All our veins like golden wine,
Then the North Woods' Magic claims us—
When the frost is on the pine.

The Trail-Maker.

I blazed the road, with my pack sack load
Of bacon and beans and ax—
For cook and crew and surveyor, too,
Were the men of the northern tracks.
I ran my lines through the stately pines
With their needle-scented floor,
And after me then came the railroad men—
But nobody went before.
I caught the red of the iron-ore bed
Up on the Vermilion way,
And the miners came to my virgin claim—
But it wasn't for me to stay.
So I led the race that had turned its face
To the north wood's timber store,
And I lay my head on a balsam bed
That had never been pressed before.
And I traced to their heads new river beds,
And the vision came to me
How their waves would strive with the pine-
log drive
For the cities yet to be.

But today the spans of your iron bands
Have covered the country here,
And I want to go to a land I know
And find me a new frontier.
And I want to camp where the air grows damp
With the scent I used to hail
When the birch-fire lay at the close of day—
I'm hungry to hit the trail.