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LITERATURE.

A CHRISTMAS LEGEND.

Once upon a time, two children By the name of Tom and Belle With their kind, indulgent parents In this thriving town did dwell. Belle was a gentle creature, Tom, a noisy, romping lad-Beile was always good and patient-Tom, per contra, very bad, And this rude, unseemly conduct Made his parents only sad.

When his father said to Thomas: Tommy, my dear, I do protest," Thomas would reply, deriding, "Cheese it, pard—pull down your vest!" Or if mamma mildly pleaded With her naughty, forward boy,

He would, scorning her entreaty, Seek new methods to annoy, And with intonation vulgar, Query calmly, "What d'ye soy?"

But not so his pretty sister Gentle and obedient Belle, Whom, for her discreet deportment, Everybody loved so well, Daily hied she to her lessons, Never absent, never late, Never pounding the piano,

Never swinging oa the gate; Let them grease her nostrils nightly, And her castor oil took straight. Santa Claus came like a shadow,

Creeping in and floating out-Found the gentle little Bella-Followed her unseen about-Saw her goodness to her parents-Ever dutiful and mild-And old Santa Claus, observing, Stroked his hoary head and smiled, Saying, "On the Christmas morning, I will not forget this child."

Out into the noisy alley
Good old Santa Claus then strayed
Lo. the naughty little Thomas With a gang of hoodlums played, And, engaged at low amusement, Dealt in exclamations bad-Even swore while Santa listened

With a countenance most sad-"Ah," he sighed "there will be nothing Christmas morn for you, my lad.

Christmas came, and Bella's stocking Boomed with presents rich and rare, Peanuts, dolls, confections, sashes—Costly articles and fair. Language fails us in describing Bella's gratitude and joy,-

But in little Tommy's stocking There was neither cake nor toy, And poor Tom too late regretted He had been a naughty boy.

So be warned, O little children, For each bright December day Santa Claus, like ghost or shadow, Watches you at work or play; No good deed is unremembered— No kind word is heard with scorn-Good and bad are justly treated

On the merry Christmas morn—Good folks' stockings burst with fullness— Bad folks' stockings hang forlorn.

the Sierra Nevada mountains.

and was scattered along a creek which emptied into the Consummes river several miles below. Both the dwellings and business houses—or, more properly speaking, cabins, were constructed of unhewn pine logs, the crevices between the timbers being 'chinked' and plaster ed with mud. The town contained at the little gard of the consummes and was scattered along a creek which her empty purse.

'I don't care—I'm going to try any-how. Please get one of my stockings, day, and a party despatched to a large town down on the Consummes, from which they results and a party despatched to a large town down on the Consummes, from which they results and a party despatched to a large town down on the Consummes, from which they results and a party despatched to a large town down on the Consummes, from which they results and a party despatched to a large town down on the Consummes, from which they results and plants are constructed of the Consummes, from which they results and a party despatched to a large town down on the Consummes, from which they results and plants are constructed of the Consummes, from which they results and a party despatched to a large town down on the Consummes, from which they results and a party despatched to a large town down on the Consummes, from which they results and a party despatched to a large town down on the Consummes, from which they results and a party despatched to a large town down on the Consummes, from which they results and party despatched to a large town down on the Consummes, from which they results and a party despatched to a large town down on the Consummes, and the Consummes, from which they results and party despatched to a large town down on the Consummes, and the C

least a dozen saloons, or saloons and disappointed in the morning. Please noiselessly repaired to the widow's Place of Meeting, Divisions, Numbers, hells much of the hard-earned money of we may be richer.' M. W. P.—B. F. Dennison, Philadelphia, Pa. take up its temporary abode in the anyhow.'

> upon a bear skin before the open fiire- the little girl concludingplace. It was Christmas Eve, and the 'And oh, Lord, please tell good Santa glowing flames lit up her sad face they do, for dear Jesus' sake. Amen!' invested it with weird beauty.

tunnel had blotted out his life in an stand it no longer. instant, leaving his family without a He softly moved away from the awake and lifted them to the floor. protector and in straitened circumstances. window to the rear of the cabin, where His daily wages had been their sole some objects fluttering in the wind met support, and now that he was gone, what his eyes. Among these he searched could they do!

had emigrated to the camp in which tenderly and placed in his overcoat choking voice,we find them (all western mining towns pocket, and then set out for the main are called camps), and there she earned street of the camp. duced to absolute suffering.

Eve, when the voice of the little girl said,within attracted his attention. Jack

You must remember, Totty, that we works very hard, she can scarcely earn enough to supply us with food and chip in, much or little, as ye kin afford.' clothes.'

warm bearskin, and cheerily said .-

papa was, an' dit 'oo ever so much money, one placed there by Dawson. but I won't do near 'em hateful blastin' fings an' dit tilled 'ike papa did.'

outside. He could not leave, although ling tables,he felt ashamed of himself for listening.

'Why, bless my little man,' returned the mother, 'what a brave future he has planned! I do hope and pray, darling, that you will grow up a strong and a good man, and one who will be a she gets old.'

Christmas, didn't we, mamma ? question inside of it. The round of the large hall family sounding praises to Heavened the little girl.

and Santa Clause never notices real poor people. He gave you a little candy saying,then, just because you were such good children.'

'Is we any poorer now, mamma l' never notice us at all now.'

suspicious dampness from his eyes.

ed with mud. The town contained at darling, I fear you will be so terribly mouth of the bag of coin, the party family should keep it in the house.

gambling houses combined, and in these let it go until next Christmas, and then humble cabin. The bag was first laid

ional gambler. The dwellings of the swelled until it seemed bursting from charcoal, town were scattered along the creek or his bosom. He heard the patter of built on the side of the mountain, the little bare feet on the cabin floor, as poor fokes the Shake in this camp.' majority of them being rough 'bachelor- Totty ran about hunting for hers and

woman sat gazing abstractedly into the Claus that we are very poor, but that fire. She was yet young, and as the we love him as much as rich children

Afrer they were in bed, through a Mary Stewart was the widow of Aleck small rent in the plain white curtain, he Stewart, and but two years before had saw the widow sitting before the fire, lived comfortably and happily in a camp her face buried in her hands, and weepon the American river. Aleck was a ing bitterly. On a peg, just over the brawney miner, but the premature ex- fireplace hung two little patched and plosion of a blast in an underground faded stockings; and then he could

until he found a little blue stocking With her little family Mrs. Stewart which he removed from the line, folded

hard lot, but the brave little woman toil- host of miners and gamblers were at ed on, cheered by the thought that her play. Jack was well known in the little ones and the gaunt wolf of starva- called for attention, the hum of voices tion. Their clothes were patched and and the clicking of ivory checks sudden- the wealth of gifts there displayed. shabby, and their food plain and some- ly ceased. Then, in an earnest voice, times scanty, yet they were never re- he told them what he had seen and looked in speechless astonishment. She Jack Dawson, a strong, honest miner. conversation between the mother and was passing the cabin this Christmas her two children. In conclusion he open doorway she poured out her causing her little open doorway she poured out her causing her little

Boys, I think I know you, every to God. possessed an inordinate love for children one of you, and I know what kind of and although his manly spirit would metal yer made of. I've an idee that from behind a tree a short distance Portland; Valley, 250; Tuesday; J. Fowler. tion to steal up to the window just a find it afore morning. Hyar's one of his face. moment to listen to the sweet, prattling the little gal's stockings that I hooked

'Hold them checks of mine on the laughs and tears. Little bright-faced Benny raised his, ace jack, said Brocky Clark, a gambler, curley head from his soft nest in the and, leaving the faro table, he picked the little stocking up carefully, looking God good to us? 'Des' wait till I dit to be a man at it tenderly, and, when he laid it mamma, an' 'oo won't have to wort, down, another twenty had gone down I'se doin' to be a dreat bid miner, 'ike into the toe, to keep company with the

the foot of the stocking was well-filled Sack Dawson still lingered upon the and then came the cry from the game-

At the word he lifted it from the table, and started around the hall. Before he had circulated it at half a dozen tables, it showed signs of bursting beneath the weight of gold and silver

Tatta's little blue steeking. lessing and a comfort to mamma when per gets old.'

We hung up our stockings last his many didn't we, mamma? question it the little girl.

'Yes, Totty, but we were poor then, and Santa Claus.

St. Nicholas River, Kent Co.; Milltown, 272; Totty's little blue stocking.

We will not intrude longer upon such happiness, but leave the joyfu family sounding praises to Heaven—and Santa Claus.

The whole story soon reached Mrs.

St. Nicholas River, Kent Co.; Milltown, 272; Totty's little blue stocking.

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Totty's little blue stocking.

We will not intrude longer upon such happiness, but leave the joyfu family sounding praises to Heaven—and Santa Claus.

The whole story soon reached Mrs.

The whole story soon reached Mrs. blessing and a comfort to mamma when coin; and a strong coin bag, such as is Totty's little blue stocking.

ever notice us at all now.'

Jack Dawson detected a tremor of address in the widow's voice as she ttered the last words, and he wiped a aspicious dampness from his eyes.

W. Vincent.

Shed were not all hers for when Jack moved away there were drops of liquid crystal hanging to his ruddy cheeks.

Four months from that 'Merrie aspicious dampness from his eyes.

W. Vincent.

Elgin, 281; Saturday; G. Smith, A. B.

Springfield, King's Co.; Springfield, King's Co.; Springfield, King's Co.; Grand Lake; 283; H. E. Whites Cove, Grand Lake; 283; H. E. Whites Cove, Grand Lake; Clausester Division. sadness in the widow's voice as she speculators, everybody, crowded, up to crystal hanging to his ruddy cheeks. uttered the last words, and he wiped a tender their Christmas gift to the Four months from that 'Merrie miner's widow and orphans. Anyone Christmas' Mrs- Stewart became Mrs. Clifton, Gloucester Co.; Gloucester Division who has lived in the Far-Western Jack Dawson and every evening when 'Where's our clean stockings, mammaj who has lived in the Far-Western Jack Dawson and every evening when THE WIDOW'S SURPRISE.

A California mining town, away up mid the snow-clad, rock-bound peaks of the Sierra Nevada mountains.

The town was irregularly and the mother's eyes as she thought of the town was irregularly and the mother's eyes as she thought of the town was irregularly and the mother's eyes as she thought of the town was irregularly and the mother's eyes as she thought of the far-western the Far-Western and every evening when the hardy miner returns from his daily generosity of Western men, will feel no surprise or doubt my truthfulness when I say that, after the round had been to his comfortable and happy home Totty and Benny will climb upon his knees and almost smother him with waterford, K. C.; Essex Division 288; Monday, W. E. S. Flewelling.

The town was irregularly the first source and the sacquainted with the generosity of Western men, will feel no surprise or doubt my truthfulness when I say that, after the round had been heavy canvas bag contained over eight the hardy miner returns from his daily labor to his comfortable and happy home Totty and Benny will climb upon his knees and almost smother him with waterford, K. C.; Essex Division 288; Monday, W. E. S. Flewelling.

The town was irregularly the first source and the round had been heavy canvas bag contained over eight the hardy miner returns from his daily labor to his comfortable and happy home Totty and Benny will climb upon his knees and almost smother him with waterford, K. C.; Essex Division 288; Monday, W. E. S. Flewelling.

The town was irregularly the heavy canvas bag contained over eight the hardy miner returns from his daily labor to his comfortable and happy home Totty and Benny will climb upon his knees and almost smother him with water the heavy smother him with the hardy miner returns from his daily labor to his comfortable and happy home Totty and Benny will climb upon his knees and almost smother him with the heavy canvas bag contained over eight have a first and the heavy canvas bag contained over eight have a first and amid the snow-clad, rock-bound peaks of sure he will not come and tears gathered heavy canvas bag contained over eight as Our Santa Claus papa.

on the step, and the other articles piled the miner parted company with him, to 'No, mamma; I am going to try, up in a heap over it. On the top was laid the lid of a large pasteboard box, M. W. A.—Charles A. Everett, St. John, saloon till or the pocket of the professM. W. A.—Charles A. Everett, St. John, saloon till or the pocket of the professOn which was written with a piece of

'Santy Claus doesn't always Give St. Stephen; Howard, 1; Friday; S. Webber. Milltown St. Stephen; Wilberforce, 3; Monday; H. McAllister.

majority of them being rough 'bachelordens,' for women were very scarce in the
newly-discovered diggings.

In a small cabin in the upper end of
the town sat a woman in widow's weeds,
holding upon her knee a bright-eyed,
sunny-faced iittle girl about five years
old, while a little cherub of a boy lay

upon a bear skip before the open five.

Totty ran about hunting for hers and
Benny's stockings, and, after she had
hung them up, heard her sweet voice
again as she wondered over and over if
Santa Claus really would forget them.
He heard the mother, in a choking voice
the western range, the sparkling frost
flashed from the snow-clad peaks as
though their towering head were

Totty ran about hunting for hers and
Benny's stockings, and, after she had
hung them up, heard her sweet voice
again as she wondered over and over if
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He heard the mother, in a choking voice
the western range, the sparkling frost
flashed from the snow-clad peaks as
though their towering head were

St. John: Market Building, St. John; Gurney, 5; Thursday; R. Wills.

Orange Hall, Portland; Portland, 7; Monday;
to the east, and shot its beams upon
the western range, the sparkling frost
flashed from the snow-clad peaks as
though their towering head were
St. John: Market Building, St. John; Gurney, 5; Thursand beautiful. The night had been a
stinging cold one, and when the rising
sun peeped over the chain of mountains
to the east, and shot its beams upon
the western range, the sparkling frost
flashed from the snow-clad peaks as
the western range, the sparkling frost
flashed from the source of the should be and beautiful.

The night had been a
stinging cold one, and when the rising
sun peeped over the chain of mountains
to the east, and shot its beams upon
the western range, the sparkling frost
flashed from the source of the should be an and beautiful.

The night had beautiful.

Market Building, St. John; Albion, 14; Wedmed as a second control of the should be an a stinging cold one, and when the rising
sun Christmas morning dawned bright though their towering head were sprinkled with pure diamonds.

Mrs. Stewart arose, and a shade of pain crossed her handsome face as the empty little stockings caught her maternal eye. She cast a hurried day; A. Haines. glance toward the hed where her darlings lay sleeping, and whispered .-'O God! how dreadful is poverty!'

She built a glowing fire and set about preparing the frugal breakfast. When it was almost ready she approached the bed kissed the little ones till they were With eager haste Totty ran to the stockings only to turn away sobbing as though her heart would break. Tears blinded the mother and clasping her little girl to her heart she said in a

'Never mind, my darling; next Christmas, I am sure mamma will be a precarious livelihood by washing clothes for the miners. Hers was a hell, the largest in the place, where a us lots of nice things.'

'O mamma!'

The exclamation came from little daily labors stood between her darling camp, and when he got into a chair and Benny who had opened the door and was standing gazing in amazement upon

Mrs. Stewart sprang to his side and heard, repeating every word of the read the card and then causing her little read the card and then causing her little ones to kneel down with her in the open doorway she poured out her soul in a torrent of praise and thanksgiving to God.

Jack Dawson's burly form moved from behind a tree a short disternal of the causing her little Moncton; Intercolonial, 243; Friday; Albert McWilliams.

Victoria Mills, West. Co.; Victoria, 245; Thursday; A. J. Main.

Baillie, St. James, Char. Co.; Baillie, 248; Wednesday; J. W. Mann.

Weldford, Kent. Co; Harcourt, 249; Saturday; H. Wather. her two children. In conclusion he open doorway she poured out her soul

and although his manly spirit would abhor the sneaking practice of eaves- Santy Claus knows jist whar that away and sneaked off up the gulch great cabin's sitiwated, and I've an idee he'll away and sneaked off up the gulch great Friday; E. Keith. dropping, he could not resist the tempta- cabin's sitiwated, and I've an idee he'll crystal tears chasing each other down Petiteodiac, West. Co.; Petiteodiac, 252; Tues-

voice. The first words he caught were,—
'Before papa died, we always had

off in the line whar I heard the widder began to move the stores into the cabin.

The daddy of them little in washin'.

The daddy of them little in washin'.

The daddy of them little in washin'. Christmas, didn't we, mamma?'

'Yes, Totty darling, but papa earned money enough to afford to make his little pets happy at least once a year.

Hyar goes a twenty-dollar to be desired with the washin. There were several sacks of flour, hams, canned fruits, pounds and pounds of cann business. Hyar goes a twenty-dollar clothing for the children a big wax doll Kouchibouguac, Kent Co.; Union, 258; D. W. are very poor, and although mamma piece right down in the toe, and hyar I that could cry and move its eyes for lay the stocking on this card table. Now Totty and a beautiful red sled for Benny All were carried inside amid alternate Steeves' Mountain, West. Co.; Mountain Rose

down to the step.'

Another and another came up, until it and lifted harder and harder until Tower Hill, Char. Co.; Wills, 266; Saturday; she raised it from the step. Her cheek blanched as she noted its great weight, Graves' Settlement, West. Co.; Rockland, 267; and she carried it in and laid it upon Friday; G. Johnston. At the word he lifted it from the lift from th

story had spread all over the camp. From various saloons came messengers, saying,—

'Send the stocking round the camp; the boys are a waitin' for it!'

With a party at his heels, Jack went from saloon to saloon. Games ceased, and tipplers left, the bays as they ensight and when she next met him to push by her she caught hold of his coat and compelled him to stand and listen to her tearful thanks. The tears and tipplers left, the bays as they ensight and when she next met him although the honest fellow tried hard to push by her she caught hold of his coat and compelled him to stand and listen to her tearful thanks. The tears were not all hers for when Lock Elgin, 281; Saturday; G. 'Oh, yes, much poorer. He would from saloon to saloon. Games ceased, listen to her tearful thanks. The tears

the timbers being 'chinked' and plastered with mud. The town contained at darling, I fear you will be so terribly mouth of the bag of coin, the party family should keep it in the house.

Herbert Gray.

Lower Coverdale 295;

darling, I fear you will be so terribly mouth of the bag of coin, the party family should keep it in the house.

Night of Meeting, and name of Deputies.

St. John; Mariners and Mechanics, 38; Thursday; Robt. Wills.
Hillsboro, Albert Co.; Albert, 39; Wednesday;
J. J. Steeves.

Sackville, West. Co.; Sackville, 40; Tuesday; Kingston, Kent Co.; Kingston, 44; Tuesday; B. S. Bailey. Newcastle; Newcastle, 45; Thursday; D. Mc-

Newcastle; Newcastle, 45; Thursday; D. Mc-Gruar.

Point de Bute, West. Co.; Westmorland, 50; Thursday; J. Amos Trueman.

Hopewell Hill, Albert Co.; Golden Rule, 51; Tuesday; L. R. Moore,
Pennfield, Charlotte C.; Safeguard, 58; Saturday; W. N. Bucknam.

Cambridge, Queen's Co.; Johnston, 62; Saturday; George S. Wilson.

Dalhousie; Dalhousie, 64; Monday; G. Haddow.
Baie Verte; Baie Verte, 65; Wednesday; Regoodwin.

Dover, West. Co.; Dover, 70; Saturday; W. Steeves.
Carleton, St. John; Granite Rock, 77; Tuesday;

Carleton, St. John; Granite Rock, 77; Tuesday; Henry Finch.

Derby, North. Co.; Nelson, 99; Monday; J. Betts Douglastown, North. Co.; Caledonia, 126; Tuesday; J. Henderson.

Collina Corner, Kings Co.; Collina, 129; Thursday: Jacob I. Keirstead.

Upper Gagetown, Queens Co.; Oxford, 134; Saturday; James E. Coy.

Benton, Carleton Co.; Garibaldi, 151; A. Teed. St. Martins, St. John Co.; St. Martins, 164; Tuesday; Cudlip Miller.

Moncton; Moncton, 183; Monday; E. McCarthy. Salisbury, West. Co.; Crystal Stream, 191; Saturday; Wm. McNaughton.

South Bay, St. John Co.; Lime Rock, 207; Monday; Wm. Roxborough,

Milford, St. John Co.; Everett, 238; Wednesday; John Waring. John Waring.

day; D. Jonah. The family rose from their knees and Lewis Mountain, West. Co.; Sunnyside, 253;

Grierson.
River Charlo, Rest. Co.; Charlo, 259; Thursday;
J. H. Galbraith.

laughs and tears.

'Bring in the sack of salt Totty and that is all,' said the mother. 'Is not Cod good to will be mother. 'Is not Cod goo

and she carried it in and laid it upon McAdam Junction, York Co.; Star Branch, 268;