

SANTA CLAUS.

(New York Sun.)

We take pleasure in answering at once and thus prominently the communication below, expressing at the same time our great gratification that its faithful author is numbered among the friends of the Sun:

"Dear Editor: I am eight years old.

"Some of my little friends say there is no Santa Claus.

"Papa says, 'If you see it in the Sun it's so.'

"Please tell me the truth; is there a Santa Claus? Virginia O'Hanlon.

"115 West Ninety-fifth street."

Virginia, your little friends are wrong. They have been affected by the scepticism of a sceptic age. They do not believe except they see. They think that nothing can be which is not comprehensible by their little minds. All minds, Virginia, whether they be men's or children's are little. In this great universe of ours man is a mere insect, an ant, in his intellect, as compared with the boundless world about him, as measured by the intelligence capable of grasping the whole of truth and knowledge.

Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus. He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist, and you know that they abound and give to your life its highest beauty and joy. Alas how dreary would be the world if there were no Santa Claus. It would be as dreary as if there were no Virginias. There would be no childlike faith then, no poetry, no romance, to make tolerable this existence. We should have no enjoyment except in sense and sight. The eternal light with which childhood fills the world would be extinguished.

Not believe in Santa Claus! You might as well not believe in faeries! You might get your papa to hire men to watch in all the chimneys on Christmas Eve to catch Santa Claus, but even if they did not see Santa Claus coming down, what would that prove? Nobody sees Santa Claus, but that is no sign that there is no Santa Claus. The most real things in the world are those that neither children nor men can see. Did you ever see fairies dancing on the lawn? Of course not; but that is no proof that they are not there. Nobody can conceive or imagine all the wonders that are unseen and unseeable in the world.

You may tear apart the baby's rattle and see what makes the noise inside, but there is a veil covering the unseen world which not the strongest man, nor even the united strength of all the strongest men that ever lived could tear apart. Only faith, poetry, love, romance, can push aside that curtain and view and picture the supernal beauty and glory beyond. Is it all real? Ah, Virginia, in all this world there is nothing else real and abiding.

No Santa Claus! Thank God; he lives and he lives forever. A thousand years from now he will continue to make glad the heart of childhood.

It is said a committee from the 67th Battalion will soon examine the Hartland Cornet Band in contemplation of giving it the appointment of playing at camp this season.

NEWS NOTES.

FROM ROUNDABOUT.

LOWER WINDSOR.

Yesterday was the coldest day of the season, the thermometer registering ten below zero and the wind blowing a gale.

War has been declared amongst the Turks, and there will be great slaughter within the next few days.

Coles Padgett had a valuable mare about ruined by being kicked. The flesh was lacerated in a terrible manner. Dell Belyea V S of Rockland, dressed the wound.

Some of our young men are expected home Christmas, which will cause some one down the road to smile.

Wayman Shaw, who has been threshing at Pembroke has returned home.

The semi-annual examination took place on Thursday and there was a large number of rate payers and other visitors present. The afternoon was spent in reviewing the school and a program which was well rendered gives great credit to the teacher, Miss May Ericson, in the way she has trained the young. The trustees have engaged her for the next term, which will make four terms she has taught here,

Dec. 20th. 1897.

FORT FAIRFIELD.

The Holiday season is here, and the stores are visions of beauty, with their Christmas goods, although potatoes have dropped to \$1.25 per bbl. The buyers know that people must have a little money, so they take the advantage of the poor farmer.

We have been and are having fine union meetings, much good is being done by Rev Mr Allen, Methodist, and Rev F Bradeen, Free Baptist. The meetings are held in the different churches respectively.

Besides there are two dancing schools running once a week, and two Whist clubs in progress, so all classes can be suited.

Three of our citizens (it is said) will go to the Klondyke in March. Dr. Bell, Mr. Haley of the Windsor Hotel, and Mr. Wellington. Mrs. Haley will accompany her husband.

Aroostook is very much exercised just now, over the barley question. Are the farmers of this county going to raise barley another year for Frank Jones the Brewer? The Grangers say we must not. The Good Templars say, we must not, but of course, there will be a large amount of seed sown. At a parade in Houlton, there was an open car representing a cell. In it was a man breaking stone, on the outside was written in flaming letters, "The result of Frank Jones' Aroostook barley."

We are troubled here with what the ADVERTISER spoke of, viz; a person selling an inferior article, gets the same price, as the one selling a good article, so there is no inducement for a farmer to put up a good article, (unless it is a clear conscience.) A lady bringing in a plump well dressed fowl, gets no more per lb, than the one who brings in the poor pinfeathered one. This should not be so and it is not the case in some places

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Regular subscription price, 50c. A handsome 20-page magazine containing stories, poems sketches, bits of travel, and such generally literary matter as appeals most strongly to the average reader, who wants pure and wholesome literature of the entertaining kind. Its practical departments devoted to the kitchen, the flower garden, the care to children, dressmaking, home decoration, etc., are greatly valued by every woman who has ever read them. Extensive improvements have been made in Womankind during the past year, and as a result its circulation has been increased from 20,000 to 60,000—a growth that could only possibly be obtained by giving the people what they want. We invite comparison of Womankind with other papers of its kind.

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A series of prize essays in which farmer's wives and daughters, who are in the habit of getting the top prices in the markets, tell how they feed their cows, how they care for their milk, how they make their butter. It is a most valuable book.

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This Cook Book covers the entire range of the culinary art. The recipes in it were selected from the favorite recipes of Womankind readers so that in this you have the best things from several hundred practical housekeepers.

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