Board of Works

THE Maritime Farmer.

AGRICULTURE THE TRUE BASIS OF A NATION'S WEALTH

LORAN C. MACNUTT, Editor and Proprietor. FREDERICTON, N. B., WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21, 1887. VOL. IX., NO. 16

JOHNSON'S ANODYNE LINIMENT FOR INTERNAL —AND— EXTERNAL USE.

Cures Diphtheria, Croup, Asthma, Bronchitis, Neuralgia, Pneumonia, Rheumatism, Bleeding at the Lungs, Hoarseness, Influenza, Hacking Cough, Whooping Cough, Catarrh, Cholera Morbus, Dysentery, Chronic Diarrhœa, Kidney Troubles, and Spinal Diseases. We will send free, postpaid, to all who send their names, an Illustrated Pamphlet containing information of very great value. Everybody should have this book, and those who send for it will ever after thank their lucky stars. All who buy or order direct from us, and request it, shall receive a certificate that the money shall be refunded if not abundantly satisfied. Retail price, 25 cts.; 6 bottles, $1.50. Express prepaid to any part of the United States or Canada. I. S. JOHNSON & CO., P. O. Box 2118, Boston, Mass.

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DOORS, SASHES, BLINDS AND MOULDINGS

FOR BUILDING PURPOSES,

always on hand, or made to order, from kilndried stock. Flooring, Sheathing, Clapboards, Stair stock, &c., &c. Also

Furniture in Bedroom Suits &c., &c.

OFFICE FURNITURE, &c., ON HAND.

☞ All of the above will be sold LOW for cash or approved payments.

Fredericton, April 6 J. C. RISTEEN & CO.

CALL AND SEE THE

NEW "RAYMOND,"

With Large Improved Arm, at

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Phœnix Square, Fredericton, N. B.

These machines can be had at the following offices, viz:—

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☞ *Agents wanted for P. E. Island and Nova Scota.* ☜

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APPLY TO

J. W. McCREADY, Barrister.

OFFICE—127 Queen Street, - - Opposite Geo. Hatt & Sons.

Fredericton, August 18, 1887.

REGISTERED PERCHERON HORSES,

French Coach Horses.

We will be glad to see our friends and acquaintances and those with whom we have been in correspondence, in fact any and all who are in search of first-class PERCHERONS and FRENCH COACHERS, to look over them. We have an exceptionally fine lot, and our stud is so large that all may be pleased. We offer the largest number and greatest variety to select from. All our imported stock is selected by MR. FARNUM himself personally in France, and he accepts nothing but the best Horses of the most approved breeding.

Our Home-bred Stock is all the progeny of selected sires and dams of the best form and most desirable breeding. We guarantee our stock. Sell on easy terms, and at low prices. We will be glad to answer all correspondence promptly; but we would strongly advise persons contemplating the purchase of a Horse or Mare, Percheron or French Coach, to get on the train and come and see us. *Catalogues Free by Mail.*

Savage & Farnum,

Proprietors of ISLAND HOME STOCK FARM, IMPORTERS AND BREEDERS, Address all communications to Detroit, Mich.] GROSSE ISLE, WAYNE CO., MICHIGAN.

Administrator's Notice.

LETTERS of Administration of the Estate of JEREMIAH TRACEY, Senior, late of Tracey Station, in the County of Sunbury, N. B., Lumberer, deceased, have been duly granted to the undersigned. All persons having claims against said Estate, are requested to file same duly attested with either of the undersigned, within three months from this date, to whom all persons indebted to said Estate, are required to make immediate payment.

Tracey Station, Sunbury County, N. B., Nov. 9th, 1887.

JEREMIAH TRACY,
SARAH A. TRACY,
Administrator and Administratrix. Estate late Jeremiah Tracey, Senior, deceased.

3mos.

Recorded Percheron and French Coach Horses.

Two importations this year. Nearly 200 of these popular breeds on hand. Every animal recorded with extended pedigree in their respective stud books. Choicest breeding and individual excellence combined. Coach stallions all purchased before the French Government made its selection. Do not buy coarse, logy horses unsuited to your section, but come and see large fine horses with the best of action. They will cost you no more. Send for Illustrated Catalogue. JOHN W. AKIN, Scipio, Cayuga Co., N. Y.

NOTICE.

THE UNDERSIGNED being three of the persons named in the first section of the Act to incorporate the York and Carleton Railway Company, hereby give notice that the first meeting of the said Company, will be held at the office of CHARLES H. LUGRIN, in the City of Fredericton, on **Thursday the nineteenth day of January next, at ten o'clock A. M.**, for the purpose of organizing the said Company.

Fredericton, 9th December, A. D., 1887.

ALEX. GIBSON,
ALFRED ROWLEY,
F. P. THOMPSON.

3ins.

VALUABLE FARMS FOR SALE.

THAT valuable freehold property situated in the Parish of Queensbury, York County, lately occupied by Messrs. Edward and Charles Hall. Also, that valuable farm property situated at Central Kingsclear, York County, known as the "Mills Homestead." For particulars apply to

J. A. & W. VANWART,
Barristers.

Fredericton, December 12, 1887

Coal Vases and Hods

For sale low at

NEILL'S HARDWARE STORE

212

JOHN HASLIN.

NEW WOOL GOODS,

Wool Shawls,

JACKET VESTS,

FASCINATORS,

HOOD CAPS,

Toques Gloves,

CARTERS AND HOSIERY,

FUR MUFFS

—AND—

Fur Trimmings,

November 23

1887. FALL. 1887.

Goods Just Arriving:

FALL SUITINGS,

TROWSERINGS,

IN

Stripes and Checks.

Beaver, Melton,

—AND—

WIDE WALE DIAGONAL

OVERCOATINGS.

WM. JENNINGS,

MERCHANT TAILOR,

Cor. Queen St. and Wilmot's Alley.

Fredericton, August 31

HUMPHREYS'

DR. HUMPHREYS' BOOK Cloth & Gold Binding 144 Pages, with Steel Engraving, MAILED FREE. Address, P. O. Box 1810, N. Y.

LIST OF PRINCIPAL NOS.	CURES	PRICE.
1	Fevers, Congestion, Inflammations...	.25
2	Worms, Worm Fever, Worm Colic....	.25
3	Crying Colic, or Teething of Infants.	.25
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9	Headaches, Sick Headache, Vertigo.	.25

HOMEOPATHIC

10	Dyspepsia, Bilious Stomach.....	.25
11	Suppressed or Painful Periods.....	.25
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16	Fever and Ague, Chills, Malaria....	.50
17	Piles, Blind or Bleeding.....	.50
19	Catarrh, Influenza, Cold in the Head	.50
20	Whooping Cough, Violent Coughs..	.50
24	General Debility, Physical Weakness	.50
27	Kidney Disease	.50
28	Nervous Debility.....	1.00
30	Urinary Weakness, Wetting Bed....	.50
32	Diseases of the Heart, Palpitation..	1.00

SPECIFICS.

Sold by Druggists, or sent postpaid on receipt of price.—HUMPHREYS' MEDICINE CO. 109 Fulton St. N.Y.

BEST ON *EARTH*

SURPRISE SOAP

THE GREAT SELF WASHER TRY IT

A marvel of efficiency and economy. Quality never varies. The purest and best for all household purposes; washing and cleaning without injury to hands or fabric. No boiling, scalding or hard rubbing necessary. The saving of fuel alone pays for the soap. Makes white goods whiter, softens woolen goods and makes colored goods brighter. One soap for all purposes. Toilet, Bath, Laundry, Scrubbing, &c. Read the directions plainly given on each wrapper and learn the new "Surprise" way of washing clothes, saving time, money, labor and worry of the old way. Wash day is made a pleasure by the use of SURPRISE SOAP and joy and smiles take the place of tired looks. Save 2 Surprise wrappers, send to the manufacturers with your address and get a handsome picture for them. Ask your grocer to show you the picture. SURPRISE SOAP is sold by all leading grocers. If not obtainable at your home send 6 cents in stamps to us for sample bar.

The St. Croix Soap M'f'g Co., ST. STEPHEN, N. B.

DR. FOWLER'S EXTRACT OF WILD STRAWBERRY

—CURES—

CHOLERA

CHOLERA INFANTUM

DIARRHŒA, AND ALL SUMMER COMPLAINTS

SOLD BY ALL DEALERS.

COUGHS, COLDS, Croup and Consumption CURED BY ALLEN'S LUNG BALSAM 25c. 50c. and $1.00 per bottle.

NOW'S THE DAY!

—AND—

NOW'S THE HOUR!

TO BUY YOUR

CHRISTMAS GROCERIES, FRUITS, ETC.

GEO. HATT & SONS,

HAVE RECEIVED A NEW SUPPLY OF

Sugar, Flour, Tea, Raisins, Currants, Extracts, and Fruits.

ALSO, A FRESH SUPPLY OF

BOSTON CANDIES,

which will be sold AWAY DOWN LOW. Give us a call before purchasing elsewhere.

☞Choice goods, reasonable prices, and prompt delivery.

FREDERICTON, December 14, 1887 **GEO. HATT & SONS.**

Miscellaneous.

CHRISTMAS BELLS.

I heard the bells on Christmas day
Their old familiar carols play
And wild and sweet
The words repeat
Of peace and mirth, good will to men.

And thought how, as the day had come,
The belfries of all Christiandom
Had rolled along
The unbroken song
Of peace on earth, good will to men,

Till ringing, singing, on its way,
The world revolved from day to night,
A voice, a chime,
A chant sublime,
Of peace on earth, good will to men.

But in despair I bowed my head—
"There is no peace on earth," I said
"For hate is strong,
And mocks the song
Of peace on earth, good will to men."

Then pealed the bells more loud and deep,
"God is not dead, nor doth he sleep,
The wrong shall fall,
The right prevail,
With peace on earth, good will to men."

Jay Gould's income is placed $1000 an hour.

A BOQUET of enchanting sweetness—"Lotus of the Nile" Perfume.

Nothing will shorten the winter so much as to give a note payable in the spring.

IF YOU HAVE a Cough, do not neglect it; buy at once a bottle of Allen's Lung Balsam.

A shoe filled with flowers is the very newest thing for bridesmaids to carry, and charmingly pretty it is.

The carpenter is an unreasonable fellow. He objects to plain board, and yet he don't like a board until it is planed.

No philosopher ever philosophised more truly than he who said "poverty sharpens." Even a razor would not be sharp were it not strapped.

There are a number of varieties of corns. Holloway's Corn Cure will remove any of them. Call on your druggist and get a bottle at once.

In the savings banks of Boston there are deposits amounting to half a million dollars which nobody claims. The money was deposited 20 years ago.

When a young lady offers to hem a cambric handkerchief for a rich young bachelor acquaintance, you can set it down that she means to sew in order [illegible] what she may reap.

The latest in church entertainments is a Shaker village fair. All who are connected with it management dress in plain Shaker costume, wearing no jewellery or ornaments of any kind.

Farmers in Wiltshire, England, have been obliged by hard times to reduce the wages of their laborers from one to two shillings a week, so that now eight shillings a week is the usual wage.

Nearly a million signatures have been obtained to the petition prepared by the temperance women of England, to be presented to the Queen, asking that the bar rooms be closed on Sundays. The petition weighs several hundred pounds.

It has hitherto been supposed that the highest mountain in the world was Mount Everest, one of the Hymalayan range, 29,000 feet high, but this honor is now claimed for Mount Hercules, in New Guinea, which soars up to the tremendous altitude of 32,786 feet.

The number of cattle exported to Europe, via Montreal, during the present season of navigation was 68,346 head and 53,785 sheep as compared with 61,240 head of cattle and 39,400 sheep exported in 1886, showing an increase of 7,106 head of cattle and a decrease of 3,614 sheep as compared with 1886.

C. C. RICHARDS & Co.,

Gents,—I have used MINARD'S LINIMENT freely on my head and now have a good head of hair after being quite bald for several years. It is the only hair restorer I have ever found.

MRS. CHAS. ANDERSON.
Stanley Bridge, P. E. I.

The class of "professional entertainers" is fast increasing in New York. These parlor artists are readers, singers and humorists, the latest product being the humorists, who tell funny stories for the entertainment of people who are to indolent to entertain themselves. Young men who are available earn an excellent compensation in this profession.

C. C. RICHARDS & Co.,

Gents,—We consider MINARDS' LINIMENT the best in the market and cheerfully recommend its use.

DR. J. H. HARRIS,
Bellevue Hospital.
DR. F. U. ANDERSON,
L. R. C. S., Edinburgh,
M. R. C. S., England.

The marriage of John G. Maniere, of Oakland, Cal., formerly cashier of a Wall street bank, to Miss Mary West, was celebrated at the home of the bride in Walworth, New York, the other night. One day last June Miss West was on her way home from Albany, when she lost her purse containing her railroad ticket. The conductor threatened to put her off the train, and she burst into tears. Mr. Maniere, who was a perfect stranger, saw her distress and paid her fare. He rode with Miss West for a few miles, and when he returned to California, they began correspondence, which resulted in Mr. Maniere's proposing marriage. Miss West assured herself of his social position and honor and accepted him. He came East two weeks ago and the marriage took place as recorded.

Levi Killer and his wife, who lived near Reading, Pa., last week, died almost at the same moment. The husband was 63 years old and the wife 60. A week before their death the husband said: "I must die in a few days." Then the wife consoled her husband, but added: "if you go I will go too." Monday night at 8 o'clock he died in his wife's arms. She laid him back on his pillow, fell upon his breast, and true to her word, died on the instant of a broken heart. They sleep in one grave and in one coffin in each other's arms. The bodies lay side by side in one coffin, the wife resting on the left arm of the husband. Their faces were turned toward each other, and appeared to in sweet sleep. On the right side of the large lid was a silver plate bearing the name "Father," and another plate on the left bore the name "Mother."

DON'T

let that cold of yours run on. You think it is a light thing, but it may run into catarrh. Or into pneumonia. Or consumption.

Catarrh is disgusting. Pneumonia is dangerous. Consumption is death itself.

The breathing apparatus must be kept healthy and clear of all obstructions and offensive matter. Otherwise there is trouble ahead.

All the diseases of these parts, head, nose, throat, bronchial tubes and lungs, can be delightfully and entirely cured by the use of Boschee's German Syrup. If you don't know this already, thousands and thousands of people can tell you. They have been cured by it, and "know how it is, themselves." Bottle only 75 cents. Ask any druggist.

The gold mines of Australia continue to be very productive. An immense nugget of pure gold, weighing fifty-one pounds, has been found at the Midas mine [illegible] near Ballarett. It was 12½ inches [illegible] long in its longest part, [illegible] inches wide, and 2½ inches thick, and, at $255 a pound, was worth $13,000. Other nuggets far larger than this have been found in that vicinity. The largest weighed 190 pounds, another weighed 184, another 134, and two or three weighed over 70 pounds.

First Class English Fire Insurance Companies.

The North British and Mercantile, of Edinburgh, Liverpool & London & Globe of London, Royal of Liverpool, Phœnix of London, Commercial Union of London, and National of Dublin, Ireland, are represented here by

MORRISON & FREEZE.

The rates are as low as any, and some special advantages are given to the best class of business. Farmers and others having detached buildings, can insure for 3 years at very low rates. Over $36,000 paid for losses in York County in 1886. Office Queen Street, Fredericton, N. B., opposite the Post Office, next door below Telegraph Office.

The colors for Christmas are white and gold, and there is no more joyful combination of color. White is the perfect union of all colors, and always the emblem of holiness and purity. Yellow may be used with the same significance as white, representing joy and gladness. The two colors typify joy, gladness and life. The other colors suitable for Christmas are red, which symbolises God's love, and green for the bountifulness of God. It is well to remember these colors in Christmas gifts, and so make use of them.

The combination writing-desk and bookcase to be presented to the Pope by the Redemptorist Fathers of Baltimore is a magnificent work of art, being a pictorial history, carved in wood, of the Catholic Church in America. It is described as one of the finest pieces of workmanship ever turned out in America. Eight kinds of wood were employed in its manufacture.

It is not what we earn, but what we save that makes us rich. It is not what we eat, but what we digest that makes us strong. It is not what we read, but what we remember that makes us learned. It is not what we intend, but what we do that makes us useful. It is not a few faint wishes, but a life-long struggle that makes us valiant.

There is a good deal said about the failure of the potato crop, but it is mostly rot.

WHAT IS IT?

The Funny Little Animal seen at Nackawick!

"Sylvanus" writing to the FARMER from Pokiok, says:—A correspondent of the *Gleaner* furnishes that paper with a description of a curious creature that made its appearance at Nackawick on a recent Sunday morning. In the course of my wanderings through the woods I have ascertained that this strange animal is not so very rare as the *Gleaner* correspondent seems to suppose. It is very sly, and seldom leaves its den till after dark, and it then prowls around lonely or deserted dwellings seeking for its prey.—Though very cowardly nature, it becomes quite ferocious when molested, and has been known to attack children, and even women have been seriously assaulted by it. It seems to cherish a deep antipathy towards horses. Some years ago one of them entered an orchard where a Mr. Calder of Southampton had left a fine horse for the night, and so injured the poor brute that he was found dead on the following morning at the foot of a big apple tree.

More recently one of them made a midnight visit to the premises of a Mr. Makewire at the Round tap, who was away from home at the time. In its efforts to effect an entrance, the beast awoke the lady of the house who succeeded in driving it away; but not until its fierce passion had been so aroused that it sought to vent its fury on a Mr. Eck, whom it happened to meet some miles from the scene of the encounter. He was seriously injured by coming in contact with it, but succeeded in driving it away and in giving the alarm. A small party soon started in pursuit, and at early dawn caught sight of it following close at the heels of a little white mare well known in the neighborhood and quite a favorite with many on account of her diminutive size and neat performances. We all thought the white mare would be killed or brutally maimed, but she happened to escape and soon returned to her usual grazing grounds.

The *Gleaner* correspondent asks the readers of that paper for the proper name of the creature. All the information I can gather on this point is that among hunters and woodsmen, it is usually known as the "Commodore," but whether or not this is the only name it has received, I cannot say.

Yours, etc.,

Pokiok, York Co., Dec. 8, 1887. SYLVANUS.

Byways of Love and Matrimony.

Romantic Story of a Union of Fifty and Twenty-five.

The quiet marriage of Mrs. Magdalena Schwartz to Andrew Robinson, a young man at Brainerd, Minnesotta, a few days ago, as the sequel to one of the most romantic experiences of the time. When Brainerd bid fair in the early days in some time to be a town, a thrifty German named Wm. Schwartz arrived directly from the old country. After prospecting a little, he made a rich discovery of fine clay for brick just above the town in the river bank. He secured a large tract of land, several hundred acres, which adjoined the original town site and also the town plot above the Northern Pacific shops east of Brainerd. He erected fine buildings and opened large brick works with a steam plant, and became rich in short order. His domestic matters were not in such good shape as he finally left his wife, went back to Germany, married a young girl there and brought her at once to this country. Going out to Oregon, he built a new home, settling at Cornwallis. Meanwhile Mrs. Schwartz the first, conducted the business at Brainerd making 1,000,000 brick every year and buying a large addition of lots, which she sold off. The dam of the Mississippi Water Power and Boom Company was then located on her property, largely increasing it in value, until $100,000 wouldn't buy all his interests. Among the arrivals from Dakota that winter was Andrew Robinson, a young man about twenty-five years old, shabbily clothed, with shoes, his feet being wrapped in gunny sacks. Borrowing an axe he walked eight miles through the snow to a job of cutting cordwood. Mrs. Schwartz then hired him to chore about the place. He then geew a full beard and drove his employer daily into town in the family buggy. Two weeks ago she made a trip to Oregon, it is supposed in order to make sure that she was free to wed before she permitted herself to be Mrs. Andrew Robinson. And at about fifty years of age she has now secured a husband about half that age, he from the distressed situation in which arrived here, at the same time becoming by all odds the richest man in Brainerd.

Are you bilious and dyspeptic?
Does you liver sluggish seem?
Is your slumber often broken
By a hideous, nightmare dream?
Friend, be wise: The Pleasant Pellets
Make by Dr. Pierce procure,
And they'll bring you back the sunshine
Of good health, you may be sure.

BATES THE BIGAMIST.

A Racy Letter from Mary Ann's Mother

In which she discusses John Thomas Walsh and his Matrimonial Venture.

The mother of Mary Ann Bates, the bigamist, writes as follows to the FARMER:—I am the mother of Mary Ann Bates, and while the said Mary A. Bates was living at Mrs. Pride's she got keeping company with a man by the name of Matt. Wyder, and the people around told Mr. Wyder that she was a married woman, and he backed out. Just about that time John Thomas Walsh one evening while sitting in Mr. Bachelor's house, saw a woman go by, and asked who she was, and was answered by saying that it was Mary Ann Bates. He made reply that he was going to have her for his wife if it was possible. Some time afterwards Mary Ann Bates came to where I was living to ask me if I was willing for their marriage, saying that Walsh said if I was willing he would drive her to Fredericton any day and they would get spliced. This was on Sunday. The next Sunday Walsh hired Bachelors "rig" and drove to Fredericton, and got married on Monday and drove home Monday night. While going home he clashed with a team and broke his wagon. He had to get the wagon mended, and Mary Ann, his spouse, had to sell her chairs and table to pay for the "smash." Mary Ann told Mr. Bachelor that it was carelessness on Walsh's part for the breaking of the wagon. When Bachelor told Walsh what Mary Ann said, he took an axe in his hand and swore he would have her heart's blood. One evening Mary Ann came down and told me she was afraid to stop in the house with that man, for he said he would kill her, and I went one night and stayed, but did not sleep. Next evening he came home from work as usual, in awful humor and began to make some threats and she left and came to Mr. Pride's where I was staying, and Herbert Pride, Mary Ann and I went up to the house. Pride went to go in but Walsh told him to stand back for he would have Mary Ann's life. Pride told Mary Ann and me that Walsh should be taken up, and that he would testify to what he just heard. He, Walsh, hearing this, became alarmed, and said he would go to St. John and get three rooms; for her to go to her home at Grand Lake and make a visit, and that he would send for her in three weeks time. We saw the "notable painter" at the station last, and he gave Mary Ann $5.00, and he bought our tickets to Fredericton, and also gave her a pair of woollen gloves. All the property she has belonging to him is a finger ring and the gloves. All the clothes that Walsh had, was the suit he got married in, which he wore at the station, and a suit of duck he painted in. Mary Ann Bates being absent, I have thought it proper to write this letter.

Yours respectfully,

MARJORIE CAMPBELL.

Hardwood Ridge, Dec. 6, 1887.

ADVICE TO MOTHERS.—Are you disturbed at night and broken of your rest by a sick child suffering and crying with pain of Cutting Teeth? If so send at once and get a bottle of "Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup" for Children Teething. Its value is incalculable. It will relieve the poor little sufferer immediately. Depend upon it, mothers; there is no mistake about it. It cures Dysentery and Diarrhœa, regulates the Stomach and Bowels, cures Wind Colic, softens the Gums, reduces Inflamation, and gives tone and energy to the whole system. "Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup" for children teething is pleasant to the taste and is the prescription of one of the oldest and best female physicians and nurses in the United States, and is for sale by all druggists throughout the world. Price twenty-five cents a bottle. Be sure and ask for "MRS. WINSLOW'S SOOTHING SYRUP," and take no other kind.—Feb. 1, 1y

The brain of an elephant is somewhat larger than that of a man, but the trunk of an elephant is considerably smaller than that of a woman.

The London Lancet tells "how to lie when asleep." If it will teach some people how to keep from lying when awake it will do a public service.

Mrs. Elizabeth Colby, of Bingham, Me., enjoys the distinction of being the only woman in the United States licensed to solemnise marriages. Others are only allowed to make matches.

"Pa, are you going to have any girlvanised iron on our new home?" "Any w-h-a-t-?" "Any girlvanised iron?" "Galvanised, you mean, don't you?" "Yes, pa; but teacher says we mustn't say gal; it's girl."

At a recent entertainment in Philadelphia admission was not by ticket, but by vegetable, each person being required to hand over to the doorkeeper a potato or some other vegetable product. The net proceeds were distributed among the poor.

ANNIE AND WILLIE'S PRAYER.

A Christmas Story.

'Twas the eve before Christmas; "Good-night" had been said,
And Annie and Willie had crept into bed;
There were tears on their pillows, and tears in their eyes,
And each little bosom was heavy with sighs,
For to-night their stern father's command had been given
That they must retire precisely at seven
Instead of eight; for they troubled him more
With questions unheard of than ever before.
He told them he thought this delusion a sin,
No such thing as "Santa Claus" ever had been,
And he hoped, after this, he should never more hear
How he scrambled down chimneys with presents each year,
And this is the reason why two little heads
So restlessly tossed on their soft, downy beds.

Eight, nine, and the clock on the steeple tolled ten—
Not a word had been spoken by either till then;
When Willie's sad face from the blanket did peep,
And whispered, "Dear Annie, is you fast asleep?"
"Why, no, brother Wille," a sweet voice replies,
"I've tried in vain, but I can't shut my eyes;
For somehow it makes me so sorry because
Dear papa had said there was no 'Santa Claus;'
Now *we* know there is, and it can't be denied,
For he came every year before mamma died;
But then I've been thinking that she used to pray,
And God would hear everything mamma would say,
And perhaps she asked him to send Santa Claus here
With the sacks full of presents he brought every year."
"Well, why tan't we pray dest as mamma did then,
And ask him to send him with presents aden?"
"I've been thinking so, too," and without a word more
Four bare little feet bounded out on the floor,
And four little knees the soft carpet pressed,
And two tiny hands were clasped close to each breast.

"Now, Willie, you know we must firmly believe
That the presents we ask for we're sure to receive,
You must wait just as still till I say amen,
And by that you will know that your turn has come then.
Dear Jesus, look down on my brother and me,
And grant us the favor we're asking of thee;
I want a nice book full of pictures, a ring,
A writing desk, too, that shuts with a spring,
Bless Papa, dear Jesus, and cause him to see
That Santa Claus loves us as much even as he;
Don't let him get fretful and angry again
At dear brother Willie and Annie, amen!"
"Please, Desus, 'et Santa Taus tome down to-night,
And bring us some presents before it is 'ight,
I want he sould dive me a bright little box,
Full of ac'obats, some other nice blocks,
And a bag full of tandy, a book, and a toy,
Amen, and then, Desus, I'll be a dood boy."
Their prayers being ended, they raised up their heads,
And with hearts light and cheerful again sought their beds;
They were soon lost in slumber—both peaceful and deep,
And with fairies in dream-land were roaming in sleep.

Eight, nine, and the little French clock had struck ten
Ere the father had thought of his children again;
He seemed now to hear Annie's half-smothered sighs,
And to see the big tears standing in Willie's blue eyes.
"I was harsh with my darlings," he mentally said,
"And should not have sent them so early to bed,
But when I was troubled—my feelings found vent,
For bank stock to-day has gone down ten per cent,
But of course they've forget their troubles ere this,
But then I denied them the thrice asked for kiss;
But just to make sure I'll steal up to their door,
For I never spoke harsh to my darlings before."

So saying he softly ascended the stairs,
And arriving at the door heard both of their prayers,
His Annie's "bless papa" draws forth the big tears,
And Willie's grave promise fall sweet on his ear.
"Strange, strange, I've forgotten," said he, with a sigh,
"How I longed when a child to see Christmas draw nigh.
I'll atone for my harshness," he inwardly said,
"By answering their prayers' ere I sleep in my bed."

Then he turned to the stairs and softly went down,
Threw off velvet slippers and silk dressing-gown,
Donned hat, coat and boots, and was out in the street—
A millionaire facing the cold winter sleet;
He first went to a wonderful "Santa Claus" store
He knew it, for he'd passed it the day before,
And there he found crowds on the same errand as he,
Making purchase of presents with glad heart and free,
Nor stopped he until he had bought everything
From a box full of candy to a tiny gold ring,
Indeed, he kept adding so much to his store
That the various presents outnumbered a score!
Then homeward he turned with his holiday load,
And with Aunt Mary's aid in the nursery 'twas stowed.
Miss Dolly was seated beneath a pine tree,
By the side of a table spread out for a tea;
A writing desk then in the centre was laid,
And on it a ring for which Annie had prayed;
Four acrobats painted in yellow and red
Stood with a block house on a beautiful sled;
There were balls, dogs and horses, books pleasing to see,
And birds of all colors were perched in the tree;
While Santa Claus, laughing, stood up in the top
As if getting ready for more presents to drop;
And as the fond father the picture surveyed
He thought for his trouble he had amply been paid;
And he said to himself as he brushed off a tear,
"I'm happier to-night than I have been for a year.
I've enjoyed more true pleasure than ever before.
What care I if bank stock falls ten per cent, more?
Hereafter I'll make it a rule, I believe,
To have Santa Claus visit us each Christmas eve."

So thinking he gently extinguished the light,
And tripped down the stairs to retire for the night,
As soon as the beams of the bright morning sun
Put the darkness to flight and the stars one by one,
Four little blue eyes out of sleep opened wide,
And at the same moment the presents espied,
Then out of their beds they sprang with a bound,
And the very gifts prayed for were all of them found;
They laughed and they cried in their innocent glee,
And shouted for papa to come quick and see
What presents old Santa Claus had brought in the night
(Just the things they had wanted) and left before light

"And now," said Annie, in a voice soft and low,
"You'll believe there's a Santa Claus, papa, I know;"
While dear little Willie climbed up on his knee,
Determined no secret between them should be;
And told in soft whispers, how Annie had said,
That their dear, blessed mamma, so long ago dead,
Used to kneel down and pray by the side of her chair,
And that God, up in heaven, had answered her prayer!
"Then we dot up and prayed dest as well as we totid,
And Dod answered our prayers; now wasn't he dood?"
"I should say that he was if he sent you all these,
And knew just what presents my children would please
(Well, well, let him think so, the dear little elf,
'Twould be cruel to tell him I did it myself).

Blind father! who caused your stern heart to relent?
And the hasty word spoken so soon to repent?
'Twas the Being who bade you steal softly up stairs,
And made you his agent to answer their prayers.