

SOME CHRISTMAS JOYS.

SOMETHING OLD SANTA HAS PROVIDED FOR THE CHILDREN.

The Christmas of 1898 is especially rich in things that will delight the young folks—Love of Dolls not falling off—Some Pretty Toys.

Santa Claus is in a very good mood this year and is in an unusually jolly humor even for him. Last year he saw how things were going when he came down from his big factories up in the snow clouds he saw just how hard the children were studying and how scientifically they were being trained.

"Gee whiz!" he said to himself with a characteristic shake of his long flowing locks, "do parents and school teachers think they know more than old Santa Claus? Well, I guess not. I'll set my fairy factory operatives at work and next year I'll bring out a layout of toys for good little boys and girls that will make the eyes of those who talk so much of scientific child study just pop out of their heads."

Now it there is one thing Santa Claus prides himself on its keeping his word, so sure enough despite the big snowstorms and wind and rain storms he landed right here on time with just the finest collection of Christmas novelties he had ever brought before. You see them all over the city. Before various windows good little boys and girls stand on their way home from school—and just as many very bad ones—to see them and to select what they want. City children have this advantage over those living in the country. Country children, even if they are ever so good are obliged to take just what Santa brings down the chimney and leaves for them. And his judgment isn't always infallible, even if his intentions are of the very best. Not so with city children. Santa Claus has shops and agencies and warehouses all over the city, and they can go there from the poorest to the richest look at the beautiful toys and say what they want.

"In what do the toys of 1898 differ from other toys?" was asked this week of the proprietor of a big toy shop.

"Well" he answered with a look around, "the things this year are designed to bring out a child's natural bent. Now what little girl could play with these articles of household furniture and not acquire a taste for housekeeping, home furnishing and decorations," and the man of toys waved his hand toward what seemed a miniature factory of all the requisites of a well furnished home.

There were bureaus, commodes, beds, sideboards, china dishes, stoves, tables, chairs and complete parlor suits.

What woman lives who in her childhood days, has not longed for a tiny cooking stove? Once only tin stoves were to be had. Later iron stoves were put on the market, and this year they have reached a high state of perfection.

Just so has every little girl sometime in her life had the tea set fever. Her grandmother's set was of pewter. Her little girls was of china but this year tea sets have been superseded by real dinner sets, some of which are 144 pieces. Dinner sets and tea sets would be of no earthly use without tables and table linen and these things have therefore been provided and any smart child can soon do these things so perfectly as to give her mother pleasant visions of future helpfulness.

Mechanical toys always interest little folks and they seem now to be more complex than ever before. A clown magician who cuts his own head off and yanks it on again and at the same time gives a jack-in-the-box show, throws the little ones into fits of laughter. A Japanese juggler is no less funny and a dancing girl gets round in an astonishing manner. A female tight-rope walker comes in for a good deal of attention and as she balances herself on a perch finds high favor in the hearts of the children. Children like unexpected toys. At a very early age they show signs of what later in life turns out to be a capacity for wanting what they can't get. Nobody would dream of giving a very poor child one of these expensive mechanical toys and the children of the poor are the ones who stand before them with open eyes and mouth, while little boys and girls whose parents have money—nearly said money to burn—are apt to pass them by with an impatient glance and seize on some little contrivance that sells for a few cents. Oh human nature, even in children is just the funniest thing imaginable.

Imagine among mechanical toys a good fat hen that lays an egg as she walks along. A cow that gives milk in the regulation way finds a warm corner in the children's heart. True it is disillusionizing to see some one lift up a trap door in the cows back and pour the milk in, but when the trap door is shut up and tiny fingers milk the cow, one forgets how the milk has gone in. These cows have lots of other animals to

keep them company. There are pigs that grunt, sheep that bleat, billy goats, performing monkeys, dancing bears and cats.

Of course the craze for bicycling has invaded doll-dom and both boy and girl dolls ride single wheels, tandem and tricycles. While Santa Claus has been paying so much attention to all these new things the little girls who love dolls will be thinking that he has forgotten all about them. Banish the thought! How he ever managed so many babies at once nobody knows, but he has brought the most exquisite dolls to town this year that have ever been seen, around these parts. There is not a word of truth in the oft repeated assertion that children don't love dolls any more. This year the dolls are of every size and age, and every degree of social position. Only think of being able this year to buy a doll eighteen or twenty inches long that opens and shuts its eyes for 25 cents. The most exquisite care is displayed in the dolls dresses and millinery, and a whole long counter full of these dainty creatures is a sight to behold. Christmas tree trimmings are gorgeous, and consist of silver and gold tinsel, useful little globes, gilt baskets for bon-bons, imitation apples, peaches, pears and bananas that are running over with all sorts of tummy surprises.

Some children prefer hanging up their stockings to Christmas trees and for such there are highly colored stockings ornamented with jingling brass, bells and ribbons. One of these stockings will hold more than Santa Claus would dream of leaving. In the way of new games there is everything imaginable, including puff billiards which is one of the newest things out, and pleases the youngsters immensely. It is played in the following manner; the tables are in three sizes the largest for six players and the smallest smallest for three. The object of the game is to keep the small cork balls out of the pocket by means of the rubber puffs which look like tiny bellows and are held in position on the sides. Miniature golf is another favorite and requires no little skill. Magnificent carved boxes with sets for playing checkers, chess, dominoes, and many other things are furnished throughout with ivory, and cost a pretty good round sum. Books for children are very much improved. In some of them the pictures are changed by simply pulling a little piece of card board. In others the pictures pull out accordion fashion and the characters assume life like poses.

People often say, "There are absolutely no toys suitable for a child under six months of age." Evidently Santa Claus got tired of hearing this complaint, for this season he has willow baskets filled to the brim with rubber dolls, balls, cows, sheep, pigs, goats, and every other animal known to man, especially prepared for infants. Each one of these things makes a noise of some kind and the sharpest little teeth ever cut can't find their way through them.

SUITABLE XMAS GIFTS.

A Non-Leakable Fountain Pen Leads Them All.

Among the numerous things that are attracting so much attention among D. McArthur's splendid array of Christmas goods is the non-leakable fountain pen which he is offering for sale. It is one of the most suitable things imaginable for a holiday gift and is coming largely into favour as such. Moore's improved non-leakable is the pen kept by McArthur, which is warranted not to leak, dry, clog, or blot and can be carried in any position in the pocket, or elsewhere without-leaking. Those who have used this pen say it is a positively safe and perfect one and it comes in sizes to fit the vest pocket will no doubt be in great demand especially as a gift for gentlemen. The pen is air and ink tight and as it cannot evaporate, remains moist, and if it should not be used for months is warranted to mark the moment it touches the paper. The barrels have gold bands, plain or chased, and the pen is certainly one of the most suitable things that can be imagined for a Christmas gift to a friend.

McArthur's toy, book and game department is also replete with all the very latest novelties at surprisingly low prices, and a big figure of Santa Claus especially imported from Germany is one of the interesting features of the attractive windows. The benevolent old gentleman is surrounded with dolls of all sizes and conditions, mechanical toys, books, etc.

The collection of souvenir china, pictures, dressing cases, mirrors and leather goods is large and elegant. Mr. McArthur has certainly left nothing undone to make his store a leader in the very choicest Christmas goods.

Short-Sighted Country Lady: "Hi, driver, any room?" Driver of Prison Van: "Not to-day, ma'am. Full up!"

DIET A CAUSE OF SUICIDE.

Physician Thinks he has Discovered the Reason of Self-Destruction.

Dr. Haig is of the opinion that suicide may be traced to error in diet, the error being the eating of meat, the drinking of beer and tea, and the smoking of tobacco. His facts all fall comfortably into their places in support of his hypothesis. Are there not more suicides among men than among women, and do not men consume more meat, more beer and more tobacco than the women? Again, suicide is more common in England than in Scotland, not apparently because the Scotch are a more canny race, but because the English eat more meat and drink more beer, while the Scotch eat less meat and drink whisky instead of beer.

After maintaining that suicide was less common among the Scotch, it was perhaps hardly polite, when addressing a Scotch audience, to go on to say that suicide increased with civilization. But the fact was explained on the ground of more injurious diet, that of civilized man being productive of uric acid and thus of suicide than that which prevails where civilization is less advanced. Uric acid is, in fact, at the bottom of all this, and, according to Dr. Haig, the incidence of suicide tallies with the daily, annual and life fluctuations of uric acid in the blood, being commonest when uric acid is most abundant.

We have no doubt that errors of diet are responsible for much, and, among other things, for a certain number of suicides. nay, we would go further and admit that unsuitable diet, derangement of the proper relation between nutrition and waste, and the consequent loading of the tissues and the blood with abnormal products of metabolism, have much to do with that ill temper and discontent which lead men to lay their hands violently, often upon their neighbors, and sometimes on themselves. All this may be taken for granted, but it is at present far from proved that the peccant material is in all cases the same, and still further are we from being agree that uric acid is the origin of the evil.—Pittsburgh Dispatch.

JOKE WAS ON THE TOWN.

Grand Demonstration for a Horse Named After President Lincoln.

One of the unwritten war stories is told by an old farmer of Michigan, who now has two sons in Cuba, says the Detroit Free Press.

"Long about '63" he relates, "I was pretty deep in the stock business, for the war was making a good demand for everything in that line. One of my deals was to buy a fine horse down in Indiana for breeding purposes. His owner, having a great admiration for Honest Old Abe, gave the horse that name. I made the dicker in and the horse was to be shipped soon's the weather moderated.

"Early one mornin' I got a telegraph statin' that 'Old Abe' would reach our place 'that afternoon. I went into town 'bout four o'clock and there was the blam-bested racket you ever see. The ban' was out tootin' to kill, the little old brass cannon was mounted on the hind wheels of a wagon for a gun carriage, people was dressed in their best clothes, the president of the village was rushin' round givin' orders, the flags were all out, no bus'ness was bein' done and the crowd at the station was stretchin' their necks to see the train, that wasn't due for more'n'n hour.

"I heard that the President of the United States was coming and jined in with the sport till I happened to learn how the telegraph operator had give it out that 'Old Abe' was expected. Then I caught on to the mistake and gave out the true story. The people was mad at first then they laughed as though the whole town was crazy, and at last they wound up by holding something between a picnic and a war meeting."

Who is The Sloner? A Fair Question.

The publishers of the FAMILY HERALD and WEEKLY STAR lately put the above straight question to their subscribers, some of whom sometimes become indignant when they receive notice that their papers have been stopped owing to their own failure to renew in time. We can understand how it is impossible for a large paper like the FAMILY HERALD and WEEKLY STAR to allow subscriptions to continue beyond the expiry date, unless a renewal is received in good time. The publishers of the FAMILY HERALD pay great attention to their old subscribers, but they justly claim the right to cut off promptly all names not renewed on time. This is business, and the only business-like plan with a metropolitan paper of such wide circulation. New subscriptions from every post office in Canada are simply flooding into the FAMILY HERALD, and this country seems to be in line, because the FAMILY HERALD and WEEKLY STAR is to be found in a large percentage of the homes. The FAMILY HERALD is undoubtedly the biggest and best dollar's worth to be had.

A Curious Stage Custom.

It is not generally known that the last three or four words of a new dramatic production are never spoken during the rehearsal of the piece; most frequently they are never written by the author. The superstitions of the theatrical world is that it would be certain to bring bad luck to the piece if the last words were pronounced on the stage before the first night. But as the play must have an end, and it should be known to all present that it is should be known to all present that it is an end, the actor or actress intrusted with the last lines usually interpolates a word or two. For instance the actor would say: 'My dear girl, my dear boy, kneel before me, that I may forgive you and bless you with—a farting cake.'

S.H.&M. This is Bias Velveteen BIAS BRUSH EDGE. The ONLY Skirt Binding with an Indestructible Wearing Edge, a Rich and Elegant Facing and a Natural Curve conforming perfectly to the shape of the skirt. S. H. & M. is stamped on every yard of the genuine. The S. H. & M. CO., 24 Front St. W., Toronto, Ont.



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That Paper Boy Again. The cyclist was a stranger in literary Fleet Street. That was evident from the cautious manner in which he picked his way through the half-empty thoroughfare. It was evening. The penny-a-liner approached him. 'Sir,' said he, 'your beacon has ceased its functions.' 'Sir,' gasped the cyclist. 'Your illuminator, I say, is shrouded in unmitigated oblivion.' 'Really! but I don't quite—' 'The effulgence of your irradiator has evanesced.' 'My dear fellow! I—' 'The transversal ether oscillations in your incandenser have been discontinued.' Just then an unsophisticated little paper-boy shouted across the street:— 'Hey, mister, yer lamp's out!'

THINGS OF VALUE.

In Spain Jews are not permitted to erect and maintain houses of worship. They have no civil rights and exist in the kingdom only as aliens. It must be going to the Spaniards to know that the judge who officiated in the Maine court of inquiry, Lieutenant Commander Marx, is a Jew.

Dr. J. D. Kellogg's Dysentery Cordial is a speedy cure for dysentery or diarrhoea, cholera, summer complaint, sea-sickness and complaints incidental to children's teaching. It gives immediate relief to those suffering from the effects of indigestion in eating unripe fruit, cucumbers etc. It acts with wonderful rapidity and never fails to conquer the disease. No one need fear cholera if they have a bottle of this medicine convenient.

The hottest region on the earth is on the southwestern coast of Persia, where Persia borders the gulf of the same name. For forty consecutive days in July and August the thermometer has not fallen lower than 100 degrees, night or day, and often mounted as high as 128 degrees.

Worms cause feverishness, moaning and restlessness during sleep. Mother Graves' Worm Expeller is pleasant, sure, and effectual. If your druggist has none in stock, get him to procure it for you.

Someone has undertaken to show how Ireland might be made to prosper. There are two thousand parishes which ought to turn out fifty pigs weekly. This would give a desirable total of 9,200,000 annually, which, sold at ordinary prices, would bring in a big return.

Is there anything more annoying than having your corn stepped upon? Is there anything more delightful than getting rid of it? Holloway's Corn Cure will do it. Try it and be convinced.

The old negroes of San Juan, Porto Rico, who sell vegetables in the markets, smoke long black cigars, and strange to relate, they often smoke them with the lighted ends in their mouths.

Messrs Northrup & Lyman Co. are the proprietors of Dr. THOMAS' ELECTRIC OIL, which is now being sold in immense quantities throughout the Dominion. It is welcomed by suffering invalids everywhere with emotions of delight, because it banishes pain and gives instant relief. This valuable specific for almost "every ill that flesh is heir to," is valued by the sufferer as more precious than gold. It is the elixir of life to many a wasted frame. To the farmer it is indispensable, and it should be in every house.

A woman is a partner in her husband's joys and sorrows, and often gets the largest dividends in the latter.

FOR THE OVERWORKED.—What are the causes of dependency and melancholy? A disordered liver is one cause and a prime one. A disordered liver means a disordered stomach, and a disordered stomach means disturbance of the nervous system. This brings the whole body into subjection and the victim feels sick all over. Farmer's Vegetable Pills are a recognized remedy in this state and relief will follow their use.

It is odd, but true, that the man who speak without thinking is the one most apt to say what he thinks. SOMETHING MORE THAN A PURGATIVE.—To Purge is the only effect of many pills now on the market. Farmer's Vegetable Pills are more than a purgative. They strengthen the stomach, where other pills weaken it. They cleanse the blood by regulating the liver and kidneys, and they stimulate where other pill compounds depress. Nothing of an injurious nature, used for merely purgative powers, enter into their composition. The man who tells you that he is about to turn over a new leaf implies too much about the old one.

'Papa,' said Tommy Tredway. 'Now, Tommy,' replied Mr. Tredway, 'I shall answer you one more question today, so be careful what you ask.' 'Yes, papa.' 'Well, go on.' 'Why don't they bury the Dead Sea?' Doctor: 'Will you ever get well? Why, I'll have you on your feet again in a week.' Patient: 'That will never do. The railway company has promised to send a man up about that time to agree on a compromise.'

CONDENSED ADVERTISEMENTS.

Announcements under this heading not exceeding five lines (about 35 words) cost 25 cents each insertion. Five cents extra for every additional line.

WANTED ENERGETIC MEN AND WOMEN local or traveling to introduce and advertise new line—Experience unnecessary—\$50.00 per month and expenses paid. THE CALVIN CO., Toronto.

HOLIDAY GIFT GENUINE CLOVER Ring 14 carat, solid gold, hard enameled with genuine pearl setting, ONE DOLLAR each. Money refunded if not satisfactory. SHAYNE & Co., Dept. F, Box 473, Halifax, N. S.

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BE YOUR OWN BOSS WE will start you in your own home at once. You can make \$25 a week. Money will be coming in every day. First answer will get this fine start. EDEN PERFUME CO., Box 79, Parisboro, N. S.

BICYCLE THIS YEAR "MASSEY HARRIS," FOR SALE. A 1898 model Massey-Harris bicycle, ridden very little purchased in the middle of June. Nothing at all wrong with the machine, the owner having to discontinue its use through ill health. Cost \$75, cash will be sold at big reduction for cash. The wheel is 22 inch frame and handsomely enameled and nickel-plated—Address communication to "Bicycle" Progress Office.

STAMPS COLLECTIONS and old stamps bought for cash. Particulars and state size of collection or send list. For particular address Box 388 St. John, N. B.

RESIDENCE at Rothsay for sale or to rent for the summer months. That pleasantly situated house known as the Titus property about one and a half miles from Rothsay Station and within two minutes walk of the Kennebecasis. Rent reasonable. Apply to H. G. Fenety, Barrister-at-Law, Pugsley Building. 24 6-11

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