

Democratic Watchman

Belleville, Pa., Dec. 20, 1895.

JIMMYBOY'S LETTER TO SANTA CLAUS.

Dear Santa Claus, If you could bring
A patent doll to dance and sing,
A five-pound box of caramels,
A set of reins with silver bells,
An elephant that roars and walks,
A Brownie doll that laughs and talks,
A humming top that I can spin,
A desk to put my treasures in;
A boat or two that I can sail,
A dog to bark or wag his tail,
A pair of little bottom wheels,
A chest of tools, a box of tricks,
A scarlet suit of soldier's togs,
A spear and net for catching frogs,
A bicycle and silver watch,
A pound or two of butterscotch;
A small toy farm with lots of trees,
A gun to load with beans and peas,
An orange and a music box,
A double set of building-blocks—
If you will bring me these I say,
Before the coming Christmas day,
I sort of think, perhaps, that I'd
Be pretty nearly satisfied.

—Harper's Young People.

The Story of "Shorty."

A Christmas Wish and a Christmas Eve Tragedy.

"Shorty" scurried out of the alley like a hunted and frightened rat. And, indeed, he was little more than a rat—a human rat fighting for existence and accountable for his pennies to the set who claimed the relationship of father. He was a tiny boy, was "Shorty," and that is why the other newsboys and bootblacks gave him a title. His other name? It might have been Thomas or Frank or William something or other, but what difference does that make? He was in a multitude of street gamins, and if you had asked him his name it is doubtful if he could have told you. "Shorty" answered every purpose, and he had heard it so long that it would not have been surprising if he had lost trace of his own identity.

The alley was dark and chilly, and when "Shorty" emerged into South street, with its electric lights and dense throngs of Christmas shoppers, it was like the transformation scene at the theatre that the boys looked down upon from the giddy heights of the upper gallery. "Shorty" was perfectly familiar with South street, but never before had it appeared so brilliant to him—and so noisy. There was safety here, from his father, and he joined the kaleidoscopic procession and moved with it. There were Italians and Russians with their queer language, sailors out on a lark, men, women and children from the slums. There were frisks innumerable. There were great strings of boots and shoes, dress goods, hats, red stockings and wearing apparel in general hanging in front of the little stores. There was a confectioner's establishment, with a counter displaying the like of which could be found nowhere else. There were butchers' stalls with turkeys and chickens in abundance, and bake shops with windows filled with cakes. But it was before a window with pictures displayed in cheap frames that "Shorty" stopped.

He had been there before, and every time that he had passed he had looked for one particular picture. It was still there, in spite of the Christmas Eve shoppers. It was that of a woman—a face looking out from behind a setting of long silken hair—a sweet face that "Shorty" had idealized until to him it had become angelic. At the mission he had learned of heaven and the angels—a misty knowledge, perhaps, but there was a happy home somewhere and his mother dead these two years, was there. He knew that. No one could shake his faith that his mother was an angelic being; the mother, who had been so kind and tender and had brought happiness into his young life.

The crowd swept him away, once, twice, but he struggled back again, for in his fancy that beautiful face was his mother's and it brought back recollections of Christmas Eves of the past, when he was not beaten and driven into the streets for security by a drunken father.

As he stood there he became conscious that his mother was repeating his story. "Yes, I know him," the womanly voice at his elbow was saying. "His mother was an excellent woman. It is a sad case. She died and left him in the care of his father, who has become a contemptible brute. The boy had good instincts. If he could be taken from the alleys and properly trained he could be saved for good purposes. There will be no Christmas cheer for him unless you can do something for him."

"Shorty" looked up into the pleasant face that was smiling at him from under the peculiar bonnet worn by the workers of the Salvation Army. The man by her side might have been a city missionary. The boy thought he had seen him at the mission where soup and coffee were sometimes given to the hungry ones of the streets.

"Well, my little man what would you like for a Christmas present?" asked the missionary kindly. "Shorty's" eyes filled with tears. "I want to see her," he said pointing to the picture. And then, in a burst of boyish anguish: "I wish I was dead."

"Who is it?" asked the missionary. "My mother," sobbed the boy. "Here, you!" There was a stir in the crowd, a jostle extending from one to another. Someone was pushing through with muttered curses, and the people gave way before him.

"Shorty" heard the voice. No one needed to tell him that it was his father's. With a frightened look he plunged toward the street, barely escaping his father's clenched fists. He reached the curb and sprang towards the street car-track. A car with its whizzing roller was rapidly approaching but "Shorty" could not stop for that. If there was danger in front there was also danger behind.

It was all over in a minute before the spectators could realize what was happening. The bell clanged, the brakes were applied, but all too late. No one knew just how it occurred, but there was a cry of horror when the wheels dragged and crushed the life out of the puny body. It was one more murder added to the list.

The Salvationist and the missionary

helped a policeman to carry the mangled form into a neighboring store and the crowd stood around on the outside, just as crowds will do upon every occasion. "Well," said the missionary, as the officer went out to ring for the ambulance, "he has had his Christmas present. He wanted to see his mother. He will see her to-night," but his voice shook and there was a tear in his eye as he said it.

A Generous Offer—\$200.00 in Gold Given.

R. H. Woodward Company, Baltimore, Md., are making a very generous offer of \$200.00 to anyone who will sell within three months 200 copies of "Talks to Children about Jesus." This is one of the most popular books of recent years. Agents often sell from 10 to 15 copies a day. It contains a great many beautiful illustrations, and is sold at a remarkably low price. They give credit, and pay freight, and send complete canvassing outfit for 35 cents. It is just the book to be sold for the holidays. They also offer an Estey Organ, retail price \$270, to anyone who will sell 110 books in three months. It is an excellent opportunity for a church or society to secure one of these organs. A \$100.00 bicycle to be given for selling 80 copies in two months, or a gold watch for selling 60 copies in one month. This premium is in addition to the regular commission. They have also published a new book, "Gems of Religious Thought," by Talmage, which is having a large sale. Same terms and premiums as given a liberal commission. They also make a specialty of other books and Bibles for Xmas holidays. Write them immediately.

40-49-21.

What use is there in eating when food does you no good—in fact, when it does you more harm than good, for such is the case if it is not digested. If you have a loathing for food there is no use of forcing it down, for it will not be digested. You must restore the digestive organs to their natural strength and cause the food to be digested when an appetite will come, and with it a relish for food.

The tired, languid feeling will give place to vigor and energy, then you will put flesh on your bones and become strong. The Shaker Digestive Cordial as made by the Mount Lebanon Shakers contains food already digested and is a digester of food as well. Its action is prompt and its effects permanent.

The Philadelphia Record's Almanac for 1896 is among the first of those useful publications to reach this office. It is well gotten up, and contains a vast amount of information about the city of Brotherly Love, as well as many useful facts about the world and things in general.

The climax Brandy of 1876 Vintage has proven to be a superior distillation, and with years of ripening is now put upon the market by the Speer N. Wine Co. It is a superior mellow brandy, possessing all the medicinal properties for which brandies from grapes are so eminently useful. Sold by druggists.

Waiter—What will you have? Shorty—Well, something cheap. Waiter—Right! I'll bring you some beef tongue and oxtail soup.

Asthma, Hay Fever and kindred ailments absolutely cured by a newly discovered specific treatment sent by mail. Pamphlet with reference mailed free. Address, World's Dispensary Medical Association, 603 Main Street, Buffalo, N. Y.

Congress should be in no hurry about making states out of New Mexico and Arizona. They can both afford to wait.

Cameron says he has had enough, and at last he has struck a responsive chord in the popular heart.

Tourists.

Great Reduction in Time to California. Once more North-Western Line has reduced the time of its trans-continental trains, and the journey from Chicago to California via this popular route is now made in the marvellously short time of three days. Palace Drawing-Room Sleeping cars leave Chicago daily, and run through to San Francisco and Los Angeles without change, and all meals en route are served in dining cars. Daily Tourist Sleeping car service is also maintained by this line between Chicago and San Francisco and Los Angeles, completely equipped berths in upholstered Tourist Sleepers being furnished at a cost of only \$6.00 each from Chicago to the Pacific coast. Through trains leave Chicago for California at 6.00 p. m. and 10.30 p. m. daily, after arrival of trains of connecting lines from the East and South.

For detailed information concerning rates, routes, etc., apply to ticket agents of connecting lines or address: H. A. Gross, G. E. P., 423 Broadway, New York. T. P. Vail, S. E. P., 112 South Fourth Street, Philadelphia, Pa.

Prospectus.

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Prospectus.

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Price, from \$10 to \$15, according to binding. Sold only by subscription—not in the book-stores. For particulars address the publishers: THE CENTURY CO., 40-50-1m Union Square, New York.

New Advertisements.

NOTICE OF INQUEST IN PARTITION.—To the heirs of the estate of Margaret Reese, deceased, late of Union Township, Centre county, Pa., to wit: To T. M. Reese, Conrad, Potter county, Pa.; Anna E. Homan, Phillipsburg, Centre county, Pa.; Clara J. Snyder, Union, Blair county, Pa.; Bella Wells, Clearfield, Centre county, Pa.; Eureka E. Hoover, Fleming, Centre county, Pa.; Lucy V. Marshall, Lycoming county, Pa.; Francis M. Reese, Milesburg, Centre county, Pa.; George B. Reese, Pottsville, Centre county, Pa.; and to the heirs of the said Margaret Reese, to wit: To T. M. Reese, Conrad, Potter county, Pa.; Anna E. Homan, Phillipsburg, Centre county, Pa.; Clara J. Snyder, Union, Blair county, Pa.; Bella Wells, Clearfield, Centre county, Pa.; Eureka E. Hoover, Fleming, Centre county, Pa.; Lucy V. Marshall, Lycoming county, Pa.; Francis M. Reese, Milesburg, Centre county, Pa.; George B. Reese, Pottsville, Centre county, Pa.; and to the heirs of the said Margaret Reese, to wit: To T. M. 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