

SANTA CLAUS A STRANGER.

He is Officially Unknown to Uncle Sam's Mail Agents. The postoffice department does not know Santa Claus. The old saint has no official existence so far as Uncle Sam's mail agents are concerned. This is due entirely to the fact that Santa Claus lives everywhere at the same time instead of having a single local habitation like other people. It is very sad, but it cannot be helped. Letters which children address to Santa Claus or Kris Kringle must go straight to the dead letter office.

Some time ago an effort on behalf of the children was made to induce the postoffice department to permit postmasters to open all letters addressed to Santa Claus and turn them over to the parents of the child correspondent or to some local organization having a Christmas fund to spend, but the attorney general for the department rendered an adverse decision, holding as follows:

If postmasters were granted authority to open all such letters and select those which they thought proper to deliver to persons applying for them, there would be temptation and opportunity for postmasters and other employees to open letters indiscriminately, some of which contain inclosures of value, and give us an excuse for such action, the authority granted by the department.

The department's legal adviser also was of the opinion that, if permission were granted to deliver such letters to benevolent societies and individuals, it would be difficult for the department to draw the line where benevolence ends and commercialism begins. Many persons desire such letters for use in newspapers and magazine stories, the name of the child of some prominent public man attached to such a letter making it especially valuable for that purpose and often correspondingly embarrassing to the parent of the child. Furthermore, the opinion states, such a practice would violate the principle of the sanctity of the seal, which is one of the best features of our postal system, and the department would continually be open to serious suspicion.

Candles For Christmas.

Christmas candlemakers are busy for many months in the year. It would be impossible to estimate how many hundreds of thousands of dozens of pretty little colored wax candles are required for Christmas trees all over Europe and America. There are also candles for church decoration at Christmas. Whereas the Christmas tree tapers are, some of them, so tiny as to require seventy-two to make a pound, the great altar shafts of pure beeswax will sometimes stand six feet and weigh forty pounds apiece.—Tit-Bits.

Hurry Up Santa Claus!

Vander Mistah Chris'mus,
Loafin' long de way,
"He slower than a railroad"—
Dat what chillun say.
Dey wants 'im fer ter hurry up
An' pass de time er day,
Dreamin' 'bout de comin' er de Chris'mos!
—Atlanta Constitution.

Elsie's "Little New Year."

DEAR little Elsie, clad in white,
Slipped from her trundle bed one night.
She was thinking: "I heard mamma
Telling auntie and my papa
That she was going to watch and see
The New Year come, but she didn't tell
me!
Nobody tells me things at all.
S'pose it's because I'm only small!"



But I guess I know what I'm going to do—
I'm going to watch for the New Year too."

BUT presently, in a soft white heap,
Sank Elsie down to the floor asleep,
And while in dreamland she wandered about
The New Year came and the old went out.
And not till morning flooded the skies
Did Elsie open her drowsy eyes,
To find, all cuddled in mamma's bed,
A cunning new little golden head.
Gazing in wonder first at mamma,
Then at auntie, then at papa,
At last, with a laugh so joyous and clear:
"Oh, now I know! This is little New Year!"

WAYNE S. BOROUGH,

The New Year In Philadelphia

Wonderful Parade of Knights of Misrule.

By Frederick R. Toombs.

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MR. UPSIDE DOWN ON PARADE.

YOU really ought not to spend New Year's day in Philadelphia if you have made resolutions that you want very much to live up to, for very likely you will not be able to resist the fascinations of participating in the annual celebration of the renowned "Shooters." Existing nowhere else in the world, the Shooters are latter day prototypes of the Mummers that flourished for scores of years in England and France. Their watchword could well be: "Death to sorrow, Joy is the one fit companion of mankind."

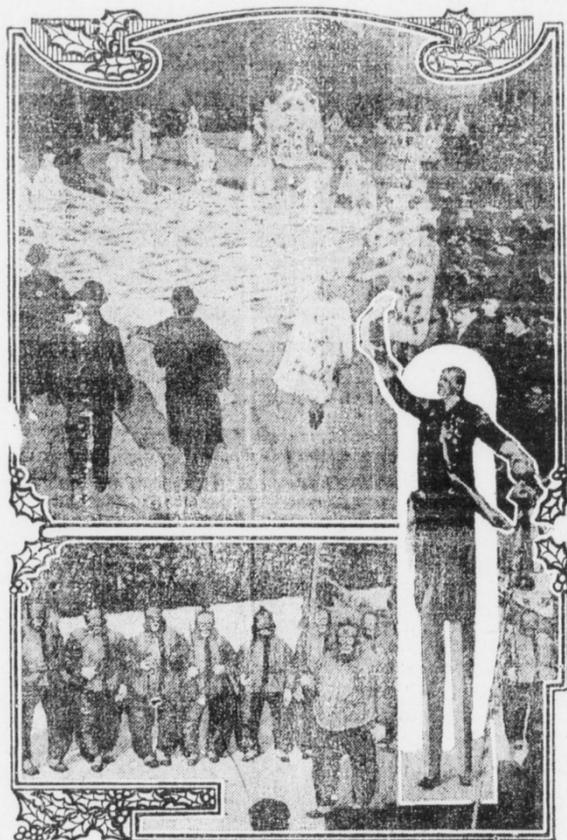
Preaching continually the doctrines of happiness and jocularly, the Shooters open each New Year with a rousing feast day to the memory of the shade of King Momus, the accredited inspirer of the cult, which dearly loves to have its members known as Knights of Misrule. Such a riot of color and gaiety as marks the gigantic parade of the Shooters, which is the particular feature of their celebration, is certainly not seen anywhere else in America. From six to ten thousand paraders in extravagant costumes have appeared in their pageants of recent years. As many as a half million people have gathered along the line of march. The prizes offered are the most valuable ever put up for elaborateness or originality in costume and acrobatic. The city of Philadelphia always appropriates \$5,000 yearly to swell the prize fund, which is largely made up of con-

and received some valuable advertising.

Predominating features of the pageant are humorous costuming, antics and floats representing with carefully enacted characters various public happenings of interest or importance. The "Irish Indians" are a popular bevy of contestants annually. These characters have been given faces made from coconut shells, but the libel on the Celtic race has never yet caused trouble. Citizens of "Topsy Turvy Land," who appear to walk on their hands, have proved immense laugh provokers, as also have eighteen foot giants (on stilts), "typhoid fever germs" in human form from the Schuylkill river, according to signs; the order of "White Caps," the "Home Breakers" association, the "Wyoming Hayseeds," the "Boiled Owls," the "Red Onions," politicians on floats and shown to be walking railroad ties since passes were abolished; the "Woggle Bugs," resembling a cross between a boll weevil and a grinning grampus, etc.

When exposures were made of graft in a branch of Pennsylvania state politics the procession of that year had a float on which had been built a cemetery in miniature, and over it was a huge sign bearing this legend: "Hail, Hail, the Gang's All Here."

For almost a hundred years the celebration has been developing until today it even outclasses the original phantasmagorias of England in the eleventh century and of Normandy and France at a later date. William the Conqueror held the first pageant of this nature after the battle of Hastings, and it became a regular feature of British Christmases in the ages of chivalry. Venturesome knights would break each other's skulls in the festivals of those days, but as Philadelphia is the City of Brotherly Love



A KING AND HIS TRAIN, "IRISH INDIANS" AND A GIGANTIC SURVIVOR OF THE MAINE.

tributions from merchants, clubs, interested individuals and organizations taking part in the pageant. Prizes are offered for the best dressed paraders, the most elaborate, the most humorous, the most unique, etc., and it is possible for an individual to capture prizes enough offered for the same specialty to amount to \$3,000. How is that for a prize for a masquerade ball (outdoors) costume?

Shooter parades have grown until they now average from five to six miles in length, requiring from five to six hours to pass a given point. Some of the costumes are so extravagantly made that it is no uncommon sight for one of the many personages, representing kings, to have a gown with a train a city block long and a block wide, reaching from curb to curb. One contestant in last year's festival had a gown of such dimensions, and it required forty page boys to carry the train clear of the street. Even with all that help the "king" was wearied by the burden to such an extent that he fainted, remaining unconscious for an hour. Twenty men were employed in completing that gown, which cost \$3,000, and the wearer won over \$2,000 in prizes.

Rivalry is extremely keen among Philadelphians and southern New Jerseyites, numbers of whom take part in the creating of costumes. The story is related of a German butcher in the "neck" section of the Quaker City who mortgaged his home and store for \$10,000 in order to outdo all other competitors. He won over \$2,000 in prizes

such things would not be countenanced. The original Philadelphians who took part in the Shooters' pageant were German residents of the "neck" section of the city, where the Schuylkill and Delaware rivers come close together.

Lamb For the Greeks.

The unique Greek dish on New Year's eve is the roast lamb, set up in Greek style, of which each son of Hellas must partake. The roasting of the lamb is attended with a great deal of pomp. The entire carcass of a lamb is set up on a pole, and this is held over a fire until it is duly roasted. Then it is sliced and apportioned among the various persons present at the feast, and the roast is eaten along with the other strictly Greek dishes and washed down with Greek wine.

Good and Bad Luck.

It was supposed to bring bad luck to a house to take anything out of it on New Year's day before you brought something into it.
Take out, then take in,
Bad luck will begin;
Take in, then take out,
Good luck comes about.

Roman Extravagance.

The New Year's gift, no doubt, originated with the Romans, for with them giving and taking was carried to such an extravagant degree during all the 365 days of the year that Emperor Claudius prohibited the "bestowing" of presents except on New Year's day.

A Policeman's Testimony.

J. N. Paterson, night policeman of Nashua, Iowa, writes: "Last winter I had a bad cold on my lungs and tried at least half a dozen advertised cough medicines and had treatment from two physicians without getting any benefit. A friend recommended Foley's Honey and Tar and two-thirds of a bottle cured me. I consider it the greatest cough and lung medicine in the world." Sold by all druggists.

For Eczema, Tetter and Salt Rheum.

The intense itching characteristic of these ailments is almost instantly allayed by Chamberlain's Salve. Many severe cases have been cured by it. For sale by Geo. C. Taggart.

Foley's Honey and Tar is the best and safest cough remedy for children. At the first symptoms of a cold, give as directed, and ward off danger of croup, bronchitis, sore throat, cold in the head, and stuffy breathing. It brings comfort and ease to the little ones. Contains no opiates or other harmful drugs. Keep always on hand and refuse substitutes. Sold by all druggists.

Hexamethylenetetramine.

The above is the name of a German chemical, which is one of the many valuable ingredients of Foley's Kidney Remedy. Hexamethylenetetramine is recognized by medical text books and authorities as a uric acid solvent and antiseptic for the urine. Take Foley's Kidney Remedy as soon as you notice any irregularities and avoid a serious malady. For sale by all druggists.

How One Doctor Successfully Treats Pneumonia.

"In treating pneumonia," says Dr. W. J. Smith, of Sanders, Ala., "the only remedy I use for the lungs is Chamberlain's Cough Remedy. While, of course, I would treat other symptoms with different medicines, I have used this remedy many times in my medical practice and have yet failed to find a case where it has not controlled the trouble. I have used it myself, as has also my wife for coughs and colds repeatedly, and I most willingly and cheerfully recommend it as superior to any other cough remedy to my knowledge." For sale by Geo. C. Taggart.

Ill Health is More Expensive Than any Cure.

This country is now filled with people who migrate across the continent in all directions seeking that which gold cannot buy. Five-tenths of them are suffering from throat and lung trouble or chronic catarrh resulting from neglected colds, and spending fortunes vainly trying to regain lost health. Could every sufferer but undo the past and cure that first neglected cold, all this sorrow, pain, anxiety and expense could have been avoided. Chamberlain's Cough Remedy is famous for its cures of colds, and can always be depended upon. Use it and the more serious diseases may be avoided. For sale by Geo. C. Taggart.

The best pill is DeWitt's Little Early Risers—the safe, easy, pleasant and sure little liver pills. DeWitt's Carbolicized Witch Hazel Salve is the original. Good for cuts, burns or bruises, and especially for piles. Sold by all druggists.

Front. Front is like bread in that both are a little substance blown up with much wind. It is unlike bread in that man cannot live by bread alone.—Puck.

You won't feel the weather if you wear a chamois vest.

The chill that seems to strike right through to your marrow will not be experienced all winter. But that is not the important part of it. One Chamois Vest will guard your health, keep you from taking cold by protecting your lungs. Wear one if you want to be safe.

The OLD RELIABLE DRUG STORE

G. C. TAGGART, Prop.

Same Jolly Crew Here!

Will stop with the Cameron County Girls and Boys until after New Years. Dear Old Santa as usual will make his Headquarters at H. A. ZARPS & CO'S Popular Wonderland Store



Never in the history of this establishment has a larger or more fashionable line of LADIES COATS, SUITS, SKIRTS AND IMMENSE LINE OF FURS been presented to the public. We have a large line and shall make the prices sell the goods. Without fear of contradiction, we feel confident that our large store is resplendent with everything calculated to make our customers happy. We have a larger line of goods, in every department, than can be found in this or any neighboring county and WE DEFY COMPETITION.

Suitable Christmas Presents

Among the thousands of suitable articles for Xmas Gifts, we mention: A full line Fascinators, Shawls, Belts, Fancy Stocks, Gloves, Handkerchiefs, Hosiery, Sacques and Toques, Fancy Lamps, Gold Clocks, Gold Picture Frames, Gold Framed Mirrors and Small Gold Novelties. Fine Line of Cut Glass, Silverware, Jewelry, Pocket Books, Wrist Bags, Toilet Articles, Fancy Goods of all descriptions in Baskets, Birch Bark, Celluloid and Stag Articles, Vases, Picture Books, Jardinieres and Umbrella Stands. Umbrellas all styles, from 48c to \$12.00.

LARGEST DISPLAY OF CHINA AND GLASSWARE IN THE COUNTY, Going at Big Reduction.

H. A. ZARPS & CO'S
THE POPULAR FAIR STORE.
EMPORIUM, PA.