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The Poet's Department.

[From Leisure Hours.] OLD SANTA CLAUS' VISIT. BY FANNIE WARNER BICKNELL.

On snow clad hills, at still midnight. The moonshine lies in beauty bright; The world is hushed in slumber now, For balmy sleep from every brow Hath smoothed away the lines of care, And stamped repose-night's blessing-there Day's busy, bustling crowd is still. Reprieved awhile from cares that fill All tearts wherein the pulse of life Exceeds the throbs of infant strife; The mingled voices of the crowd No longer heard-each head is how'd In mansion rich and poor abode, Leading Democratic Journal Forgetful of the beavy load oor human nature has to bear, In homespun clad or silken wear-The sweeter sleep to toil is given Than to the idle, blessed of heaven, The Pittsburgh Post is the advocate of Political Reform, an Economical and Just Government, in which all the rights of the Citizen are recognized and respected, and the ballot-box kept free from negro domination; the enemy of Monopoly; the firm friend of Retrenchment in every Department, Civil Service Reform, and the payment of the bonded debt strictly in accordance with the contract. It is the champion of Reduced Taxation and the preservation of the reserved rights of the State against every form of Federal encroachment, under whatever name. With every luxury wealth can bring ; While laborers toil and blitbely sing, The rich oft vawn in discontent, And mourn at eve the day misspent. But midnight brings to all surcease From daylight's cares-to all sweet peace ; Thus resting in the close embrace Of sleep-night keeper of our race-The world awaits the coming dawn That ushers in glad Christmas morn. The spirit of the season by Steals swiftly, while each youthful eys It is the only Democratic Daily in Western Penn-z sylvania that receives the cable and telegraphic dispatches of the Associated Press, which include the Market Reports of all leading points. Close scaled remains by nature's laws, As o'er each house goes Santa Claus. A pack of gitts his back bestrides. As down the chimney quickly glides The fur clad eif, with pipe and whip; His twinkling eye and smiling lip A promise give of something nice, As through the room like creeping mice His footsteps glide; he views the feet Of stockings which, at morn, will greet The eyes of children in the bed Where hang the stockings overhead. while it advocates the above re-oxidzed princi-ples of the Democratic party, and will give its unqualified support to the cause and principles of the Democracy, will devote a large portion of its space to GENERAL HOME and FOREIGN NEWS, LITERATURE, ART, AGRICULTURE, and LOCAL INTELLIGENCE. As a With nods, and winks, and funny sbrugs, His well-filled pack around he lugs, Until a chair he finds to mount. So that their number he may count. "One, two, three, four-'twas rive last year, (He stops to wipe away a tear :) I'll look again-the smallest feet Are missing; they have gone to meet it is recognized throughout Western Pennsylvania, Eastern Ohio and West Virginia to be without a rival, and its The Babe of Reth'lem, at whose birth

The shepherds sang 'Good Will on Earth!'" He glanced around; on bed of straw The little errand boy he saw Ah! there lies one I did not see, Tis likely he, too, dreams of me : To him warm clothes I'll give instead This toy I brought the child that's dead." Then stooping down and putting back The silver trumpet, from his pack The other gifts he quickly drew. And stuffed the stockirgs number two. And three, and four: the smallest one He filled the last. When all was done He chuckled low, and made a pause,

Cales, Shetches, Anecdotes, de THE CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL. An Interesting Historical Sketch.

Then vanished-dear old Santa Claus.

The institution of the Christmas festival is attributed by the spurious Decretals to Telesphorus, who flourished in the reign of Autoninus Pius (138-161 A. D.) but the first certain traces of it are found about the time of Emperor Commodus, (180 192 A D.) In the reign of Diocletian (284-305 A. D.), while that ruler was keeping court at Nicomedia, he learns ed that a multitude of Christians were assembled in the city to celebrate the birthday of Jesus, and having ordered the church doors to be closed, he set fire to the building, and all the worshippers per- With joy! ished in the flames.

It does not appear, however, that there was any uniformity in the period of observing the nativity among the early churches; some held the festival in the month of May or April, others in January. It is, nevertheless, almost certain that the 25th of December cannot be the nativity of the Saviour, for it is then the height of the rainy season in Judea, and shepherds could hardly be watching their

flocks by night in the clains. Christmas not only became the parent of many later festivals, such as those of the Virgin, but especially from the 5th to the 8th century, gathered round it, as it were, several other festivals, partly old and partly new, so that what may be termed a Christmas Cycle sprang up which surpassed all other groups of Christian holidays in the manifold richness of its festal usages, and furthered, more than any other, the completion of the orderly and systematic distribution of church fes-

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purification of the heathen customs and exception, the sacred season appears to feasts which it retained, its liturgy, be- have been regularly celebrated with joyous sides dramatic representations of the birth | music and songs during the Tudor period. of Christ and the first events of his life. In 1562 Christmas Carols of a more sol-Hence sprang the so-called "Manger emn nature were introduced. By the songs," and a multitude of Christmas Puritan Parliament Christmas was abolcarols, as well as Christmas dramas, ished altogether, and holly aud ivy were which, at certain times and places, degen- made seditious badges; and in 1630 erated into farces or fools' festivals .- the Psalms, arranged as carols, were ad-Hence, also originated, at a later period, vertised. After the Restoration the the Christ-trees, or Christmas trees, adorn Christmas Carols again exhibited a hearty, ed with lights and gifts, the custom of cheerful, and even a jovial character.reciprocal presents, and of special Christ- Those with which the dawn of Christmas mas meats and dishes, such as Christmas is now announced in England are generally rolls, cakes, current-loaves, dumplings, religious, though not universally so. In etc. Thus Christmas became a universal France the carols at this season used to social festival for young and old, high and be much less sacred than gay. Often, low, as no other Christian festival could indeed, they were grossly bacchanalian. have become.

In the Roman Catholic Church, three masses are performed at Christmas-one at midnight, one at daybreak, and one in the morning. The day is also celebrated by the Episcopal Church; special psalms are sung; a special preface is made in the Communion service, and in England the Athanasian Creed is said and sung. The Lutheran Church likewise observes Christmas; but most other denominations reject it, in its religious aspect, as a "human invention," and us a "savoring of political will-worship," although everybody keeps it as a social holiday, on which there is a complete cossation from all business .-But within the last hundred years, the festivities once appropriate to Christmas gives one or two more little springy motions have much fallen off. In England these at one time lasted with more or less brilliancy till Candlemas, and with great spirit till Twelfth-day; but now, a meeting in the evening, composed, when possible, of the various branches and members of a family, is all that distinguishes the day her up and down; and, as the seats are full, above others.

CHRISTMAS BOXES.

History of an Old English Custom.

Christmas box is the name given Year is of great antiquity, Within the domestic servants and tradesmen, had become a serious social nuisance, more particularly in London, where every old custom seems to linger and is most difficult to be got rid of. Householders felt also to various inferior parish officers, including scavengers and lamp-lighters; while shop keepers, on the other hand, were equally impelled to make presents to the male and female servants of their customers. Thus, as referred to in Christ-

Gladly the boy, with Christmas Box in hand, Throughout the town his devious route pur-

And of his master's customers implores The yearly mite; often his cash he shakes; The which, perchance, of coppers few consists, Whose dulcet jingle fills his little soul

At length the Christmas Box system became such an intolerable grievance that tradesmen stuck up notices in their windows that no Christmas Boxes would be given, and at the same time the public authorities issued remonstrances to the same effect. At Christmas, 1836, the British Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs issued a circular to the different em bassies, requesting a discontinuance of the customary gifts to the messengers of the Foreign Department and other government servants. Since this period the practice has greatly decreased, doubtless to the improvement of the self respect of the parties interested. In this country it has never prevailed in such a shape as being given nearly exclusively in families and among friends.

CHRISTMAS CAROLS.

The word carol (Italian carole, a round tivities over the whole year. Not casual- dance-probably from the Latin carolla : ly or arbitrarily was the festival of the Welsh caroli to reel, to dance; the name Nativity celebrated on the 25th of De- is thence applied to the music or song accember. Among the causes that co-op- companying such a dance; cardion is erated in fixing this period as the proper probably allied,) signifies a song of joy. one, perhaps the most powerful was, that The practice of singing carols, or, at all almost all the beathen nations regarded events, music in celebration of the nativithe winter solstice as a most important ty of Christ as early as the second centupoint of the year, as the beginning of the ry, is considered as proved by the circumrenewed life and activity of the powers of stance that a large sarcophagus, belonging nature, and of the gods, who were origin- to that period, has sculptured upon it a ally merely the symbolical personifications representation of a Christian Family joinof these. In more northerly countries, ing in choral praise for this purpose. A palpable-hence the Celts and Germans, Christmas Carols seem to have sadly from the oldest times, celebrated the sea- degenerated, and became, in fact, so indeson with the greatest festivities. At the cent, that the clergy found it necessary to winter solstice, the Germans held their forbid them. Under the Anglo-Saxoo great Yule-feast in commemoration of the kings, merriment and piety were quietly fiery sun-wheel; and believed that during combined in English life, a peculiarity the twelve nights reaching from the 25th | that affected the Christmas Carols of thet matter, passed over from heathenism to written by men of learning, exhibit a that it tolled at the funeral of Lord Nelson, Christianity, and have partly survived to lamentable ignorance of the character of and at the deaths and funerals of the Duke the present day. But the Church also the two most prominent persons in the of Wellington and Dean Milman. of STEERS to Daniel Snyber, and all persons are cautioned against meddling or interfering with said property.

EDWARD KING.

Burnstee Twp., Clearfield Co., Nov. 27, 1870.20.

Sought to combat and banish—and it was carcle—Mary and Jesus. In 1525 was to a large extent successful—the deep-kept the "still Christmas," on account of the illness of King Henry; but with this office is a P. O light man.

EBENSBURG, PA., THURSDAY, DECEMBER 22, 1870.

A Street Car Sketch.

can't let the girl of the period alone? She as stiff as broken china. can hardly open her eyes, or turn around and pick her all to pieces. Here is how ble landlord. some impertinent newspaper person has and discomfort, the street car: She stands upon the curb, with a little

the car approaches she sticks the point of her parasol in the direction of the driver. with a small jerk. The car stops. She before she leaves the pavement, and then dances to the car. As she ascends the step, the conductor seems to consider it absolutely necessary to her safety to place one of his hands in the small of her back, while he rings the bell with the other. She enters the car, with the spiral springs still bobbing she stands holding her bands in front of her, and gazing off into illimitable space, as if England to a small money-gift to persons | fellow next to him moves quickly into the in an inferier condition on the day after corner, as if the performance of that manceu presents at this season and at the New the chief end of man, if we remark the avidi- went. ty with which human beings in street cars seek that object. When the young man memory of middle-nged persons in Eng- rises, the young lady suddenly becomes conland the practice of giving Christmas scious that there is something nearer to her boxes or pretty presents to apprentices, than the horizon, and she gives two or more little bounces, and says: "Keep your sat !" is going to get out soon; whereupon the fair a straight line: being dances toward the seat, sinks into it, and pretends that the fact of the existence of any young man who once occupied that under an obligation to give money to the seat, and who is going to get out has entireapprentices in the shops where they dealt, ly faded out of her consciousness. She smooths down her dress and its supplemental frippery, penants and flounces, and again looks far beyond the confines of the car into emptiness. She knows she is expected by the other women in the car to remain unconscious of their presence while they study her clothes. They immediately begin. They stare at her dress, at her hat, her sacque, her bows and ribbons, her jewelry, her gloves, her back hair, and her miscellaneous millipery, until the entire costume is photographed in their memories, the price estimated and a critical opinion formed, with a resolution to have a bonnet of the same kind, or a "body" cut out upon the same pattern .-When the young lady thinks this examination is concluded, she becomes conscious again, and begins to look around and see how all the other women are dressed. She examines each one in detail, and in a few moments she is in possession of all the usual facts. Presently a young man with whom she is acquainted gets into the car, and he stands clutching the strap, and trying in vain to keep himself in a graceful attitude while he converses with her. All the women begin to wonder if she cares particularly for him-and, as she knows their thoughts, she is so distant that the young man becomes more embarrassed than ever, and makes renewed struggles to maintain a graceful position. When she wishes to get out she rises. in two or three springs, and dances along the platform. The conductor then considers that mentioned above, Christmas presents it imperatively necessary to once more press the small of her back. She dances down the steps, dances to the pavement, and then dances along the street, fully aware of the fact that the women in the car have all turned round to look at her and serenely confident in the assurance that she has on good clothes, which fit her splendidly. As she disappears, the conductor turns to the man who is smoking a cigar on the platform. and remarks that she is a "crusher!"

> Big Bells .- We have some large bells in this country, but they are of puny size compared with many in the Old World: In China bells have been made of enormous weight. Nankin was anciently famous to death pickles on one of them, and six for the largeness of its bells. At Pekin there were several bells cast in the reign of

Zoulo, each weighing 120,000 pounds. The sound of the largest Chinese bell was very poor, owing to it being struck with a piece this fact must have made itself peculiarly century or two after this, however, the of wood, instead of a metal clapper. A bell inches of drowned flies, and some vinegar November, 1869, his wife presented him given to the cathedral of Moscow by the in it. Czar Godunof weighed 288 000 pounds, and another given by the Empress Ann, probaly the largest in the known world, weighed 432,000 pounds. The great bell at St Paul's weighs between 11,000 and 12,000 pounds, and is ten feet in diameter. On push back yure chair. this bell is inscribed 'Richard Phelps made of December to the 6th of January, they period not a little; but by the thirteenth me, 1716;" and Peter Cunningham, in his ing yore teeth. KEEP UP THE FIRES!—The subcould trace the personal movements and century the jocosity had unhappily lapsed to the formula by the formula large as self conseated az it will do for the formula by the f VILLE and MOUNTAIN COAL of the very best qualities, in large or small quantities, on the shortest notice and at the most reasonable rates. Also, will attend to all kinds of HAULING with and also of the Romans, relating to this of 1521. The majority of these, though the Lord Mayor." We believe, however,

Josh Billings on Country Hotels. Hotels are houses of refuge, homes for

the vagrants, the married man's retreat, and the bachelor's fireside. They are kept in all sorts ov ways, some on the European plan, and many ov

them on no plan at all. A good landlord is like a good stepmother, he knows his bizziness and means

to do hiz duty. He knows how to rub hiz hands with oy when a traveler draws nigh, he knows how to smile, he knows your wife's father when he was living, and your wife's first husband, but he don't speak to you

He kan tell you whether it will rain to-morrow or not; he hears your komplaints with a tear in his eye, he blows up the servants at yure suggestion, and How the dickens is it that the people stands around reddy with a shirt collar on

about him.

A man may be a good Supreme Court but somebody undertakes to analyze her Judge, and at the same time be a misera-

Most everybody thinks he kan keep a photographed this estimable young lady hotel (and they kan), but this ackounts as she appears in that model of misery for the great number of hotels that air kept on the same principle that a Justiss of the peace offiss is kept in the country springy, up-and-down motion, as if she had during a six day's jury trial for killing spiral springs in the soles of her gaiters. As someboddy's yellow dorg.

A hotel won't keep itself and keep the landlord too, and ever kure a traveler from the habit of profane swearing. I hav had this experiment tried on me

several times, and it alwas makes me cuss

It is too often the kase that 'andlords go into the bizziness of hash as ministers go into the professhun, with the very best ov motives, but the poorest kind of pros-

the one idea which never entered her mind, flattersum than the tavern bizziness; there a chapter of human experience in which and never could enter it under any possible dont seem to be anything to do but to everybody is interested, though the decircumstances, is that some man will rise stand in front of the register with a pen novement is probably rare. The author and offer her his seat. But a young man in behind the ear and see that guests enter entitles it "My Early Love :" the house, then yank a bell rope six or seven times, and then tell John to show Christmas, which is hence called Boxing ver had formed the subject of anxious the gentleman to 976, and then take four day. The term, and also the custom, are thought during many years of his life. To dollars and fifty cents next morning from essentially English, though the making of get a corner seat indeed would seem to be the poor devil ov a traveler and let him

This seems to be the whole fund it is the whole thing] in most cases.

You will diskover the following deskription a mild one, ov about nine hotels out ov ten between the Atlantick and Pa-The young man is embarrassed, and says he citick Oshuns akrost the United States in

Your room is 15 feet 6 inches, by 9 foot 7 inches, parolellogramly.

It being court week 'es usul] all the good rooms are employed by the lawyers

Youre room is on the uppermost floor. The carpet is ingrain-ingrained with dust, kerosine ile and ink-spots of four generashuns.

There is two pegs in the room to hitch coats into; one ov them broke oph and

the other pulled out and missing. The buro has three legs and one

The glass to the buro swings on twe pivots which have lost their grip.

There is one towel on the rack, thin, but wet The rain water in the pitcher cum out of the well. The soap iz as tuff to wear as a whetstone.

The susp is sented with cinnamon ile, variegated with spots. Thare iz 3 chairs, cane seters, one iz a

rocker, and all three is busted. There iz a match box empty. There iz no kurtain to the window,

and there don't want to be any ; you can't see out, and who kan see in ? The bell rope is kum oph about six inches this side of the ceiling

The bed is a modern slat bottom, with two mattresses, one cotton, one husk, and smooths down her frippery again, indulges both harder and about az thick az a sea

> Yu enter the bed side-ways and kan feel every slat at once, az eazy az yu could the ribs of a grid-iron. The bed is inhabited.

You sleep sum, but roll over a good

For breakfast you have a gong, and rye coffee too kold to melt butter; fried potatoes which resemble the chips that a two inch augur makes in its journey thro' an oak log.

Bread spiled, beefstake about as thick as a blister plaster, and as tough as a Table covered with plates, a few scared

by endorsed crackers on the other.

A pewterinktum castor with 3 bottles in it, one without any pepper in it, one without any mustard, and one with two

Servant girl, with hoops on, bangs around yu earnestly and wants to know if you want another cup ov coffee.

Yu say "No mam, I thank yu," and Yu haven't eat enough to pay fur pick-

a man to be and not crack open, but I never yet conseited that I could keep a

him, where you kan't find the landlord vants glide around like angels ov marcy ; rows."

whare the beds fit a man's back like the feathers on a goose, and where the vittels tasie az tho yure wife or yure mother had fried them.

NUMBER 47.

These kind ov hotels ought tew be built on wheels and travel around the country; they are just az full ov real comfort az a thanksgiving pudding, but alas! they are az unplenty az double yoked eggs.

AN UNDERTAKING .- A man once doubting the joys of single blessedness. undertook to prove the contrary by experience. Owing to a melancholy, not to say gratefully acknowledged illness, his wife was brought to her death bed.

Unfortunately for her husband's aspirations for freedom, her death occurred in winter, and her husband, wishing to offer every respect to her who could no longer be but the semblance of herself, ordered the pall-beares to escort the body on their shoulders. Owing to an extremely slippery pavement, they slipped while turning a sharp corner, bringing the remains to the ground with such violenes that resuscitation followed.

Time wore on, and the husband became again a living monument of patience .-At last the wife actually died, and her dutiful spouse being obliged to ignore his private suspicion by her near relatives, was obliged to give the same respectful orders as before. This time however, be himself formed one of the corps de guarde, and though summer was the season, he could not restrain his feelings, but as he reached that fatal corner, whispered; "Easy round this corner, boys! E-A-S-Y.

THERE is a degree of tenderness in the following, by a very sentimental man, that commends it to the business and bo-I don't know ov any bizziness more soms of all of like sensibility. It reveals

It was an ardent boyl-h tore, That faded out as life grew older;

My heart flew to her like a dove, And lighted on her beauteous shoulder, Or sipped the honey of her lips.

Or in her eyes found heavenly graces: I loved her to her finger tips-I loved her very tootprint traces! Her features were a rapturous charm,

Her smile made all within me flutter; In rounded beauty was her arm, Her little hand was fat as butter No wonder that I loved her so.

But she was false as she was pretty, And soon she sacked her little beau, And took a big one from the city.

I saught him out one moonlight night,-'T was one of love's extremest phases -I aggravated him to fight, But, oh! he larruped me like blazes!

OLD BIBLES,-In the Strasbourg Ebrary here was a wonderful collection of the Bioles first printed, the oldest bearing the impress of "Mentolio, 1466." In it Moses is pictured with horns; and there is also a picture of Satan smitting Job with boils, in which the figure of the devil carries us back to the pre historic and pagan ideas of evil spirits, for he is no other than a hairy Satyr. such as we find in classical mythologies. In a manuscript Bible, written with great beauty and illuminations, in the year A. D. 1192, we come to a very primitive realm of ideas indeed. For example, Adam and Eve are pictured as two plump and pretty children, and the devil, who offers little Eve the apple, is a beantiful weman with golden hair rolled np so se to form a crown; from the waist down she is a serpent. Among other illuminations belonging to the twelfth century MSS., there was one in perfect colors representing God the Father. He was represented as a young man of great but severe beauty and flowing hair, looking upon an open book. In another the Prinity was pictured as three beautiful youths with physiognomies similar enough for them to be regarded as triplets,

Mr. David CROWLEY, an expressman at Boston, is the only survivor of a catastrophe which, thirty-one years ago, filled the country with horror and distress. We allude to the burning of the steamer Lexington on Long Island Sound, on the night of the 15th of January, 1840. The preservation of Mr. Crowley was one of the most miraculous instances of human endurance ever recorded. He made his escape on a bale of cotton, and floated on the rough and icy waters of the Sound forty-eight hours-drifting during that time more than fifty miles, the temperature ranging at and below zero, with no other protection from the freezing blasts and frozen spray than that offered by a woolen shirt. woolen drawers and thin boots, with cottour socks--no cap or protection of any description for his head, or hands. This almost incredible exposure, which would have extingmished ordinary human life in a few minutes, never seriously affected the constitution of Mr. Cowley, and he bids fair to reach a hale and hearty old age.

THE Mayfield, Kentucky, Democrat has the following: "A most remarkable circumstance occurred in our county lately, a) the residence of Dr. J. R. Patterson, who resides within two miles of Mayfield. In with three girl baties, which, however, died, and in December," 1870, she presented him with two boy babies, weighing eight pounds each, and which are now living and doing well. Thus in thirteen menths her had born to him five babies. We are gladto state that Dr. Patterson is one of our bestand most accomplished citizens, and is able to stand it. But who can best this ?"

Two Ladiss were talking about sperrows, and their usefulness in ridding the city of the canker worms which used to be such a nuihotel. I had rather be a higwayman than sance. One said that the neisy chirping of to be some landlords I hev visited with. | the sparrows, early in the morning, when There are hotels that are a joy upon she wanted to sleep, was as great an evil as earth, where a man pays hiz bill az cheer- the worms; the other disagreed. Just then fully az he did the parson who married . Mr. A, which do you think the worst, sparrows or worms ?" He immediately an-THE man who lights up at the post- unless yo hunt in the kitchen; where ser- swered, "I don't know; I never had spar-