## The Cerntre 刃ismocrat.

## Peok's Bad Boy.

new tdeas abeut old saxta clacs.
"Well, what did you get from Santa 'lans," avked the groceryman of the bad hing as he came in the grocery pinned a piece of beer glass cut in imitation of a diamond. "Santa Claus must bave remembered you splendidy," and the grocery man banded the bad boy a sour oravge.
"laur," said the boy, as he bit into the range, and then went to the vinegar barrel and drew some vinegar in a glaw and took a swallow to sweeten
the taste of the orange. "Do you know I wonder there is a boy in this whole world that does not grow up to
be a first-class liar, when they have he a first-class liar, when they have
henir parents lie to them the first seven verw of their lives about Santa Claus? What ran a child think, when told it its paren's have been lying to
the Santa Claus business.
o come down chimneys, and when I
aned bow a biz fat fellow could come a-ked how a big fat fellow could come a suve pipe, pa would tell me that
n was blowed up, and all ho had to
on was to let the wind out, and then
he would be snull enough to get into
up the fight until your properts ion aved, when you come back and kick because they tipped over a barrel of apples. They rush into burning buildings and save the lives of women and
children. Do they do it for pay? children. Do they do it for pay?
Naw! All they get is seventy-five Naw! All they get is seventy-five
dollars a month, and you pay that much to the man who drives your grocery wagon. There is not a fire man who gets ns much salary as a reet car conductor, in any city in the country, and the firemen are the bravest men that live. Why, gol darn you, you haven't got as much sense as
alf."
"But, hold on, Henvery. Hear me," and the groceryman tried to stop the bad boy.
Get out. I am ashamed to know ave always told. "You and pa onor the brave. How do you do it? ou pay a fireman, who risks his life
very time he runs to a fire, just nough to board and clothe him, and hen he is played out and is sick, he discharged, and you forget him Every time an alarm sounds, a fireman the engine-house alive. He protects you tell me he is a bad man. I would
like to see you jump up at an alarm of
fire, slide down a pole with your pants tire, slice down a pole with your pants
half on, and get on an engine and be
driven over a rough pavement half mile. Your hair would turn gray
with fright the first time. I tell you ed dollars a month. and penion began tostream down his checks, "my
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A commercial traveler jumped from train at a small station and shouted
give him a hard boiled ect counter give him a hard boiled egg and a He mince pie.
He ate tho pie hurriedly, and was tempting to break the egg when the nductor gave the sigual for starting.
"What in Great Cosar" "What in Great Cxsar's name is "Is it rotten?" asked the propreded Rotten? No, but I can't y impression on it and can't make any impression on it, and here 1 am way out of the yard," and he made a dash for the back platform of the rear car, which he just succeeded in reach
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 cildren in tow, and at almoast the depot four a man reached the same ding fom the North with five of was a widow and he a widower, and the children had not been spanked ware than once around before ther bas a sort of mutual sympathy tha One of the widow's boys offered the widower's girls a bite of his fried cake which was accepted in the spirit tendered, and a 10 -year-old girl be longing to the man made up to the
2-year-old belonging to the woma and soon secured the priviegege of
ing its nose and combing its

## Presently the widower made bold to

## "Madam, am I wrong in believin

 "I have been a witow fourta" months to-day,", she answered.
"Great Scots! but it's just fourtee months today since my Hanser died!
Which way be you going?"
"To Ilanoy."
"That's just where I am going, too. "That's just where I am going, too
Did you pronise your husband never

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