

WHY QUAY MADE HIS LATEST MOVE.

Thwarting a Political Conspiracy Such as Has Never Been Equaled in Politics.

THE DICE WERE LOADED.

Remarkable Proceedings That Were Stayed by the Supreme Court.

POLITICIANS SEEK REVENGE

An Arraignment of Principal Opponents of the Senator Which Justices Green and Williams Promptly Considered in Taking Up a Remarkable Case From the Courts of the Quaker City.

The fact that those in the conspiracy against United States Senator Quay still expect to use the proceedings against him in the courts as a means of manufacturing sentiment against him in their desperate efforts to defeat him for re-election, is well known. Though the machinations of the Wanamaker-Gordon-Graham political syndicate have thus far signally failed to smirch the character of the senator or to give his friends any occasion for serious concern about his re-election by the legislature next month, it is believed that within the few remaining days of the political canvass for the senatorship sensational plays to the galleries may be anticipated from this source. There is no doubt, however, that the people have now become thoroughly acquainted with the despicable and monstrous tactics that have been resorted to in this fight against Senator Quay, which had its inception in the campaign waged against the election of Colonel William A. Stone to the governorship. While the methods now resorted to are more daring and contemptible, they are quite in line with the policy inaugurated in the contest for the governorship, which was really the skirmish struggle for the great prize which both Wanamaker and Graham have had in view for years. Wanamaker's many defeats in his aspirations for public office, notably the senatorship, which went to Penrose, and the governorship, to which the Republican convention thought Colonel Stone more entitled, have all been charged up against Senator Quay. Graham's admirers have held Colonel Quay responsible for his failure to get the supreme court judgeship, which was bestowed upon Judge Fell, for his several defeats to go as a delegate to Republican national conventions and for blocking his aspirations for the governorship and for the United States senatorship, and more recently for his humiliating turn down in his effort to succeed himself in the district attorney's office. Gordon's supporters, as is well known, charge Senator Quay with influencing Democratic leaders to defeat him for the nomination for governor at Allentown.

These facts are all familiar to Pennsylvanians, and it is for these reasons that the persecution of Senator Quay is generally looked upon as part of the most desperate game of politics that has ever been played in this or any other state in the Union.

That Senator Quay should make the appeal he did to the supreme court was to be expected. The peculiar nature of the testimony that was put forth by Graham, seriously kept private memoranda books, from which an expert could draw any deductions that the prosecution might desire; with the cashier of the bank, with whom it is claimed the alleged conspiracy took place, cold in his grave; with the receiver of the bank, Thomas W. Barlow, Graham's chief assistant district attorney; with the only known person to make the information in the case, a man named Myers, employed in the district attorney's office; with the preliminary hearing in the case conducted by Magistrate Jermon, for many years a clerk in Graham's office; with Judge Gordon sitting on the bench on the opening day in court; with Judge Finletter, father of an assistant to Graham, who joined in the argument, on the bench when the demurrers to the indictments were presented; with these demurrers rejected by Judge Finletter and with a former assistant to District Attorney Graham, Judge Brey, likely to subsequently sit in the case, and with every indication that if the case proceeded under existing conditions Senator Quay would be in the position of playing a game in which his future and that of his family was involved, with the dice loaded against him, the justification for appealing to the supreme court can be recognized by fair minded citizens.

When the case was presented to the supreme court Justices Henry W. Williams and Henry Green promptly gave a rule upon the commonwealth to show cause why a writ of certiorari should not be granted to bring the case up to the supreme court and that proceedings be stayed in the court of which the complaint was made.

THE APPEAL FOR JUSTICE.

In the petition filed by Senator Quay, his son Richard and B. J. Haywood, and upon which this writ was granted, they, among other things, said:

Your petitioners respectfully pray your honorable court to issue its writ of certiorari to said court of quarter sessions to bring up said indictments in order that your honorable court may deal with the same in such a way as will enable them to secure what it is impossible for them to secure in the present position of affairs in the courts in which said indictments are pending—namely, justice and a fair and impartial trial which is guaranteed to them by the constitution and laws of this commonwealth, and, in support of their said prayer, aver as follows:

That these prosecutions were instigated and inspired chiefly by one James Gay Gordon, late a judge of the court of common pleas No. 3, of Philadelphia county, acting in concert with other open and avowed political enemies of

said Matthew S. Quay. That upon the failure of the People's bank, about the 24th day of March, 1898, the said James Gay Gordon, although at that time a judge of said court, acted as counsel for one James McManis, president of the said People's bank, and thus obtained possession of certain letters written by your petitioner relating solely to their own private business transactions and of certain private memoranda alleged to have been made by one John S. Hopkins, now deceased, formerly cashier of said bank.

FOR POLITICAL PURPOSES.

That the said James Gay Gordon had said letter and memoranda copied for the purpose of using them thereafter for political purposes, he, the said James Gay Gordon, being then a candidate for the nomination of the Democratic party for the office of governor of said commonwealth at the election held on the second Tuesday of November, 1898. That although the said James Gay Gordon had possession of the information contained in said letters and memoranda from about the 24th day of March last, and although said information was from said date also in the possession and knowledge of one Thomas W. Barlow, as receiver of said People's bank, and as special first assistant district attorney of said county, yet no complaint of any kind whatever was made against your petitioners until about the 31 day of October last, when an affidavit was made upon information and belief by one Meyers, alleged to be attorney of the county, who failed to appear upon the hearing of said charges, upon which warrants were issued charging your petitioners with the offenses aforesaid. That said warrants were issued shortly before the recent state election, which involved the election not only of a governor, but of members of the legislature, who will be called upon at their next session to vote for United States senator to succeed the present incumbent, the said Matthew S. Quay, it being then well known that said Matthew S. Quay would be a candidate for re-election to said office. In instigating and procuring the issuing of said warrants said James Gay Gordon was inspired by express and personal malice against the said Matthew S. Quay, as is evidenced by the fact that the said James Gay Gordon publicly charged said Matthew S. Quay with having been largely instrumental in procuring the nomination of him, the said James Gay Gordon, for the office of governor at the Democratic state convention held at Allentown prior to the said election. That on or about the 23d day of November, 1898, the said James Gay Gordon resigned from his office as judge.

IRREGULAR PROCEEDINGS.

That while said indictments were being considered by the grand jury of said county an application was made by the district attorney for attachments against the cashier of a national bank of Allegheny county and against the cashier of a bank in Beaver, Pa., on the ground that said persons, acting under the advice of the regular counsel of said banks respectively, declined to bring the books of said banks to the city of Philadelphia for examination. Said application was not made to the judge who had been regularly assigned to hold, and who was then and there holding the regular court of quarter sessions which then and there had sole jurisdiction over said grand jury and of all questions relating to the business and proceedings of said grand jury, but was improperly and irregularly made to the said James Gay Gordon, who was on that day holding a special session of the court of quarter sessions for the trial of bail cases only. Nevertheless, said James Gay Gordon irregularly and improperly heard said application and peremptorily ordered said witnesses to appear before said grand jury under penalty of an attachment for contempt. That a few days later, on Wednesday, the 23d day of November, 1898, your petitioners were notified to appear in court No. 646 before the said James Gay Gordon for the purpose of pleading or demurring to the bills of indictment which had been theretofore found against them, although the said James Gay Gordon had not been regularly assigned to hold said court, but by reason of his resignation and retirement from the bench on the day named for the appearance of defendants as aforesaid, said court was without a regularly assigned judge to hear pending cases.

GORDON'S PECULIAR ACTIONS.

That on the said 23d day of November, 1898, the Hon. Thomas K. Finletter, president judge of the court of common pleas No. 3 (of which court the said James Gay Gordon had been theretofore a member), appeared in said court of quarter sessions and proceeded to preside over said court, although he was not the judge who had been duly and regularly assigned to hold said court. That one Thomas K. Finletter, a son of the said Hon. Thomas K. Finletter, was at that time, and had been theretofore, an assistant district attorney in charge of the above indictments in conjunction with the district attorney. That on the day last mentioned your petitioners presented to the said court their demurrers to the bills of indictment Nos. 328, 329, 330 and 331 (copies of which are hereto attached), which demurrers were subsequently overruled by the said Hon. Thomas K. Finletter, who rendered in connection therewith the opinion hereto attached. That said opinion was largely based upon the erroneous legal proposition that a person charged with a supposed criminal offense has no right, under the constitution and laws of this commonwealth, to question the sufficiency of an indictment found against him, but must be subjected to the disgrace, expense, inconvenience and peril of a trial before a jury, because after conviction he may possibly be able to successfully raise the question as to the sufficiency of such an indictment upon a motion in arrest of judgment.

That in said opinion overruling said demurrers said judge in commenting upon and condemning the action of your petitioners and filing said demurrers used language which was wholly unbecoming for, and which would naturally be interpreted by the community as an expression of the belief, on the part of said judge, in the guilt of your petitioners, and which necessarily tended to excite undue prejudice against them in the minds of the people in the community and thereby to prevent their obtaining a fair and impartial trial. That with the said demurrers,

your petitioner, Benjamin A. Haywood, presented a motion to quash said indictment No. 332 (a copy of which is hereto attached). That the said Hon. Thomas K. Finletter, in his said opinion, decided that the facts urged in the support of the motion to quash could hereafter be presented in arrest of judgment, and this, notwithstanding the fact that the act of assembly especially provides that all such motions must be made prior to plea pleaded.

UNDUE HASTE CHARGED.

That immediately after the rendering of said opinion, to wit, on Thursday, Dec. 1, application was made by the district attorney to said judge to fix the earliest possible day for a trial of said defendants, and, although said defendants, through their counsel, asked for a reasonable time in which to have an opportunity to have the books and papers of said People's bank examined by experts, and although, as your petitioners are informed and believe, about two months were required by the experts employed by the district attorney to examine the books and papers in so far as they related to said transactions referred to in said indictments, said judge peremptorily ordered that the trial of your petitioners should proceed on the Tuesday following, to wit, the 6th day of December, thereby allowing but three working days for an examination of said books and papers; and said judge thereupon then and there publicly stated, in effect, that your petitioners would have all the time which they were entitled for such examination of said books and papers upon their being produced in court upon the trial of said case. Said order was, however, subsequently modified by said judge extending the time until Monday, Dec. 12, on account of the engagement of one of petitioners' counsel in the United States court, thereby allowing your petitioners for said examination of said books and papers but nine working days; notwithstanding the fact, as has been previously averred, that nearly two months were required by the commonwealth's experts for such examination. While making such examination of said books and papers the experts employed by your petitioners discovered that a large number of checks, notes, bills, papers and memoranda forming part of the records of said People's bank were missing and were locked up in the office of the district attorney, and that without an inspection of said papers it was absolutely impossible for them to understand certain entries in the books of said bank relating thereto. Your petitioners, through their counsel, requested an opportunity to examine said papers in the district attorney's office and were peremptorily refused such permission. Your petitioners aver that the said refusal by the court to allow them proper time for an investigation and examination of said books and papers and the said refusal by the said district attorney to permit them to examine said papers in his custody constitute an absolute denial of justice to them.

PREJUDICE CREATED.

Your petitioners aver that by reason of the said action of the said James Gay Gordon, while he was a judge, and by reason of the said action and decision of the Hon. Thomas K. Finletter, whose affiliation with the said James Gay Gordon is well known, such prejudice has naturally been created in the body of the community against your petitioners that it will be impossible for them to obtain a fair and impartial trial at this time in the said court of quarter sessions for the county of Philadelphia.

That it is not and never has been pretended by anybody that either the commonwealth of Pennsylvania or said People's bank or any other person ever lost, or could have lost, one penny by reason of any transaction referred to in said indictments, and that in none of said indictments are the defendants, or either of them, charged with any intent to defraud the said commonwealth or said People's bank or any other person in any manner whatsoever. Nor were said prosecutions instituted or inspired by any person or persons on behalf of the commonwealth or said People's bank or of any person claiming to have been injured in any way by reason of any said supposed transactions referred to in said indictments.

On the contrary, said prosecution was instigated solely by said James Gay Gordon, then a judge as aforesaid, and by other open and avowed political enemies of said Matthew S. Quay, and for the sole purpose of unduly influencing and prejudicing the voters of this commonwealth through such abuse of the processes of the courts of justice at the general election, held in November, 1898, for the election of governor and members of the general assembly.

QUAY'S POLITICAL ENEMIES.

That the further prosecution of said indictment is now being unduly pressed not in the interest of justice, but by a conspiracy of the political enemies of said Matthew S. Quay, for the sole purpose of unduly influencing, prejudicing and intimidating the members of the general assembly in their choice of a successor to said Matthew S. Quay in the senate of the United States; and that to said end said conspirators are causing to appear almost daily in the various newspapers of this county libelous, defamatory and malicious comments upon said case for the purpose of making it impossible for your petitioners to obtain a fair and impartial trial, and are endeavoring by various unlawful means to secure a disagreement of the jury before which said cases will be tried, if they fail to secure a conviction, so that it is at this time impossible for your petitioners to secure a fair and impartial trial which is guaranteed to them and all other citizens by the constitution and laws of this commonwealth.

That by reason of the premises, and for the further reason that your petitioner, Matthew S. Quay, is a candidate for the United States senate at the coming session of the general assembly of the state of Pennsylvania, the newspapers of the city of Philadelphia, with possibly one exception, have been daily publishing such inflammatory, scandalous, false and defamatory statements relative to your petitioners and to the said charges that such undue prejudice has been excited in the public mind that it is impossible for them at this time to secure a fair and impartial trial upon said charges.

Senator Quay is anxious that the case be disposed of promptly, and with an impartial court has no concern about his prompt acquittal.

ALL LOYAL TO REPUBLICANISM

Stalwart Sentiments Expressed by Members of the Legislature.

TRUE TO THEIR PARTY.

Wanamaker Agents in the Interest of Alliances With the Democracy Fail to Break Through the Lines of the Grand Old Party.

(Special Correspondence.)

Philadelphia, Dec. 20.—With the assembling of the legislature but a few days off, the Republican members of both the senate and the house realize that they will shortly be called upon to show their party colors and assert their Republicanism in assuming control of both branches of the general assembly, in the name of their party. That this will be done and that both senate and house will be organized on straight Republican lines, and that the Republican caucus will name the next United States senator from Pennsylvania is apparent to all who have come in touch with Republican senators and representatives within the last week. The spectacle of Democratic dissensions presented at Harrisburg the other day, when the Gordonites and the Guffeyites were at each other's throats, and when John H. Fow's fusion conference was given a chilling frost by the action of Guffey and his lieutenants in keeping Democrats away from the meeting, has impressed Republicans everywhere. The latter realize that this is a year when it is important that there shall be Republican harmony. No better evidence of this fact could be given than the dismal failure of the Wanamaker agents have made in their attempts to get Republicans to declare that they will not go into the Republican caucus, and that they will not support Senator Quay for re-election. Of course, the few anti-Quay men who were elected avowedly against the senator are not expected to vote for him. With but few exceptions, scarcely half a dozen, however, they will go into the Republican caucus. Up to date, the Wanamaker agents have not gotten a single Republican senator or representative to declare against Senator Quay who had not been classed as opposed to him. With the purpose of creating the impression that there is a great sentiment against Senator Quay, the Wanamaker literary bureau is flooding the state with articles containing interviews with men like Jefferys of Chester, Sexton of Montgomery and Stable of Blair, not one of whom was on the Republican ticket, but all of them were elected by combinations of the Swallow and Democratic vote. To these they have added one Republican state senator, Henry, of Philadelphia, and only four straight Republican members of the house—Coray of Luzerne, Mackey of Lackawanna, Allen and Laubach of Philadelphia, the latter being an employe in the shoe department of Wanamaker's store. These were all elected as anti-Quay men and are not included in the estimates which give Senator Quay a big majority in the Republican caucus. Dr. Mackey has announced that he will vote for John R. Parr, of Lackawanna, the harmony candidate for speaker, as will others who are outspoken anti-Quay men. Followers of both Martin and Magee have been imperturbed by the Wanamaker emissaries to declare against Quay, or, at least, decline to go into the Republican caucus, but they have steadfastly refused to do anything of the kind.

A number of leading Republican members of both the senate and the house have been in this city during the last few days, and they have all expressed themselves in the most emphatic terms as to the sentiment in the Republican party on this question. Senator James G. Mitchell, of Jefferson county, than whom there is probably no closer friend of Governor-elect Stone in the state senate, spoke freely when asked his views on this matter.

A POLITICAL CONSPIRACY.

The motives that prompt the persecution of Senator Quay by those behind this so-called conspiracy case," said he, "are understood by the people in my section of the state. They realize that this is but part and parcel of the political campaign which has been waged by the retainers of Wanamakerism during the last three years. Republicans everywhere recognize that Senator Quay is charged with responsibility for blocking the political ambitions of a coterie of politicians, whose disappointment in his disbursements are given vent to in these proceedings. It is ridiculous to assume that any considerable number of men can be influenced by the actions of these disgruntled individuals, and it is quite absurd to imagine that members of the legislature will for a moment think of departing from the time honored practices and customs of the Republican party in the organization of the general assembly. The party spirit in my district is so strong that if any man elected upon the Republican ticket should go to Harrisburg and fail to participate in and abide by the action of the regular Republican party caucus he would return home to his constituents at his peril."

Another influential member of the senate and a formidable candidate for president pro tem. of that body, Senator William P. Snyder, of Chester county, was quite as emphatic in discussing the same subject.

"I do not see," he declared, "how any member of either branch of the legislature who was elected upon the Republican ticket can consistently or honorably abstain from participating in a caucus of Republicans, either upon the organization of the house or senate, the selection of a Republican candidate for the United States senate, or the consideration of any other question in which vital matters of party policy are involved. Every Republican senator or representative sent to Harrisburg is commissioned by his party to act for and represent the Republican voters of his district for the advancement of the interests of the Republican party. Any

man so delegated who fails to co-operate with his Republican colleagues, and who is not willing to abide by the action of a majority of regularly chosen and accredited Republican members or senators becomes a guerrilla, and can no longer be considered nor treated as a Republican. He is recreant to his party's trust and disloyal to the Republican organization, which honored him with his nomination and confided in his integrity and loyalty to the principles of Republicanism. There is not a particle of doubt that both houses will be organized without the slightest difficulty upon Republican lines, and that Colonel Quay will be re-elected to the United States senate."

Among those prominently mentioned for the speakership of the house is Representative William C. Kreps, of Franklin. Mr. Kreps is recognized as a Republican of the dyed in the wool brand, and despite the fact that in former years Franklin Kreps ran ahead of favor independents, Kreps ran ahead of his ticket this year, and the county gave the whole Republican ticket magnificent support.

FOR STALWART REPUBLICANISM.

"I am a stalwart Republican," said Representative Kreps, "and I believe that the house will be organized in accordance with stalwart Republicanism. My name has been mentioned in connection with the speakership and I appreciate the compliment that has been paid me by the kind things that have been said in the newspapers and by my colleagues. Of course I shall abide by the action of the caucus, and if I shall fail to receive the votes of a majority I shall gracefully support the successful candidate. I am satisfied from inquiry I have made in connection with my candidacy that there can not possibly be more than half a dozen so-called Republican members of the house who have any sympathy with or are seriously considering the question of fusion with the Democrats. I am sure that when the time arrives for action even these few disgruntled members will be found supporting the caucus nominee for speaker."

"This will be my first session in the legislature," remarked Representative Horace J. Thompson, "I come from that rock ribbed center of Republicanism, Indiana county. I know that if I failed to take part in any Republican caucus that might be called during my term I could not expect any further honors at the hands of Republicans of my county, where the Republican majority is larger than the Democratic vote. I have talked with a number of members of the house from different sections of the state, many of whom I have conversed with during my visits to this city. I have not met a single Republican member that has not said he proposes to participate in the Republican caucuses on both the speakership and the United States senatorship and abide by the action of the majority. There can be no mistaking the sentiment of the Republicans of Pennsylvania, as expressed at the last general election. They were determined that the Republican party and its principles should triumph, as was evidenced by the splendid vote cast for the Republican nominee for governor, Colonel William A. Stone, and by the large Republican majority in both the senate and the house. They look for us to stand by true and stalwart Republicanism."

Reminder of an Old Custom.

Hundreds of old country people, especially of Irish birth, will remember the Christmas candle which is lighted and placed in the window at midnight of Christmas even and allowed to burn there on the successive nights until it is all consumed. It is one of the most interesting of all the customs associated with the religious celebration of the Christian festival. It is symbolic, of course, of the "Light of the World," but some hold that with the mistletoe, the holly and the festive practices of the season it goes back to Druid or pagan origin and is derived from some olden symbolism of the returning warmth of the sun. However this may be, it is not generally known that the custom has been preserved in Canada to this day by a few old country people, comparatively speaking, to whom Christmas would not bear its holy message without the tall wax candle shining in their window.

Christmas Flowers.

The Meteor rose is the favorite flower to go with holly, as its red is of much the same tint as that of the holly berry. Many persons, however, do not stop to consider harmony of color and will combine orchids or any other flowers which they may fancy with the Christmas greens. But the latter always predominates in Christmas decorations, because these are intended to last throughout the entire week. Flowers, of course, would fade, but the inexpensive greens remain fresh.

Girls Limited to Dolls.

Girls are not ambitious in the matter of toys. Dolls, and all that go with them constitute almost the only class of toys especially for girls. With all the other toys, excepting perhaps the animals, the idea of a boy is indelibly associated. And, while everything else in the line of toys has advanced, dolls have remained stationary. They are more elaborately dressed, of course, but they could roll and open and shut their eyes, and even say "Papa" and "Mama" years ago.

Most of the dolls, particularly the fine ones, are of foreign make—that is, in the flesh. When it comes to dressing them France and Germany stand aside for America. Over here we want our doll to appear neither clumsy, as the Germans dress her, nor flashy, as the French will have her.

Mistletoe and Holly.

Mistletoe is the most expensive of the decorations identified with Christmas, for the best mistletoe comes from England and France and has to be imported at considerable expense. The best holly comes from Delaware, Maryland and Virginia, and goes under the name of Virginia holly. Most of the Christmas trees come from the Berkshires and Maine.

THE HOLLY SONG.

Blow, blow, thou winter wind,
Thou art not so unkind:
Thou art my ingrateful foe;
Thy tooth is not so keen,
Because thou art not seen,
Although thy breath be rude.
Heigh-ho! sing heigh-ho! unto the
green holly:
Most friendships is feigning, most lov-
ing mere folly:
Then heigh-ho! the holly!
This life is most jolly.

Freeze, freeze, thou bitter sky,
Thou dost not bite so nigh
As benefits forgot;
Though thou the waters warp,
Thy sting is not so sharp
As friend remember'd not.
Heigh-ho! sing heigh-ho! unto the
green holly:
Most friendships is feigning, most lov-
ing mere folly:
Then heigh-ho! the holly!
This life is most jolly.

In Washington's Time.

George Washington ate his first Presidential Christmas dinner in the house which stood at Pearl and Cherry streets, Franklin square, in New York city, and there were present, besides the President, Mrs. Washington, his grandchildren and a few invited guests. Six years before this time he had laid down his office as Commander-in-Chief of the Army. How little he expected the honors that were in store for him is evidenced by a letter which he wrote to Baron Steuben, on December 23, 1783. "This is the last letter I shall write," he says, "in the service of my country. The hour of my resignation is fixed at 12 to-day, after which I shall become a private citizen on the banks of the Potomac."

It is interesting to recall the fact that he reached Mount Vernon, after having resigned, on Christmas Eve, and was there snow-and-ice bound by weather so severe that he was unable to visit even his aged mother, who lived in Fredericksburg. The scene of his resignation in the Christmas season is well recalling.

Gen. Washington appeared in the hall of Congress clad in a dark brown cloth suit, which is distinctly said to have been of American manufacture. His sword was steel hilted, his stockings were of white silk, and a plain pair of silver buckles adorned his shoes. His hair was, of course, powdered and in bag and solitaire. The members of Congress sat with their hats on, as they still do in Parliament. Gen. Washington, conducted by the secretary of Congress, formally made his resignation to the President, concluding:

"I consider it an indispensable duty to close this last solemn act of my official life by commending the interest of our dearest country to the protection of Almighty God; and those who have superintended of them to His holy keeping." Scarcely less graceful was the reply of the President, whose prophetic words were: "You return from the theatre of action with the blessings of your fellow-citizens, but the glory of your virtues will not terminate with your military commands, but it will continue to animate remotest ages."

What Caused His Joy.

Hennepack—Last Christmas was the happiest day of my life.
Askins—How was that?
Hennepack—A burglar broke into the house on the previous night and stole the handsomely lithographed box of Royal Cabbaga Leafa cigars that my wife had bought for a present for me.

Christmas in Porto Rico.



The Day Before Christmas.

There silence in the house to-day,
The children do not want to play;
They hang around, their movements slow,
Their voices are subdued and low;
Each face shows earnest thought, because
To-night's the night for Santa Claus.
Anticipation running high,
They waited as the days dragged by,
And almost hourly on parade
The largest stockings they've surveyed
From early morning light, because
To-night's the night for Santa Claus.
Papa down at the office sits
And all day long his eyebrow knits:
He's almost tired enough to drop;
But on he toils; he cannot stop;
He's had no time to loaf, because
To-night's the night for Santa Claus.

He is Right Up to Date.

"Up to date?" said Santa Claus.
"Well rather!"
He rang up his polar stables.
"Hello, hello!" he shouted, "Run out that new reindeerless motor sleigh, Olaf; the children are waiting. Up to date? Just watch me while I mope!"

An Unpleasant Gift.

Askins—I presume you were not especially delighted with Professor Pokesmith's peculiar Christmas present of a snake preserved in alcohol?
Lushington—No, I did not appreciate either the gift or the spirit in which it was tendered.