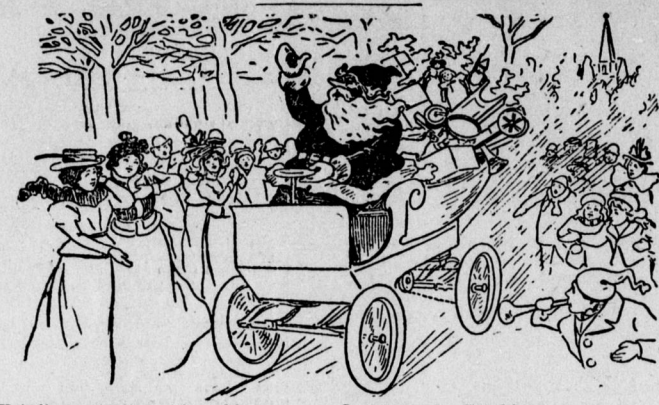


SANTA CLAUS UP-TO-DATE.



Ho! all you giggling girls and boys, Gay dads and bachelors melancholy, Fond mothers 'mid domestic joys...

In auto-car he fitted by, His antiquated outfit scorning; He fitted, as he caught Kit's eye...

bags, comparing discoveries and thanking those donors who were present. Bags of bright colors were provided for the servants too; not one was left out, and they were present to receive them.

The Uncle's Lament. Backward, turn backward, O Time in your flight, Ten or twelve years would be just about right.

A Postal Santa Claus. A postal Santa Claus visits the Boston postoffice every year during the week before Christmas. No one knows his name, and those whom he helps do not even know that they have been helped.

Many packages are mailed every year to go to foreign countries or to other parts of the United States as Christmas presents, and for some reason postage is not fully paid on all of them.

Mistletoe and Love and Kisses. The Druids regarded the mistletoe

DON'TS FOR CHRISTMAS.

What to Give and What Not to Give Your Friends. Don't pay more for the Christmas tree than you pay for the fruit. Don't send your gentleman an adorer a gold toothpick.

Quotations For Christmas Gifts. The passing of the Christmas card is thoroughly signalized by the vogue given the selected quotation, which is now made an important adjunct to every Christmas gift.

With some trifling present, Shakespeare's 'My good will is great though the gift be small.' With a pair of slippers, Dickens' 'We must go together.'

Christmas Twice a Year. Some children think that Christmas day should come two times a year; But that is not at all the way.

Romans Used Christmas Greens. It seems odd that Christmas Day should be so bound up with customs and observations which are but a survival of superstition and heathenish rites.

A Devonshire Belief. A belief was long current in Devon and Cornwall, and it is said to still linger in remote parts of the country.

A Christmas Plea. Don't look up the chimney, sweetheart, For Kris Kringle and his things; But leave your door a bit ajar For Cupid's dainty wings.

A Tip to Santa Claus. DEAR SANTA IF YOU CAN'T GET MY PRESENT IN THIS STOCKING JUST PUT IT ON TO THE MANTLE. Jimmy—'There, now, dat look; bully; I hope he'll take de hint an put some new stockings dere fore he does anything else.'

DR. TALMAGE'S SERMON.

SUNDAY'S DISCOURSE BY THE NOTED DIVINE.

Subject: The World as It Will Be—Improvement in the Condition of the Earth Has Been Revolutionized For Good—The Coming Century.

Washington, D. C.—By a novel mode Dr. Talmage in this discourse shows how the world will look after it has been revolutionized for good; text, II Peter iii., 13. 'A new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.'

Down in the struggle to make the world better and happier we sometimes get depressed with the obstacles to be overcome and the work to be accomplished. Will it not be a tonic and an inspiration to look back to the world as it will be when it has been brought back to paradisaical condition?

There will be nothing in that coming century of the world's perfection to hinder our terrestrial visit. Our power and velocity of locomotion will have been improved infinitely.

The prices of the fabrics indicate a reasonable profit, and the firm in the counting room and the clerks at the counter and the draymen at the doorway and the errand boy on his rounds and the messenger who brings the parcels.

But, I say to our escort, the Spirit of the twenty-first century, and I say to each other, 'We must go home now, back again to heaven. We have staid long enough on this terrestrial visitation to see that all the best things foretold in the Scriptures and which we read during our earthly residence on earth, and all the Davidic, Solomonid and Paulinian and Johannan prophecies have been fulfilled, and that the earth, instead of being a ghastly failure, is the mightiest success in the universe.'

But I say to our escort: 'Did all this merely happen so? Are all the good things spontaneously good? How did you get the old shipwrecked world afloat again, out of the breakers into the smooth seas?'

But I say to our escort: 'Did all this merely happen so? Are all the good things spontaneously good? How did you get the old shipwrecked world afloat again, out of the breakers into the smooth seas?'



By MEIRA HUNT.

TELL me, dear, was there ever such a bore! I sighed Mildred as she threw herself upon a heap of cushions in the pretty oriel window.

What fun it was opening the small bundles! A bottle of cologne appealed to one person, a little ring brought a shout of joy from the youngest guest, a dainty tumbler for the industrious one, a silver stamp box for the letter writer, a brooch, a pocket pencil—it was wonderful how many useful things came out of those little stockings!

When all had been examined, the genial host moved that the company adjourn.

Then came Mildred's triumph. 'Now, papa, will you lead the way to the library, where we shall find a postscript from Santa Claus?'

'Such conduct,' said the artless youth, 'most shocking seems to me! But 'neath the mistletoe, perhaps, 'tis different,' murmured she. The artless youth he smiled a smile; 'Pray, look at this,' quoth he.

It was a sprig of mistletoe, with tiny leaves of green; up rose that artless maiden, and with a solemn mien, And stealthily she led that youth forth from the shocking scene.

All silently sneled him forth (That artless maiden fair) To the dim conservatory 'Mid the palms and orchids rare; Then took that sprig of mistletoe And put it—in her hair!



C. F. LESTER.

At the library door the guests started in amazement. There in front of them was a large screen artistically draped with a fine flag; across the top were groups of small flags like a standing fringe.

In a corner stood a bushy Christmas tree, bright with the usual glitter and color. In front of the screen were hung mysterious bags of cambric, one for each color of the rainbow.

When the guests were seated, Mildred took a small wand in her hand and announced that, as Santa Claus had so much to do that evening, he had left a bag for each person on condition that every one should claim the right one.

Waving her wand towards her grandfather, she asked him to make the first guess. Alas! it was wrong. Once or twice she went around the circle before any one guessed the right bag.

Then Mildred says the owner must prove a right to the bag before she could deliver it. So saying, she handed over a small envelope containing a card on which were written a few lines of poetry.

as an emblem of love, and believed that it typified the beneficent feeling of their gods toward mankind. It is doubtless to this old Druidical association of the mistletoe with love that the English custom, which still obtains, of enforcing the forfeit of a kiss from any female who is caught under a branch of it at Christmas time, is traceable.

The name of Christmas, assigned to the festival, was derived from Christ and the Saxon maesse or mass, and the two words were combined to denote a special service in honor of the birth of the Son of God.

The Peacock a Christmas Bird. The peacock was the favorite Christmas bird with our English ancestors. The preparation of his peacockship was elaborate and expensive, and could be done only by an expert cook, who usually sent the bird to the table with his comb gilt and his tail spread.

Johnny Was Anxious. Mr. Squiggs (reading)—'I see that Professor Wiseman, the prophet, has decided that the world would come to an end next Christmas.'

The Pudding of Old. It is estimated that if all the puddings made in England in honor of Christmas were rolled into one, the weight of it would be 7589 tons. For this pudding 32,000,000 eggs were used.



A JOLLY REPAST WITH PLENTY OF MISTLETOE.

mystery hovered over her goings and comings, and reigned supreme behind the closed doors of her room. Christmas evening came, and with it the few guests for whom it had seemed so difficult to plan.

Christmas evening came, and with it the few guests for whom it had seemed so difficult to plan. The dinner table was bright with holly and mistletoe. A tiny Christmas tree occupied the place of honor in the centre of the table.

After the nuts and raisins, the tiny tree was lighted, and the wee stockings were distributed.