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Yet kind old Santa could not bear to leave even this stocking empty. So he had been puzzling his brains to find something with which the little boy could not hurt people.

"Chirp! Chirp!" sounded a sharp little voice. "Chirp! chirp! You may as well give it up. He doesn't deserve anything, the little scamp!" "Oh! Is that you, Cricket?" said San-

ta. "Come up here," and as he held out his fat forefinger a tiny black cricket reached it with a sudden jump. "You may as well give it un!" creaked the cricket in a shrill tone. "You can't think of anything, I know



"Not a drum; nor a cart, nor wheelbarrow; nor a ship; nor a fireengine; nor a top; nor a music-box; nor a clock! Oh! how I did want to give him one of those fascinating clocks!" and Santa Claus looked very wistfully at the cricket, and then signed heavily. "I thought of a nice little hammer and box of nails, and some nails into! That's the present for him.

What do I think?" said the cricket. "I think, Santa Claus, that you have forgotten how the little boy beat his brother with his drumsticks; how he sciesors: how he threw his harmonica at the nurse; how he __"

"Deer, deer, deer!" groaned Santa, "so he did; so he did!"

"And if you keep giving him things when he uses them so wrongly," continued the cricket, "how will he ever learn better? To be sure, his mamma and papa and all his kind friends are trying to teach him, but it is necessary that everybody should help to train such a boy as-"

"I know," interrupted Santa, "I know. You're a wise little counselor. and not as hard-hearted as you seem. And if you think it will cure the poor little fellow, I suppose we must give him the sawdust this year."

"Yes," said the cricket solemnly. "sawdust it must be."

Christmas morning came. The little boy, whose name Santa Claus did not wish mentioned, saw all the other children pull out one treasure after another from their long, well-stuffed stockings, while in his own, which he had hung up with so much hope the night before. there was nothing but sawdust!

If I should use all the sad words in the English language I never could tell you how sad that little boy was as he poured the sawdust out of his stocking, and found that Santa Claus had really sent him nothing else.

Poor little chap! It was almost a year later, just before Christmas, when Santa Claus again sat by his fire—thinking.

But this time he was in no trouble: no, indeed, not he! He was rounder and rosier and jollier than ever before:



and how he was smiling and chuckling to himself! His eyes twinkled so, and were so very bright, that you could almost have lit a candle at them. He and the cricket had been planning all sorts of ecstatic surprises for the stocking of the boy to whom they had given sawdust the year before: for, if you can believe it, the little boy had been trying all the year to be careful and gentle, and he was really quite changed!

"Sawdust is a grand thing," chirped the cricket, leaping about in delight. "Yes, but I am glad we do not need to use it this year," replied Santa. "Let me see the list again. Don't you suppose we could cram in one or two more things? Have you put down

This is the end of the story; or, at least, all that could be told before Christman: for if I should write more and a certain little boy should read it, he would know just what would be in his stocking—and that would never do in the world!

IF I WERE BANTA CLAUS.

If I were only Santa Claus, And Santa Claus was me. I'd show to him just what a good Old Santa Claus I'd be. I'd always bring the kind of toys And story books for him: I'd find his stocking ev'ry year, And fill it to the brim.

This year I'd bring a book or so On how we conquered Spain, Or how a boy pursued his foe Across the Klondike plain. And boxing-gloves-and, say, I guess A pistol would be great To Klondike with. And then-oh, yes,

A wheel for ninety-eight. I'd bring a leather suit and hat-The kind that cowboys wear.

He'd have a lot to spare. I'd fill his stocking then with all The candy it would hold. And where the packages were small I'd fill in round with gold. And when they saw how good I was,

How happy folks would be If I were only Santa Claus And Santa Claus was me.

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS.

Christmas was at hand. The stores in the fashionable shopping quarters of New York, with their gorgeous show windows, furnished abundant evidence of the fact. In the poorer districts of the city Christmas did not seem quite so much a prospect, as, for example, in Plug Alley, which was not very distant from the bazaars, yet few of the gay crowds ever troubled themselves to visit its dingy confines. Indeed, the calling list of the alley might be said to be confined to the rent collector, the sanitary inspector, the city missionary, a Salvation Army lassie, the fire engine, police van, and ambulance. Policemen were frequent sights in that congested miniature valid, which seemed to lie in an unusual amount of wickedness. Now, as Cripple Dick, who lived, or

at least existed, in the third story front room of the dilapidated building which formed one side of the alley, was unable to feast his eyes on the displays in the shop windows, he took it out in watching the miscellaneous sights just referred to, when missioners passed, or hoodlums were arrested. Dick had never seen any such specimen of gorgoous tophamper as a full-rigged hat of the fashionable style, but he respectfully admired the bonnets of the Salvationists. Dick often wondered why the Salvationists looked so happy when blocks of wood for him to hammer the they worked so hard and had so little. Dick was a good judge of hard things, his life of eight painful years. Like Mephibosheth, of whom he had never heard, he had been dropped when a child and so crippled for life; but unsnipped his eister's fingers with the like Mephibosheth, his fall was not due to the fright of a nurse, but to the brutality of a drunken father, who in a fit of rage had knocked him from his weak mother's arms on the hard floor. Orphaned Dick's world ever since had been Plug Alley. He knew that there was a bigger world about him, but judging from the representatives of it. he had seen that the world had no concern with the denizens of Plug Alley save to lecture, arrest or fumigate

them. One day, however, Dick had learned the secret of the happy-heartedness of the Salvationists. One of them, a sweetfaced young lassie, who Dick was sure must be a lady, found the maimed boy out and told him some things he had never heard before, speaking to him of the Lord Christ as though he were some one who was very lovely and very near, who once was bruised and maimed in a more cruel way than Dick had been, yet through no fault of his own. but for the sin of men. Dick had cried that day, from thought of that Other's

The lassie visited Dick again, just befor Christmas. "Do you know what Christmas means?" she asked. "Sort of!" said Dick. "It means that the grocer down at the corner tries to sell greens that ain't no good for cookin'. and that the coves down at the Five Pints has a bang-up dinner for onct in awhile. And I've heerd," he added reflectively, "from Bill Jenkins wot has a news-stand!" (Dick spoke the words with great respect) "that other coves wot lives on the avenue has big game

that day in the way or presents!" Dick looked wistfully out of the window as he spoke at the bit of smokeblurred sky that lightened dimly above the clothes-lines on the roof of the house opposite. Dick always supposed that if he ever went to heaven his soul would somehow have to pass by those clothes-lines and run the gauntlet of the shirts and socks of the day laborers whose washing Mrs. O'Grady did "for a consideration," but probably, if the truth were known, without much con-

sideration. "Oh. Dick," replied the lassie, "Christmas is more than that. The first Christmas was when the dear Lord came to earth and lay as a little child in a rough stable yard in Bethlehem, as the great Gift which cannot be told out in all its preciousness. And ever since people have been giving their little gifts one to another as tiny copies of his great sacrifice. He came to bring light to those who sit in darkness-

"Like me!" interpolated Dick, "Yes," said the lassie, "like you. But, Dick, we were all in the dark till the Christ came. He is the light of the world. And ever since his coming the Christmas lights have been burning-

the lights of faith, love, joy and hope." This and more the lassie said, while Dick listened as an exile might eagerly give ear to the tidings from a distant shore and sphere. And then Dick's visiter. handing him a toy bank, said:

The money in this is for you, dear boy, to get yourself semething nice for Christman, It's a little present from

the Christ, I hope you will enjoy it!" Dick awkwardly murmured his thanks, half-dazed by such kindness. He had never been called "dear" except by the deaf aunt who took care of him, who had several times intimated that he was a charge rather door to keep. The money in the bank happened to amount of \$1.89, the nucleus of a sum that the lassie had been saving toward a new bonnet, since the one she had revered gentleman has on many occasione.

Rut she spoken of the evils of like affairs, and on was decidedly weather-worn. But she did not tell Dick that.

Dick made a mental note of all the things he would like to get. But thenhe thought of that great gift. Strange dreams of Judean hills and of the outreaching in blessing of Christly hands afterwards pierced on the cross came to him. The result was that Dick formed some very definite plans. He commissioned Bill Jenkins to make some purchases for him.

humble lodgings. Mrs. O'Grady was there, and Bill, and little Towgle-head from the floor below, and a day laborer window, with a number of candles attached thereto. Near by were mysterious packages. There was a mop for Mrs. O'Grady (Dick meant it for a hint), and a cap for the day laborer, and a rocker for the old aunt, and a pair of gloves Dick had made Bill get for himself, and some toys for "Tow-

"But where is your Christmas?" they all exclaimed to Dick.

Mine is the Christmas lights!" oried Dick gleefully, feasiing his eyes on the tallow dips.

Some one had long ago said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive." Had Dick heard this? At any rate, he Bill slipped quietly off. He wanted to buy -mething for Dick. At the door below he ran across some Salvationists who were passing. One of them was the lassie. She recognized Bill, and looking up to the third-story window. asked:

"What are those candles in the win-

"Oh, those are Dick's Christmas lights," answered Bill. And then he told her how Dick had spent his money.

"Oh." said the lassie, "I wish I could get him something for his generous little self. Perhaps I can in the morning. Good night!"

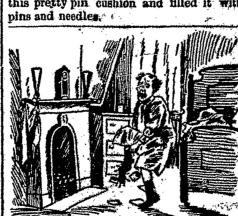
By the next morning the lassie had made up a wonderful package for Dick. As the Christmas chimes rang out on the frosty air, she went to Plug Alley, full of the pleasurable excitement of surprising Dick. But something had happened in the night. Dick was not there. He had gone beyond the patch of sky which lightened over the houseton yonder. Only his still and crippled form was left. He had smiled as he went, so the heavonly beacons must have blazed for him in welcome. "Don't cry," exclaimed the lassie to the old sunt. But as she said this, the tears ran down her own cheeks. Yet it wasn't a time for tears, but for halleluishs! Dick had gone from the dark world where the Christmas lights are sometimes lit to one where the Christmas lights are always burning.



1. Old Bach-Pill just hang up my stocking and go to the club to give the ladies a



has sewing material, so I have made him this pretty pin cushion and filled it with



3. Old Bach (on waking up Christmas morning)-Nothing in it, ch? Wow!

DIOUBLE TEWS.

During his remarks at St Mary's church Sunday Re. William Mulheron peater of the church, scor of the Knights of St. Al-phoesus for their lack of Catholicity is hold-ing a public dance during Advent. The Sunday he cited the action of the Council of Baltimore against dancing in any form declaring such to be against the laws of the church. The half in which the knights held their dance it said to bear an enemytable reputation, and it is asserted that amongset its enticing furnishings is a bar at which drinks are served out during the course of any of its "popular social events." The Knights of St. Alphonsus advertised a dance to be held in this place, and as an induce-ment inserted the words "Ledles free." Father Mulberon said, and justly so, that no Christmas eve came. A little com- young women having any respect for her-pany assembled on invitation in Dick's self would enter such a place. He sooted the knights for during to take the name of the good St. Alphonsus and dragging it into such notorious affairs. The Knights of St. who sometimes waved his hand to mans, but of late means other dationalities Catherine Cakes; marshall, Mrs. John Driv. Dick from the sidewalk, and Dick's have been admitted until to-day perhaps but coll; guard, Mrs. Ross Ward; treatest Mrs. deaf aunt. A wee tree which had cost order.

Alphonsus was originally composed of Germans over ampount treatment of the catherine Cakes; marshall, Mrs. John Mrs. Gold; guard, Mrs. Ross Ward; treatest Mrs. John McKessas and Mrs. Patrick Sullivan; delegate, Mrs. John

Attorney James Devine of Syracuse gave a locture in Lyceum hall Sunday night under the amplees of the Holy Name Society of afternoons called the Franking Peat.

St. Mary's church. Mr. Devine spoke on "The Catholic's Duty to His State, His church and His Neighbor." He gave a control of the State of the S clear and comprehensive interpretation of The A. O. H. slaved officers Mond. sponsible for the example they set in their everyday lives. Mr. Devine in an orator of ability and his discourse was listened so with the strictest attention He is one of the most prominent members of Syracuse Counfelt the truth of it in his heart that cll, Knights of Columbus, and a large delenight. In the height of the fostivity gation from Amburn council attended the lecture in a body, im respect of their brother.

The Holy Name society of St. Mary's church elected, Sunday afternoon, the fol-lowing officers: President, John Gallagher; socretary, John C. O'Brien and treasurer, Daniel F. Sheeban. This organization Isla a flowrishing condition and bids fair to in-Crease in strength and influence us it does in years Its membership extends up into the undreds, and is so large that an inserior organization, a board of directors, is elected to transact its business.

The past week saw a change in the per sousel of the clergy at the Holy Family church. Rev. M. E. Wall, the first assistant pastor, was transferred to the charge at Stanley, and Rev. Bemard Genamenginger, formerly of Rochester, was appointed to all the vacancy at the Holy Family. Father Wall was erdalped in June, 1897, and was immediately assigned to the Holy Family. His gentlemanly ways and impressive Christien spirit and bearing attracted many friends, and all were sorry to see him go, wishing, pevertheless, a deserved success in his new field. His successor, Father Commenganger, has for the past four years acted as the assistant pastor at the Immaculate Conception church in Rochesser. He is a graduate of St. Bernard's seminary, Rochester, and was ordained in December, 1804, I ment on Wednesday evening we Both of these young priests are former direction of Miss. Elimbeth M. Rochester boys,

The approach of Christmas is a remainder of the joyous time soon to be calebrated by the Christian world. Preparations are under way for the proper observance of the occasion, and in all of the Catholic churches the full solemnity of the Christmantide will be carried out. In everyday life we see gay preparations for the most eagerly looked for time of the year when the good old St. Nick makes bls annual rounds, bringing his choicest preparations to the expectant ones, both young and old. But how many there are in Aubura filled with poverty, desolation sickness and distress, when perhaps a dissi-pated father spends his meager delly allowance in helping supply the saloon keepen children with avery inxury while his own know met the necessaries of His. This is a time when a Christian apirit

should prompt its owner to take basket on his or her arm and journey quietly to some such with a few little more sels of food ora supply of clothing, sid or new, how gladly such gifts would be received, and what a measure of joy would thereby be infused into the lives of the sad recipients.

Caledonia

At the last regular meeting of Conneil 14. C. R. and B. A, the following officers were elected for the ensuing year: President; F. D. Ball; 1st vice-president, John Campbell; 2nd vice-president, Mary Mack; recording secretary, J. D. Donobue; assistant secre tary, Kate Jopp; financial secretary, L. Campbell; marshall, James Mack; guard, Daniel Kelley; trustees, James P. Kelly, L. J. Campbell, J. D. Donohue, Edward Shannon, Margaret Torpey,

A. O. H. have elected their officers as follows: President: P. G. Quinn; vice-president, Deanis Kelly, Jr., recording sectors, Daniel Gougherty; sinancial secretary. Daniel Gougherty; sinancial secretary. Charles McCall; trassurer, John Leavy; poismaster of Corping city, made during the tary, Charles McCall; treasurer, John Leary; sergeant-at-arms, John Wall; sentinel, Patrick Kernick; chairman of standing commit-

tee, A. D. Donohue. The Young Ladies, Sodality held their third solemn reception on the evening of December 8th. Three candidates were ad-

evening Dec. Stat at Burgess half. The many friends of Mr. George Wood who recently worked as a brakeman on the

Soone Point.

The dance which was held in Guild hal last Friday evening, was largely attended Miss Mate Allen has returned home from Elmira.

Miss Sullivan of Elmira, visited friends Mr. Henry Welldger, Jr., of New York was in fown this week. Mr. Charles Garlock has returned home

this Christmas, Johnnie. These are terrible times we're having.

Little Johnnie-They must be pretty hard, dad, when Santa Claus takes the trouble to drag my old sied out of the garret and give it a new coat of paint.

Miss Lillian Mason of Cheming Plantanes, which was labeling to this port is desirable at cards Monday evening.

The vessel Annadate same to this port is monor of visiting friends.

The use of this port is annual Houday ball of the same to the winter fired up Tuesday, to break the less to later in the season.

Thomas Contact the wall the vessel as the less to let the steam barge Resolute in but failed, as the joe is from four to six inches an thick-

Skinner tilns stradig to the prince Vendlagen Malking Co., da Transfer M. 12 Cheel and de damaged or

A. J. Brackett, former superinten Parrone Malring Co., in visition

Seneca Falls.

The C. R. & B. A. see Thursday, ex The second secon shall, John O'Hare; guard Patrick Murphy; trustees Mathew Plunkett, William G. Gavin, Berning E. O'Couner. There was a requiest high mass. Monday

morning at 8 o'clock for the deceased me

The Ludies Catholic Benroless Ass ciation gave a card party to their friends. Thursday evening December 15th, in the C. M. B. A. Itali, The objects of the party was for the people St. Patrick's perish.

On Tuesday evening of last west the L. C. B. A. elected the following officers: President, Mina Mary Hamil; Errevice-president, Mina Mary Gregory, second vice president, Mina Bridget Hoey recording secretary, Mina Jerusia M. Donald, assistant recording secretary, Mina Agnes McDonald, humaning secretary, Mine Rya Campbell; transluper, Mine Cathering Onless, mayout. La Fleut; alternate, Mrs. Ambrone Casav.

clear and comprehensive interpretation of the subject, calling especial attention to the necessity of strict discipline on the part of Catholics over themselves; their families, and particularly over their children, as the lessons taught to the young and the impressions they form in early life go largely to mould the character of the grown up man or Woods, James Reardon, John H. Reagan, Sylvanter woman of the future, and parents are responsible for the grample than set in their A. McGratu.

The Cresent Social Club will hold their 1sth annual banquet December #8thcommittee of five have been appointed complete arrangements.

Geneseo. Mrs. J. Cabill of Moscow, and Miss Mar-garet Farguson of Rochester, visited relatives and friends here this week. Oharter election will be held in this village

next Monday Mr. and Mrs. Austin Conway of Michigan. visited relatives here and in Piffard last

Mrs. William Archibeld of Avon, was the great of relatives here Monday and Table

Mrs. M. Sullivan and Miss Mary Class of Rochester, and Miss Effcabeth Offices of Weedsport, attended the ball as Couled bell on the reth inst. Invitations have been thewed make

the approaching marriage of Miss Maris Welch of Mt. Morris, to the Salut's church. Fewlerville, Dec. Atth, at 12 o'clock m.

Miss Elimbeth Lawlor of graduated from the Greece's From The estertainments at Concert Wednesday, Taureday and Etiday, a of last week for the hauste of Sa, church, were well absunded. Therei consisted of drills, singing and plays each number was wall rendered. Tommie Brogan in Sweet Marie, it titled to special mention. Tamelaying, Dr. Schintz gave his stereophicon is and it was instructive and interesting different views being very plain. On Filley evening Dr. Hanna of Rochester, gave a peaking from Charles Lemb, walch was House to attentively and enjoyed by all problem After the Lest entertainment, Skey's breken tra furnished music for denoing and light fantactic was tripped to the ever

light fantactic was tripped to the cost and hours of morn. An excellent appear we served at 12 o'clock. The act processes. O the entertainment will be about 18-co. The following persons held the indipatheness which drew prises: Miss Luties with a o'clickes; Miss Bleakets Sauces withing room chairs; Miss Kate Chaffe sives: Miss Was. Haley, ton of coal; Jolin Maria had gold place; William Parcell. Revy 1. A Hickey's portrait is water never such that Thompson received a haddeness to have prayer book for selling the samingualisms. **Elmir**

Saveral changes have been expected one. Old Reliable Bris road during lead a week. Superintendent S. L. Loomits of Tloga-Division, and Blossburg Con. being called to Jersey City, to assume superintendency of the Erie's recently of Loomis will be succeeded in Elmins b

The hundrome new club house of the Father Mathew Society is rapidly overlag completion, and the boys expect to be housed in their new home shortly taken from Year's.

The boy's choir of SE Peter and Paul and saming ridesprent appilation in 1846 Sauttoland editing singua se 1848 Sh went services.

December 8th. Three candidates were admitted to membership, Misses Kate Gramey, Nellie Freeman and Frances McGinnis.

The Ancient Order of Hibernians will hold their first annual dance on Friday control of St. John as were favored with an beautifully randered Offer cory sold last Sunday. Miss Stella O'Nell's the talented young soprano, single with time effect an 'O Salutarus' assented to the stellar of the control of St. John as were the salutation of St. John as were the salutation of St. John as were the congregation of St. John as were the salutation of St. John as w

The New England Stock Company, keys delighted large sudlences all week at the Egwho recently worked as a brakeman on the seum. Next week the Million Aborn Opera Lehigh Valley, are pleased to see him behind Co., which did such a phenominal business the counter in J. D. Donohue's store again. Thinksgiving week, cours for another week's run.

Miss McCuilon of Lockport, who has the guest of Elmira friends, returned to Visa Teress McCartly of Wavely In the city Tuesday.

Ed. Horgan returned Monday short trip to Buffalo. Mise DeWolfe of Weekington is sp the winter with nor saver. Mrs. P. Byrne of William street.

to Elmica after a few day's visit with his Miss Lillian Mason of Chemung F

Cherrises as

