

CHRISTMAS GAMES

A Santa Claus Party For Christmas Evening

FOR a gay frolic of a Christmas party with the guests from the ages of ten to fifteen use these lines for the invitation

Will you come to my party
And meet a dear old friend?
Don't bother about the clothes and things
Just fix up good friends
For we will frolic
For we will play
We will dance
We will take a turn with Santa Claus
Should we have a little champagne
Come from eight to eleven

Decorate with holly, mistletoe and quantities of Japanese lanterns

Santa Claus may receive with the young host or hostess, shaking hands with each guest, putting snapping motions with them and throwing gay garlands of tinsel paper over their shoulders

Then Santa disappears, only to come back with his pack, from which each child draws a Christmas favor. When the dinner, room is thrown open Santa leads the way to the tune of a lively march. He may then take his leave with a "Merry Christmas to all, and to all a good night"

SANTA CLAUS' CLAWS

Santa Claus' claws can be played by any number of children

First of all, the players sit in a circle on the floor, with their feet stretched out in front of them, and then one of the party starts singing

Santa Claus, claw one
Santa Claus, claw two
How many claws has Santa got?
Santa come tell me and draw it in

As the singer pronounces each word she touches the feet of all the players in turn, allowing one word for each foot. When she comes to the last word, "in," the player whose foot she touches draws it in, as she has bid.

This goes on until all the feet but one have been drawn in. The owner of that foot has to pay a penalty for being last

To pay the penalty the player gets down on the ground on hands and knees, and one by one the other players, who have been fortunate enough to get out, place various articles on the losing player's back, saying "What is this over you?"

The child on his or her hands and knees says what he or she thinks it may be

If it happens to be a handkerchief and the player guesses a fan the other says "Get that handkerchief-stay until fan comes," and the handkerchief is placed on his or her back

This goes on until a heap of all sorts of things has been loaded on the poor penalty payer's back. As soon as the player guesses correctly what is being held over him or her, however, he or she is allowed to get up, and then they play again and again until they are tired

THE CHRISTMAS DONKEY

A frolic on the order of the ever popular donkey game is always in order for a Christmas gathering of young folks. Vary the picture a little to suit the occasion and offer a prize to suit the struggle. If the shops are not at hand to offer inspiration for the new version of this contest any one with some little artistic skill can draw a picture of Santa Claus on a piece of muslin and color with tinsel tracks

The youngsters are blindfolded, and by one and are sent to pin a spray of holly in Santa's hand. It is, of course, the one who comes nearest to accomplishing this feat who wins the prize. A copy of some popular juvenile story. The children who stick their holly sprays farther away from the mark may be condemned to perform some funny stunts. For instance, they may draw imaginary reindeer in the air with the index finger in the presence of the rest of the company

Out a turkey out of white cloth and leave off one foot (out eight or ten feet out of paper and, after pinning the cloth turkey to a curtain, give each child one of the paper feet. Blind fold one at a time and let each try to pin the foot in place. Some will come quite near if they watch closely and take measurements by eye before they are blindfolded. A little bag of candy from the little knickerbocker from the Christmas tree should be given the one among tinsel black ones, red apples, cedars, etc., but not much northward of Hingham and Quincy

HOT COCKLES

Christmas Pranks Popular in the Long Ago

Hot cockles is a somewhat painful sort of blind man's bluff, dear to our grandparents at Christmas time. The blindfolded one kneels down in the center of the room, and all the rest of the players give him a hit on the back in turn. The object is to guess who struck the blow. As soon as a correct guess is made the hitter becomes "it." Care must be taken to strike lightly or this romp may become dangerous

SIMPLE CHRISTMAS MENU

- Oyster Cocktail.
- Salted Almonds.
- Cream of Tomato Soup.
- Roast Turkey.
- Boiled Dressing.
- Cranberries.
- Celery.
- Potato Croquettes.
- Spinach.
- Creamed Onions.
- Cabbage Salad on Lettuce Leaves.
- Plum Pudding.
- Hard Sauce.
- Vanilla Ice Cream in Glasses.
- White Mountain Cake.
- Bonbons.
- Crackers.
- Cheese.
- Coffee.

A CHRISTMAS IN WAR.

"Fighting Bob" Evans' Story of the "Presenta" to Fort Fisher.

On Christmas morning said Rear Admiral Evans, U. S. N. retired, thought that he had made three times as much water as land. No true sailor would exchange Christmas for any other day

"Of all the Christmases spent at sea the one that rises before me most vividly is that of 1865, when our Federal army and the garrison there were trying to capture Fort Fisher. The only presents we received and they came fast and furious, were sent shot and shell from the guns of the enemy. But this didn't destroy our sense of humor. The boys would write on each shot or shell before placing it in the gun, Presented by, and add the name of the vessel from which it happened to be fired. Mighty few turked at the fort that day. In fact, this Christmas greeting, All the gunners caught the spirit of the gun just for the lighting (line is no place for serious faces)

"Despite the excitement of the fierce combat we managed to have the mast heads of all the ships trimmed with Christmas greens, even though the sailors had to risk their lives in going ashore to get them, and you may be assured the sentiment of the day was not wasted"

TO SEND WITH CHRISTMAS GIFTS

- Calendars.
- May all the days throughout this year "Red letters" be to you my dear
- May all the jeweled beads "Upon Time's tower" Be gold without a fail
This is my prayer for thee
- Handkerchiefs.
- Twelve bits of white cloth to my lady's handkerchiefs
 - As many as months in the year
 - Here's hoping that never a month nor month-day will be lost to us at all this year
- A Box of Cigars.
- Many a film of fairy fancy comes up in smoke and rain
 - But being a woman of course I can't see
 - What dream has sailed are here Helmeator

THE HAYESES' CHRISTMAS.

The President's Wife Herself Put Up Delicacies For the Sick Christmas at the White House with Mrs. Hayes as its mistress was a suggestion of Christmas charities and joyous gatherings

William I want you to buy forty turkeys, besides our own, and vegetable pickles and fruit to go with them. She said to the steward one Christmas

The steward has told with pride how for four years he got the forty turkeys and how the custom came to the store. She rolled up her sleeves and filled bags with cranberries, lemons, crackers and small delicacies for the sick

The Hayeses gave the home Christmas presents in an original way. All the gifts were taken to the family room assorted for each person and laid on tables. Mr. and Mrs. Hayes distributed them. At the top of a bell some one was called, and walking in, he received all his gifts. Each in turn came the same way

The Tallest Holly Trees.

The American holly appears to attain its greatest size and perfection in the southern Arkansas and Texas, where it is to be seen at times from forty to one hundred feet in height. In much smaller or some little knickerbocker from the Christmas tree should be given the one among tinsel black ones, red apples, cedars, etc., but not much northward of Hingham and Quincy

The Little Boy Who Moved.

The fairies missed him when they came to play their evening game. They searched the old red farmhouse through. They called aloud his name. They even looked inside the barn. But vain their questing proved. So they made up their wits. The little boy had moved. Kras Kringle missed him when he came upon his reindeer ride. He hunted for him high and low. But not a trace he spied. But still he keeps a lookout sharp. To find him if he can. The little boy who went one day To live inside a man. —Melanburgh Wilson in June.

CHRISTMAS WOOLING OF CUPID.

Mystic Love Spells With Apples in Foreign Lands.

Apples enter into many Christmas spells. In Austria on Christmas eve, the apple must be cut in halves in the years of age than a series of paper dark and without being touched by the hands. Some prefer cambric as hand. The left hand half is then placed even better for service. Collars of all in the bosom of the diviner and the right hand half behind the door of the spell have been fully carried out. The spirit or astral of the beloved one appears standing beside the half which was laid behind the door

Another charm is to cut an apple in two and count the seeds in each half. If the numbers are even marriage will be soon. If a seed is out in two there will be trouble in the course of love and should two seeds be out there will be only widowhood

A British maiden throws the fruit from her window into the street and waits for a suitor. If the suitor without being picked up she will be widowed soon after marriage. Should it be picked up by a woman marriage will not be within the coming year, but should it be picked up by a man then she will be wedded before the next year is ended

CHRISTMAS DAY

How will it dawn the coming Christmas day.

A northern Christmas such as past years have seen. And knifes, shaking hands for once a year. And dainties who tell old legends of the fire.

Red sun blue sky, white snow and keen fighting all with a, the blood on fire

And makes the old man in, with a young through the shaft of stone through the longer night. In whatever garb or gas or sand "Santa Claus" comes, still will be Christmas day

—Charles Kingsley

MEMORABLE YULETIDES.

Odd Coincidence of Queen Victoria's Sorrows at Christmas Time

One of the most extraordinary Christmas days London ever had was that of 1891. The shops had been as usual, brightly prepared and decorated with the object of attracting the buyers when suddenly on Dec. 22 a thick fog came on. Not until the evening of Dec. 26 did it lift. This particular fog held the record for being the heaviest London had known. Thirty lives were lost and over 200 accidents recorded

Christmas 1890 was the coldest England and Scotland had ever experienced. Just three years later Christmas day was marked by news that William Makepeace Thackeray, the great novelist, was dead

The late Queen Victoria's most memorable Christmas was the most pathetic. It was in less than a fortnight from Dec. 25, 1891 that her husband, the prince consort, passed away. So affected was her majesty that she celebrated Christmas day in the traditional fashion. Then on Christmas day in 1872 the Prince of Wales, who became King Edward VII, was so ill that his life was despaired of. But he made a remarkable recovery

USE MOST CHRISTMAS CANDY.

Several Million Dollars' Worth Sold to New Yorkers

Three million dollars' worth of Christmas candies is New York city's annual holiday bill

The amount of money spent by New Yorkers during the holidays for candy alone is so great that it seems out of proportion to the amount donated for charity until it is remembered that perhaps one third or more of all the candy bought during the last half of December is given away by secular and religious societies by Sunday schools and churches and that on an average a large part of the sum belongs in the charity account

Three or four New York manufacturers get the bulk of this class of orders and they agree that even taking the population of the city into account New York's consumption of candy exceeds that of any other city

CHRISTMAS IN NORWAY.

Richly Cooked Rice a Popular Dish Brownies Used to Share It

The day before Christmas the holiday really begins. It is customary to have a richly cooked rice served with milk or fruit juice for dinner. In the afternoon is a bran-bread almond and he who gets this receives a present. The practice used to be prevalent among the peasants to set out a dish of this Christmas rice in the barn for the gnomes or brownies whom they thought would do some good turn for them in payment

Flowers always make a home look festive and the custom in Norway is to send these as messengers of love at Christmas

LORD OF MISRULE.

A Merry Christmas Gambol For Nimble Folk

To play this game appoint some lively person as master of the revels, using the old Yuletide phrase, lord of misrule. Give this person a gift wand to which a banner of velvet is tied with a box of a color ribbon or tissue paper

As soon as the lord of misrule has been so invested all his followers are obliged to execute copy all that he says and does. If he speaks his words must be repeated correctly. If he makes a gesture the rest of the company must make the same one using the same hand or foot

A clever leader will give his followers a merry dance around the room, climbing over sofas crawling under tables, pinning, gesticulating, whatever he does the others are obliged to keep up with until every one is out of breath with exertion and laughter

JACK-IN-THE-BOX.

He Makes a Hit at Santa Claus' Assistant

At a Christmas party for children last year, had a big box on a platform covered with red cambric to which sprays of holly were pinned. At just the right moment Santa Claus appeared, saying he had an assistant, this year who was so popular he just had to keep him shut up. He said all children loved him so that he was sure he would be recognized at once. Then he unhooked the box, and "Jack" leaped out with a spring, his arms full of packages. "Jack" was pushed down into the box with a great deal of difficulty, and Santa told him to look for more presents and hooked the box in a moment unhooking when "Jack" spring up with more parcels. This act was repeated several times, and the children went wild with glee

FROST CARNIVAL.

A Charming Christmas Masquerade For the Children.

Nothing was more delightful to a family of little people under twelve the years of age than a series of paper dark and without being touched by the hands. Some prefer cambric as hand. The left hand half is then placed even better for service. Collars of all in the bosom of the diviner and the right hand half behind the door of the spell have been fully carried out. The spirit or astral of the beloved one appears standing beside the half which was laid behind the door

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THE SNOW PARTY.

A Gala Event For Christmas Afternoon or Evening.

If in doubt how to entertain the little folks Christmas afternoon and evening let them have a snow party. Cut bells from cardboard, either red or white, to be written on with white or green with red ink on which write the following:

- One and one
- Our Christmas tree
- Saturday next
- At half past three
- The snow party from half after three until six
- At the house of Mrs. Weeks

Prepare the tree by keeping to a white color scheme entirely cotton sprinkled with artificial diamond dust. A white bird's nest filled with sugar almonds, one for each girl, on the branches, glittering holes of white almond-bliss-candy, from Mrs. Weeks. The children's names written on the branches and with white candy ball snowballs make a very beautiful tree

This is the song for the children to sing around the tree, all hands joined.

- Today's Christmas tree
- Yes, it is from westlands deep
- Where winds are blowing chill
- And flowers are asleep
- Now in our parlour wide
- The strangest fruit you bear
- With pretty boys and girls and boys
- For children's eyes where

SHORT S

- Christmas tree, Christmas tree
- Shining bright and far
- The dearest tree in all the world
- In children's eyes where

The snowball candy boxes are given out and the children lined up, throwing the balls until each girl gets one containing a few dials and each boy one with a top

THE MASQUERADERS.

Yes I believe in Santa Claus in sixes and fairies too I've seen 'em both, but because of love I bring the do

Their names are Jax and Tender-peps

And Good Will Here on Earth Their mission is to ease distress With happiness and mirth

And when they dress as fairy folk, Is sure and gauze arrayed, They think 'tis just a pleasant joke To come in masquerade.

—John Kendrick Bangs

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The last few years I was mostly sick with different diseases, they made me frightful, could feel a steady pressure on my head. Pastor Koenig's Nerve Tonic cured me of all these troubles entirely. It is a wonderful medicine. I am so thankful to know a remedy which restored my health. I was in treatment by four physicians, but it was without any benefit, at least they gave me up by saying: "Nothing more could be done for me." My share thanks, the Tonic has given me good health and spirit.

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