

# UNCLE SAM NOW AN ALLY OF SANTA CLAUS

## The Young Woman Who Prevailed on the Postal Authorities to Deliver Letters for Santa Claus to Charitable Concerns



MISS ELIZABETH PHILLIPS  
A WARM FRIEND OF SANTA CLAUS



WRITING LETTERS  
TO SANTA



POSTMASTER GENERAL  
MEYER  
WHO BELIEVES IN SANTA CLAUS



ONE OF UNCLE SAM'S LETTER  
CARRIERS DELIVERING LETTERS  
TO SANTA CLAUS.

CHRISTMAS, 1907, was made happier to thousands of children the country over because a young woman's letter to President Roosevelt turned every one of Uncle Sam's letter-carriers into a messenger boy for Santa Claus.

Children are still hugging toys they never would have had but for the success of a plan devised and put through by Miss Elizabeth Phillips, of Philadelphia. She it was who persuaded the Postoffice Department to deliver to charitable organizations letters addressed to Santa Claus by children of the poor, who knew no other way to reach the jolly old patron saint of the young.

In previous years no notice was paid to letters of this kind. Uncle Sam, stately in his official robes, refused to bother with them. He did not know the address of Santa Claus; perhaps he was one of the ignorant skeptics who do not believe in the existence of Santa Claus. It made no difference to him that little ones, many not tall enough to reach his letter boxes, litted in awkward childish handwriting letters that told what they desired for Christmas, but could not fairly expect from parents so poor as hardly to be able to buy the necessities of life.

Many of these letters in their simple expression contained a pathos whose depths the greatest novelists never sounded. Nearly all of them, some written on wrapping paper, most of them without stamps, all showing the signs of poverty, had in them some word of sadness. The most pitiable told of parents dead. The most unselfish asked nothing for self, but told of little baby brother or sister who wouldn't have any Christmas unless Santa came to the rescue.

After every Christmas in past years thousands of such letters found their way to the oblivion of the dead letter office, and for nearly every one was somewhere a child's pillow wet with the tears of disappointment. The Santa Claus had paid no attention to a letter on which were built those fond hopes which the innocence and dream of childhood can so swiftly build on the slightest foundation.

But this year no such missives will go to the bins of Uncle Sam's department of unclaimed mail.

Every letter sent to Santa Claus has had an answer.

The action of a tender-hearted woman, aided by the help of two devoted fathers, President Roosevelt and Postmaster-General Meyer, worked a joy that perhaps spread more joy throughout the land than any action of President Roosevelt's administration.

Miss Phillips has in past years found her keenest Christmas pleasure in caring for the children of the poor. Her quiet acts of charity found willing help from other friends, and only the difficulty of ascertaining the children who were deserving kept the project to its original limit.

Then came her plan of having the Santa Claus letters sent to herself and others charitably inclined.

First she wrote to President Roosevelt a simple letter, in which she pointed out the possibilities of bringing joy to children if the names of all who wrote to Santa could only be brought to the attention of those able and willing to give.

President Roosevelt, perhaps with an eye on his little Kermit and Quentin, replied to Miss Phillips that he would do what he could.

Then from the White House to the Postoffice Department went a letter suggesting in its possibilities to Young America.

In it the President of the United States asked the Postmaster-General if there was anything to prevent the execution of the plan. Mr. Meyer, himself a father and a family man of the Roosevelt type, at once responded joyously that nothing could interfere. It was a simple matter that would involve a little extra work, perhaps, but that if Miss Phillips would acquaint the department with what she desired in the matter of such mail it would be sent wherever she wished.

Then throughout the length and breadth of the land to every Postmaster in every state in the Union, from New York down to the smallest cross-roads postoffice, was sent the fateful communication, known officially as "No. 94"—that first of its kind in this country. It reads as follows:

"Ordered, that hereafter and until the close of the first day of January, 1908, Postmasters are directed to deliver all letters arriving at their respective postoffices addressed plainly and unmistakably to 'Santa Claus,' without any terms or expressions identifying the person for whom such letters are intended, to any regular or-

ganized charitable society in the city or town of address, to be used exclusively for philanthropic purposes. In the event that claim should be made by more than one society for letters so addressed, such letters will be equally divided according to number between or among the societies making such claim.

"G. V. MEYER,  
Postmaster-General."

This much achieved, Miss Phillips addressed herself to completing her organization.

Years of work for charity made this no difficult task. There were friends in many big cities and points all over the Union only too eager to assist. It takes little capital to please the child. An expenditure that would satisfy one adult is enough to bring joy to a dozen kids, and the obligation of making children happy is one that all share on what ought to be the greatest day in the year.

Miss Phillips was surprised at the heartiness of the response. Even grumpy old bachelors got busy. The Rev. Herman L. Duhring, of Philadelphia, pastor of an aristocratic congregation, organized the men of his church to help. He expected the married ones to aid gladly, but was surprised to see how willingly the bachelors, those who might have been expected to be out of sympathy with children's wants, got into line.

Many who did not personally have time to receive letters and make purchases of presents gave of their means to Miss Phillips to help her make her purchases.

Merchants made contributions of dolls and toys, children of the rich gave old toys that had lost their charm but which were still good enough to be hailed as treasures by children many of whose names never known what it was to be in possession of anything meant for pleasure.

As in all cases addresses had to be given by the writers so as to tell the destination of the presents, it was not difficult to investigate and find out who deserved, and who did not. In cases where it was found that parents had ample means to buy gifts, naturally the

charity was withheld, but perhaps in many of these cases close-listed mothers and fathers were shamed into gifts that might never have come had not some letter exposed to them the tragedy of childhood, the pleasure of other children denied by a policy of over-stringent economy.

In these plaintive missives to Santa, the mother instinct of the American

girl was shown in the request for dolls. Fifty per cent of the letters called for babies. Those that were sent were not the great big ones that cause wonderment when displayed in the show windows, but they were pretty enough to accomplish their mission of giving joy.

The Teddy Bear was also a popular form of request. The boys wanted sleds and pennknives, footballs, baseballs, toy

guns, etc. Next Christmas will see the project tried on a still larger scale. Miss Phillips and her associates think it succeeded well enough to warrant the organization of branches all over the United States.

"Some of our critics argue that we may be imposed upon," said Miss Phillips, "and I am not prepared to deny that a minor percentage of our gifts may not

have reached entirely deserving hands. But the proportion is bound to be small, for the baby mind has not enough guile to cheat, and our investigations were of a character that enabled us to ascertain almost to a certainty who had a right and who had not, to our help.

"To me it seems that it is far better that some few should get who did not deserve rather than that any child should undergo the tragedy of facing a Christ-

mas without any of the joys that make it dear to other children. Children feel deeply. Adults do not often enough recall this fact, and mature years have no more poignant griefs than many of the woes of childhood that we dismiss as too trivial to need consolation.

"An implicit faith these letters are sent to Santa. We who have hearts that beat in tenderness for babyhood should exert our utmost to see that these hopes are not disappointed."



THEY WROTE TO SANTA AND  
IN THEIR ARMS THEY TREASURE  
THE RESULT

## FROM SILVER INTO GOLD

Philadelphian Says "Merely a Question of Fusing Western Ores."

CONFIDENTLY asserting his discovery of a process to transmute silver into pure gold, J. Emory Byram, selected Councilman from the Twenty-third Ward and master of ceremonies at bathhouse openings, has given additional information of the scientific theory on which he says his process is based.

"We just duplicate the forces of nature," he says, "and really complete the process to which silver was being subjected in geologic times.

"Now, let me illustrate. Take a glass of beer, for instance. You know when it is drawn there is always a 'collar on it.'"

In spite of the spread of local opinion and the temperance idea, this premise seemed to be based upon a fact of virtually universal knowledge, and was allowed accordingly.

"Well," proceeded the alchemist of Frankford, "that collar is merely beer mixed with air. Just let the air escape, and the froth will settle down into ordinary beer. Now, it is just the same with silver and gold. When all these metals were being formed, way back in prehistoric times, the whole mass was cooking, so to speak, and the silver is the froth which was on top when the natural forces desisted. The specific gravity of the metals, and the fact that gold and silver are always found together, with the silver on top, proves my theory. That silver froth, if the natural process is duplicated, can be converted into gold, and that is what we will do in Chester.

"This little book explains all," he added, and pointed out a page in Truth, his pamphlet advertising stock for sale in a Gold Manufacturing Company. The extract explains the Byram theory of matter in these words:

"All minerals are made up of atoms.

All matter, animate and inanimate, obeys the atomic law. The action of that law on silver and gold I have discovered. The study of astronomy, chemistry, the higher mathematics and physics taught me that matter had a fourth dimension, ether or the ethereal state—the others being gaseous, liquid and solid; that there was a cause for the weight of atoms and the specific gravity of matter, and that under certain conditions some substance existed that would free the atom and allow it to regroup at will."

Philadelphian politicians, noted for the distance at which they can see a good thing, the avidity with which they seize it and the tightness with which they hold it, are fighting shy of the Byram gold plant, though the modern exploiter of the philosopher's stone offered to pass out stock to numerous public officials on the easiest of terms.

"I'll let you in on the ground floor," he is reported to have said to enterprising organization office holders who are making gold out of other things than silver.

"We may get in on the ground floor, but what's to prevent some one else from being in the sub-cellar?" is quoted as the tenor of their responses in declining Byram's glittering proffers.

"Why do you want to sell stock at all if you have such a good thing?" was asked of Byram.

"Well, we're only selling enough to reimburse me for my expense in fitting up the laboratory and installing the machinery in the Chester plant," he explained.

"Will you patent your process?"

"Not much," was the prompt reply. "Anybody can get a copy of a patent for 30 cents."

"All metals look alike to your process. Do they? Can you make gold out of any metal?"

"Yes; only the process is harder. I

made some gold from copper, but silver is nearer to gold in its nature. Copper, silver and gold all go together as one group, with chemists, you know."

Down in Chester, where the James Emory Byram Gold Manufacturing Company has obtained a big mill and is fitting it up to convert silver into gold and clear up \$1200 or \$1500 a day, according to the inventor, the people understand that the factory is merely to reclaim gold by a cheap and new process, from the refuse of Western mines.

Byram insists that this is not the case, but that he will actually transmute silver, so that a pound of pure silver shall become a pound of pure gold. It's not a reclamation process, he says, but an actual realization of the medieval dream.

In this he was substantiated by Charles D. Crawford, late of the United States Navy.

Heavy machinery is being put into the mill, and there will be two powerful crushers, capable of exerting a pressure of 400 pounds to the square inch. The acid vault is said to be a real curiosity. It is a brick-walled chamber, 12 feet long, 8 feet wide and 8 feet deep. Its top is even with the floor of the main factory room, and it will be guarded day and night against intruders. A complete police call system has been put into place.

According to the Chester account, the mine refuse is to come from the West in steamships, and the cargo will be sent up Chester Creek in barges to unload at a big wharf now being built. The factory has a long water frontage. Expert workmen are to be kept busy by sharing in the profits of the concern, and it is said that 1500 hands will eventually be employed, though Mr. Crawford, who has charge of the mill, says that only 20 hands will be put into service when the mill is opened next February or March.

"It's nothing new," says Byram indifferently. "As far back as 1897 I made two bars of gold from silver, and they were sold in the name of Captain Crawford to the United States Mint in this city."

Dr. Stephen H. Emmens, inventor of smokeless powder, at the suggestion of

Captain Crawford, took up the idea of making gold, and at Dr. Emmens' death, in 1900, Captain Crawford consulted me. My first results, which convinced me that transmutation of minerals was possible, were obtained while experimenting in the Central High School Laboratory in 1887.—Philadelphia North American.

**Fish in the Great Lakes.**

Chicago Tribune.

The fish stories of the Great Lakes are both big and true. Practically every variety of fresh water fish in common use as food is found in the Great Lakes. The principal yields are trout, whitefish and herring, but there are dozens of other kinds that are taken in considerable quantities. Even the despised sucker represents a value of \$12,500 in the latest report by the National Bureau of Fisheries. Sturgeons were caught to the value of \$38,354, yellow perch amounted to \$23,676, pike, perch or walleyed pike to \$467,297, German carp to \$138, turbot to \$2,372.

**The Fustler Goes Buggy Riding.**

Eugene Field.

"Suppose," he said, in accents soft,  
"A fellow just like me  
Should axle a little girl to ride,  
What would the answer be?"

The maiden dropped her liquid eyes,  
Her smiles with blushes mingled,  
"Why seek the beetle halter when  
You may love on, sur, single?"

And then he spoke, "Oh be my bride,  
And you once again;  
You are the impress of my heart,  
And here shall ever reign.

"I'll never tire of kindly deeds  
To win your gentle heart,  
And saddle be the shaft that reads  
Our happy lives apart."

Upon her cheeks the maiden felt  
The mantling blushes glow,  
She took him for her faithful hub,  
To share his wheel of woe!

More than 90,000,000 ties were bought by railroads in the United States last year, involving 2,000,000,000 to 4,000,000,000 feet squared timber.

## LABOR UNION GROWTH

Began in 1803, When the New York Shipwrights Organized.

THE shipwrights formed a society in New York City in 1803, and the tailors and also the carpenters did this in 1808 in the same town. This, says the Gateway, may be said to have been the beginning of labor unionism in the United States.

In the next four or five decades organizations were established in most of the great industries, some of which lasted only a few years. Many of these gradually became National.

The printers were the first craft of any consequence to extend their organization all over the country. They established the National Typographical Union in 1852, so as to take in Canada they established the International Typographical Union in 1882, being the leader also in this broader field.

The formation of "great" corporations and the immense expansion in industry which began soon after the Civil War incited larger labor combinations than had existed prior to that time. Some of these formed the National Labor Union, established at a convention in Baltimore in 1866, which entered politics in 1872 by nominating the Labor Reform ticket, putting Charles O'Connor up for President.

Its votes were few, and it attracted no general attention in the campaign. That broke up the combination, and labor societies, as societies, kept out of politics for the next few years. As societies their most extensive participation in politics was in the Congressional campaign of 1868.

Starting as a local secret society in Philadelphia in 1869 and holding its first general assembly in 1873 the Knights of Labor was the earliest society which aimed to gather all the workers of all trades into a single organization. It had 500,000 members in 1886, with Terence V. Powderly as the head.

Then began its decline and fall. Its

strike on the Gould system of railways in St. Louis and the Southwest in 1885 it won, but the largest strike in 1894 on the same roads it lost.

From that time onward it gradually shrunk in importance. Today it is only a shadow of its former greatness.

The American Federation of Labor rose as the Knights of Labor fell. At a convention in Columbus, O., in 1886, the American Federation of Labor was formed, and it has gradually absorbed nine-tenths of all the labor organizations of the United States. In it the several crafts retain their autonomy, but are federal for purposes of co-operation.

In 1907 the American Federation of Labor comprises 19 National and international unions and claims to have 2,000,000 members. The affiliated unions publish 246 weekly or monthly papers devoted to the cause of labor.

The federation's head is Samuel Gompers, and its organ, of which he is the editor, is the American Federationist.

Outside of the American Federation are about 15 labor organizations, the most important of which are the Knights of Labor, the Stone Masons' International Union, the Bricklayers' and Masons' Union, and the various switchmen, trainmen, conductors and others.

The societies not affiliated with the American Federation of Labor have a membership of about 500,000, making the membership of all the labor societies of the United States, in the aggregate, about 2,500,000.

**A Rejection Slip.**

"Sir," said the shivering beggar, stopping the prosperous magazine editor on the street, "I have a long, sad story."

"Sorry," briskly replied the magazine editor, passing on, "but we are only open for short, funny stories, just now. Full of the other kind."