

# LONG BEFORE HE KNOWNED.

**JES'** a little bit o' feller—I remember still—  
**Ust** to almost cry fer Christmas, like a youngster will.  
**Fourth o' July's** nothin' to it; New Year's ain't a smell;  
**Easter Sunday, circus day—jes'** all dead in the shell!



AND HEAR THE OLD FOLKS.

**Lordy, though, at night, you know,** to set around and hear  
**The old folks work the story off** about the sledge and deer  
**And Santy shootin' round the roof** all wrapped in fur and fuz—  
**Long afore**

I knowed who  
 Santy Claus wuz.

**UST** to wait and sit up later a week er two ahead.  
**Couldn't** hardly keep awake ner wouldn't go to bed.  
**Kittle stewin'** on the fire, and mother sittin' near  
**Darnin' socks and rockin'** in the skreeky rocking cheer.

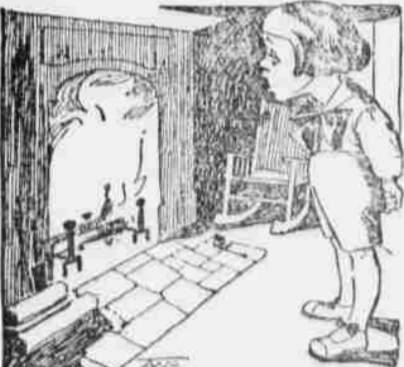


QUAR'L WITH HIS FROSTED HEELS.

**Pap gap** and wonder where it wuz the money went  
**And quar'l** with his frosted heels and spill his limiment,  
**And we a-dreamin'** sleighbells when the clock u'd whir and buzz—  
**Long afore**

I knowed who  
 Santy Claus wuz.

**SIZE** the fireplace and figger how old Santy could  
**Manage** to come down the chimbley, like they said he would.  
**Wisht** that I could hide and see him—wondered what he'd say  
**Ef he ketch'd a feller layin'** fer him that a-way.



SIZE THE FIREPLACE.

**But I bet** on him and liked him same as ef he had  
**Turned** to pat me on the back and say: "Look a-here, my lad—  
**Here's my pack; jes' he'p** yourse'f like all good boys does"—  
**Long afore**

I knowed who  
 Santy Claus wuz.

**WISHT** that yarn wuz true about him, as it 'peared to be.  
**Truth** made out o' lies like that un's good enough for me.  
**Wisht I still wuz** so confidin' I could jes' go wild  
**Over hangin' up my stockin's** like the little child



LIKE THE LITTLE CHILD.

**Climbin'** in my lap tonight and beggin' me to tell  
**'Bout them reindeers** and old Santy, that she loves so well.  
**I'm half sorry** for this little girl sweetheart of his—  
**Long afore**

She knows who  
 Santy Claus is  
 —James Whitcomb Riley.

**A Big Baby Farm.**  
 What has been called the biggest baby farm in the world is situated at Moscow, and it is claimed that this institution shows an annual crop of some 14,000 babies, not to speak of that put out by a branch at St. Petersburg, which numbers 8,000. The Moscow Foundling asylum was founded by Empress Catherine II., and it is maintained, oddly enough, by a tax on playing cards. Servants in the red livery of the royal family guard its doors, and its accounts are carefully audited by the Russian treasury department. The buildings comprising this institution stand in a hollow square round a garden with trim lawn and trees, which forms a playground for the children. Youngsters of all sorts and sizes, from tender nurslings, who in the incubating rooms are just struggling into life, are tended by careful nurses and are as sure of good attention and wholesome food as any baby can need. About fifty babies are received every day, and after four weeks the nurses take them to their own homes in the villages.—New York Tribune.

**Opulence.**  
 They numbered four. They also lately exuded prosperity. The things which they ordered were such as to fill with envy the breast of the man at the next table engaged in consuming the most modest dish disclosed by the bill of fare.

The four were conversing—linguistic, plutoocratic conversation. After a while it turned to the question of money. Evidently they wanted to do something. How much money had they? One of the four took out his pocket-book and counted up a roll of bills.

"Oh, I have a hundred and forty," he said carelessly.  
 The second and third members of the party went through their pockets.  
 "I have two hundred and fifteen," remarked one.  
 "And I have three hundred," said the other.

The fourth waved his hand grandly.  
 "Never mind, you fellows," he said. "I'll lend you all you want."  
 Tenderly waiters bore the man at the next table out into the cold air. He will recover.—Philadelphia Ledger.

**A Thrilling Sport.**  
 At Walkiki, the home of surf-bathing for pleasure, there is no dangerous reef, but in the south Pacific often the reef is two miles from shore and is exposed at low tide. The waves form almost on the edge of the reef and drop down upon the hard coral perpendicularly, covering the reef for the time being with about two feet of rushing water. The canoe that must jump this reef places itself before a wave, every one paddles for dear life, and if the boat does not touch coral, but is held suspended until a cushion of water rushes on ward to receive it, the jump is successfully negotiated, the reef is crossed, and there is but a two mile paddle across the quiet lagoon to the sandy beach. If the bow of the canoe does touch the coral on the down leap there is a shattering of the dugout, and its occupants are sent flying in every direction. One might laugh at this at Walkiki, where there are no sharks, but not in the south seas.—Recreation.

**Tons of Pins.**  
 Nothing better shows the bigness of little things than the manufacture of pins. In England there are made each week between fifteen and sixteen tons of the small necessities, the materials being iron, steel and brass. The yearly production would amount to about 100 tons. The number of pins included in this great weight would make any ordinary figures seem insignificant—would, in fact, defy realization or comprehension. Germany also makes great quantities of pins, her production totalling about 144 tons a year. The United States makes great quantities of pins and imports many from England. Most of the latter country's output is manufactured in Birmingham by two firms, one of which has been in existence nearly a century and the other over a century.—Philadelphia North American.

**He Didn't Complain.**  
 Young Wife—This talk about men being so impatient when a woman is getting ready to go anywhere is all nonsense.

Friend—Doesn't your husband complain at all?

Young Wife—No, indeed. Why, last evening I couldn't find my gloves and had a long hunt for half a dozen other things, and yet when I was finally dressed and went downstairs to my husband there he was reading and smoking as calmly as if I wasn't half an hour late.

Friend—Well, I declare! Where were you going?

Young Wife—To prayer meeting.

**Method.**  
 Method goes far to prevent trouble in business, for it makes the task easy, hinders confusion, saves abundance of time and instructs those that have business depending what to do and what to hope.

**Blissful Ignorance.**  
 "Shall I tell you a secret, Mr. Black?" asked a little boy. "My sister Louisa is to be engaged to your brother. Even your brother hasn't been told yet."

**An Order Could Be Filled.**  
 Customer (in Boston restaurant)—Walter, have you any fried eels? Waiter—We have eels, sir, and they are susceptible of being fried.

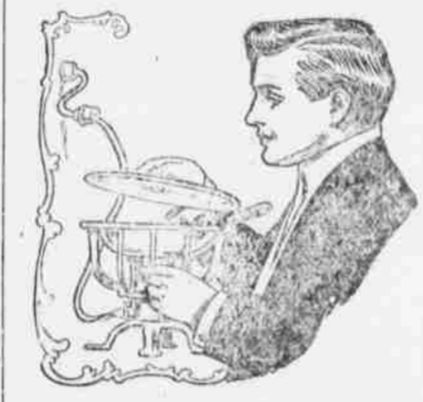
Trust him little who praises all, him less who censures all, and him least who is indifferent to all.—Lavater.

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