



CYNTHIANNA BLYTHE

Drawings by Wallace Morgan ~ Verses by Harry Grant Dart.

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1—Said James to Cynthianna on
The eve of Christmas day:
"To see old Mr. Santa Claus
I think I've found a way:
I've planned to keep him long enough
To see just how he looks
And if those portraits favor him
We've seen in picture books."
2—Although she pressed him very hard
His plans he wouldn't tell.
"Then keep them to yourself," said she,
"Perhaps it's just as well,
For if you harm old Santa Claus
'Twill be a wicked shame.
And he's a fairy and will know
That I am not to blame."



3—In downy beds they lay awake
In keen expectancy
Until dear Mamma came and said,
"He's come to trim the tree!"
In blankets wrapped she took them to
A place upon the stair
Where they could see, and sure enough
Old Santa Claus was there.

4—All dressed in red, with frosted beard,
A jolly chap was he,
And there with every wished for gift
As far as they could see;
As fast as he could hang them up
He took them from the sack
That bulged with toys and hung upon
His roly-poly back.

5—Just then a snapping click was heard,
And Santa with a leap
Upset and he and bag of toys
All landed in a heap.
Our Cynthianna pitied him
Far more than he could know,
To see him wrench an otter trap
From off his starboard toe.



6—When he had disensnared himself
Sufficiently to stand
He used some words that Cynthia knew
Were not from Fairy Land;
And Mamma, overcome with mirth,
Then hurried them to bed,
And hoped they hadn't overheard
All Santa Claus had said.

7—Next morn' before the rest were up
A very anxious pair
Below were much surprised to find
Their presents still were there.
Remorseful thoughts seized Jimmie's soul,
His conscience made him sick
To think on such a kindly man
He'd played so mean a trick.

8—Now, when the elder folks came down
Dear Monte limped about,
And growlingly announced that he
Was suffering from the gout.
As Cynthia stroked his slippered foot
She said:—"I wish I knew
Where Santa learned to act and talk
So very much like you."

