## "JEST 'FORE  <br> by EUGENE FIELD.

$F^{\text {ATHER calls }}$ me Willim, sister calls me Will, F Mothe calls me willie, but he tellers call me Bill Mighty glad I ain't a girl-rutee be boy Without them sashes, curts an' things that's worn by Faunteroy! Love to chawnk green apples an ${ }^{\text {n }}$ go swimmin" in the lake
Hate to take the castor le they give for belly achel Hate to take the casto ile they give for belly achel But fast fore Chritmas I'm as good aul kin , ey ant oo ties on me
Got a yeller dog named Sport, sick him on the cat:

 But sometimes when the groceryman is worried an' He reachese at us with his whip an" larrups up his An hosen Ilaf an holler, "Oh, ye never teched mel" But jest 'ore Christmas I'm as good as I kin be. Crammat says he hopes that when 1 git it be a m As was et up by cannibals that lives on Ceylon's Where every prospeck pleases an' only man is vies (and But granmar she has never been to see a wild west Nor shead the lite of Daniel Boone or else I guess she'd know That Bufflo Bill an' cowboys is good enough for mel

An' then old Sport he hangs around as solemn-like an' still; His eyes they seem a-sayin', "What's the matter, little Bill? The old cat sneaks down off her perch an wonders what's become But I'm so polite an' 'ten' so earnestly to biz
That mother says to father, "How improved our Willie is!" But father, havin' been a boy himself, suspicions me
When jest 'fore Christmas I'm as good as I kin be!

For Christmas, with its lots and lots of candy, cakes and toys, Wo wash yer face any for proper kids and not for naughty boys; So wash yer face an brush yer hair an mind your p's an' $q$ s,
An' don't bust out yer pantaloons, an' don't wear out yer shoes; Say "yessum" to the ladies an" "yessur" to the men, $\mathrm{An}^{\prime}$ when there's company don't pass your plate for pie again, But, thinkin' of the things yer'd like to see upon that tree, Jest 'fore Christmas be as good as yer kin bel
CHRISTMAS AMONG
THE MIIKADO'S PEOPLE.


## W

 WDS ndequate to a descrip- date. At each sile of the entrance etotion of the festive season in in of boume or karden three short pleces
of bece cut at an acute angle,
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 and village take on a news alty, town and the dilverslons of the peoplea a neew
turan and tone In In Jupan Christuns is
not a mere bollday hot a were bolliay, It represents a
hollday season tu the fullest sense of
the term For weeks before the dawn of Christ.
mas day preparatoms elaborate ti klud
nid degree are tlght niting costumes, thelr profes.
stons, or the contractors' names print. ed on therer backs, spend day after day
decorating the streets nnd touses,
Stands for the lanterns and the felleg

4.0.



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