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### Seeing Santa Claus

By LAURA PROST ARMITAGE.

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ARL (to Ruth)—Oh, I just wish we could see him. Fred-See whom? Ruth - Why. Santa Claus. Earl and I have just been talking about him, and we were wishing we

could get a peep at him once. Gladys-Oh. I wouldn't like to! Dorothy-Harry and I tried it last We came down and hid in the

front hall, but paps found us and sent us to bed. Fred (after thinking awhile)-I've thought of something. Santa Claus

wouldn't come in if he should spy us, but if he thought we were not real children he might. Couldn't we fool



him by making believe we were Mother Goose children right out of the

Dorothy-How could we do that? Fred-We could dress like them and then stand perfectly still as if we were unde of wax or something, just the way you do in a tableau, you know. He might think it was some kind of a show of wax figures.

Earl-Oh, my! I couldn't keep as still as that. Harry-You could if you really wanted to see Santa Ciaus.

Earl-Oh, I will! I will! See me! Gladys Will we have to stand so

very long?
Fred Ob, not very, very long! We

must all be ready before 12 o'clock. We must dress like Mother Goose children, and I'll fix you in your places. I'll be Boy Blue. We can find some dress-up clothes in the attic. Harry-I think I'll be Jack Horner.

I can have a pie. Dorothy-I want to be Bopeep. A

Gladys-May I be Miss Muffet? Earl-What can Buth and I be? Fred-You might be Jack and JE

pail will do. Now let's be off and see what we can find. Then we'll go to bed, and I'll ite awake, and after papa and mamma go upstairs I'll call you, and we'll come down very softly. (Exeunt.) 11. (Children come tiptoeing in in costume, stockings in hand.) Fred-Now, we'll hang our stockings

and carry a pail of water. An empty

first. (All hang them.) Then we'll get into place. Bopeep, you stand here. Hold your crook so. Miss Muffet, you must sit on this footstool, and you must be eating. Put your spoon to your lips, so. Jack Horner, get into that corner and hold up your thumb with the plum on it. Jack and Jill. stand over here and take the pail between you. I will stand here and hold my horn to my mouth, so. Now, we mustn't move our eyes. It's getting late. Now, all ready! (All pose.) Ruth (after awhile)-Oh, dear! This

pail is so heavy even if it is empty. Gladys (after awhile)-How my arm

All-Sh! (Earl yawns aloud.)

All-Sh! Harry-My thumb is tired of standing up.

Dorothy-I'm-so-sleepy (yawning).

All-Sh!

(Jack Horner's hand drops, then his head. Bopeep drops crook and leans against wall. Jill lets go of pall and slides to floor. Jack soon does the same. Miss Muffet's bend drops forward. Boy Blue's eyes close and horn falls. This rouses him for a moment, but his eyes soon close again, and he leans against the wall.)

Enter Santa Claus. (All fast asleep.) Santa Claus—Ah! Well, well, well; Some of the children of my old friend, Mother Goose. But what are they doing here? (Walks about and looks at them closely.) Aha! I know these children. They're not Mother Goose's family. Aha! I see what they are up to They're waiting to see me, and they don't want me to know them. But they can't fool this old fellow. Just as if he didn't know every child in the world. I've found children waiting for me many a time, but they always fall asleep and miss me. Fil fill the stockings, and won't they be surprised when they wake up and find they've missed me after all. (Fills stockings, then puts toy or candy into Miss Muffet's bowl and into Jack and Jill's pail.) Now I must be off. But I be-Here I'll try that horn of Boy Blue's once. (Blows and runs off, dropping horn near door. Children rouse up a little at sound, then fall back into former position.)

111. Morning.-Fred (rousing)-Oh, I say! Wake up! What are you all asleep for? Harry-Who's been asleep?

Dorothy (rubbing eyes)-Not I. Gladys-I-was almost-asleep. Earl (yawning)-Did-he-come? Ruth (almost crying)-1 was sleepy. Did you all see him? Others-Oh, no, no!

Fred-Well, I'm afraid we were all asleep. But I heard him. He blew on a big horn

Harry and Dorothy-I heard him. Gladys-And there's your horn, Fred, ever by the door. He blew on that. Ruth-See what's in our pail! (Holding it up.)

Gladys-And in my bowl! Harry-And see the stockings! All-Oh, oh, oh! (All run to get the stockings.) Dorothy-Oh, why couldn't we have

kept awake? Fred-Well, we've missed him this time sure. But next year we'll try it again, and we'll all keep awake. All-Yes, indeed, we will

### The Gift.

By FRANK H. SWEET

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HE Christmas chimes are sounding on the air. And, as I sit and listen to their sweet.

Unearthly music, gone is every care, Forgot is all the turmoil of the street. The troubles that the path of man be-

The vast anxieties of human life, All fade away, and every fond regret is lost in all their glad and joyous

/HAT though I seem alone on this fair day, From happy stand isolate, comradeship With none to greet me as I walk my way.

To merely live I count a happy fate-To merely listen to those joyous sounds That through the crisp of winter call so free. Although the merrymakers on their

rounds Pause not to think of or remember

S'T not enough that on this Christmas morn. This glad birth morn of him whose day it is.

heart, but yesterday so sad, forlorn, Doth open to the message that was left not enough to know that from

above The tidings of a sacrifice divine Come as a gift of an eternal love That I have but to take to make it mine?

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