

CHRISTMAS ON THE POLLY.

By FRANK H. SWEET.

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It was the good ship Polly, and she sailed the wintry sea, For ships must sail though fierce the gale, and a precious freight had she. 'Twas the captain's little daughter stood beside her father's chair And illumined the dingy cabin with the sunshine of her hair.

With a yo heave ho and a yo heave ho! For ships must sail Though fierce the gale And loud the tempests blow.

The captain's fingers rested on the pretty, curly head.

"Tomorrow will be Christmas day," the little maiden said.

"Do you suppose that Santa Claus will find us on the sea And make believe the stovepipe is a chimney just for me?"

Loud laughed the jovial captain and "By my faith," he cried,

"If he should come we'll let him know he has a friend inside!"

And many a rugged sailor cast a loving look that night

At the stovepipe where a lonely little stocking fluttered white.

With a yo heave ho and a yo heave ho!

For ships must sail Though fierce the gale And loud the tempests blow.



"DO YOU SUPPOSE THAT SANTA CLAUS WILL FIND US ON THE SEA?" On the good ship Polly the Christmas sun shone down

And on a smiling little face beneath a golden crown. No happier child he saw that day on sea or on the land Than the captain's little daughter with her treasures in her hand.

For never was a stocking so filled with curious things.

There were bracelets made of pretty shells and rosy coral strings,

An elephant carved deftly from a bit of ivory tusk,

A fan, an alligator tooth and a little bag of musk.

Not a far aboard the Polly but felt the Christmas cheer,

For the captain's little daughter was to every sailor dear.

They heard a Christmas carol in the shrieking wintry gust,

For a child had touched them by her simple, loving trust.

With a yo heave ho and a yo heave ho!

For ships must sail Though fierce the gale And loud the tempests blow.

The Truth About Santa Claus.

I write myself down as one who still believes in Santa Claus. Don't you?

Are you one of those very literal folk who have their doubts whether they ought to let their children cling to the beautiful old myth?

Without imagination, without dreams, without poetry, this old world of ours would be a very wearisome place. Its road would be steeper than it is—much like sleighing over bare ground would our progress be as compared with sleighing over deep, hard packed snow.

The poetic myth of the old saint, with his reindeer and his jingling bells and his bulging pack of toys and bonuses, has charmed a thousand generations.

The stocking hung by the chimney on Christmas eve, the children staying awake until sleep pounced on them like a strong man armed, the presents filling them from top to toe in the morning, the rush of the bare feet hurrying fast across the floor, the merry uproar, the bubbling laughter, the shouts of joy—the whole of this family pageant belongs to dear Santa Claus. We owe it to him. Gradually, as the golden mists of childhood clear before the sun and the "trailing clouds of glory" fade, our small men and women discover that Santa Claus is not one, but ten thousand; that he is better than they knew, being just the spirit of love, good will and beautiful unselfishness that makes the world a beautiful place to live in now and makes it a good starting point for heaven by and by. For you and me there is hope that we may do our duty in this world lovingly while we keep the child heart and believe in Santa.

WAYNE HOLT.

CHRISTMAS DAY IN THE ARMY.

CHRISTMAS in the various forts garrisoned by United States troops never passes without a cut and dried celebration. Preparation for the event is made long in advance. Every soldier knows that something extra is going to be his portion for that day. The Christmas dinner, with savory extras in the way of food, is not the only special provision for the soldier's celebration. There is a relaxation of the rigor of military discipline, which to many enlisted men is even more welcome than the turkey and cranberries. On Christmas day the man in the barracks may do pretty much as he pleases.

But "pigs is pigs," and soldiering is soldiering, so it follows that a few of the men are shut out of the general hilarity of the holiday because they must perform a soldier's duty as on other days. The guard mount is for Christmas as well as for all other days, and military regulations cannot forego this requirement, no matter how much the victims may growl under their blouses. Even the extra dinner in the barracks, while it is a rare treat to most of the men, makes work for some of them which is regarded in the army as about the most calamitous detail in the business.

Guard duty and kitchen work are things studiously to be avoided by the enlisted men. It is not pleasant for a soldier to be kept on guard, walking a beat or pacing up and down in front of headquarters when the rest of the fellows are inside the barracks singing songs, telling stories, eating turkey or out on the parade ground playing baseball or doing skylarking stunts.

Accordingly the experienced soldier makes it a point to escape Christmas guard duty if possible. There are several ways of doing this. The first, it is hinted, helps the veterans out by a passive co-operation, which throws the burden of the day upon young recruits who are passing their first Christmas in the service. He permits the old timers to swap dates for guard duty with the recruits so that the latter will find themselves detailed.

Santa Claus also comes to the soldier. This is true literally and figuratively. He comes through the mails or the express companies in the shape of boxes or packages from the home folks. On his \$13 a month the soldier does not have much of a surplus to spend in buying presents to send home, but this fact does not militate against his receiving mementoes from the old hearthstone. It is always an event in camp or barracks when some man receives a hefty package "Jes' fore Christmas." As a rule, the contents are shared with the soldier's cronies if they happen to be of the edible variety and any of the cronies fail to receive similar remembrances.

The Question of the Hour



What Shall I Give

If He Likes One of These, Give It to Him

Gifts for Him

- A NICE UMBRELLA
- A BOX OF HANDKERCHIEFS
- A NICE TIE
- A PAIR OF GLOVES
- A BOX OF HOSE
- A MUFLER
- A NICE SHIRT
- A PAIR OF PAJAMAS

IF YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT TO GIVE HIM
Give him one of our merchandise certificates, or a hat bond, or glove bond.

AN OVERCOAT

- A SUIT
- A HAT

A SMOKING JACKET

A LOUNGING ROBE

A BATH ROBE

A SWEATER COAT

A SUIT CASE

A GRIP

Thousand and One Gift Pointers

THE WHOLE STORE IS A VAST "LIVING" DIRECTORY OF USEFUL CHRISTMAS GIFTS. YOU CANNOT TURN WITHOUT BEING RICHER IN IDEAS OF WHAT TO GIVE AND OPPORTUNITIES TO MAKE YOUR EVERY CENT GO FURTHER. COME AND LOOK AROUND. EVERY MOMENT WILL BE WELL SPENT—EVERY STEP WILL BE PROFITABLE.

Knox Hats \$5.00

MODEL CLOTHING CO.
Medford's Correct Clothiers

Beaver Hats \$3.00

A Word to Xmas Shoppers

No doubt you have in years past had cause to regret that you had delayed the selection of gifts for friends and loved ones until the last few days preceding Xmas, and in the rush and confusion of the moment purchased articles that were unsuitable. Why let it happen again? We have a splendid assortment of the things that are worth while, and what every woman especially appreciates—something she can use. Read this list and then call and see our stock, as everything is new, crisp, and prices will be a welcome surprise to you.



CARVING SETS.
Makes useful presents for any home. Prices—\$4.00, \$4.50, \$5.50



RICH CUT GLASS
See the brilliant cuttings and heavy glass. Five Pieces—Creamed Sugar, \$4.75; 4 1/2 in. nappy, \$2.25; 6 in. handle nappy, \$2.25; celery tray, \$4.75; olive dish, \$3.50.

SAVORY ROASTS

is what you want for that Xmas bird; a great labor saver. \$1.50



UNIVERSAL COFFEE PERCOLATORS. \$3.50 and Up.

LAMPS

in glass and nickel, from 50c and up.

TEAS

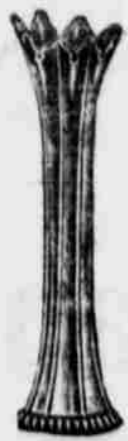
that are famous. The Ridgeway's famous English teas, put on the market in 1836. We have a complete line.

COFFEE

handled by us is that same standard which you will hear about. Every pound is guaranteed. As low as 22 1/2c per pound. Best coffee, 45c a pound. Good coffee, 25c a pound. Better coffee, 35c a pound. Best coffee, 45c a pound.

WASH BOILERS

No. 8, copper rivet, \$1.65
No. 9, copper rivet, \$2.00
No. 8, copper bottom, \$1.35
No. 9, copper bottom, \$1.50
Galvanized wash tubs, four sizes, from 75c to \$1.00



RICH GILT BOHEMIAN GLASS

Always acceptable and inexpensive; from 25c up.

Glasses



50c a doz., Table Tumblers; 75c a doz., Thin Blown Glasses; 85c a doz., Fancy Edge Blown Glasses.

Wringers

American Woodenware Co. Prices, \$4.00, \$4.45, \$4.75, \$5.95.



CHINAWARE

We do not hesitate to say that we, without exception, carry the Largest and Most Varried Line of Chinaware, in every desirable pattern, of any single establishment in Medford.

CUSPIDORES

White China, floral designs, \$1.75c
Majolica, in blue, green and brown 65c
Majolica, in blue, green and brown 45c
Basins and Ewers—Set \$1.00
Combinets \$1.25
Jardiners—From 85c upwards.
Common Pottery Flower Pot, 10c to 25c

We have a large line of heavy China ware for general use. Full line of yellow mixing bowls. Fancy China in endless variety.

50-piece highly decorated blue English ware, that will please. Our low price \$13.75

Entirely new alma shape, extra fine English trademarked China, handsome landscape decorations; in green. 50-piece set at \$10.00

Embossed floral with gold band, rose sprays, delicate pink and green coloring, artistic design, 55-piece set \$10.45

We are showing nine full open stock patterns, of the best English, French and American Manufacturers—and we aim to fill your every want. Decorated Dinner sets—our No. 1136 patterns of 97 pieces. Regular price, \$19.75. Special \$15.90



The handsome 100-piece blue Wentworth pattern, is an exceptional fine piece of English ware and would decorate a table most beautifully, a splendid bargain—\$27.00

The most popular design made in the well-known Haviland pottery of France is the pure white Ranson pattern; moderately priced. \$57.50

Here is the real thing—the Madrid pattern of English China. Should sell for more money. 100 pieces. \$21.65

GOODFRIENDS THE CHINA HOUSE



BREAD BOXES. A very complete line, every size; in fancy colors; from 75c to \$1.50

Chafing Dishes
Beautiful Nickel Plated Good Alcohol Lamps

Steins

A most beautiful line. A pretty addition to the Dutch shelf. 25c and Up.

Granit and Tinware Dept.

Our line is complete, with every article.

Bath Room Fixtures

Something that will please you in towel, soap, comb and brush racks, glass and tooth brush holders.

Brussell Carpet Sweepers

A very appropriate present.



Table Cutlery

High quality goods, from the best American manufacturers, such as Community, Niagara and 1877 Plate.

Handy Kitchen Articles

Everything for usefulness is represented here. The goods are marked in price to compare with city competition.

Mrs. Potts' Irons

Set of Three \$1.65

