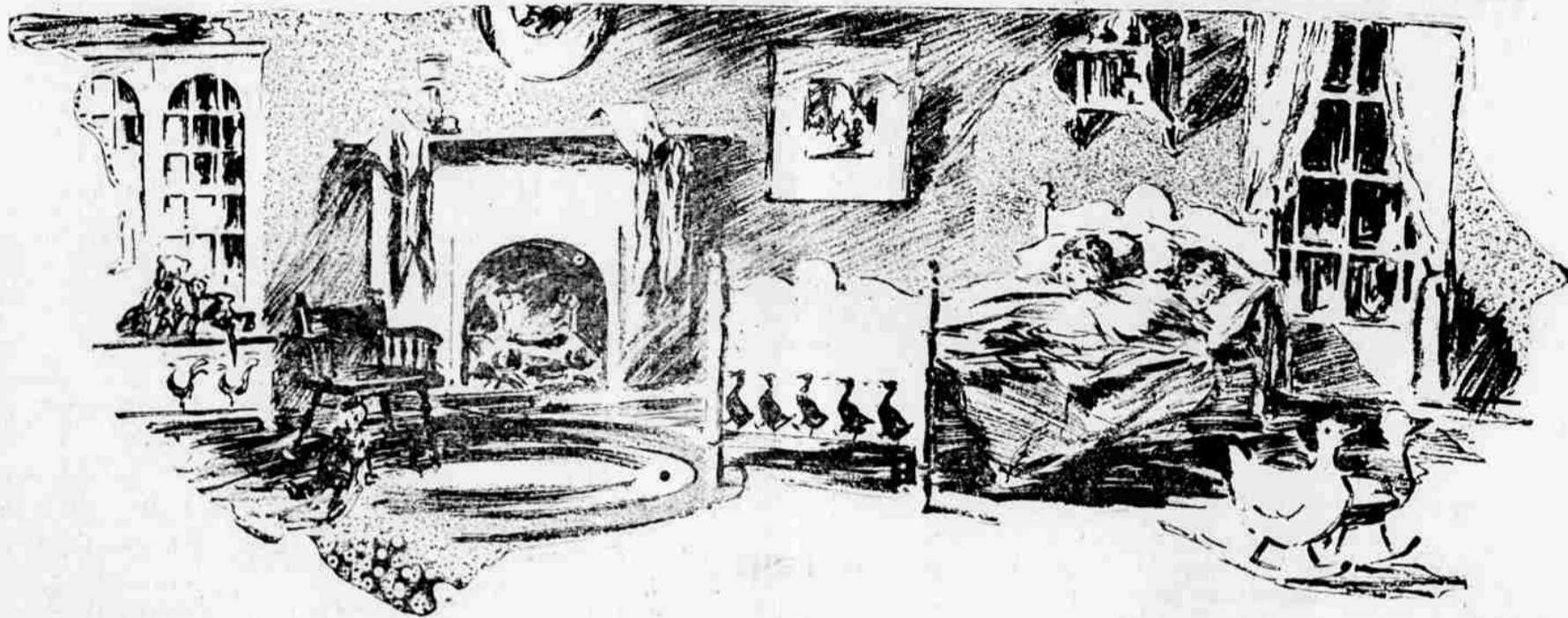




'Twas the night before Christmas



AND, suddenly, the busy murmur of the work-a-day world ceases. It is Christmas Eve . . . and over all the country there falls a soft blanket of peace. Tissue-paper packages are waiting on the mantel and around the tree. Eager, wide-eyed children are packed reluctantly off to bed, to await the advent of a miraculous Santy, who crawls through the keyhole and chimney alike.

The breathless rush is over. We have time to sit by our hearth and reflect upon the things which the last year has brought us.

Before we quite shut our desks and return to our own firesides we want to pause for a moment and thank you for the pleasantness of your acquaintance during this year. Associations are the happiest things in life . . . and in the peace of this Eve of Christmas may we wish you much joy during the holiday, and increasing prosperity during the new year!

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