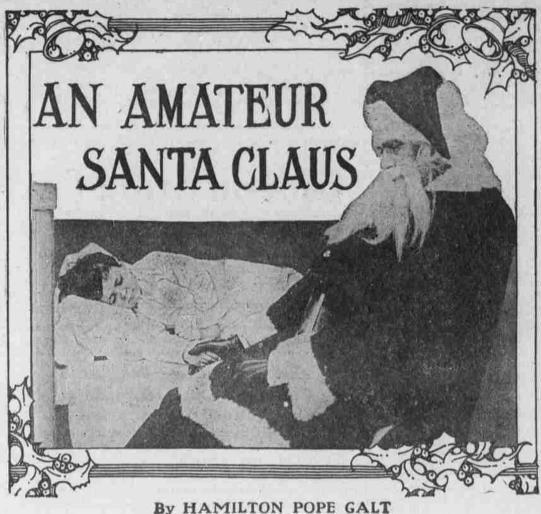
## New Christmas Stories for the Children

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"Just then the boss of the store came

"'My boy wants your Santa Claus,"

"And the kid jumped up and grab

loss whatever to us, I assure you.'

"'I will pay you for your time," he

display us any more than necessary Kindly pick out some quiet streets."

"Hold on!" he said. 'Drive on quick!

I forgot Mrs. Van Veegle has compa-

We'll go around the bock way.

around the other way when the mil-

"HE TOWED ME THROUGH THE AIRLE."

big, fat butler shoving my chair around

for me and walting on me. I got some

birds and one thing and another under

my pillow and my furs, but I was aw-

"It was too warm for comfort when

it got around that there was a real.

live Santa Claus at the Van Veegle

bouse. All the children came from

ful warm.

"We were turning the corner to go

with the other hand.

encourage the millionaire.

tide of open mouthed people.

flying in the wind.

holding my hand.

around quick?"

not let go

er that he knew.

lionaire gave a shout:

He was Just busting himself

E had all agreed that Mr. O'Shaugnessy was the very one to be Santa Claus at our Christmas tree. "No!" he said, "No!"

We had never seen Mr. O'Shaugnessy so vehement before.

"That is one thing I will never dono, not if the czar of Russia were to command it!" for the millionaire.

"Why?" asked some one from a safe "Because I played the part once, and said the gentleman to the boss.

I will never do it again. I may as well tell you about it, and then you'll bed me by the hand and began pullknow that it is of no use to bother me about it any more.

"One Christmas I was broke, I was hungry, and my feet were on the along, Mr. Van Veegle. It will be no I had asked a thousand people for something to do, anything to



"I WANT THAT."

do, and finally a manager in a department store said. 'All right; we'll make a Santa Claus out of you.' "I told him I didn't feel much like a Santa Claus Inside.

'Oh, we'll fix that all right,' be said and handed me a pillow. "So, with pillows and boots and

gloves and a fur coat outside and nothing at all inside, I started in to be Santa Claus in the toy department. While I was thinking about my wife and the two kids at home needing money, and me with no steady lob, and other things like that, I heard one of the fellows in the store say to the

" Say, that St. Nicholas of yours is about as jolly as a hymn book. He reminds me of a funny song entitled "Silver Threads Among the Gold." Why don't you throw him out? "I will when I get time.

"I tried to liven up a little after bearing this praise of my histrionic talent, but It wasn't much use.

"Pretty soon I saw a boy coming down the niste like a wolf on the fold. He was also seeking whom he might devour. He was followed by an anxlous looking maid and a gentleman to a slik hat, who was an indulgent millionaire father.

"The kid snuntered along in an independent, bored way, swinging his arms kind of reckless, as if he was in hopes of breaking something and relieving the monotony.

When he came up to where I was sitting he stopped. He had seen plenty of toys, but I guess I was some thing new in the way of a St. Nich-

"He called his daddy and pointed to me.

"'I want that,' he said. "'Oh. no, dearle,' said the maid

'Here, look at this nice girnffe! See! It does this! "The kid shook the nurse off irrita-

"'He doesn't seem to take much interest in the giraffe, I remarked to the

futber. "'No, nor anything else,' he answered in a patient, wears tone. 'He has had all these toys before, and he knows all about them, teside and out. He had one of these giraffes last year and broke if open to find out what

was in it, and he was mad when he my hand and fought them off whenever they got too near.
"When bedtime came they tried to found there was nothing.

sleep with him

"I want that,' said the boy again, tell little Van that Santy wanted to pointing to me. go home now and work on the toys for "'He has taken a fancy to you,' continued the pa. Christmas, but he held on tighter than "'I can't see that I have any advanever and insisted that I would have to tage over the giraffe,' I said.

> "This made it pretty bad. If I was to pull off my boots and my beard and my stomach and one thing and an other the boy would be paralyzed with



TAKING BANTA TO KINDERGARTEN.

fear, they said, and for me to turn in boots, beard, stomach and all with little Van in his little bed seemed utterty Impossible.

"We compromised by my sitting by lionaire shouted again suddenly, Turn his bed and holding his hand until be went to sleep. Would you believe it? "We were dodging somebody or oth That boy was the lightest sleeper you ever saw! Every time I tried to take "Finally we passed through a big my hand away his eyes would open gate, and the boy towed me around through a conservatory or two into and he would take a tighter grip.

"I sat up all night holding that kid's hand. I had a man in attendance, who "The man swore. There were a lot of ladies there still. They seemed to had collected a ten from Papa Van. take a great interest in the pageant. but I didn't get much sleep.

"'Well, what on earth!" screeched "The boy had me with him all the the millionaire's wife. "While the man was explaining to he got his bath and his breakfast, and his wife the boy led me around all I attended kindergarten with him. over the house by the hand. He would "I was 'it' at kindergarten, too, but

along about 4 o'clock be lay down on "He had to have me sit beside him a couch and went sound asteen. while he ate his dinner, and I had a "I stole from the room softly and un observed. I had had enough of the

> job and was resolved to escape. "Just us I was getting out of the front door a good sized boy came along and started to blab something about Hello, Santa Claus!" and tried to grab

"I paralyzed him by pulling out my stomach and bitting him over the head with It. "I gained the street and flew for

baffle pursuit and shedding beard. boots, cotton and fur all along the "I hid for three days and then emerged and got a nive fittle job loading coal on a ship. I have always gone in for

n same Christmas ever since that little experience." We did not press Mr. O'Shaugnessy,

Concerning Christmas Presents. A man may not be so badly off for presents if he only has presence of mind.

The question of the hour is, "What on earth shall we buy for a Christmas present?"

Never look a gift horse in the teeth. It is also wrong to look a Christmas present in the price mark.

"What shall I give the bired giri?" and get another girl.

The proprietor of a big botel may love his patrons' children, but be nevall over the neighborhood to must me. horns at Christmas. N. B.-Or any cattle and deer have not sharpened "But young Van kept a tight grip ou other day.



### "KNECHT RUPERT" WAS GERMAN SANTA CLAUS

\*\*\*\*\*\* The Santa Claus idea has grown out of a variety of legends and customs. The festival of St. Nicholas, who was the especial friend of the children, was brought me everything I wanted, and celebrated in Germany about the 6th of December. It was easy enough to make this coincide with the later and more general festival. The taugible next day. I had to be with him when Santa Claus was called "Knecht Ru pert," and usually he was some member of the family dressed up to represent a beneficent gift giver. It was the custom to have a yew bough placed in the parlor of the German home, and on this all the packages containing gifts were placed. On Christmas morning the whole family assembled to claim the gifts, each having to guess the donor. "Knecht Rupert" distributed the gifts to the younger children, but he lectured them also on obedience and good behavior, and, if any one had been bad, instead of a gift he or she was given a switch that they might be punished. So the little Germans try hard to be very good before some, dodging this way and that to Christmas.

Bad Day For Birds.

The day after Christmas, St. Ste phen's day (boxing day in England), is celebrate. In a queer way by some of the Manx boys, and Ditchfield says they feel privileged to stone wrens at this time because of a story to the effeet that in days gone by a most dangerous siren was finally compelled to assume the form of a wren once a year (on the 26th) and ultimately to be killed by mortal hands. Another tradition furnishes an excuse on the ground that it was a wren that wakened the guard of St. Stephen just as the latter was about to escape from prison.

Enamies of the Christmas Tres.

Not every balsam nor every spruce is a Christmas tree. The expert cutter is a Christmas conundrum that puz- learns to tell at a glance if the branches zies some. Give her inst week's pay grow in perfect rings, which give shape and symmetry to the tree. He must be sure, too, that the squirrels have not eaten the buds from the tips of er gives the youngsters drums or the topmost branches, and that the their borns in passing.

Songs Popular at Vuletide Season Traced Back For Centuries. Christmas lullables to the Divine

Child may be traced back to medieval proclaimed the birth of the Saviour. Priests took the part of shepherds and gathered around the manger. Here. stood Joseph, Mary and the servant of After the choir had sung hymns,

among them "Christus Natus Hodie," Mary sang the first verse of the German song, "Joseph, dear Joseph mine, help me to rock my bube, that God may reward me in beaven-the Babe of the Virgin Mary." Joseph answered with the second verse of the song, Gladly, my dear norse, will I help thee rock thy babe, that God may reward me in beaven," etc. The servant anna: "Rejoice, Christian multitude. The King of beaven, who was born of the Virgin Mary, has taken on mortality."

And so the scene in the churches went on every Christmas.

A Sure Sign. Dr. Probe - I guess that Peterby doesn't intend to pay his bill this year Mrs. Probe-What makes you think

"I just got a Christmas present from him this morning."

#### **\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*** SIGNIFICANCE OF HOLLY.

Why bolly at Christman? The pagan Romans dedicated the holly to Saturn, whose festival was In December, around Christmas. The early Christians, to escape persecution, decked their homes with holly and other Saturnian emblems. The Romans sent their friends holly sprigs during the Saturnalla with wishes for their bealth and prosperity.

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#### 4000000000000000000000000000 CHRISTMAS IN HOLLAND.

In Holland Santa Claus pays his annual visit to all good children twenty In one of the Coventry plays days before he comes to this country. securs what is plainly a cradle song | Dec. 5 is the feast day of St. Nicholas, to the infant Jesus, which has been alias Santa Claus. He has nothing preserved in music as well as in text whatever to do with Christmas, and Five hundred years ago the mere his visit there is an Anglo-Saxon anpicture did not suffice the faithful. The actionism. As their patron saint, chilscene had to be enacted. The little dren were taught to look to Nicholas a strip of 36 inch goods twice the length play was called "The Cradling of the for care and protection. In England from neck to foot, good measure to al-Child," Standing on a platform above the custom was abolished with the low for hem. Fold this in half and 21/2 the manger, boys representing angels worship of saints at the reformation and was re-established in the American guise of Father Christmas in the

middle of the last century. hang up their stocklags, but place their shoes, filled with hay or straw for the donkey on which St. Nicholas rides, in front of the fireplace.

The Christ Child.

in the darkness and cold and the pensints still out lighted endles in their windows to guide the sacred liftle feet, that they may not stamble on he may enter at his will. Throughout Christendom there is a belief that no evil can touch the child who is born on Christmas eve.

Children used to be reminded in an uncomfortable manner that Dec. 28 sidered wholesome on that morning to give them a good cutting or other form of punishment, presumably to remind

A Custom Well Forgotten.

Helping Things Along. blowing on your bugle, dear?

blotted out.

# ARE QUICKLY MADE NOW

By Lucy Carter. New York, Dec. 11.—It is remarkable now easily a fashionable up-to-date negligee, dressing sacque, theatre coat. blouse, or even dress can be made by any woman quick witted enough to recognize that underlying all the soft drapings of the loose fussy clothes now modish, are the lines of the kimono, or peasant blouse, and the straight lengths of material variously draper familiar in Greek prints. Possibilities in Short Lengths.

Never have such possibilities existed for turning short lengths of materials into fascinating fashionable attire, and any scarf or piece of bordered material 21/4 yards in length by 26 inches wide will make up into a dainty sacque suitable for formal or informal wear according to its material and trimming. Fold the searf in half, the fold coming at the center back, cut out a small semicircle at the top to fit the back of the neck. Measure 15 inches from either upper end of the scarf and fold this back in a diagonal line to within 3 inches of the bottom, like a revere. Cut this off and join the bias edge to the straight upper edge of the scarf at the neck circle. This seam is the only one in the garment and makes the shoulder seem in one continuous line. Slope the front to the line of the bust, or turn back the material in a revere to this point. Trim the neck in swansdown, narabout or with a lace ruching, and place a butterfly bow, or silk rose at the right where this trimming terminates. Edge the sleeve with matching trimming and you have a modish little coat for an hour's labor, which any one would be glad to own and wear. Try it with a piece of tissue paper, doll's size to get the idea, then its no trick at all to make it in any size desired. The length of the garment depends on the width of the strip of material. A piece of figured crepe or poplin in 44 or 45 inch width would make a charm-



The above designs are Company, New York, Des Makers of McCall Patterns. York, Designers and

ing wrap that could be lined and interlined for warmth if desired, or a pattern on kimono lines can be readily obtained that needs no more time or trouble in the making.

A Long Folded Negligee. An equally successful quickly produced long neglige is made by using inches below the fold, in the center of the front side-out out a triangle 5 inches at the top and 7 inches at each But in Holland Santa Claus contin- side. This is the opening for the head, ies to make his visits on the right day. for this garment slips on like a night Dec. 5. The Dutch children do not gown. Beginning at the foot join the sides to within 15 inches of the top and sew a good sized hook on one side and an eye on the other just where the seam finishes. Slip the garment over the head, and eatch the sides together with An Irish legend tells that on Christ- the hook and eye on the underside and mak eve the Christ Child wanders out you have an exceedingly pretty, gracefully shaped neglige. The sleeve openings may be bound or faced with contrasting color, the neck finished with a the way to their homes. In Hungary frill of lace, or band of swansdown, the people go yet further in their ten- The bottom is hummed and if desired derness for the Child. They spread can be finished in a pointed train, feasts and leave their doors open that thougg allowance for this must be made in measuring. Three and one-half yards of 36 inch material is the usual amount required for a height of 60 luches from neck to floor.

Himono Blouses

Kimono blouses and nearly all fashionable waists are modelled on this was innocents' day, for it was con plan-are not at all difficult to turn out. The cutting out is quickly accomplished with a good pattern and the them of the sins which were not com making, once this detail is accomplished mitted by the innecents whom Herod is an easy matter. Such waists made of ordered sinin on that dar. Fortunately pretty brocades are worn for all but every vestige of this fushion is now the most formal occasions, and are not among the inexpensive styles if one buys them ready made. All waists as Mrs. Crabshaw-What's that you're has been repeatedly said in these letters, are very loose fitting, quite slouchy Bobble-The call to arms, ma. Sis if it were not that the underpinning ter's young man has her under the indicates dainty trimness of attire.

LUCY CARTER