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MARION F. RITTENHOUSE

[Copyright, 1913, by American Press Asso-70U are earlier than neces sary," remarked Aunt Elise as I appeared at 10:30 on the night of the third Christnas, "for we do not sit in the workroom for at least fifteen minutes, I feel sure that you will not find the hiding place, and if it is not found you cannot marry Elsie, and if you are not to marry Elsie it is not wise for you to see so much of each other." And Elsie's welcoming kiss was strongly tinctured with reproach. Not liking the reproachful flavor, I immediately kissed Elsie to dissipate the taste. Then I displayed the gift I had brought, and Aunt-Elise shook her

head reprovingly, even as she gloated over the solitaire that I slipped on El-

"You would better have saved your

money. Remember, this is the third

Christmas, and I don't believe you will

"Then we will be married right



**** Seeing Santa Claus **A** Christmas Story For Children By MARY E. LUNDGREN Copyright, 1913, by American Press

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WAS a few days before Christmas, and King Winter was preparing the roads for Santa Claus' long drive. The snowflakes were tumbling over one another to do his bidding, and Jack Frost shouled to Donald, who was flattening his nose against the windowpane, that he would better stay in the house if he did not wish to get his ears pinched.

Donald was "half past four" and Aunt Madie, sitting before the fire, "half past forty." Early in the former's career the two had formed an exclusive mutual admiration society. The little boy climbed upon the arm of the lady's huge easy chair, and the two sat cozily in front of the heater, gazing thoughtfully into the glowing coals that showed through the encir cling isinglass and made the only light in the room.

'Is Santa Claus our papas and mammas, Aunt Madie?" "The Santa Claus 1 saw certainly

wasn't, Donnie." "Did you ever see Santa Claus?

Honest, did you?"

"Let's make it a story. Once upon a time, long, long, ago, when I was a little girl, we were poor, so poor that Brother Fred (your papa, Donnie) stockings," and I never got much for Christmas. We couldn't understand why Santa Claus?" asked Donald disappointedly. ing the coming year, its prosperity, elderly. He likes a collection, so that did not give the poor a lot and the rich just a little to even things up | Would you believe it?-there was that a chance to be good to the poor screamed and then laughed and laughand the poor a chance to grow ed and laughed.' good by suffering patiently, and then both would be worthy to celebrate Christ's birthday. Fred's patched suit hardly kept out the cold, and this Christmas I am talking about I had such a queer litle ache way down in iny heart that some way couldn't get Fred, Aunt Madie?" cured. I told Fred, but he said we must pretend to be ever so much pleased with whatever we got, even if it should be only a stick of candy, be- boots, cap, scarf and mittens. The cause mamma would feel so sorry, and she didn't have nice things either, but had to work all day long and late at night sewing for the railroad boys." "Poor grandma! Let's give her something nice this Christmas. She can have all my pennies." "Mammas don't mind so much not having things if their boys and girls are good, but I am afraid Fred and I worried her sometimes and made her enuch trouble. Anyway, that Christmas eve I slept with mamma, and I remember we had bardly enough covering to keep us warm."



***** Some Riddles For the Fireside **Christmas Night**

Which are the most contented birds? Answer-Crows, because they never complain without cause.

What is the difference between a spendthrift and a pillow? Answer-One is hard up and the other soft down. What animal took the most luggage into the ark and what the least? Answer-The elephant, who had his trunk, while the fox and the rooster had only a brush and comb between them

When is a candle in a passion? Answer-When it is put out or flares up. When has a man four hands? An-

wer-When he doubles his fists. Why is a wig like a lie? Answer-Because it's a false hood.

Why mustn't you call an owl a quall? Answer-Because you would be making game of him.

Why did the elderberry whine? Answer-Because he didn't get lemon aid.

***** CHRISTMAS IN GERMANY. ******

While there are few civilized countries in which the plan of giving presents at Christmas time is not almost universal nowadays, this was not always the case. Indeed, the world has acquired many of the customs now in vogue at this period of the year from the Germans, who pay more attention

to Christmas than the people of any other nation. It is to them perhaps that we owe the inauguration of the gift giving as well as the beautiful institution of the

Christmas tree. The presents equally with the tree have been popular

mannan My Christmas Doggie hannan

By W. B. HOLLAND. I've the bestest Christmas present Any little girl could get. I like dollies, but I'd rather Have a real live pet to pet.



Got him with me here right now. How'd I get him? Well, I'll tell yeu, I asked Santa, that is how.

°*** Where Christmas

Things Come From \$

Mistletoe is a parasite that takes root

In the bark of other trees, such as the

maple and poplar. It is not found in

the northern states, but mostly in the

What are known as Christmas greens

or ground plues are very like the ferns

and mosses and grow in shady places

Christmas Boxes an Old Custom.

of great antiquity and was formerly.

the bounty of well disposed persons

who were willing to contribute some-

thing toward the industrious. Later

"Spug" Movement Spreading.

by using the initials of an organiza-

clety For the Prevention of Unneces-

middle and southern states.

on the forest floor.

money and presents.

away," I said. "Please bear in mind I now have a salary with which to propitiate the wolf when he howls at our door. "And so have I, thanks to dear old uncle!" cried Elsie. Aunt Elise, by the way, is neither Elsie's aunt nor mine. Elsie and I are, or, rather, were, the wards of Aunt Ellise's brother, Judge Breen, who died more than three years ago, leaving the old Breen home to Aunt Elise,

sie's white hand.

and the hiding place."

who had a modest income of her own, and the remainder to Elsie and me conditionally, the conditions being set forth in the letter which Lawyer Patterson, Judge Breen's lifelong friend, whom he had appointed executor of his will, handed to us during the week following his death. The letter ran:

My Dear, Irresponsible Children-I have as Mr. Patterson will tell you, converted my entire estate, with the exception of the old home, into money, which I wish you, Gilbert and Elsie, to share equally. I have this money put away for you. It be-comes yours at the moment that you find it

find it. Now, I will remind you that I have al-ways earnestly deploted the idle, frivo-lous pursuits which have occupied you and desired you both to master some use-ful occupation, but you have temporized and fribbled away the time, and thus I have allowed you to grow up without the ability is earn a compr

have allowed you to grow up without the ability to earn a penny. Elsie, your artistic daubs and, Gilbert, your king winded poems are all very well for a harmless pastime, but you can nei-ther ast, drink nor wear them. Moreover, it is a disgrace for any ablebodied per-son to be without the knowledge of some useful vocation.

I suppose that I am to blame for not training the artistic tommyrot out of you, but loved you both far too well to exact obedience from you. I now am deter-mined to atone for my weakness as far as lies within my power. I have decided

that you must both acquire a vocation and have chosen my own, telegraphy, for you. My best and happiest days were spent in a lonely little stallon in Arizona. You are to master this thoroughly. No

"Poor Aunt Madle! Did you get cold then 7

"I think some kind of noise awoke moonbeams that crept between the curtains sat close to the shadows, sitently watching, just like the shepherds the first Christmas eve. You remember almost 'expected to hear the angels sing. Then, of course, I began to think | too, Auntie?" of Santa Claus. I wanted and wanted to see him, but I was dreadfully afraid I would. My heart was going pittypat when-what do you suppose Donnie?-

I really saw something move in the corner! "And it was Santa Claus?"

"It looked like a man, and 1 could see by the bobbing of his trad that he was coming toward me. I thought of Santa Claus, and 1 thought of robbers.

and 1 did not know what to think." "What did you do, Aunt Madle?"

"Bob, bob, went his bend, and he asement to be coming closer and closer. I was as acared I never thought of manuna at all, or whether she would get hurf, supposing it wasn't Santa if Eve had tried from holly twigs a party Claus, but alipped under the covers, way down to the foot of the bed."

"I shut my eyes, put my fingers in my ears and trembled myself to sleep, for the next thing I knew something heavy bounced upon the bed, and there it was Chrisimas morning and Fred

looked over loward the corn

was your papa, and he had been filling old rime says: your stockings in the night."

"No, sir-e-e! My Santa Claus wasn't either papa or mamma."

"Then it was my papa, your brother

"Wrong again, young man. It was mamma's broom dressed in Fred's new suit of clothes and new stockings. whole thing was hung up in a dark corner on the clothesline.

"But you said it walked toward you. Aunt Madle?" "I said it seemed to be coming closer and closer. It was so cold that mamma had let the cat stay in all

night, and when kittle played with man's feet his head bobbed and the bobbed just as if he were walking." "Wouldn't I be scared, though! And my, what a dandy present for Fred! I am going to ask papa if he remem bers. Did you get just as nice, Aunt Madie?"

"I was very happy over my present and wake up and see Santa Claus that moraing. I did not have to make believe at all. You see, times were getting better for us. I never had [me. It was a beautiful night. The any more heartaches at Christmas after that, and I learned that to stop some other little hearts from aching is

the best gift we can make." "That's why you send me with such the story, dear? It was so still that I | big bundles to the little house around the corner. Can't I give something.

> "Yes Indeed, Donnie, Aunt Madie was a very little girl, but, do you know, she will never get over being ashamed that she was too big a 'fraid cat' to think of mamma's danger."

"And your Santa Claus was only scarecrow, after all!"

Christmas Queries. Do "plants" for making pretty gifts grow up to Christmas trees? And are "the son-son's greetings" sant by salt sons of the seas?

Are Yule logs cut from mowdriftwood by Yuletide washed ashore! And could you stub a mistletoe against a parlor doart .

gown to weave Do you suppose that Adam would have called her "Christmas Eve"

St. Nicholas in autosleigh defies police and laws. Do regulations as to speed contain a Sants clause?

weather, etc., depending upon the day

"And was that all you saw of Santa | land and also in this country, concern- ble for a man whether he is young or

Prognostications are made in Eng- A walking stick is always accepta-

if Christmas day on Friday be The first of winter hard shall be, With frost and snow and with great flood, But the end thereof it shall be good. Again, the summer shall be good also

Big Demand For New Coine. Great demands are always made o Uncle Sam for new coins at the Christmus season. Last year \$25,000 in haives, quarters and dimes was wash

ed and brightened by the treasury department, and this year the demands have been even greater. The banks throughout the country call on the customers.

he may have different kinds for various on which Christmas falls. Sunday, occasions, Quite the newest and most Mother said it was to give the rich man yet. I jumped and pretty nearly Monday, Tuesday and Saturday are unique styles have cigar lighters or usually reckoned ill omened days, while tiny electric bulbs concealed in their It is lucky to have Christmas fail on handles. Such small lights often illu-"Why, who was it? Oh. I know. It | Wednesday, Thursday or Friday. One minate the vicinity of the keyhole on a dark night.

If he rides a crop will delight him, for the borseman enjoys the posseseral Christmas giving doubtless began sion of a variety. among Eoglish speaking people,

Holly Used as Christmas Tree.

In the southern states holly is used almost exclusively for Christmas trees. This tree abounds in the forests, and frequently boys earn their Christmas money by cutting and seiling them in the larger towns. Occasionally a cedar tree is used at Christmas time. Mistletoe also is plentiful in the south. but is difficult to gather, as it usually treasury department for bright and grows at the very top of the highest shining coins in order to satisfy their onk trees. Fir trees are seldom found in the southern states.

"Santa Claus'll Get Us."

times. With the introduction of German customs (chief among which was) the sparkling Christmas tree) into Great Britain at the time of Queen Victoria's marriage with the German Prince Albert in the middle of the nineteenth century the practice of gen-

The Ever Lucky Boy. THE Christman tree all summer long Is growin' in the wood, But only-so my teacher says-Por children that are good.

Our groc'ryman he brings it round An' leaves it at the door. My father carries it inside An' plants it in the floor

An' I can help if I don't tease At stringin' it with stuff. But I can't eat the popoorn much Or there won't be enough,

Nor bits the candles yeller, red Or whits or green or blue. (The wax all colored up that way Makes dandy gum to chew!)

An' when there ain't no trimmin's left They wait until I'm gone An' safe in bed, an' then they start An' the the presents on.

Aw, what the teacher tells I know

only says to scare. That trees are meant for goody kids Is mostly old hot air

For you can bet that ev'ry time There's lots of things for me. No matter though I've often been As bad as I can be!

******* IS YOUR BIRTHDAY ON CHRISTMAS7

There are many predictions concerning the luck of those born on Christmas day. It depends somewhat on the day of the week. An old bellef was that those born on this day, when it fell on Sunday, would live to be great lords; on Monday, would be strong and keen; on Tuesday. strong and coverous; on Wednes day, wise, gay, doughty and crafty; on Thursday, wise of speech and reasonable; on Friday, long lived; on Saturday, wealthy and prosperous.

Why She is Waiting.

Ethel-If you are not going to accept Mr. Kelly why don't you tell him to stop calling on you? Clarice-1 will, right after Christman, diate family.

among the Germans from medieval **** HILDREN all enjoy the ever-

ure and delight?

mere smattering will answer. You are to prove your ability by securing and sceept-ably filling positions. You are to begin greens and ornaments that are your studies at once.

seen each Christmas, but how many of them know what parts of the country are ransacked in order for the country are ransacked in order and pour source of the sector of th mas night. I wish my inventions to re-main there untouched. I also wish you to wind and start the big clock which I have just finished. It will run for the brief time that I ask you to keep tryst to furnish these things for their pleas-

Practically all of the evergreens appearing in American homes for the pearing in American homes for the with my memory in the workroom where holiday season are grown in the United States. The Christmas trees come for the most part from northern New Eng. do not find your inheritance, which I iniand, Michigan, Wisconsin and Min-nesota. There are some growing far-ther south, but the bulk of the trees are from the far north. The black have not found it on the schild. If you are from the far north. The black are from the far north. The black have not round it the the out the second spruce grows in swamps, the white will find your knowledge of telegraphy most useful to provide bread and a rea-land. Not only are the liftle trees and limbs. Do not under any circumstances tamper which

cut, but tops of larger trees and limbs if they are of the proper shape. The holly comes from the woods of New England and the Allegheny moun-tains. In the north it is a shirub, but in the south the holly grows into great trees, sometimes fifty feet bigh. With its red herries it is a most picturesque tree. Mistietoe is a parasite that takes root

And now the time of the vigil of the third Christmas had arrived, and we knew no more about the hiding place of our inheritance than on the day that we received the letter. True, we had not followed his instructions in regard to telegraphy until very recently. It seemed so preposterous that merely mastering a vocation would aid in the unearthing of our legacies. So Elsie and I optimistically painted and poet-The bestowing of Christman boxes in ized through the first year, serenely confident that the money would turn up without streuuous effort on our part. On the first Christmas we wound the clock and sat expectantly through the the gift came to be demanded as a fifteen minutes. Nothing happened. right and became somewhat of a nul- We were slightly disappointed, but not sance. In England the day after at all uneasy. Then during the next Christmas is known as "boxing day" year between the intervals of pictures from the Christmas boxes which used and poems we ransacked the old place to be in circulation. In British mu- from garret to celler. Only a whole-

seums can be seen boxes covered with some fear of Aunt Ellas's anger pregreen glaze, with a slit in the side for vented our laying vandsi hands upon that wretched clock and disemboweling it in our search for a clew to the hidden treasure. We met for our The "spug" movement originated seance in the workroom without havseveral years ago and has grown very ing so much as begun the study of rapidly recently. This name is derived telegraphy. Again we sat through the allotted time, listening to the eccentric, tion formed in Chicago. It is the So- irregular ticking of the clock with no visible results, save that Aunt Elise sary tilving. Some members of this caught a fearful cold.

"Glibert," said Elsie soberly that society give no presents at all, while night when we had adjourned to the others confine their gifts to the lume-

1.01 (Continued on page 28.)

