

little fir tree bent its head and went in and stood in the corner of the room, and the three wild things of the forest went softly from room to room, and came back with things to hang on the tree. And last of all the little gray owl flew to the topmost branch and hung there the little pink wax angel with golden wings.

"They are good children," said the little white owl, as he flew down again. "When the winter is cold, they hang scraps of meat for me on the trees."

"And they put carrots in the path," said the rabbit, "and cabbage, so that I may not go hungry."

"And behind the barn they drop armfuls of sweet, juicy hay," said the deer, "that I may come in the night and feed."

And the little fir tree said: "They are good children, and I would rather be here than in the big, big city. And then it whispered, "Good-night," and the wild things went away.

And in the morning when the children came, they cried, "Oh, father, father, look at the beautiful tree!" And the lumberman came in and cried in astonishment, "Who brought it here?" And the little fir tree whispered and sang:

"I ran away from the forest. I ran away."

But they could not understand, and so they stared and wondered, and at last the lumberman said, "It is too late to carry it now to the city, so it can stay." And at that the children cried, "A Merry Christmas to all!" And the fir tree whispered happily "A Merry Christmas!" And out in the forest the owl and the rabbit and the white-tailed deer wished each other "A Merry Christmas!" as they hurried away through the snow.

#### Origin of Mason's and Dixon's Line

The historic Mason and Dixon's Line is a name that was given to the boundary line between Maryland and Pennsylvania about one hundred and fifty years ago. It coincides with 39 degrees 43 seconds, twenty-six minutes and three seconds north latitude. Except for a distance of 22 miles the line was marked out by Charles Mason and Jeremiah Dixon, English engineers. They surveyed it for a distance of 258 miles west from the Delaware River, between November 13, 1763, and December 26, 1767. Each five-mile stone bears the coat of arms of Maryland cut on one side and that of Pennsylvania on the other. The intervening milestones bear the letter "P" cut on one side and the letter "M" on the opposite.

During the progress of the violent debate in Congress in 1820, which resulted in the historic measure known as the Missouri Compromise, on the question of excluding slavery from Missouri, John Randolph made use of the phrase, "Mason and Dixon's Line," as the dividing line between slave and free states, Maryland at that time being a slave state and Pennsylvania a free state. At that time the crossing of the line from the South meant freedom to the fugitive slave. The reference thus made to the Mason and Dixon's Line by Randolph as a dividing line between slave and free states brought the phrase into general use, and it continued to designate the line between freedom and slavery till after the Civil War.

#### Conundrums

Why is an ax an inconsistent weapon?  
Because it first cuts a tree down, and then cuts it up.

What is that which can run all the way between two towns and yet never move?

A road.

What part of the face resembles the old-fashioned schoolmaster?

The eye, because it always has a pupil under the lash.

How do we know that Noah had a pig in the ark?

Because we know he had Ham.

#### Santa Claus, Dressed in White

Where the mountain peaks are white,  
Where the moon is glist'ning bright,  
Santa Claus rides at night.

Then as he comes in sight,  
Of the children gay and bright,  
He cracks his whip, very light,  
And the deer begin to kite,  
While the children cry with might:  
"Santa Claus dressed in white!"

Dropping down chimney, very tight,  
He fills the stockings without light;  
Then away, and out of sight!

—H. B. FRY, aged 14.

#### Charade

My first is a food  
We all like to eat;  
It should never be sour  
But always sweet.  
My second is an insect,  
Both dark and small,  
'Tis common in all countries  
And well known to all.  
My two joined together  
Just one word will be,  
And it flies in the meadows  
Both happy and free.

#### Curtailings

(1) Triply curtail a garden vegetable and leave a boy's name. (2) Doubly curtail a place where ladies buy merchandise and leave the title of a noleman. (3) Triply curtail a sharpened bar of iron, used as a lever, and leave a black bird.

#### I Wonder

I wonder will old Santa Claus  
Think of small girls like me  
If he would send me something, O!  
How happy I would be.

Even if it was a teeny gift,  
I would be quite content,  
For I s'pose all his great big ones  
To older girls are sent.



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