

Is There a Santa Claus?

Classic Answer of a New York Journalist Affirming a Little Girl's Belief

NE of the finest things ever written about Christmas was the editorial printed 20 years ago by the New York Sun in answer to the earnest appeal of a little New York girl to be told whether Santa Claus really exists. Its author, Frank P. Church, was an accomplished journalist and wrote much on many subjects, but his fame will rest chiefly on this beautiful setting forth of an eternal truth. With Dr. Clement Clarke Moore's "A Visit From St. Nicholas," it is one of the great classics of the Christmas season.

The answer to the eternal question as printed in the Sun follows:

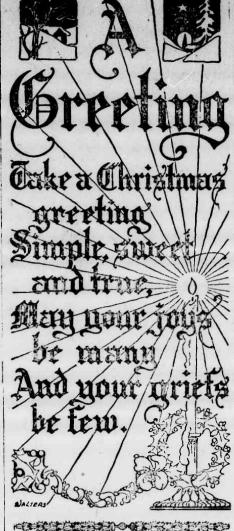
"We take pleasure in answering at once, and thus prominently, the communication below, expressing at the same time our great gratification that its faithful author is numbered among the friends of the Sun:

"'Dear Editor-I am eight years old. Some of my little friends say there is no Santa Claus. Papa says: If you see it in the Sun it's so. Please tell me the truth; is there a Santa Claus?
"'VIRGINIA O'HANLON. " '115 West Ninety-first Street.'

"Virginia, your little friends are wrong. They have been affected by the skepticism of a skeptical age. They do not believe except they see. They think that nothing can be which is not men's or children's, are little. In this pared with the boundless world about capable of grasping the whole truth and knowledge.

should have no enjoyment except in abiding. sense and sight. The eternal light with

You might get your papa to hire mes hood."



to watch in all the chimneys on Christmas eve to catch Santa Claus, but even if they did not see Santa Claus coming down, what would that prove? Nobody sees Santa Claus, but that is no sign that there is no Santa Claus. The comprehensible by their little minds most real things in the world are those All minds. Virginia, whether they be that neither children nor men can see. Did you ever see fairies dancing on the great universe of ours man is a mere lawn? Of course not; but that's no insect, an ant, in his intellect, as com- proof that they are not there. Nobody can conceive or imagine all the wonhim, as measured by the intelligence ders that are unseen and unseeable in the world.

"You may tear apart the baby's rat-"Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa tle and see what makes the noise in-Claus. He exists as certainly as love side, but there is a veil covering the and generosity and devotion exist, and unseen world which not the strongest you know that they abound and give man, nor even the united strength of to your life its highest beauty and joy. all the strongest men that ever lived, Alas! How dreary would be the world could tear apart. Only faith, fancy, If there were no Santa Claus! It would poetry, love, romance, can push aside be as dreary as if there were no Vir- that curtain and view and picture the ginias. There would be no childlike supernal beauty and glory beyond. Is faith then, no poetry, no romance, to it all real? Ah. Virginia, in all this make tolerable this existence. We world there is nothing else real and

"No Santa Claus! Thank God, he which childhood fills the world would lives and he lives forever. A thousand years from now, Virginia, nay 10 times "Not believe in Santa Claus! You 10,000 years from now, he will conmight as well not believe in fairles! tinue to make glad the heart of chiid-

A Few Don'ts for Christmas

Don't court indigestion.

Don't grumble, whatever you do. Don't half fill the kiddies' stockings. Don't give presents which will be

Don't forget the mistletoe. Romance still lives.

Don't forget that it ought to be a merry Christmas.

Don't deny the little ones' ideas about Santa Claus.

Don't worry about unpaid bills-at any rate until tomorrow. Don't scoff at the lingering super-

stitions of the good old days. Don't for the show of things, buy

presents which you can't afford. Don't expect too many presents.

Take what you get and be thankful. Don't, if you get up on your wrong side, make everybody else miserable.

Don't forget to think at least once during the day what Christmas really

to. Better not give at all than give insincerely. Don't forget that the giving of

Don't give a present unless you want

Christmas boxes, like charity, should begin at home. Don't, if you are a girl, stand under

the mistletoe until you see the right chap approaching. Don't kiss somebody else's best girl,

even though she is under the mistletoe. There might be a row. Don't work on Christmas day if you

can avoid it. If you have to, however, don't make a song about it. Don't give Johnnie a trumpet and

Peter a whistle and expect to have a quiet time. It's unreasonable. Don't put off buying presents until

the last minute. You'll get better value and avoid the crush if you shop early. Don't send an electric runabout to a freezing widow with five starving children. This is like throwing a rope of

pearls to a drowning man. Don't look pained when somebody tells a fifty-year-old Christmas story. That's one of the unavoidable circumstances of the festive season.

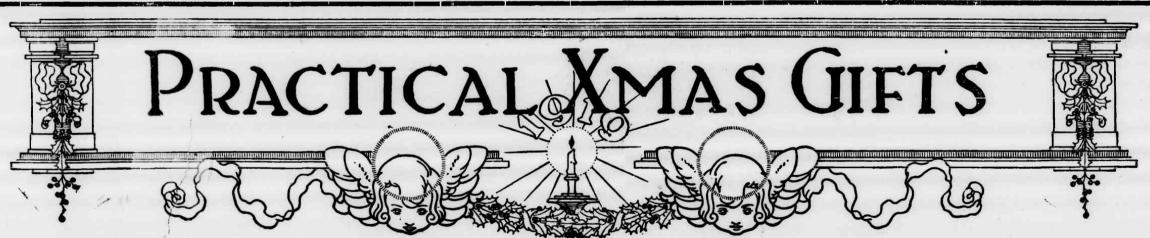
Don't give a new song to some one who doesn't sing; but be still more certain that you don't give a new song to some one who imagines he can sing. Don't refrain from giving because you can't afford to give much. The in-

trinsic value of a gift counts for nothing. It is the thought which prompts it that matters. Don't let the wife give you a Christmas present in the form of cigars. If she persists in doing so, don't smoke

them-give them away again, without

letting her know about it, of course.

Keep Prosperity at Home This Christmas. Buy in Brevard



SUITS for LADIES

GENTILE

SENSIBLE

Gentile enough for even the most fastideous. Sensible enough for even the most exacting critic of dress extravagance. Durable enough to satisfy even the most limited purse.

These are features which predominate in our seasonable Suits for ladiles and misses.

Below we submit a list of appropriate Christmas Gifts —we will be delighted to have you come in and inspect them in person.

> Hand Bags Silk Hose Crepe De Chine Hamdkerchiefs Boxes of Handkerchiefs Camisoles (All Colors) Crepe De Chine Teddies

Bath Robes Boudior Slippers **Boudior Caps** Georgette Waists Jersey Underskirts Tom O'Shanter's Sweaters Bath Robes



Men's Tastes---Boys' Needs

FOR THE CHRISTMAS TIME

We have considered these, as well as the other members of the family, in the selection of our stock of

CLOTHING AND SHOES

Whatever the occasion, we have Clothing and Shoes to fit—for dress, for business, for work.

Every one knows that this is the Family Store of this town, and so at Christmas time as well as every other day in the year. Bring the family to Its Own Store.

Collars Bed F.oom Slippers Kid Gloves Wool Gloves Sweaters Mackinaws Overcoats Over Shoes Rubber Boots Hand Bags Trunks

Umbrellas

Neck Scarfs Handkerchiefs Silk Handkerchiefs Suspenders Garters Cuff Links Silk Hose Silk Shirts **Outing Night Shirts**

Outing Pajamas

Hats and Caps

Veilt's Cash Stores