

Is There a Santa Claus?

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

ONE 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 comprehensible by their little minds. All minds, Virginia, whether they be men's or children's, are little. In this great universe of ours man is a mere insect, an ant, in his intellect, as compared with the boundless world about him, as measured by the intelligence capable of grasping the whole truth and knowledge.

"Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus. He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist, and you know that they abound and give to your life its highest beauty and joy. Alas! How dreary would be the world if there were no Santa Claus! It would be as dreary as if there were no Virginias. There would be no childlike faith then, no poetry, no romance, to make tolerable this existence. We should have no enjoyment except in sense and sight. The eternal light with which childhood fills the world would be extinguished.

"Not believe in Santa Claus! You might as well not believe in fairies! You might get your papa to hire men



A Few Don'ts for Christmas

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

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 superstitions 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 means.

Don't give a present unless you want to. Better not give at all than give insincerely.

Don't forget that the giving of 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 runaway 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 intrinsic 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.

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 most real things in the world are those that neither children nor men can see. Did you ever see fairies dancing on the lawn? Of course not; but that's no proof that they are not there. Nobody can conceive or imagine all the wonders that are unseen and unseeable in the world.

"You may tear apart the baby's rattle and see what makes the noise inside, but there is a veil covering the unseen world which not the strongest man, nor even the united strength of all the strongest men that ever lived, could tear apart. Only faith, fancy, poetry, love, romance, can push aside that curtain and view and picture the supernal beauty and glory beyond. Is it all real? Ah, Virginia, in all this world there is nothing else real and abiding.

"No Santa Claus! Thank God, he lives and he lives forever. A thousand years from now, Virginia, may 10 times 10,000 years from now, he will continue to make glad the heart of childhood."

Keep Prosperity at Home This Christmas. Buy in Brevard

PRACTICAL XMAS GIFTS

SUITS for LADIES

GENTILE SENSIBLE DURABLE

Gentile enough for even the most fastidious. 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 ladies 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.

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|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Shoes | Bath Robes |
| Hand Bags | Boudior Slippers |
| Silk Hose | Boudior Caps |
| Crepe De Chine Handkerchiefs | Georgette Waists |
| Boxes of Handkerchiefs | Jersey Underskirts |
| Camisoles (All Colors) | Tom O'Shanter's Sweaters |
| Crepe De Chine Teddies | 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.

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|-------------------|---------------------|
| Collars | Ties |
| Bed Foom Slippers | Neck Scarfs |
| Kid Gloves | Handkerchiefs |
| Wool Gloves | Silk Handkerchiefs |
| Sweaters | Suspenders |
| Mackinaws | Garters |
| Overcoats | Cuff Links |
| Over Shoes | Silk Hose |
| Rubber Boots | Silk Shirts |
| Hand Bags | Outing Night Shirts |
| Trunks | Outing Pajamas |
| Umbrellas | Hats and Caps |

Weilt's Cash Stores