



THE REASON WHY
By Marjorie Moore

"I heard a story lately, which I think is very queer. And Robert's self was on my lap, his lips were at my ear—" "A dreadful, dreadful story—" a sudden, awful pause—"Somebody said the other day there ain't no Santa Claus."

"Would you believe it, auntie? They said 'twas all a trick About the tin reindeer and the visits of Saint Nick. That all the chimneys were too small, the stoves were all too hot, And lots of just such stuff as that, I can't remember what."

"They said that years and years ago, with fire-places wide, And all the doors upon the latch in all the countryside, Both old and young for myths and dreams had quite a pretty passion. But now belief in Santa Claus had all gone out of fashion."

"And when I cried that I could prove 'twas all a wicked lie, They only shrugged their shoulders and said 'I'd better try; I never will believe it, I know it can't be true! For if I've never seen him, say, auntie, haven't you?"

Ah, yes, my little questioner, quite often in my dreams, Though when I wake I only see the cold, white, still moonbeams; Dozing I often think I hear the sound of horn and hoof, And waking find the elm-tree boughs a tapping on the roof."

But I have other reasons than those plain to eye and ear, For trusting in the story that we hold so true and dear, I never shall outgrow it, nor lose my faith, because The world will never get beyond a need of Santa Claus. —Youths' Companion.

THE DAY OF DAYS.

A thousand years have come and gone, And near a thousand more, Since happier lights from heaven shone Than ever shone before; And in the hearts of old and young A joy most joyful stirred, That sent such news from tongue to tongue As ears had never heard.

And we are glad, and we will sing, As in the days of yore; Come all, and let us hear you bring, To welcome back once more The day when first on wintry earth A summer change had stirred, And dawning on a lonely birth, Upraise the Light of man. —T. Lynch.

KEEPING CHRISTMAS

If our travelers who were snow-bound in a Western passenger train on Christmas Eve speedily became acquainted with each other, and sat about the stove at the end of the car to "talk it over." One of the men was a drummer, another a cowboy, the third a big cattleman, and the last the minister who tells the story. They finally fell into conversation with a poor woman and her two children, the only remaining passengers, and found that the mother, who had tried to maintain a "missal" from since her husband's death by sewing, had the unequal struggle, was giving up, to live with an "andma."

The little threadbare children had promised a joyous Christmas, and when they found that the lockers would prevent their getting either, for the present, they cried bitterly until sleep quieted them. Just before they dropped off the drummer remarked:

"Say, parson, we've got to give these children some Christmas."

"That's what!" said the cowboy. "I'm agreed," added the cattleman. The children were told to hang up their stockings.

"We ain't got none," quavered the little girl, "cep'tin' those we've got on, and ma says it's too cold to take 'em off."

"I've got two pairs of new woolen socks," said the cattleman, eagerly. "I ain't never wore 'em, and you're welcome to 'em."

The children clapped their hands, but their faces fell when the elder remarked:

"But Santa Claus will know they're not our stockings. He'll put in all the things for you."

"Lord love you!" roared the burly cattleman. "He won't bring me nothin'. One of us'll sit up, anyhow, and tell him it's for you."

Then the children knelt down on the floor of the car beside their improvised beds. Instinctively the hands of the men went to their heads, and at the first words of "Now I lay me," hats were off.

The cowboy stood twirling his hat, and looking at the little kneeling figures. The cattleman's vision seemed dimmed, while in the eyes of the traveling man shone a distant look—a look across snow-billed prairies to a warmly lighted home. The children were soon asleep. Then arose the question of presents.

"I don't seem to me I've got anything to give 'em," said the cowboy, mournfully, "unless the little kid might like my spurs. I'd give my gun to the little girl, though on general principles I don't like to give up a gun."

"Never mind, boys," said the drummer. "You come along with me to the baggage car."

So off they trooped. He opened his trunks and spread before them such an array of trash and trinkets as took away their breath.

"There," said he, "just pick out the best things and I'll donate 'em!"

"No, you don't!" said the cowboy. "I'm going to buy what I want and



pay for it, too, or else there ain't no 'em to be no Christmas round here."

"That's my judgment, too," said the cattleman, and the minister agreed.

So they sat down to their task of selection. They spent hours over it in breathless interest, and when their gifts were ready there arose the question of a Christmas tree. It had stopped snowing, and tramping out into the moonlight night, they cut down a great piece of sage-brush. The mother adorned it with tinsel paper and the gifts were prettily disposed. Christmas dawned for two of the happiest children under the sun, and a happy mother, too, for inside the big plush album selected for her the cattleman had slipped a hundred-dollar bill.

The Day of Days.

Christmas is the day of all the year best and dearest among the time marks of our recurring calendar. It is the day for peace and harmony in every heart and at every hearthstone. We celebrate God's chiefest gift to man and discordant thoughts or contentions have no place at the joyous festival. All should ring clear and true and sweet as the Yuletide chimes. The spirit of Christmas softens evil, sorrow and hopelessness with the magic touch of charity, for in charity is the embodiment of all the Christian graces. It gives to goodness a brighter luster and to resolve a nobler purpose. It is a spirit born in every heart that can know its inspiration, without regard to creed or race or station. Of all the days to which man has given special observance, Christmas alone has grown in its power, its beauty and its value. It has been stripped of the grandly devised liturgy and dramatic representations that had their root in heathen customs, disappled by the true Christian spirit.

After Christmas.

As a general thing affectionate fathers and mothers rejoice in the happiness of their children, but the rule has its exceptions.

"Is Mr. Smart at all given to drink?" inquired a merchant, anxiously, of his confidential clerk.

"No, indeed!" was the decided answer. "He never touches a drop. But what put such a suspicion into your mind?"

"Why, I noticed that he has been two hours late for the last three mornings, and he looks for all the world as if he had been on a regular spree."

"Oh, that's all right," said the clerk. "He gave his boy a drum for Christmas."

CANDY FOR THE HOLIDAYS

A gift of a fancy bedecked box of candies is at all times a most welcome gift, and as bonbon candies are very expensive to purchase in large quantities and are so easily made a few recipes for Christmas goodies may be useful to our readers. Years ago people believed that candy was harmful, but that notion was set aside; and it is declared really beneficial—of course, when eaten at the proper time, in proper quantities and made of pure materials. Home-made candies are always pure, the best materials are used and the cost is much less than is paid for the same grade in the stores. It is a nice plan to make your own Christmas candies, and you can send boxes away to your friends who will prize things made for them much more than anything bought.

To send candies away they should be made to look as dainty and pretty as possible. Fancy baskets can be cheaply bought that will be pretty after the candy is used, and lined with waxed paper over a fringed inner lining or some delicate colored tissue paper. In packing place waxed paper between the layers, and when the basket is filled wrap the edges of the lining paper over the top so that the candies are covered, then gather the fringed tissue paper into a rosette, and tie with baby ribbon.

In making peanut candy, to every half pint of shelled and blanched peanuts use one cup each of molasses or sugar. Boil together until the mixture is brittle when dropped into cold water; then stir in the half pint of peanuts before taking from the fire. Pour into buttered pans and mark off into squares or lengths before it cools. Hickory nuts, English walnuts or almonds may be used in place of peanuts.

To bleach nuts is to remove the fine skin which covers the nut under the shell. This will easily rub off in peanuts, but other nuts require different treatment. After removing the shell cover the nuts with boiling water, and let them stand until the dark skin will easily rub off, then put them into cold water. Dry between towels.

ON A WAR SHIP

I doubt if any class of men in the world appreciate their holidays so fully as the jackies, writes a retired naval officer. The life on board a warship is at best very confined and necessarily strict and severe. There is the suggestion of a prison in the steel walls and narrow quarters and the regularity of the hours and meals. The life of the jackies is made up almost entirely of work with very little play. We learn to enjoy our Christmases the more when at last they come round. On Christmas, for once in the year at least, all rules, of which there are so many on board, are thrown to the winds and the jackies are given the entire freedom of the ship. The order which is usually given them is that they can spend the day exactly as they like, and take any liberties they choose short of blowing up the ship.

It sometimes happens when the ship is in some attractive port that the sailors prefer to spend the day on land, and they are of course always granted leave of absence. It is seldom, however, that the ship is so deserted that the cabins are not for the time converted into a veritable pandemonium. There is no formal celebration of the day ordered by the government. The sailors are simply given their liberty and they do the rest. If a chaplain chances to be on board the day is opened with some simple religious services and there the jurisdiction of the captain may be said to end.

In England children hang their stockings at the foot of their beds. In America the whole family suspend their stockings from the mantelpiece of the sitting room, to save Santa Claus the trouble of ascending the stairs and entering each room to distribute his wares.

On the eve of St. Nicholas day, Dec. 6, parents in France used to secretly give presents to their children as Nicholas had given the purses. The parents denied that they gave the presents and said they had been left by the saint, who on this night traveled up and down the earth and entering unseen and unheard through the windows of the houses reward the good children.

Respect for Our War Ships.

In the opinion of James St. C. Hunt, who has just returned from Panama, it pays a nation to own gunboats, with a record behind them. "The revolution at Panama," he says, "will do the harm to American property. The rebels have been very careful to touch none of that, for recent events have taught them what the consequences will be."

Rigid Dress Regulations.

Harvard students of today would be likely to rebel if they had to conform to rigid college rules on the subject of their dress, and violation of which rendered them liable to a fine of not less than 30 cents nor more than \$1.50 for each offense. And yet this was one of the features of the code of discipline that prevailed at Harvard from its foundation well into the last century.

One Book Sold for \$3,500.

Book fanciers will be interested in the reports from London of the sale of the other day for the record price of \$3,500. It was a special copy of the "Songs of Innocence and of Experience" (1789-94), which the author had decorated by hand for his friend, Edward Calvert, in whose family this copy was cherished for many years.

New Cure for Rheumatism.

Hester, Mo., Dec. 16.—An unusual case which has recently come to light here is exciting the keenest interest among medical men. Mrs. Ellenor Guardhouse suffered for over forty years with Sciatic Rheumatism so severely and so constantly that her case has been regarded as chronic and absolutely incurable. At times the pain was almost unbearable and she could not rest day or night.

Some months ago she was induced to try Dodd's Kidney Pills, a remedy recently introduced in this neighborhood. The immediate results were magical and she continued till she had taken eight boxes, and now she declares she has not an ache or pain left. She believes that she is completely and permanently cured and as she has not used the pills for some months and is to-day in the best of health the doctors who were at first skeptical are amazed.

The man who earns his first thousand dollars always looks up to it with pride.

How Clothes Are Discolored.

Many of the starches now being used in washable fabrics contain ingredients that break and blister the goods so that after a few washings they are of little service. Defiance starch (made in Nebraska) is manufactured with a special view to obviating the difficulty. It contains a solution that can in no way injure the linen—but instead gives it a smooth, glossy finish that makes goods look new after each ironing. Sold by leading grocers. Made by Magnetic Starch Co., Omaha, Neb.

Wish All a Merry Christmas!

And sell them of Garfield Tea, which cures indigestion and liver disorders and insures the return of many Happy Christmas Dinners by removing the cause of dyspepsia and ill-health.

Any sensible woman would rather win an argument than be right.

IF YOU USE BALL BLUE.

Get Red Cross Ball Blue, the best Ball Blue. Large 2 oz. package only 5 cents.

Keep out of brawls and you will be neither a principal nor a witness.

Pine's Cure is the best medicine ever used for all affections of the throat and lungs.—Wm. O. ENDSLEY, Vanburen, Ind., Feb. 10, 1900.

It is no disgrace for a man to be poor—if he doesn't owe you anything.

INSIST ON GETTING IT.

Some grocers say they don't keep Defiance Starch because they have a stock in hand of 12 oz. brands, which they know cannot be sold to a customer who has once used the 16 oz. pkg. Defiance Starch for same money.

If a girl is silly and has lots of money she is called vivacious.

How's That?

We offer One Hundred Dollars reward for any case of Catarrh that cannot be cured by Hall's Catarrh Cure.

When cooking beets do not cut the tops too short; the vegetable will lose its color and sweetness.

FLORIDA SPECIAL

Via Big Four Route

Chicago to Jacksonville and St. Augustine. Effective Jan. 6, 1902, the "Big Four" will operate through Pullman sleepers from Chicago and Indianapolis to Jacksonville and St. Augustine, via Cincinnati, Queen & Crescent, Sou. Ry, Plant System and Fla. East Coast Ry., leaving Chicago at 1 p. m., daily, except Sunday. Dining and observation cars. For full information address J. C. Tucker, Gen. Nor. Agt., 224 Clark street, Chicago; Warren J. Lynch, G. P. & T. A., or W. P. Depe, A. G. P. & T. A., Cincinnati, O.

Shark and Soldier—Latter Inside.

A somewhat remarkable addition has apparently been made to the casualty lists from South Africa. The other day a man who is engaged on the English steampship, Canalia, writing home to his relatives, referred to the capture of a big shark at East London. When ripped open, the monster, which measured eighteen feet long, was found to have quite recently swallowed a soldier bodily. The man's body and uniform were intact save for a small portion one shoulder, which had been cut off.

YELLOW CLOTHES ARE UNSIGHTLY.

Keep them white with Red Cross Ball Blue. All grocers sell large 2 oz. package, 5 cents.

A fat boy is known among the other boys as "Tubby."

To Cure a Cold in One Day.

Take Laxative Bromo Quinine Tablets. All druggists refund money if it fails to cure. 25c.

Enjoy your little while the fool seeks for more.

A Christmas Philosopher.

He asks three great gifts—Health, Wealth and Happiness. Then give him Garfield Tea. It brings Good Health, promotes Happiness and makes the pursuit of Wealth possible.

Food for thought is sometimes supplied by the fish that gets away.

THE HANDSOMEST CALENDAR

of the season (in ten colors) six beautiful heads (on six sheets, 10x12 inches), reproductions of paintings by Moran, issued by General Passenger Department, Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railway, will be sent on receipt of twenty-five cents. Address F. A. Miller, General Passenger Agent, Chicago.

Happiness has less use for comfort than indolence has.

PUTNAM FADELESS DYES are the brightest, fastest and easiest to use. Sold by druggists, 10c. per package.

Some dolls act like girls, and some girls act like dolls.

THE LINCOLN IMPORTING HORSE CO., LINCOLN, NEB.

The largest importers of HIGH CLASS STALLIONS in all the west. At the present time our EXTENSIVE BARN is filled with Percheron and Shire Stallions, TWO, THREE and FOUR year olds. WRITE US FOR DESCRIPTION OF CATALOGUE, PRICES and see us AT ONCE. Our long distance phone 573. Barn and office, 33rd and Holdrege Streets.

WINCHESTER

"NEW RIVAL" FACTORY LOADED SHOTGUN SHELLS

outshoot all other black powder shells, because they are better and loaded by exact machinery with the standard brands of powder, shot and wadding. Try them and you will be convinced.

ALL • REPUTABLE • DEALERS • KEEP • THEM

SOZODONT TOOTH POWDER

The best that Money and Experience can produce. 25¢

At all stores, or by mail for the price. HALL & RUCKEL, NEW YORK.

The Horrible Tortures of Rheumatism

can be overcome and the dreaded disease expelled from your system by the use of

MATT. J. JOHNSON'S 6088

For sale by first-class druggists or direct from manufacturers, MATT. J. JOHNSON CO., 151 E. 6th St., St. Paul, Minn.

SHERIDAN COAL

ASK YOUR DEALER FOR IT

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TO THE LADIES:

Don't let your grocer sell you a 12 oz. package of laundry starch for 10 cents when you can get 16 oz. of the very best starch made for the same price. One-third more starch for the same money.

DEFIANCE STARCH

16 oz.

REQUIRES NO COOKING PREPARED FOR LAUNDRY PURPOSES ONLY

MANUFACTURED BY MAGNETIC STARCH MFG CO. OMAHA, NEB.

EXACT SIZE OF 10 CENT PACKAGE. 72 PACKAGES IN A CASE.

that a customer claims to be unsatisfactory in any way. We have made arrangements to advertise it thoroughly, and you must have it. **ORDER FROM YOUR JOBBER.** If you cannot get it from him, write us.

AT WHOLESALE BY

McCord-Brady Co., Omaha.
Paxton & Gallagher, "
Allen Bros. Co., "
Meyer & Raapke, "
Bradley, DeGross & Co., Nebraska City.

Raymond Bros. & Clarke, Lincoln,
H. P. Lau Co., "
Hargreaves Bros., "
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