

Our Women and Children

Conducted by Lucille Skaggs Edwards.

THE SANTA CLAUS QUESTION

Must we tell the children that there is a Santa Claus? Are we teaching them to deceive?

A Reader.

Over and over again is this question being asked; the trouble is not with Santa Claus or myths in general, but the lack of imagination in this realistic age. Then, too, many have let the happy memories of their youth become absorbed in the practicalities of life. We hear, "All myths are lies and sooner or later the children will find this out."

We pity the man or woman who has not enough of the spirit of childhood to remember the joys of Good Saint Nick with his reindeer, his sleigh, and his jingling bells; who cannot tell of him with wink and shrug as parrying difficult questions; and who does not thank the mother who brought into his childhood days the joys of rhyme and myth.

One has well said, "To take Santa out of Christmas would be like taking sunshine out of day." If there is to be no Santa Claus, there must be no "Peter Pan," who never grew old, to place the cares of life far, far away and let us renew our youth again; no Jack to kill the wicked Giant; no Red Riding Hood; no brave Hiawatha. Following then, we must eliminate many interesting characters in history about which there is much doubt as to their having ever lived—William Tell, Guy Warwick, Joan of Arc. What, too, shall we "practicals" do about fiction and poetry? Must we not confine ourselves to "stern facts?"

It may be wrong to teach the little ones of "Santa," but the world would be infinitely poorer if there were no make-believes, no myths. Let us see if we cannot make out a case in favor of this jolly old fellow who has such magical power to charm the young and rejuvenate the old.

L. S. E.

THE SONG OF THE ROVING SONS

Just beyond the sunset's barriers,
just across the Farthest Sea,
Lies the Land of Lost Illusions, lies
the Isle of Used to Be;
Lies the harbor that we sailed from
when the world was all atune
To the key of life's full flower, in
the symphony of June.

How they begged that we should
tarry ere we launched our dar-
ing bark,

Setting sail from southern sunlight
to the realms of winter dark;
How they pleaded we should never
brave the breakers and the
foam,

But should bide beside the hearth-
stone and should live a life at
home!

"No," we answered, "we must hurry,
for the Roving Sons are we,
We must make the great adventure;
we must sail the Seventh Sea;
We have done with sloth and safety
and the Little People's ways;
Better bitterness than languor; bet-
ter life than length of days!"

And we sailed and still are sailing
underneath a starless sky,
Over wastes of waves uncharted,
where we know not how nor
why;

Certain only we can never more re-
cross the Farthest Sea
To the Land of Lost Illusions, to the
Isle of Used to Be.

—W. R. Kauffman.

WASTING TIME.

If you waste money continually,
you will some day come to the end
of your money. Just so with time;
keep on wasting it and by and by
you'll come to the end of your time.

Time is money. If you don't be-
lieve this, try to borrow some, after
you have squandered your own sup-
ply of time.

Properly organized, this means
eight hours for work, eight hours for
sleep and eight hours for other oc-
cupations. Most men and women who
are living successfully, have made
their success by right use of the
hours they do not spend in sleep or
at work.

It is silly to bewail your lack of
education when four hours a day
would give you the equivalent of a
college education in four years. It is
foolish to complain of lost health
when in your eight spare hours you
refuse to diet, exercise and take other
hygienic measures which are all that
most people require to be healthy. It
is childish to protest that you do not
get ahead in life, when you will not
make use of any of those extra eight
hours to qualify yourself for promo-
tion.

We all have to live on twenty-four
hours a day. The question is how to
get the most out of them. What are
you doing with yours?—Mother's
Magazine.

Miss Margaret Smith, who was ill
several days last week, is again able
to be out.

Clayton Jones, who died November
29 after an illness of several months,
was buried December 1 from the un-
dertaking parlors of Banks & Wilks.

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