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TOYS FOR CHRISTMAS.

A BUSY MULTITUDE NOW ENGAGED
IN THEIR MANUFACTURE.

Some of the Novelties Which Will Delight the Boys and Girls at the Holiday Season — Costly Playthings from France and Germany.

[Copyright by American Press Association.]



THE JAPANESE MAGICIAN.

Just at present the busiest people in and about the big cities of the United States are the toy makers. From the millionaires who own the large factories, where armies of tin soldiers are turned out at a rate that would make old Santa Claus blink, to the tiny little German girl who knits worsted gowns around rubber dolls at a half cent apiece, everybody is working with might and main to keep up with the orders that are piling in from all parts of the country for Christmas. It is the toymakers' harvest season, and for months every man, woman and child connected with the trade has been at work preparing for this harvest.

While the patriotic American boy and his sister were still deep in their plans for a proper celebration of the Fourth of July the toy makers were already preparing

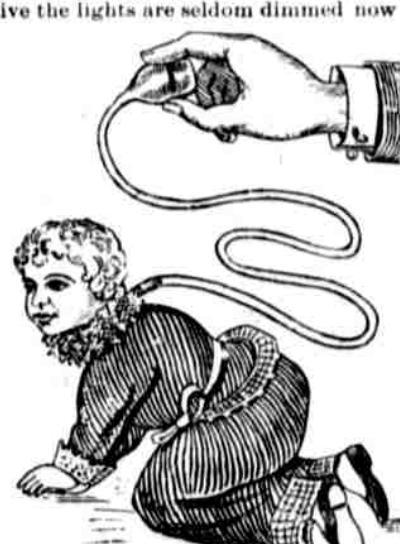


THE JUMPING FROG.

for Christmas. By July 1 scores of smooth tongued traveling men started out on their annual tours, each a veritable Santa Claus, for he carried at least a half dozen enormous trunks crammed to the lids with an assortment of toys that would have made any boy or girl in the land happy. Before a fortnight passed the first order had been taken, and the factories that had been working on half time started in for business in dead earnest, increasing their force with every week.

No one in the trade objects to this stress of work. To the factory owner it means a fattening of his bank account, and to the workers a season of plenty during which they can eat and drink to their hearts' content, and still lay by a little sum to serve during the dull months afterward.

In the tenements where the toy makers live the lights are seldom dimmed now be-



THE CRAWLING DOLL.

fore midnight, and by the time the sun is up next morning the family is at work again straining every nerve to make the most of the opportunities in sight. The father and the sons who are old enough are off to the factories by daybreak, while the mother and her daughters remain behind to add to the little store by making such holiday trifles as can be put together at home.

Of the retail selling price of toys not more than 7 or 8 per cent, on the average goes to the toy maker in this country. The rest is consumed principally by the persons through whose hands the toys pass until they reach the Christmas tree. The retailer makes from 30 to 50 per cent. of the selling price. The jobber is rarely content with less than 15 to 20 per cent. of the remainder. The manufacturer wants

factories earn about \$12 a week, and the boys, of whom a large number are employed, make about \$5.

There is one person in the factory, however, who earns more than this—the designer of new toys. He generally acts in the capacity of foreman or superintendent, though not unfrequently a novelty is invented by one of the clever workmen. This year the designers have apparently not been very busy, and in consequence the stock of American novelties to be offered for Christmas is not very great. One of the most striking among the new things is a Japanese juggler, who balances a ball on an umbrella for a half hour in the regulation style when wound up. Another is a Spanish dancer of the male species, who is attached to a board and is worked by a lever. A weeping doll and dancing bear, a walking Chinaman, a locomotive that explodes whenever you want it to and a jointed alligator that creeps along in the most blood curdlingly natural manner complete the list of mechanical novelties.

Then there are "doll" sets, combs, brushes, soap, a tiny bottle of perfume, etc., that come from France, and are calculated to drive any little miss into spasms of delight. Germany also sends something new in the "jumping toy" line, being a blonde, blue eyed boy, who jumps on his hands and knees true to nature; while America has added a jumping tin frog that will win the boys' hearts.

In dolls a greater variety than has ever been seen before will be on the shelves of the toy stores. There are dolls who walk and dolls who bow and dolls who salute you, or fan themselves, or do almost anything else that you wish. And then, of course, there is the doll that talks, thanks to Mr. Edison. But this doll hasn't been much of a success. The price (\$10) is too high, and then besides she loses her voice.

A Fauntleroy doll, though that came from France has been sold to retailers by the ton, and a "mourning doll" has gone so well that the stocks have been exhausted.

For the children of the rich there are any number of expensive new mechanical toys from France. A juggler about two feet high who does more wonderful tricks than Hermann is on the shelves for \$100 along side of a "pleading barrister" at the same price. There is an "electric toy" for boys with inquisitive minds. This fetches \$5, and generates electricity which is made to ring bells, turn machinery, etc. A fourteen inch bear who walks as naturally as life is rated at \$20, and a school of musical cats at \$9. A bootblack and a spinning woman who work for dear life when wound up are worth \$28. From this things get gradually cheaper. A pig that jumps out of a sty to be fed is \$4.50, and all sorts of dogs and cats who perform to the tune of a music box in their organism can be had as low as \$2.

PAUL LATZKE.

HE WILL WRITE NO MORE.

HISTORIAN BANCROFT ANNOUNCES HIS RETIREMENT FROM LITERARY LIFE.

The venerable George Bancroft recently announced that he had laid down his pen forever. So it may be assumed that his literary career is at an end.

Those who are now half a hundred years old remember when every one was discussing a new (colonial) history of the United



HON. GEORGE BANCROFT.

States. They were children then, and if any of them tried to read Mr. Bancroft's history they doubtless found it beyond their grasp, but it made an impression upon their elders, which was reflected upon them; but a small proportion of those who began to read this history when its first volume appeared ever lived to read the latest chapter. Mr. Bancroft has lived to tread alone.

Some banquet hall deserted, and listen only to the encomiums of subsequent generations.

Mr. Bancroft has all his life been a horseback rider. One of the first intimations the public had that the man who is now over 90 years old was failing was an advertisement which appeared some time ago offering his saddle horse for sale. It is said that Mr. Bancroft still possesses physical vigor, but his intellect is failing. He still receives those impressions which are conveyed to him, but they soon pass away.

Mr. Bancroft's career goes back so far that scarcely any one can be found who is familiar with the early scenes through which he passed. Fifty-six years ago the first volume of his great history appeared. Forty-five years ago President Polk made

the naval academy.

him secretary of the navy, and he founded the naval academy at Annapolis. Forty-four years ago he was minister to Great Britain. In 1871 he was appointed the first American minister to the court of the new German empire.

In 1875 Mr. Bancroft went to reside in Washington, since when he has been a conspicuous figure at the capital. He has been twice married and twice a widower. His children and some of his grandchildren, however, are with him in his old age.

Mr. Bancroft has always been of aristocratic sympathies, and has always maintained a position with fashionable people. Often in summer he has been seen, even when past the heyday of life, mounted on his saddle horse riding on the beach at Newport, surrounded by the glitter and display of fashionable life. At Berlin he created some dissatisfaction among the Americans, who did not receive the attentions they thought due them from their minister. He has not been a man of the people, but as a historian his fame is doubtless secure, and as a cabinet officer he will be remembered as the founder of a national school for the education of naval officers.

The friends of a German letter carrier recently celebrated the fifty-fifth anniversary of the day he began duty. The man is said to have walked over a million miles.

THE HAPPY GLEANERS.

THANKSGIVING SONG.

Published through The American Press Association.

Music by R. GRAHAM HARVEY.

mf Con spirito.

1. The vil-lage bell the hour proclaims, The morning shines, how fair! The chil-dren all, and care ful dames, To
2. The land-lord tri-ly has his rent, The far-mer reaps his grain; But still a pit-tance God has sent The
3. Still, round the year we'll bear in mind How much to Him we owe Who-e'er pro-vides that we may find—We

f Marcato.

yon-der fields re-pair.... Then a-glean-ing we will go, Then a-glean-ing we will go; Each
poor-est to main-tain.... Then a-glean-ing, etc.

Sempre ff

reap as we shall sow. Then a-glean-ing we will go, Then a-glean-ing we will go; Each
grateful feels To Him who deals Supplies to high and low: Then a-glean-ing we will go, Then a-glean-ing we will
grateful feels To Him who deals Supplies to high and low: Then a-glean-ing we will go, Then a-glean-ing we will

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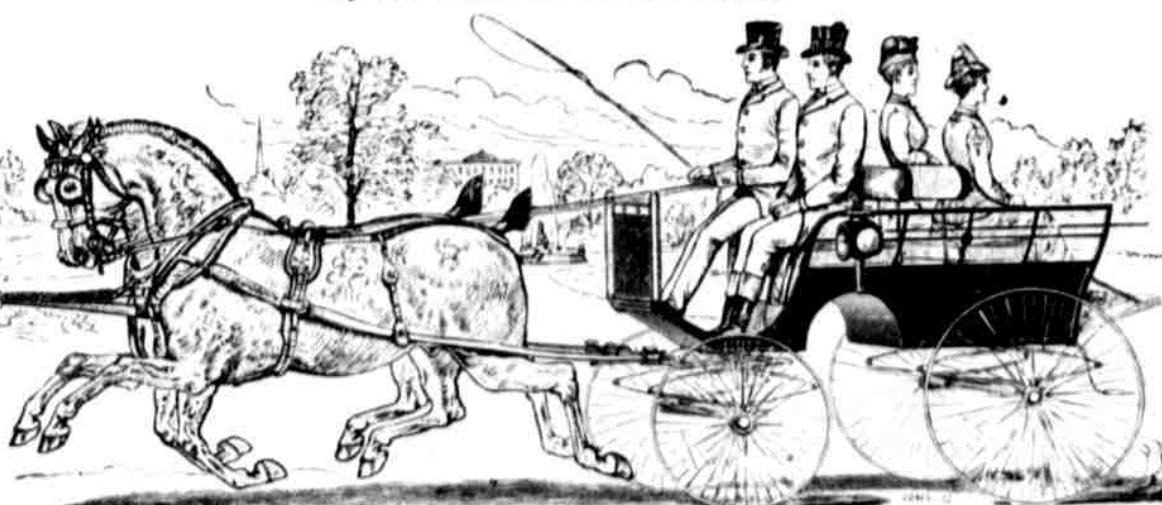
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