THE OMAHA DAILY BEE: SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22, 1895.



Even to people much older than she dreams can be very real. You can almost touch them.

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Just then the cathedral clock down stairs boomed 2. Then it occurred to Daisy that Santa Claus always came by midnight, and soomed 2. Then it occurred to Daisy that Santa Claus always came by midnight, and that he had been gone a long while. "If I can only go down now without wak-ing them, I'll beat them all," thought Day. Last year the boys had gotten ahead of her in the annual morning rush for the stockings. She had never yot won that saw that year doll on which she had never yot won that saw that year doll on which she had never without the child, for in the visitor's right rend she tender sympathy that he turned his head saw that very doll on which she had set her Christmas heart.

stockings. She had never yet won that Christmas race. Now was her opportunity. In their little cribs the children were fleep-"Don't put it in the stocking, door Santa ing near her in the same room. The big boys were in the next room beyond, while on the other side was their mother's room. her little eager hand. Day stepped out of bed like a little mouse, hardly daring to breathe. She had to go The Saint slowly dropped the doll into it. Astonichment sat on the rude face under the big cap. Then a touch of tenderness softened it. For a benefactor of the children through one of the two rooms to get to the hall. She chose the boys' room. If they had been awake they would have been frightof the race he seemed strangely embarened out of their wits to see a white ghost filt in, hover over their beds, and filt out again. Not a board creaked beneath the rassed. child's bare steps. When at last she stood in the upper hall, which was dimly lighted shrugged his shoulders and looked sheepish a lantern from below, she breathed relief. and then he began to grow red in the face. Not a soul had stirred, and she knew that a Dalsy looked up him him enthusiastically. march had been successfully stolen on her brothers this time

"They won't make fun of me any more," she whispered with a feeling of satisfaction. me how." she whispered with a teering of satisfaction. Now she almost felt like an explorer in her own house. How new, how dark, and strange! How adventuresome to be poking about slone in the middle of Christmas night! The child began to be much excited, but

DAY AND THE INTRUDER.

not at all afraid. She stepped very softly. In a few noments ene stool at the library door. It was closed but not latched. She pushed it open gently, and stepped in. As she did so her heart gave a great leap at the sight that confronted her. Her first impulse was to scream, but immediately her better judgment came to her rescue. She remembered that it was Christmas eve yet. Now the man began to come to his senses. He bont his head as if to detect any sound and took hold of the bag. Again it gave forth a metallic clank. "That's the cars! and the locomotive! Let's set!" Day clapped her hands—once— and then suddenly found them clenched to-gether in an irresistible grip. "Oo—oo—oh!" she began to cry. "Santa

brother a train of cars with a real block of with the doll that knows And I guess I'll do with the doll that knows how to talk. You look so tirrad and sick I won't bother you any more." She looked won't bother you any more." She looked You don't understand. We haven't any Christmas dinners to our house, nor no pres-

who fired me than any one." "Then," said Day, slowly, "you're not a Santa Claus at all. You're nothing but a

burglar." "I guess that's about the size of it. Sh! What's that noise?" The man looked about nervously. The clock now struck the half "I'm so sorry." great tears stood in the

child's eyes. "Papa would be sorry, too, if he only knew." The burglar's face softened again. He looked at his bag full of the Parker silver. He took it up and then put it down again. There was an evident struggle in his mind. Here he was confronted in his first crime-

by what? Only by a child. And yet that little girl seemed to his hard nature as much First he stood upon one foot watching a barrier against evil as a hundred feet of the child's repture over the phonograph doll. Then he shifted to the other and "I migh

"I might call mamma," suggested Day, gently, "Not for the world, child!" The man put his rude hand upon her soft arm. What was a slight pressure for him might "Say, Mr. Santa Claus, make it talk! Show have meant powdered bones for her. didn't mean to harm," he repeated apolo-getically. "We're dead broke, that's all. "I dunno," he answered, in a gruff whis-We're nigh starving. I couldn't stand it." Day looked at her doll. Her sweet, little

face worked with indecision. "Mister?" she looked up with full eyes, 'How old is your little girl?"

"Just S. little miss." "I guess mamma won't mind!" she held

out the precious doll to the precious rascal. "Give it to her. It's a Christmas present from me. Say Dalsy Parker sent it! The discharged motorman handled the fluffy pink doil for a moment doubtfully and then thrust it into his big side pocket. "I've then thrust it into his big side pocket, "I've got to go," he shivered. "You'd better run up stairs, little 'un."

"No," said the little hostess, little dreaming that her very fearlessness had utterly disarmed a man, the more desperate because he was in the midst of his first offense. "I shall see you cut. You had better pick up your bag

What the man's nature had sought a little while ago his better nature now de-

ness, and I'm done with it. They can starve first, s'help me Gcd." How should this little angel guess? It had Tommy Jones. never occurred to the superintendent's daughter that the visitor's bag contained all

ter how queer, Day gravely followed him. She tucked her little hand in his, and he led her to the open parlor window, which he had essily forced.

was on the stone ledge and his face, on the other side of the sill, was on a level with

"Goodbye, little lady," he whispered in his gruff way. "I didn't mean to frighten ye, nohow. Ye'll forgive me, won't ye?" Thus worse men than he had pleaded for the good opinion of those better than they-though God knows who of us are very good. The child was beginning to realize what manner of man this really was, and now be-gan to tremble violently. Her strength was almost gone.

almost gone.

The children may learn to know them from

the stories told in the twilight hour. They will never tire of hearing how these strange ents, either-and five young uns. I had to little prople live in their own lands, and steal or starve, and I'd rather steal from him where the distant countries are and how one

can get to them. The reign of childhood is chort and the nursery carnival calls for the merriest and the best that can be gathered together with the wise and loving forethought of older heads.

PRATTLE OF THE YOUNGSTERS.

One of the happlest little boys I ever saw, says a writer in the Washington Star, is a cripple and will never walk. His lower limbs are paralyzed, and the little fellow is wheeled around in a chair made for his especial use. When I first saw him I thought how awful it must be for a 7-year-old boy not to be able to run and play like other children, and, without thinking, I asked: "Isn't it lovely here? Don't you wish you could run and jump?"

much eet of much eet of Day, The arm. arm. a all. told, like sunbeams lighting and gladden-it. it. but it is ut is ut is upper a second of a light of a conduct o ever since I first saw him.

A small boy in Philadelphia wrote the following composition the other day on King Henry VIII:

I must own that all this fussing's Rather trying on the nerves; For a week back I've been running To the cellar for preserves, To the loft to bring the hams down, To the barn for eggs; you see All our young folks are a-coming Home to mother and to me. "King Henry 8 was the greatest widower that ever l'ved. He was borned at Annie Domino in the year 1066. He had 510 wives bezides children. The first was beheaded

P. McArthur.

About twenty years ago, says a writer in

the New York Press, when we were at

Britannic majesty's shipe of war gave us a

dinner on board, and made every one of the

younger Americans roaring drunk, while

Dick is coming home from college, He has holidays just now, He is going to be a preacher (He could never learn to plow); Lucy's coming from the high school, Ben and Harry from the town, And we've made Eliza promise To bring all her children down, tiful Mary, queen of Scots, sometimes called Lady of the Lake or the Lay of the Last Minstrel." Harold-Oh, mamma! I feel so angry, I want to say something wicked.

Mamma-Get me my slipper! Harold (exclaiming with a great effort)-Mother's in a pesky fidget, And she's freiting all day long, Lest with all her roasts and puddings Something may perhaps go wrong; But I just keep on a-humming An old fashioned Christmas glee, For the young folks are all coming Home to mother and to me. feel better now!

"After takin' me fur Santy Claus an' give me the dell fur my gal, I wouldn't take it for a thousand dellar bill. It's mean busi-ness, and I'm done with it. They even busi-Bobby-But you know, mamma, that you said yesterday that I was the naughtlest boy

GOT EVEN WITH THE BRITISH. They Were Plied with a Drink of Which They Knew Nothing.

"What are you crying for, child?" "Lolo hurt me," "How, pray?"

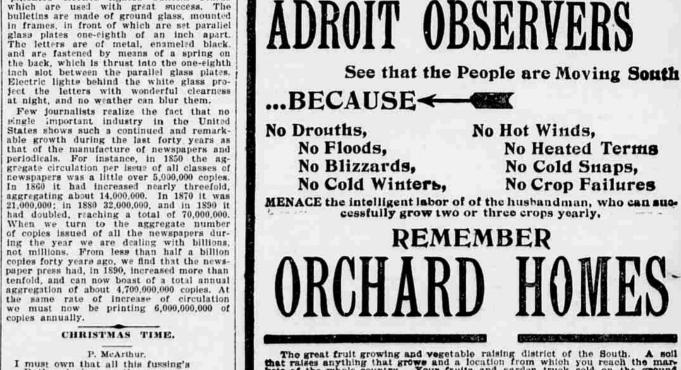
Gibraltar, having been ordered to join the "I was going to hit him with my fist, when he ducked his head, and my fist hit the European squadron, the officers of one of her wall."-Etoile Balge.

LABOR AND INDUSTRY.

many of the older ones had some difficulty A new gr, is is steam boilers has been de-vised, in which the bars of the grate are hollow tubes and are constructed to serve getting down the gang way. Our captain was very wroth. He called us all up the next morning and lectured us. In a few days he returned the courtesy of the British offias feed-water heaters.

A Geneva watchmaker has almost com-pleted a watch which will call out the hours upon a spring; being touched. It contains very small phonograph.

cers, inviting them all to dine aboard our ship. Dr. King, one of the surgerns on board, a nephew of the noted journalist. Judge King of Philadelphia, and a Philadelphian himself by birth, asked the captain if he Irish peat's made into an antiseptic wool by a Germanisyndicate, and has been adopted for army use by the French government. himself by Dirth, asked the captain if he would like to get even with the British for getting us all drunk. The captain said it was not possible to do it; that the Britsh could drink all cur boys under the table. King insisted, and finally was allowed to make the attempt. He made a few gallons of fish-house punch and served the innocent looking liquid liberally among the visitors. Taey had never tasted anything like it and could not get There are 48,000 artists in Paris, more than



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In an instant he was outside. His foot "Goodbye, little lady," he whispered in

"I guess you're nearer Santa Claus than

their family silver. Not surprised at anything now, no mat-