

The Family

Santa Claus

Old Santa Claus comes to urge along,
His feet-lashed steeds with voice and thong,
Well laden with treasures from store and shop,
He hitches his team to the chimney top,
O, Santa Claus, a clever old spite,
He comes to the dear little people by night,
And never was king, with his throne and crown,
As merry as he when the sun goes down.

At midnight, when childhood in slumber seems,
To gather sweet flowers from the land of dreams,
Then on to the roof of the house he'll hop,
And joyfully descend the chimney top,
O, Santa Claus, &c.

On tiptoe he stands on the peaceful spot,
Where childhood reposes in crib or cot;
He fills up the stockings, he crams the sock,
With candies and toys for the household flock,
O, Santa Claus, &c.

His favors all bestowed, he hastens back,
The way that he came, up the sooty track;
And never his mission of love shall stop,
While there is a house with a chimney top,
O, Santa Claus, &c.

Now busy as he in their bonied hives,
The little folks gather when morn arrives,
The merry eye sparkles, the sweet voice rings,
As stockings are searched for the woodruff things,
O, Santa Claus, &c.

They wonder, when bringing his dainty freight,
He never comes in by the door or gate;
And hope he will never be forced to stop,
And die in the smoke of the chimney top,
O, Santa Claus, &c.

Dark's Christmas Adventure.

BY HELEN G. PEARSON.

"Hi ho!"
It was a sad voice that uttered this, and a sad little figure was Dark the colored girl that merry Christmas Eve, as she crept on the steps of a palatial residence in the great city.
"A dog of a hawk was drawn over her slight shivering shoulders, her stockings fast were thrust into mammoth shoes cast by some sturdy laborer, and round her crisp curled hair was wound her special pride a strip of red handkerchief that she had picked up. Altogether poor Dark made a sadly ludicrous appearance.
"Hi ho!" sighed she again with a woe-begone look on her young face. "What am I to do? I have no money to buy a new pair of shoes. I wish I lived here, wouldn't it be nice! If only the gentleman 'ud come out, and ask a body in. Ky!" and Dark adjusted the bit of bandanna on her jaunty head in anticipation.
Just then she was startled by the opening of the massive door, but instead of the "gentleman" came Sambo the general serving man with a face as black as Egypt. Peering daintily out, his eyes fell on little Dark, standing on the steps.
"Hi!" he cried, "I heard somebody muttering. Make yourself scarce, niggers ain't wanted here!"
"Pretty feller for him!" retorted Dark, making a terrible grimace at him, "you ain't de person as owns dis place."
"Look here," said the servant, glancing stealthily around. "I won't stand no sarcas. Maybe you don't know you've have the honor to speak wid de Honorable Mister Cate's Equine Smith."
"O my!" ejaculated Dark, her eyes opening wide. "I don't believe you've got such a heap! Who name's you?"
"De President of de United States," said Sambo with dignity, "if you don't believe dat you'll taste of my boot!"
Dark, overcome by the presence of the great man, or his threat, moved away as fast as her shoes would permit.
Down the street came a burly, ill-ripped old man, the store were brilliantly lighted, and crowds were thronging in and out, happy over their holiday purchases.
"Nothin' for dis child!" said Dark, sorrowfully. "Nobody in dis world 'ere for poor nigger girl. Dark see de debil! he have some day, and the tears ran down her dusky cheeks as she slowly plodded on, stopping now and then to put on her shoe that spite of her adroit motions kept slipping off.
"Hello!" shouted a big boy who was sauntering along with his hands in his pockets. Hello you ancient African, where did you come from. And how much will you take for your Paris boots?" giving them a kick that sent them one way and their owner another.
Poor little Dark picked herself up disconsolately, but the shoes and her tormentor had disappeared. She began to search for the former. Suddenly she started back into the shadow with a frightened air, exclaiming "Oh, Nanos!"
Down the street came a burly, ill-ripped old man, half-carrying, half-dragging an elegantly dressed child of five years.
"O!" screamed the child. "Let me go home! Let me go home!"
"Shut up, I tell you!" growled the woman, "or I'll knock your teeth in with a big stone!"
The child's cries grew faint in the distance, and still Dark stood rooted to the spot. The whole street flashed itself upon her. The child had been stolen.
"Poor thing," murmured Dark, "I'll just follow the old thing and see if I can't help 'er." And she darted down the street after the couple.
Old Nanos hurried on with her prey, casting guilty glances around, but sharp as she was, she did not detect the tattered figure that followed, dodging in and out amongst the great buildings. The old woman disappeared at last in one of the great tenement houses in a disreputable street.
Dark seemed to know the house well, and slipping in at the half-opened door, crept softly up the long rocky flight of stairs, stopped at a door, sank on her knees and peeped through the key-hole.
"O, no please," pleaded the child within.
"Take me home and I'll give you lots of money."
"Hold your tongue, or I'll take it out of your head," said the woman, as she roughly snatched the child of her costly dress, and unclasped a slender gold chain from her neck. Then, tying the elegant clothing in a bundle, and tossing her a filthy drag, she said, with an oath—
"Put that on, and don't let me hear you breathe to-night, or I'll beat you to death!"
The child's patient, despairing look, as she obeyed, took to the tender heart of the negro, and she was shaking her fist at the wretch inside, when old Nanos starting for the door, she beat a hasty retreat.

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Do not buy until you see this beautiful Spinner. It is small, neat, and convenient, simple, durable, and easily understood. A child can manage it. You sit at your ease while spinning. A reel is attached to wind the yarn from the spindle. It spins even, smooth yarn of Wool, Cotton, Flax, or any other material. It can be spun as desired, and your yarn is as much in a day, as on any other hand spinner. Wait for the agents of Taylor's Excelsior Spinner, and you will be sure to buy the best Spinning Machine ever invented.

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The Temperance Banner, a well conducted monthly paper, gives, from a contributor, some thoughts on the history of a young man, that all young people would do well to ponder. Read, and ponder!

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"I always take care of Number One," said one of a troop of boys at the end of a bridge, some wanting to go one way and some another.

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are the offspring of a pale and occasionally flushed countenance; dull heavy eyes; irritable, swollen, and often bleeding nose; headache, sim and many other, but whenever the above are noticed in children the cause invariably is WORMS, and the remedy WOODILL'S WORM LOZENGES.

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