

SANTA.—Never mind, boy, I heard you wishing for a pair of boots for your sister.

*Presents boots to BILLY. BILLY turns to FLO. with them. Gives them to her delightedly.*

BILLY.—I say, Floss! Look a' here!

*While FLO. and BILLY are admiring the boots. FLO. may fill in with some little laughs, exclamations, such as "lovely," etc.), and FAIRY continues to flutter about them. SANTA produces a ludicrously immense bundle, or best of all a huge colored muslin stocking, well stuffed. He handles it with evident effort, and when he gives it to BILLY, BILLY almost drops it. FLO. helps him to hold its weight. All laugh delightedly, and shout. FAIRY skips "flapping" her wings as she speaks.*

SANTA.—And here's as much candy as you can eat in a week. Now! Don't you ever again say you don't believe in Santa Claus.

FAIRY.—Or that there are no fairies.

*FLO. and BILLY smile at them. FLO. wraps dress in BILLY's papers.*

SANTA.—And if you never saw a Christmas Tree, just you watch what's going to happen to this one.

*SANTA turns towards Tree and for the first time looks at the audience with meaning smile.*

FAIRY.—Merry Christmas, Santa Claus!

*FAIRY waves wand at SANTA. They bow toward each other. If convenient, both should "vanish," while the chorus is sung, re-appearing to distribute gifts from Tree. Both bow to the audience and retire in opposite directions. Stage is lighted.*

SANTA.—Oh, Merry Christmas!

*BILLY and FLOSS and all the school children join chorus, to air of "The Birdies' Ball."*

*School children should have been rehearsed, not with the whole play, but with the cue from FAIRY and SANTA, of "Merry Christmas," to come in heartily and promptly.*

Merry, merry Christmas! Jolly old day!

Look at all the good things coming our way!

Merry, merry Christmas!

(softly) Fairies are about,

(softly) Santa Claus'll catch you if you don't watch out.

(loud) Dear old Santa Claus! Jolly old Santa Claus!

Dear old Santa and the fairies have to leave.

Dear old Santa Claus, jolly old Santa Claus

Come again on Christmas Eve!

*Exit BILLY and FLO. Distribution of candy bags etc., begins.*

[This play has been given with great success by children of grades V. and VI. Some teachers may object to the bad English. One has to have some artistic realism, and I got over the difficulty by making amused remarks about the dreadful English of those poor city children, and warning my little ones not to copy their style.—Author's Note.]

You find yourself refreshed by the presence of cheerful people. Why not make earnest effort to confer that pleasure on others?—*Lydia Maria Child.*

## A LEGISLATIVE HISTORY OF NEW BRUNSWICK EDUCATION.

JOSEPHINE H. McLATCHY.

(Conclusion.)

IV. And, etc., "That it shall be the duty of the Trustees and Directors of the several Grammar Schools, to examine and inspect at least once in every six months, and to make report of such examination; which report shall set forth the Master's name, age, Religion, Profession, and whether married or single . . . the Books and Apparatus used in the School; . . . Branches of Education actually taught; . . . the size, fitness and condition of the Building, and the mode of Discipline; . . . the manner of teaching the several branches of Education; . . . the general state and condition of the School, with other such information as may be necessary and proper."

V. And, etc., "That it shall be the duty of the Trustees and Directors and they are hereby required to submit semi-annually to the Office of the Provincial Secretary, all such Registers, Returns and Reports, for the information of the Government, and for the inspection and examination of the General Assembly; and if it at any time shall appear from Registers, Returns or Reports, that Grammar School is in any respect deficient and short of the herein prescribed requirements, then and in such case it shall and may be lawful for the Lieutenant-Governor or the person administering the Government for the time being, by and with the advice of His Majesty's Executive Council, to reduce the annual allowance for such Grammar School in their discretion, so that the same shall in no case be less than £50 per annum to any one School."

VI. And, etc., "That every part of this Act shall after the passing thereof, be and continue in full force and effect, any other law, usage or custom to the contrary notwithstanding."

[No further legislation regarding grammar schools was passed until 1861, when by 24 Vic., Cap. XV, these schools were placed under the direction and control of the Board of Education, "constituted under the authority of an Act relating to parish schools passed in the twenty-first year of the reign of Her present Majesty (21 Vic., Cap. IX, 1858). This Act provided for the inspection of the grammar schools by persons especially appointed by the chief superintendent.]