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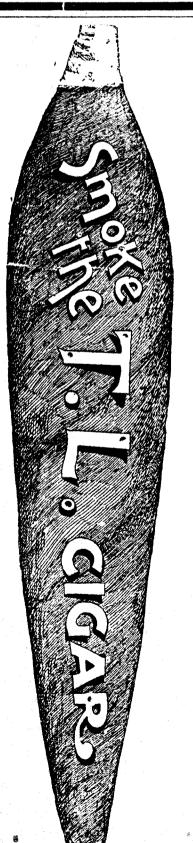
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THE MARRIAGE OF SANTA CLAUS

Once Santa Claus sobered, and said

with a sigh, While a tear added lustre to each

twinkling eye: 'Oh! I am getting so lonely and weary of life.

I need a companion, or, better a wife; But where could I find one to share

And love, as I love, every girl and each boy?"

He thought and he pondered, this jolly recluse,

Then he shouted, "I have it; 'tis old Mother Goose."

He was off in a jiffy; he whistled; his sled

O'er the snow like the flight of a skyrocket sped.

And his reindeer snorted, with heads high and haughty,

And trotted along at the rate of twoforty.

So he found the old lady, of course,

very soon-She had just returned from a trip to

the moon,

And was fixing her cap, slightly mussed by the ride.

While the cobwebs were thick in the

broom by her side. She was old, she was weazened, she

had a great nose;

Yet her eyes were as bright as the plumage of crows,

And her voice, tho' it was cracked, had a ring very sweet;

And her dress, tho' 'twas queer, was

most awfully neat.

And Santa Claus blushed, as he said "How d'ye do?"

The dame courtesied low, and replied, "Sir, to you."

'Will you have me?" he prays. "My darling, confess."

She hesitates, mormurs, then whispers

"Yes." 'But my children!" she cries with the

usual pause. 'Why, children? I love 'em," said bluff

Santa Claus. 'Bring 'em out-where are they? I

want 'em!" cries he.

So forth troop they all in a great company.

First comes a fair maiden, and know

her we should By the wolf and her granny—'tis Red

Riding Hood; While after them, fearfully blowing

bis horn,

Is Little Boy Blue, on his way from the

And the notes of the music he sweetly doth play,

Bring the piper's son, Tom, from the hills far away.

And then, with a jump and a roll down the hill.

With pails and with water, bounce

poor Jack and Jill, Their crowns were both broken, and

help they implore From Old Mother Hubbard and Mar-

gery Daw, As well as a nameless man, all tattered

and torn, Who is kissing and kissing a maiden

forlorn.

And forth from her garden, in a way quite contrary,

With fruits and with flowers, comes sweet Mistress Mary; Then Simon, the simple, returns from

the fair.

With his pie-man most cautious in selling his ware;

While, dragging their tails behind, flock in the sheep of Little Bo peep.

A very old woman lugs up a great shoe, And out jump her children, a boisterous crew;

Some sing and some dance, and some of them play;

But one little boy slinks off in a corner And munches a pie-'tis greedy Jack Horner:

While poor Tommy Tucker expects some in vain,

And bewails his fate with Tom Grace, who's in pain;

Then old King Cole and his fiddlers three

Bring up the rear of this vast company. "They are just what I want," shouts old Santa Claus;

Mother Goose and her children ring out their applause. "Now all jump aboard—our new home

we'll explore;

On my old sled there has ever been room for one more."

With shouts and with laughter they tumbled within, wrapped buffalo robes beneath

every chin. The reindeer they galloped, the moon

shone out bright, As they hurried along in its soft silver light:

And the fat, jolly driver chuckled in glee

At the sight of his wife and his vast family.

And the songs of the children rang out on the air

As they journeyed along, disregarding all care, Till they reached the great palace and

thro' it to roam forever be happy within their new home.

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Great Grief and Head Shaving

Among the ancients shaving the head was a very common mode of expressing great grief or sorrow. Sometimes it was done by the priest or some other religious functionary formally cutting off the hair, sometimes by violently plucking it out by the roots. In extreme cases among men the beard as well as the hair was either cut off or plucked out. The idea seems to have been that mourners should divest themselves of that which under ordinary circumstances was considered most beautiful, ornamental and becoming. Lucian-and he is not the only one of the ancient writers by any means who gives points on this queer mourning custom-says that the Egyptians expressed their intense sorrow by cutting off the hair upon the death of their god Apis and that the Syrians acted in the same manner at the death of Adonis. Olympiodorus remarks concerning, Job i, 20, that the ancients among whom long hair was regarded as an ornament, cut it off in times of mourning, but that those who commonly wore it short suffered it upon

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