

**Old Santa Claus.**

Old Santa Claus is a merry wight,  
And his reindeer merrily go  
Over cottage roofs by the moon's pale light  
Through December's frost and snow;  
He comes from a land of cold and night,  
But he comes good gifts to bring,  
And hearts grow warm as amid the storm  
His sleigh-bells merrily ring.

The children's stockings hang up in line,  
Where the ruddy embers glow;  
While the bright stars shine with a light divine  
On our human joys and woe;  
And many a curly head nestles with hope  
On its pillow of soft repose,  
As this merry wight through the winter night  
On his journey of love still goes.

For each Christmas bell doth a story tell  
Of One who was cradled of old  
In a manger rude, where the oxen stood  
The promised Child to behold;  
And the bells ring clear for the glad new year,  
With a hope that shall never cease,  
That their notes ring out old fear and doubt,  
Ringing in an age of peace.

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**Pleasant Hours:**

A PAPER FOR OUR YOUNG FOLK.

Rev W. H. WITHROW, D.D., Editor.

TORONTO, DECEMBER 22, 1888.

**OUR SUNDAY-SCHOOL PERIODICALS FOR 1889.**

WE are thankful for the greatly increased patronage of our Sunday-school periodicals during the past year. We hope for its continuance in still increased measure. Their circulation has reached over 300,000, and is rapidly increasing. We believe that our several periodicals will be more helpful and more interesting than ever before. Neither money nor labour shall be spared in making them the best, the most attractive, and the cheapest lesson helps and Sunday-school papers in the world.

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