

Weekly Messenger

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The Weekly Messenger.

WAITING TO SEE SANTA CLAUS.

Many of our younger readers have been very anxious to know who Santa Claus was. But we doubt if their curiosity has led them to sit watching by the chimney all night to see just how "Santy" looks and whether his reindeer bring him down the chimney or not. This is what the two little negro boys in our picture are doing and they have seemingly prepared a rather too warm reception for Santa Claus as there is a large fire on the hearth.

The heat in the chimney may have been the cause of keeping the old present-giver away, but at any rate the two boys were disappointed in their watch. They had hung their stockings up just over the fire-place and watched them all through the night, not getting anxious until the day began to dawn. Then, at last, they got discouraged and left their cabin to try and earn money which would make them their own Santa Clauses. On their return they found that their stockings were full to overflowing and that a number of very useful presents, too big for the stockings, had been left on the floor.

They had not been forgotten after all and came to the conclusion that Santa Claus did not want to be seen. They puzzled much over the way in which he could ride in broad-day light through towns, and villages and over the tops of houses without being seen. At last they gave up the conundrum and contented themselves with the fact that they had their presents.

ATTACKED BY A PANTHER.

It was in Blackwells, a small town of Pennsylvania, that a Swede, named Carl Rulison, with two of his countrymen met with a strange and thrilling adventure. The three men were bound on a somewhat long walk. On arriving at a wild place on the creek they heard a peculiar sound in the timber, as if made by some wild animal. They stopped to listen, when a fierce-looking panther suddenly bounded over a log and confronted them.

Rulison and his companions stood still for about two minutes looking at the animal. They were unarmed and did not know what to do. Finally one of them made a move, when the panther sprang on him and began tearing him with its claws. Rulison and the other man beat it off with sticks, when it ran into the woods.

The party had not proceeded many yards

when the panther again came out of the woods and sprang upon Rulison and began biting and clawing him. One of the men who had armed himself with a club, succeeded in planting a heavy blow on its head, which stunned it, but it soon recovered and bounded away again. When the party got to the woodhouses two of the men were bleeding profusely and their clothes were torn almost into shreds.

and lodged firmly within it was a twenty-two calibre bullet, badly misshapen. The bullet evidently entered the left temple, an inch to the left and above the eye. The head of Mrs. Knoch was next examined and a bullet found in the brain. There was no hemorrhage, and death must have occurred but a moment before the body was consumed in the flames. The bodies of the children showed no bullet marks. Dr.

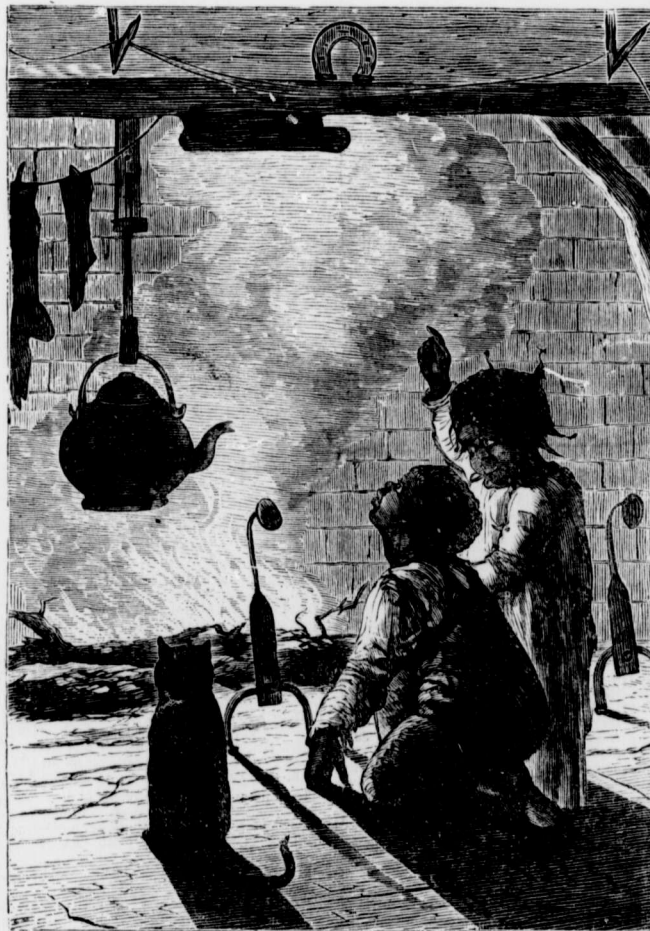
cernible on the other side of that thoroughfare. The footprints were traced to Fort street road, where they were once more lost. These impressions were apparently made on the day of the murder as a slight fall of snow, which occurred during the following night, partially obliterated them. Each step was far apart, showing the person was on the run when he made them. They were prints of thick, heavy cowhides such as were worn by the hired man known as "Alec," recently discharged by Knoch. The latter will be held prisoner until full investigations have been made.

A RACE FOR POWER.

All England is in intense excitement watching the race for power between Lord Salisbury and Mr. Gladstone. At present it appears that Lord Salisbury will not resign although the Liberals have a nominal majority over both Conservatives and Parnellites. The situation is perplexing in the extreme, but whether the Conservatives or Liberals get into power it is Mr. Gladstone's programme which will in all probability be carried out. Mr. Gladstone can go further towards a compromise with Mr. Parnell than Lord Salisbury can. The contest is to be fought out entirely on the Irish question and this is the way in which matters, from present appearances, will go: The Conservative leader will go as far as he is able in bringing forward measures to win the Irish vote; then falling far short of what Mr. Parnell and his colleagues desire, Mr. Gladstone will bring in more radical measures, probably proposing a local Parliament for Ireland, and these the Parnellites will have to support in lieu of better. Then the question will be as to whether a sufficient number of Parnellites will support Mr. Gladstone to make up for the disaffected extreme Whigs who will vote with the Conservatives on the principle of "anything to beat Mr. Parnell." Many different stories have been circulated in England concerning Mr. Gladstone's policy in regard to Ireland. Some of these were at first supposed to have originated with Mr. Gladstone himself, but the ex-premier de-

clared that he had expressed the views set forth. He declared "If I should at any time have any plan or intention to announce on the question of Irish Government, it will be done publicly and on my own responsibility, not by an anonymous and irresponsible declaration."

It is hinted too that Mr. Gladstone was testing popular opinion on the Irish question and purposely circulated these rumors in order to see how they would be discussed.



WAITING FOR SANTA CLAUS.

DREADFUL MURDER.

Some days ago a fire, which it was thought was the work of an incendiary occurred in the suburbs of Detroit, Michigan. In this fire Mr. Frank Knoch, his wife and two children were supposed to have lost their lives, but subsequent investigation shows that the deceased were foully murdered. The body of Frank Knoch was first examined. The forepart of the skull had been burned away but the brain remained intact

Owen, who conducted the examination, is positive, from the relative course the bullet took in Knoch's brain, that the pistol was held in the hand of some person other than himself. The head of the woman was in such condition that it was impossible to judge from what direction the bullet entered. Footprints leading southward from the late home of Knoch were discovered. They led south directly to the Dearborn road, where they were lost, but were again dis-