### A Letter to Santa Klaus.

from the little sick girl in rag ally forth flor to SAnTA Klaus. mi teecher helped me wif this.

I'm goin to write to Santa,
An this is what I'll say
"We tan t-have-very-my Kismas,
Cause mamma's gone away.
We's two poor little children,
Thit sisser Kit an me,
An Kit lives in an attic
An I—I lives with she

"We heve many stockins
That ain tan tall an tored,
But you can hang some prothen
Upon tha cummey board.
An if you hang a folly
For children wot are good,
Thist write that it's for sisser
Upon the cummey wood.

"Now Santa dear thist diss n
Don't give me doll or sled,
I want my darlin mamma
To hold my achin head.
Tho take me up dear Santa,
An hide me in your pack,
An where it's allis Kismas
I'll get my mamma back.
—*Mrs. M. L. Rayne, in Detroit Free Press*

## LEADEN WATER PIPES.

### English Chemists Say They Are the Cause of Wholesale Poisoning.

Were some daring novelists, hungering after originality, to depict a country whose rulers allowed the many to be poisoned wholesale for enrichment of the few, he would surely be charged with absurdity. Yet there is such a country, and its name happens to be England. Let not any Gladstonite, however, prick up his extensive ears in expectations of a startling revelation that Lord Salisbury and W. H. Smith had entered into a conspiracy to murder the people. The evil is of far longer standing than the lifetime of the present Government; it apparently began when the community first learned the convenience of having water laid in their houses instead of dipping it out of wells or brooks. Leaden water pipes were introduced, at all events, a long time ago, and where they still linger wholesale poisoning goes on merrily as ever. Thus at Pudsey, a little time back, some sixty or seventy citizens were suddenly placed *hors de combat* by a mysterious malady which appeared to derive its origin from the water supply. Samples of the drinking water were accordingly forwarded to a firm of analytical chemists at Leeds, who at once detected the presence of lead in quantities "distinctly injurious to health." Having obtained this information, the local board prosecuted further inquiry with the result of establishing the facts that all the sufferers lived at some distance from the mains. The theory is, therefore, that the water while lying all night in the leaden pipes connecting the houses with the mains becomes impregnated with the metal, and the Chairman advised householders to draw off the water for a time every morning before supplying their domestic requirements.—*London G*

### Orange Blossoms.

The custom of wearing orange blossoms at weddings is of comparatively recent date with us. It came to us, like most other female fashions in dress, from Spain. In the latter country it had long obtained and is said to have been originally of Moorish origin. There is, however, an old Spanish legend which gives a different account of its introduction. According to this, soon after the importation of the orange tree by the Moors, one of the Spanish Kings had a specimen of which he was very proud, and of which the French Ambassador was extremely desirous to obtain an orange. The gardener's daughter was aware of this and, in order to provide herself with the necessary dowry to enable her to marry her lover, she obtain a sap, which she sold to the Ambassador at a high price. On the occasion of her wedding, in recognition of her gratitude to the plant which had secured her happiness, she bound in her hair a wreath of orange blossoms, and thus inaugurated the fashion which has become universal. As the orange was introduced into Spain at a very early period by the Moors, this legend sufficiently establishes the antiquity of the custom so far as that country is concerned, although many centuries elapsed before it spread over the rest of Europe.

### A Nine-year-old Girl Official.

The city of Trenton can claim the brightest and youngest city officer in the State. Miss Hattie Owens, very cute and clever for a girl of 9, has been made second assistant city clerk, and can now be seen on duty at certain hours filing away in their proper order the official documents in the city clerk's office. When Colonel Owens, the city clerk, took possession of his new quarters the public documents appeared to be considerably disarranged, and, on complaining, he found a cheerful volunteer in the person of his young daughter, Miss Hattie, who is very small, but smart and methodical. She was assigned the work of reassorting, and is doing it well. She is rather annoyed on account of being a girl and announces that, as second assistant clerk, she desires to be called "Harry," and as such she is saluted by all the city officials. Miss Harry Owens is a pretty girl of pleasant address, and with the manner of one twice her age.—*Trenton Times.*

### Somebody Get a Gimlet.

An inventive American from the Missouri region has taken out a patent at Washington for "stilts for horses." It is to revolutionize plowing round on the hillsides, for, however steep the ascent may be, this genius thinks that the animal will be enabled to preform its task in comfort when its legs are enabled by art to stand upon a level. The patent has really been granted to him, and it is said that he is considering further momentous discoveries of equal assistance to mankind.—*London Echo.*

George Frederick Watts, the English royal academician, has gone to Brighton, where he has fitted up a studio, and hopes to finish his "Court of Death," upon which he has been at work for many years.

When the little Princess of the Netherlands, now a mere child, becomes Queen of Holland she will be one of the wealthiest sovereigns in Europe. The civil list of Holland is remarkably large, amounting to $15,000,000 a year.

Mrs. Lucinda Ruggles died at Podgeville, Wis., a few days ago, and she was buried in a coffin made from a walnut tree which her husband had felled forty years ago and stored away to make lumber for his own and his wife's coffins.

## NAMES OF STATES.

### Where They Come From and How They Were Made.

Maine was so called as early as 1623, from Maine in France, of which Henrietta Maria, Queen of England, was at that time proprietor. Popular name, Lumber or Pine Tree State.

New Hampshire was the name given to the territory conveyed by the Plymouth Company to Capt. John Mason, by patent, Nov. 7th, 1629, with reference to the patentee, who was Governor at Portsmouth, in Hampshire, England. Popular name, the Granite State.

Vermont was so called by the inhabitants in their declaration of independence, Jan. 16th, 1777, from the French verd mont, the green mountain. Popular name, Green Mountain State.

Massachusetts was so called from Massachusetts Bay, and that from the Massachusetts tribe of Indians in the neighborhood of Boston. The tribe is thought to have derived its name from the Blue Hills of Milton. "I have learnt," said Roger Williams, "that the Massachusetts were so called from the Blue Hills." Popular name, the Bay State.

Rhode Island was so called in 1664, in reference to the Island of Rhodes, in the Mediterranean. Popular name, Little Rhody.

Connecticut was so called from the Indian name of its principal river. Connecticut is a Mocheakannew word, signifying long river. Popular name, the Nutmeg or Freestone State.

New York was so called in 1664, in reference to the Duke of York and Albany, to whom this territory was granted by the King of England. Popular name, Empire or Excelsior State.

New Jersey was so called in 1664, from the Island of Jersey, on the coast of France, the residence of Sir George Carteret, to whom the territory was granted.

Pennsylvania was so called in 1681, after William Penn. Popular name, the Keystone State.

Delaware was so called in 1703, from Delaware Bay, on which it lies, and which received its name from Lord De la Ware, who died in this bay. Popular name, the Blue Hen or Diamond State.

Maryland was called in honor of Henrietta Marie, queen of Charles I., in his patent to Lord Baltimore, June 20th, 1632.

Virginia was so called in 1584, after Elizabeth, the virgin queen of England. Popular name, the Old Dominion, or Mother of Presidents.

Carolina was so named by the French, in honor of King Charles IX. of France. Popular name, North Carolina, the Old Gold State, South Carolina, the Old Palmetto State, North Carolina, the Old North or Tar Heel State.

Alabama was so called in 1817 from its principal river, in which case we lost.

Mississippi was so called in 1800, from its western boundary. Mississippi is said to denote the father of waters, the river formed by the junction of many. Popular name, the Bay State.

Louisiana was so called in honor of Louis XIV. of France. Popular name, the Creole State.

Tennessee was so called in 1796, from its principal river. The word Tanasee is said to signify a river of spoons. Popular name, the Big Bend State.

Kentucky was so called in 1792, from its principal river. Popular name, the State of the Dark and Bloody Ground.

Ohio was so called in 1802, from its principal river. The word signifies "beautiful river." Popular name, the Buckeye State.

Indiana was so called in 1816, from the American Indians. Popular name, the Hoosier State.

Ohio was so called in 1802 from its southern boundary. Popular name, the Buckeye State. Meaning of the Indian word Ohio, beautiful.

Missouri was so called in 1821 from its principal river. Indian name, muddy water.

Michigan was so called in 1805 from the lake on its border. Indian name, meaning "a weir for fish." Popular name, the Wolverine State.

Arkansas was so called in 1812 from its principal river. Indian name. Popular name, the Bear State.

Florida was so called by Juan Ponce de Leon in 1572, because it was discovered on Easter Sunday. Spanish, Pascua Florida.

Wisconsin was so called from its principal river. Indian name, meaning "wild, rushing, river."

Iowa was so called from its principal river. Indian name, meaning "the sleepy ones." Popular name, the Hawkeye State.

Minnesota is also an Indian word, meaning "the whitish water."

California, a Spanish word, and named from an arm of the Pacific Ocean. Popular name, the Golden State.

Texas, a Spanish word, applied to the republic. Popular name, the Lone Star State.

Kansas is an Indian name, meaning "the smoky water."—*St. Louis Post-Dispatch.*

### Emma Abbott in Church.

Emma Abbott sang "Nearer, My God, to Thee" in Trinity Church, San Francisco, on Sunday last and electrified the congregation. The *Examiner's* musical editor describes it in this way: "Suddenly, like the notes of a startled bird, rang Miss Abbott's sweet voice upon the fashionable stillness. People cocked their ears and sat motionless as the melody rolled along among the golden stars in the ceiling. It was 'Nearer, My God, to Thee,' but it was not the well-known melody of the old log cabin church among the fragrant pines. There was more operatic lace and ribbon to the air. It expressed tender, trustful feeling in the piano passages, while in the crescendos and fortissimos the sentiment was of joy mingled with the passionate cries of love triumphant. A vocal solo with so much feeling in it is very rarely heard in churches from the regular choir, and a glow of delighted surprise overspread the faces of the listeners. She finished with a joyous burst, and a murmur arose from the congregation."

### Rough.

Upson Downes—Say, Kirby, where's that silk umbrella I loaned you?

Kerby Stone—I found it was my own, so I kept it.

Upson Downs—Jove! Is that so? And here I have been dodging Old Hyson the last three weeks, thinking it was his!

## ANOTHER SINGING MOUSE

### Captured in the Dining-Room of a Kingston Man.

Mr. George Smith, of No. 2 Vaughn terrace, has become the fortunate possessor of a veritable singing mouse, which was captured in his dining room in this city, says the Kingston, Ont., *Whig*. Attention was first drawn to it by low musical sounds which issued from behind the buffet on the previous day, and after a careful reconnaissance and some dexterity it was driven into a paper bag which one of the ladies held—one of those few ladies who are not afraid of mice—while another manipulated a long prod in the space behind the buffet. Mr. Smith and a gentleman friend meanwhile stood courageously at a distance watching the proceedings. Subsequently the little creature was securely placed in a nice cage, and proved to be much like any other small mouse in appearance, except that it was thin and its tail unusually long, like some itinerant street monkeys who perform because they are hungry. Quite likely he came to Smith's, where he knew he could get food, and undertook to pay his footing by a musical performance. He was quite tame from the start and went at the cake and cheese without timidity almost as soon as they were placed before him, and afterward sang with almost the same abandon as when at liberty, though the intervals of silence were longer. Before he was caught he kept up his music for fifteen minutes at a time without cessation. He has a melodious, but modulated voice, and his utterance is a rhapsody of chirps and trills more or less varied and not at all monotonous like some parts of the song of a canary. Really he is a charming pet. He has an artificial nest in his cage, in which he hides or lies down at his pleasure, and his capers are quite amusing.

## SPIRIT HANDS AT WORK.

### Mysterious Disappearance of Articles from a Haunted Spot in England.

One night about fifty years ago a brutal murder was done at a lonely place on the highroad between Warwick and Stratford-upon-Avon, writes a London correspondent. The next morning the murdered man was found lying by the roadside, his head mangled, resting in a small pool in the [illegible]. The assassins, two in number, were shortly afterward discovered, and they were hanged at Warwick for their crime. From that fact to this the body where the dead man's head rested remains unchanged. No matter how often it may be washed up, whether by the wash of heavy rains or by [illegible] and leaves that may happen to last [illegible] they pass, it is found to be again empty. No one knows why. No one knows whether or when it [illegible]. But [illegible] and with her curse the place that is [illegible] with the shedding of blood. This is the [illegible] of a [illegible] poem of Hogarth Acum [illegible] a [illegible] as [illegible].

### Curious.

Twenty stray goat [illegible] at Long Island, N. Y., and [illegible] are put up to be sold at auction to pay their board.

The first phrenologist of Connecticut [illegible] all people [illegible] in summer as the [illegible] on hand, especially in [illegible] Weathers. Of where lovers are [illegible] and green peas too, just as they must be in May in place of December.

Some cotton, named white lamp, was [illegible] together by A. Wade [illegible] and [illegible] to be almost [illegible] bloom. Hence it is suggested that many cases of mysterious fire at sea may have origin in the spontaneous combustion of cotton packed or compressed at such condition.

A farmer in Rickesport, Mo., who is a prominent Republican, was too sick to go to the polls to vote at the last election. His hired man, who is a Democrat, offered to go and vote the Republican ticket for him. The offer was accepted and the man walked up to the polls and deposited a clear Republican vote.

Cremation is slowly winning its way into public favor. At a congress of its advocates in Vienna it was reported in the course of the discussion that there exist about fifty furnaces in all, the majority of which are in the United States. One is in Germany (Gotha) twenty and one which is not quite completed in France.

### New Dresses for Patti as Juliet.

Through the first and second acts of "Romeo and Juliet" at the Opera House, Paris, the diva wore a superb evening gown of cream colored satin and lace over a ground work of pale pink. The front was enriched with heavy embroidery, and the corsage dashed with [illegible]. The singer's black hair hung over her shoulders in long curls. She appeared at the balcony in this costume in the famous love scene, and seemed scarcely half her age. In the third act her gown was still more striking. The color was a brown terra cotta with the front and train in silver green silk. The corsage was laced with gold cords, and the sides bordered with intricate gold embroidery. It was in this that she knelt at Romeo's side in the monk's cell while Frere Laurent pronounced the nuptial benediction. In the fourth act she wore two costumes. The first was in dainty white tulle cut simply in the old Greek style and fastened at the waist with a girdle. It was in this that *Romeo* saw her as he poured forth his song of love in the chamber scene. In the final act *Juliet* was stretched out in the white shroud of the tomb.

### The Three Months' Depression.

Business man—"What? No money from the collections? I sent you out with a whole cartload of bills this morning."

Collector—"I couldn't find any of the arties at home."

"Eh? Where were they?"

"All out buying Christmas presents."

"I see. Too late! Too late! Put the bills away and start out with them again next March."

## THE ROBESPIERRE BALL GOWN.

### Description of the Latest Worth Creation

The evening dress, intended for dinner or reception wear, is a real Robespierre ball gown, or the version of such a gown for this winter's wear by Worth. The under skirt and front breadth are of rich white and gold broche. The bodice and train are of ruby colored velvet. The short jacket fronts have double revers. The inner revers is of white and gold broche, superimposed upon one of velvet. The inside kerchief is a three-cornered point of rich Brussels lace crossed in a surplice over the chest, passing under the main wrinkled broad sash belt of soft red silk and falling in a cascade below the same on the left side. The other figure represents the popular version of the directoire redingote. It is not very short waisted and the sleeves are only slightly fulled in at the armhole. It is of dark green plush, the fur black astrachan. The buttons are of green-tinted mother-of-pearl inclosed in a gold rim, and covered with filigree figures in gold. The bonnet represents what they are wearing in Paris and London at present as directoire pokes, but they are not much like the bonnets that were worn in Paris during the decade that followed the period when the guillotine was doing its work cutting off the heads of the pretty and graceful women who wore bonnets and head dresses of a much more exaggerated type, nor are they like the bonnets worn here at present, even by the fashionable few. Here women continue to wear the small pokes, toques, fanchons, capotes, turbans and round hats that are the favorite wear of the women all over the country. Whether they will be induced by midwinter to adopt the big bonnets and large, imposing hats that are offering as directoire and empire fashions remains to be seen.

## KISSES BY PHONOGRAPH.

### Many New Marvels Concerning the Sound-Writer.

The latest witticisms by the "Wizard of Menlo Park" are uttered at in the following paragraph from the New York [illegible] of yesterday:

The Orion Singing Society of Newark held a rehearsal at Thomas A. Edison's West Orange laboratory on Sunday. Prof. Edison sang to the phonograph. Behind the operator Frank Van Der Stricken, [illegible] Edison's [illegible] phonographs, and Wagner [illegible] assistants [illegible] Mr. Edison [illegible] grandfather [illegible] a [illegible] bed kept up at Litchfield, Conn., [illegible] found for the needy [illegible]. Mr. Edison [illegible] was satisfactory. Then [illegible] was [illegible] the reading of a [illegible] impromptu [illegible] dresses [illegible] the world simplicity [illegible] found in the vocabulary of the New York dressmaker.

### New Use for Lemons.

"If you ever use lemons," remarked [illegible] housekeeper to a friend, "and you [illegible] portion of one left over, be sure [illegible] throw it away. I am never without them in the house, as I always use it for flavoring [illegible] of whatever use a piece of lemon [illegible]. The next time you think you have done with a lemon, just drop it in your and rub your copper kettle or stewpan with it. You will be surprised to find what a brilliant surface you will obtain if you rub the article instantly with a dry, soft cloth. You can polish all brass work by the same means, every stain disappearing as if by magic. A melty lemon put into a dirty saucepan half full of water and boiled for half an hour cleanses the utensil amazingly and removes any odor, such as fish or onions. Try it and see whether I am not right."

### Far From Consistent.

Mrs. Isbergh (as the plover is picked up)—"Clarence, I think you are the most brutal, unfeeling, hardened wretch I ever knew! The idea of shooting that poor little inoffensive bird, and, er—ahem—er—er—which side of my hat would you put the wings on?"

## A MOTHER'S CRY IN COURT.

### "You—You—You Shall Not Kill My Boy."

"This was a cruel murder," said Judge Murphy.

McNulty's mother grew more agitated.

"It was unjustifiable and deliberately committed," the Judge continued. "You gave him not a moment's warning, not a chance to make peace with his Maker, not a moment to offer a single prayer."

Judge Murphy's tones were clear and cold. Perhaps he suppressed any emotion he felt to avoid a scene, but if so he failed.

"One duty alone remains," he said, "and that is to pronounce judgment on you. It is ordered that you be given into the custody of the sheriff to be imprisoned in the county jail until the day set for your execution, and that then you—"

The mother was on her feet. McNulty did not move but his mother clutched the table and trembled. His wife cried softly, and the baby wailed plaintively.

——"Be hanged by the neck——"

"Oh, God! My boy! Oh——"

She flung her arms around the condemned man's neck. A deputy sheriff gently drew her away.

——"Until you are dead." A wild shriek ran out, and the hopeless look of agony stood in the mother's eye.

"You—you—you shall not kill my boy," she sobbed. "This is death to me. Oh, Johnnie, my child, are you going to leave your old mother?"

"Order in the court. The court has not adjourned yet," cried Judge Murphy.

McNulty stooped and kissed his mother. The tears dimmed his eyes, but he said nothing, and gradually the blood receded from his face, leaving it deathly pale.—*San Francisco Examiner.*

### To-day's Canadian Jottings.

Berlin municipal nominations this year will be in the evening.

The Lutheran Synod have sent Rev. F. Veit, their President, to Winnipeg to form a German congregation in that city.

The Ottawa river is frozen over between Ottawa and Gatineau Point, and the ferry steamer is unable to ply between those points.

A Woodstock firm has bought $25,000 worth of apples from farmers. Shipments were made [illegible] at Brittain, Lower Canada, and [illegible] States.

[illegible] decided [illegible] house. [illegible] best [illegible] for in [illegible]

[illegible] sum [illegible]

### Jerseys Rising in Favor.

[illegible] this [illegible] and [illegible] silk shirt [illegible] some [illegible] excellent [illegible] and [illegible] vests and [illegible] Those [illegible] shape [illegible] emerald [illegible] one with [illegible]

### A New Rule About Tips.

[illegible] forgotten [illegible] What [illegible]

Waiter (coming to his aid)—[illegible] you please, sir.

[illegible] Sir, I don't [illegible]

Waiter—According to the new [illegible] rules, there are to be no more fees, sir. Good day. [illegible]

### Overworked Husbands.

Tired Wife—William, I wish you [illegible] up a scuttle of coal.

Husband—There, that's the way with women. Always expecting a man to do half a dozen things at once. Can't you see I'm busy?

"You don't seem to be doing anything except rummaging around. I have asked you to do anything for about three weeks, and then I told you I wanted to have the legs of my sewing-chair made shorter. Well, I'm looking for the saw."

### He Didn't Bounce.

"Say, ma," remarked the small boy, "don't it funny that everybody calls my brother a bouncing baby?"

"Why, yes, it is funny, William," returned his mother.

"Because when I dropped him on the floor this morning he didn't bounce a bit."

### Almost Another Engagement.

"Say, Miss Gadsby, I'm engaged. I've been engaged to every foot in the house, I think. Why's the last one I looked? Looks M. self."

### Giving Himself Away.

"One of your boys has been at Aunt Maria again. I have found the marks on the door. Which one of you was it?"

Tommy—"It wasn't me. I swallowed the seeds in mine."

### An Expert.

Mother—Johnny, I am sorry to hear you swear. Do you learn that at school?

Johnny—Learn it at school? Why, it's me what teaches the other boys.

J. W. Watt, who as a boy blacked the boots and acted as hitching post for "Coal Oil Johnny," the spendthrift oil operator, now owns the oil wells which gave "Johnny" Steele the millions he threw away in riotous living to die a pauper in the almshouse.

A daughter of Dr. Gatling, famous for his Gatling guns, was recently married to Hugh O. Pentecost, the preacher.

The steamer Stanley, ordered for the winter service between Pictou and Prince Edward Island, arrived at Pictou yesterday.

Francis Darwin, a son of the late Charles Darwin, has been made university reader in botany at Cambridge, Eng.