FOLKS.

Santa Claus.

BY MMMY BROWN.

What on earth do you think has hap. The other day I was at Tom Mciguis shouse and he had some company. was a lie boy, and something like a Time. Would you believe it, that west there wasn't any Sinta Claus? I as as a and for him, and I told him at get at he coud never have any little

Now that boy distinctly did tell-but I t mention it. We should never reveal wickedness of other people, and ought ways to be thankful that we are worse an anyhody else. Otherwise we would be it the l'harisee, and he was very bad. w for certain that it was a fib Tom Mc. But all the same, the I thought about it the more I got wor-

Lithere is a Santa Claus-and of course ac i -- le w could be get up on top of the he could come down the chimney, erried a big ladder with him ; the lethis, how could be carry pres-... to fill mornahundred stockings? ... low could be help getting the when the chimney is sanke and fire, as it always is at Lat then, as the preacher seys. the in the diction ry.

hestery Tem McCinnis's cousin told rem worrying me, and finally I began to the perfectly awful it would be if methoday truth in it. How the chilan weell real! There's going to be no all children at our house this Christmas, Ant Enza and her two small boys are realinary. I heard mother and Aunt at talking about Christmas the other day. gitney agreed that all the children should ance cot bedsteads in the back puller. that they could open their stockings tostrer, and mother said, "You know, Eliza, gete's a big fire place in that room and the then can hang their stockings around the

Noviknow I did wrong, but it was only tause I did not want the children to be sappointed. We should always do to mers and so on, and I know I should have -a grateful if anybody had tried to get up Nata Claus for me in case of the real one mgout of repair. Neither do I blame other, though if she hadn't spoken about laver have happened. But I do think they to have made a little allowance for it as only trying to help make the astros succe. sfal.

to see me, and all the folks reals except Aunt Eliza's lit-We were talking about and a see to sleep in the back par-.e was a chimney there that] thing for Santa Claus. We is dat the chimney, and then I at fun it would be to dress own the chimney and prethata Claus, and how it would deliren, and now pleased the the would be, for they are alus to amuse them.

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be with that he wasn't feeling very the didn't like to take liber-Then we thought of Harmend that he was just the right Harry said he'd do it when her, for he isn't afraid of any. - o proud to be allowed to play

harry took ell his coat and shoes, the to the roof, and Tom ted Harry till be got on the top It bey and put his legs in it and went down like a flash, for | fully bathe every morning. at areas arough to brace himself the by sweeps do. Tem and I we wate the tack parlor to meet at not arrived yet, though

was full of ashes and soot. practite had stopped on the way tatter a while we thought we the en like some body calling, that - " way cif. We went up on the thisking Harry might have climbed but he wasn't there. on top of the chimney we me him plain enough. ile was cryyelling for help, for he was stuck ait-way down the chimney, and

eget either up or down. to be i it over for some time, and dethat he best thing to do whs to get a .: down to nim, and pull him I got the clothes-line and let it int Harry's arms were jammed close he couldn't get hold of it. ight come apart.

at I proposed that we should get a long and push Harry down the rest of the They, but after hunting all over the he cenidn't find a pole long enough, and to give that plan up. All this Harry was crying in the most disconway, although we were doing all we That's the way with little .A. ys discontented.

we couldn't poke Harry down, Tom try to poke him up. So we told to be patient and considerate, and we own-stairs again, and took the longwe could find and pushed it up the "er everything, but we couldn't reach With the pole. By this time we beitel discouraged. We were awfully itr Harry, because, if we couldn't get at tefore the folks came home, Tom

"weeld be in a dreadful scrape. an I thought that if we were to build a the the draught might draw Harry Ten thought it was an excellent plan. forted a fire, but it didn't loosen Harit. acd when we went on the roof to

meet him we heard him crying louder than ever, and saying that something was on fire in the chimney and was choking him. knew what to do, though Tom didn't, and, ty tell the truth, he was terribly frighten-

We ran down and got two pails of water, and poured them down the chimney. That put the fire out, but you would hardly believe it that Harry was more unreasonable than ever. and said that we were trying to drown him. There is no comfort in wearing yourself out in trying to please little boys. You can't satisfy them, no matter how much trouble you take, and for my part I am tired of trying to please Harry, and shal let him amuse himself the rest of the time he is at our house.

We had tried every plan we could think of to get Harry out of the chimney, but none of them succeeded. Tom said that if we were to pour a whole lot of oil down the chimney it would make it so slippery that Harry would slide right down into the back parlor, but I wouldn't do it, because I knew the oil would spoil Harry's clothes, and that would make Aunt Eliza angry. All of a sudden I heard a carriage stop at our gate. and there were the grown folks, who had come home earlier than I had supposed they would. Tom said that he thought he would go home before his own folks began to get ver scot from the chimney, and | uneasy about him, so he went out of the | the party concealed something in his hand, hack gate, and left me to explain things. | making his neighbors guess in which one it They had to send for some men to come and was. If the latter guessed rightly, he won cut a hole through the wal!. But they got Harry out all safe; and after they found that he wasn't a bit hurt, instead of thanking me for all Tom and I had done for him, they seemed to think that I deserved the worst punishmen I ever had, and I got it.

And I shall never make another attempt to amuse children on Christmas eve. - Harper's Young People.

A NIGHT IN A CHINA TOWN.

Few Facts Relating to Their Habits and General Mode of Living, Etc.

The Chinese in Los Angeles are quite numerous and almost monopolize a certain portion of the city; they are quiet and orderly as a class, attentively minding their own business, but, nevertheless, always a target for the ever present hoodlum. Through the kindness of one of the city

cflicials-a courteous lawyer and gentleman

-we were escorted on a most interesting tour through "Chinatown," as it is called. Starting out at S o'clock one pleasant evening, we called first at some of their stores the place in the way she did, it would | business being about over for the day, we found them in clusters, old and young, eagerly gathered about the counter, at their greatest of amusements-gambling. Not a word was uttered by any, so absorbed were appearly esterday. Tom Mc- | they in their game, and, after casting a hasty and wondering glance at us, they ignored us entirely. Passing on and visiting many stores, we came to a restaurant about 10 I was talling Tom now all | p.m. First entering a small office, we passed in at a door to find ourselves in the dining room; here, scated at tables, are several Celestials quietly but hard at work on a dish of thick kind of soup, which they caused to disappear rapidly by throwing iatotheir mouths with chopsticks. A fat cook busy at the stove is seen in the rear, humwaiting, being considered quite a musician, and with me that it would be | a series of nowls and groans which he calls , and said we ought to practice | a song; and then, on his one-stringed instruwe the chimney, so that we could | ment, he makes us feel generally ill. As the music progresses and the musician seems at I said no, he was a visitor, and | and rolls his eyes wildly. A movement is and selfish in me to de- heard above and, on looking for the cause, by pleasure. But Tom wouldn't | we find a dezen pair of sharp eyes looking down at us from above; thus, while supposing ourselves in the company of two or himney, and, besides, he was | three Chinamen, we realize that a score or was so big that he wouldn't | more of them are about us, and we find that the apartment is, as it were, cut in two, thus giving two floors to an ordinary sized room, a ladder being used to ascend into the sleeping apartment above. Thus one fair-sized room can be used for a restaurant below, and I have into that he would do anything | lodge twenty persons or more on the shelves above; but they seem happy and contented. As they are packed together in such a state, we wonder how they can emerge looking so cleanly each day; but they are particular

> The night is wearing on, and midnight brings us to a dark, dreary spot, where, hand in hand, we were wonderingly led through passage after passage, first up, then down, until our leader knocks at a door, being answered by a Chinaman who, after a glance, recognizes one in authority, and quietly ushers us in. We find curselves in a dimly lighted temple, a weird, strange locking place with an altar. We are conducted to an apartment in the rear behind the altar, and there we find a singular scene. Reclining on couches smoking opium are the priests, who at first look amazed at the intrusion, but soon relapse into their stelid, fixed expression. One of the priests, by request kept telling us his feelings as the smcking gradually affected him, and if he told the truth, as he probably did, he soon became too happy to talk, and the expression on his face certainly denoted intense

about their appearance generally and care-

and almost supreme happiness. We accepted an invitation to take some is he is to make a slippernoose, tea, which was very hot and without sugar, have that way, but I knew that Harry wasn't | The custom of offering hot tea to all visitors Viting, and I was afraid if we did that | is a universal one among the Chinese, the omission of the courtesy being considered extremely ill mannered. - N. Y. Post

Fashionable Dinners.

Years ago, when David Crockett was a member of Congress and had returned home at the close of the first session, several of his I ney never have any gratitude, and | neighbors gathered around him one day and asked him questions about Washington. "What time do they dine in the city?" asked one. "Common people, such as we have here, dine at 1. The big ones dine at 3; we Representatives at 4; the aristocracy and Senators eat at 6. " Well, when does Bushels of scot came down, and | the President fodder?" "Old Hickory?" exclaimed the Colonel; "well, he don't dine till next day."

> A passenger on the Auburn Railreau offered the conductor a trade dollar for fare, says the Cornellsville, N. Y., Times. Tre conductor examined it and remarked: don't want that piece of money." "Well, give it to the company, then," replied the passenger.

Old&Christmas Games.

One of the interesting features of a Christmas in the olden times was the varied assortment of games which were so heartily joined in by both old and young assembled round the blazing hearth. Most of these merry pastimes have long ago passed away; only a few, such as snapdragon, hide-andseek, etc., being known by the present generation out of the long list of Christmas games formerly kept up. Thus, an old game played especially at Christmas was "hot cockles,,' a species of blind-man's-buff, in which the person kneeling down, and being struck behind, was to guess who inflicted the blow. It is described by Gay in the following lines:

As at hot cockles once I laid me down,
And felt the weighty hand of many a clown,
Buxoma gave a gentle tap, and I
Quick rose, and read soft mischief in her eye.

In an old tract, "Round About Our Coal Fire; or, Christmas Entertainments," published in the early part of the last century, mention is made of a game called "Questions and Commands." The writer says that the commander may oblige his subjects to answer any lawful question, and make the same obey him instantly under the penal'y of paying any such forfeit as may be laid on the aggressors. "Hindy dandy" the article, if wrongly, he lost an equiva lent. It is alluded to in "Piers Ploughman," and it is, perhaps, noticed in Shakspeare where King Lear (Act iv., sc. 6) says to Glo'ster: "Look with thine ears; see how you' justice rails upon you simple thief. Hark, in thine ear: change places; and, handy-dandy, which is the justice, which is the thief?" Browne, too, in one of his "Pastorals," tells how boys

With the pibbles play at handy-dandy, A childish diversion also usually intrcduced at Christmas in bygone days was the "Game of Goose." It was, says Strutt, played by two persons, although it readily admitted of many more, and was well calculated to make the young people sharp at reckoning the produce of two given numhers. The table for playing "Goose" was about the size of a sheet almanac, and divided into sixty-two small compartments, arranged in a spiral form, with a large open space in the centre marked with the number 63; the other compartments were denoted by numbers from one to sixty two, inclusive. The game was played with two dice, each player throwing in turn, and marking with a counter whatever number the dice cast up. Thus, if there were a four and five he marked nine, and so on, until the game was completed. The number 63 had to be reached exactly, and should the player exceed it he had to reckon back, and throw again in his turn.

Another game seems to have been "Fox i" the Hole," and is thrice mentioned by Herrick, but not once explained:

Of Christmas sports, wassail-howl, That's tossed up, after fox i' the hole.

A diversion which often caused much laughter was "Dun in the Mire." A log of wood was brought into the middle of the room: this was "Dan," or the cart-horse, using a dismal air. The man who does the | and a cry was rais d that he had stuck in the mire. Two of the company then adis called upon for music and favors us with vanced, either with or without ropes, to graw him out. When unable to do so, they called for further help, until finally all the parties joined in the game, when Dun was, of course, extricated. No small merriment to do it, because it was our | to warm up to his work, he howls like a dog | arose from each person's sly efforts to let the log fall on his neighbor's toes. It is frequently aduded to by old writers, and by Shakspeare in "Romeo aud Juliet" (Act i., sc. 4), where Mercutio says to Romeo:

Tut, dun's the mouse, the constable's own If thou art dun we'll draw thee from the mire.

Some doubt exists as to the precise nature of a game designated "Shoeing the Wild Mare," and mentioned by Herrick, where he speaks of--

Christmas sports, the wassail-bowl, Of blind-man-bun, and of the care

That young men have to shoe the mare. "It appears," says B and, "that the wild mare was simply a youth so called, who was allowed a certain start, and who was pursued by his companions, with the object of being shoed, if he did not succeed in outstripping them." Then there were 'capverses," wherein on gave a word, to which another found a rhyme; a pastime once very popular.

Among other references to old Christmas games may be quoted the "Paston Letters," in which a letter dated Dec. 24, 1484, relates how Lady Morley, on account of the death of her lord, directing what pastimes were to be used in her house at Christmas, ordered that "there were none disguisings, nor harping, nor luting, nor singing, nor none loud disports; but playing at the tables, and chess, and cards; such disports she gave her folks leave to play, and none

Of old Christmas card-games may be mentioned that known as "Post-and-Pair," to which Ben Jorson refers in his "Masque of Christmas :"

Now Post and Pair, old Christmas' heir, Doth make a gingling sally; And wot you who, 'tis one of my two Sons, card-makers in Pur-alley.

It is, too, among the diversions described by Sir Walter Scott, in his graphic picture of Caristmas Eve in "Marmion," and is mentioned by many of our old writers. Three cards are dealt to all, the excitement of the game consisting in each person's vying or betting, on the goodness of his own hand. It would seem that a pair of royal aces was the best hand-hence one of its names, "Pairroyal"-and then other cards, according to their order, such as kings, queens, etc. Thus it much resembled our modern game of "Commerce." Another game of cards was "Ruff," known also as "Double Ruff" or "Cross Raff," one of its most popular names being "Trump." It is mentioned in "Poor Robin's Almanace" for 1693: Christmas to hungry stomachs gives relief,

With muttor, pork-pies, pasties, and roast And men at cards spend many idle hours, At loadum, whisk, cross-ruff, put, and all-

This game was much the same as whist; and was played by two against two, and occasionally by three against three. Noddy, too, we are told, was als: much in demand, being noticed by Middleton, where Christmas, speaking of the games at that time as his children, says; "I leave them wholly to my eldest son Noddy, whom, during his minority, I commit to the custody of a pair of knaves and one-and-thirty." In "Poor Robin's Almanack" for 1755 it is thus Finding his Way Home Alone from New noticed:

Some folks at dice and cards do sit. To lose their money and their wit, And when the game of cards is past, Then fall to at Noddy at the last.

There is some doubt as to what game wa meant; some think cribbage, and others | boat down the Onic and Mississippi Rivers. "Beat the knave out of doors."

at Christmastide; and the importance that | place is only twenty five miles below Cinwas attached to these diversions may be gathered from the fact that every large | worthless animal, and was taken on the boat household had its Lord of Merry Disports, with the intention of dropping it off somewhose duty it was to arrange the merrymakings every season; a custom which was | dog, was, however, kept aboard the boat and extended to our Universities and the Inns of Court. At the present day when Christ mas is shorn of so many of its former glories, some of these old fireside games might with thing of the dog for some days before leavadvantage be revived, thereby creating harmless mirth and fun. - Illustrated London | had lost him.

Family Matters.

CUSTAED PIE. -Three beaten eggs, three salt, and two large cupsful rich milk.

If the stair-rails are dingy, their appearance may be improved by washing them with right away. When I left him in New Ora little sweet mik; polish with a flannel

DUST ON THE WALLS, -To wipe the dust from papered walls take a clean, soft piece full of burrs, showing that he had come of flannel. Of course it must not be damp, through the woods. I am sure he walked but the dry flannel will remove the dust.

flavor a cake which is to have icing over the | would think there was something supernatutop is to grate part of the peel of an orange or lemon over the cake before putting her for the news by telling her it was a the icing on. ACID PIE. -Two tablespoonsful flour, one

scant cupful water, one-third cupful molasses, one-third teaspoonful tartaric acid, set on the stove and stir until it boils, and bake | weeks before he would leave it. He just with one crust.

Otten one has gravy left from a roust of beef, and if you have no soup stock to which it may be added, use it to fry sliced cold boiled potatoes in for breakfast. This makes an excellent dish.

When cleaning carpets, dampen some Indian meal, mix salt with it, and sprinkle over the carpet; sweep vigorously. Take a small, sharp-pointed stick to remove the salt and meal from cracks and corners.

lemon juice, one and a quarter pounds of | wear and tear of both engine and rails. This sugar. Let it stand til: thoroughly dissolv- trouble is very apt to be experienced in cered; then bottle and cork tightly for inture use. It will keep for years, and have a land steep grades. A mode, therefore, of finer flavor than if boiled.

Apple custard pie should be baked wit an under crust only. The haling is delicion. if made of one pint of sweet malk, one pin of smooth apple sauce, well-sweetened, three eggs; flavor with remon or a little cinca not This will make two small-sized piece, or one very large one.

For sponging old black silk, a piece of cie black cashmere should be used, and fo sponging colored silks, a piece of whitcashmere or some of the same color. Conton must not be used to cover the take upon which they are sponged, or else it will leave white fluff all over it, which will be difficul to get off. An old black shawl is as good a thing as any.

A DOG WALKS 1,600 MILES.

Orleans to Aurora, Ind.

George Griffin, an old citizen and property owner, at Aurora. Ind , says that a dog belonging to him found his way from New Oileans, where it had been taken on a flat-The distance from New Ocleans to Cincin-Such were some of the old games practiced | nati is something over 1,600 miles, and this cinnati. Mr. Griffin said the dog was a where down the river to get rid of it. The taken to New Orleans, where he was turned adrift in the city. The boat's crew returned home together, and as they had seen noing New Orleans, they concluded that they

"About three months after my arrival home," said Mr. Griffin, "the list dog crawled under the back fence and sneaked up to the kitchen door. He was the most woebegone-looking creature I ever sawpoor, lank, and hungry, with barely enough tablespoonsful sugar, a little nutmeg and strength to drag himself along. He was the Produgal Son of dogs, and looked as though he wanted the fatted calf, and wanted it leans he was sleek and tat. When he turned up at home three menths later he was a mere skeleton. His feet were sore and bleeding. He hava bushy tail and it was every step of the way. At first I was afraid An economical and really delicious way to to tell my wife of his return, knowing she ral about it and worry over it. I prepared common thing for dogs to walk from New Orleans, and that I was expecting Jack home any day. I fixed up a nice comfortable nest for him in the woodshed, and it was three laid there and rested."

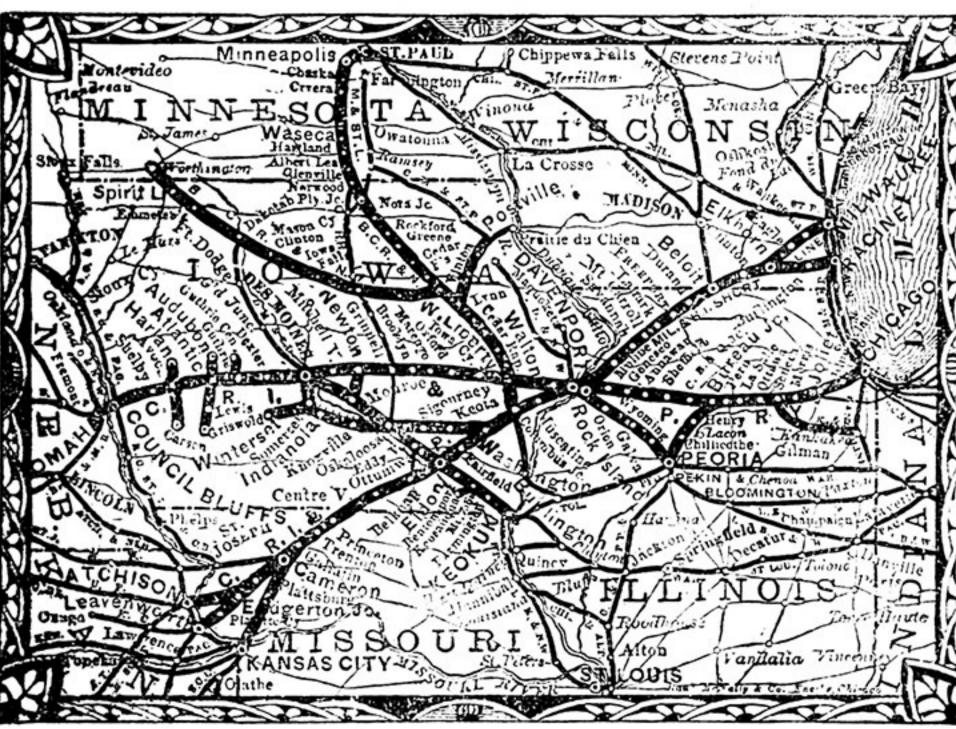
Mr. Griffia has lived on Second street in Aurora for twenty years, and is a reputable and trustworthy citizen.

Railway Improvement.

As is well known, the slipping of the driving-wheels of locomotive engines is an inconvenience of very common cocurrence and not always easy to remedy, besides being In making lemon syrup take one piat of attended by loss of steam, waste of fuel, and tain kin is of weather, under heavy loads overcoming the difficulty is well worth knowing, are such mode has recently been communicated to a Scientitie Sciety in France. On a certain fine of railway was re. from heal canes, the rails were abnormally dippery and the officulty in question had been very great, a lucky accident revealed a remedy. A joint in one of the cylinder cocks of a becomptive sprang a leak, whereby a jet of steam was thrown apon the rails. The engine driver metantly found the wheels to hite the rails so well that he was able to ascend a steep grade without the usual slipp. 1g. This has had to a right modification in all the locometics and on the road. by which they are made to discharge steam I upon the rails as require i. the result being a saving of such of some two my per cent.



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