

Santa Claus Letters FROM THE BOYS

Dear Boys: Your letters have been read through and through by THE FREE PRESS Santa man. My but I've really had a terrible time in deciding who would get that hockey outfit, but I had to decide on someone. It would have been much easier if I had enough outfits for all of you as most of your letters were so kind and thoughtful but I just had only the one outfit.

like me would want for Christmas, a nice big toboggan, all painted red, and a pair of skates, a little engine that runs by steam, and I will hang up my stockings and I hope you will fill it with candy, nuts, oranges and grapes, and if you like you can send me THE FREE PRESS for a year, as I like "Slat's Diary" pretty good.

The letter from Leonard Lambert is the one I liked the best. No, dear me, don't ask me why I liked it best or what made me choose it, for all I can say is that it was just the best for me. So now you can all congratulate Leonard on his success and start practicing for next year as I believe I'll have to continue this programme each year.

Now, Santa, I hope you will not think I am too greedy and not bring me anything. I would be real pleased with much less. I was only offering suggestions.

Another year is nearly gone, and it will be time for you, dear Santa Claus, to make your annual trip to numerous homes. I hope by Christmas time there will be enough snow for your reindeer to travel.

I guess you know I got the strap once this year but I have been pretty good except for that. I have to carry wood every day but I'd far rather play. My dad has a dairy and I help him every night.

I'm pleased to drop you this note to tell you how I have been working and behaving myself. I have been a very good boy all the year round. I do think I am entitled to a very nice present.

I like Christmas time; everything smells good and everybody feels good till the day after. One year we all had the flu and couldn't eat our Christmas dinner. Then we felt badly before and after both. I hope nobody gets sick this year.

I am a little boy, 10 years old. I am in the third book at school. Looking through THE ACTON FREE PRESS I saw you were wanting all the little girls and boys to write you letters.

I have a pair of skates and boots that are too small for me, so I thought if you could bring me a larger pair I would let you have mine to give to some other boy that did not have any. I would like to get a flashlight, but I know it will be pretty hard for you to get enough to give this year, so you can just please yourself about giving me the light.

It is getting so near to Christmas I am thinking of you nearly all the time. I am a little boy, eleven years old, and I guess you will know what a boy

THE MAGIC OF CHRISTMAS

In these days of stress, do not forget the true spirit of Christmas, that of giving to others. If you have plenty, your problem will be very simple. If, however, you have barely enough for your own, you will be in doubt about ways of helping others; nevertheless you can give them always of your time and your loving care.

Many young and old people as well do not need material gifts to-day, but do need little thoughtful attentions. Have you called on the stranger within your gates who cannot go home for Christmas or who has no home or loved ones? Have you opened your home to some lonely souls who will have no one with whom to spend Christmas? Look around you! Only by giving happiness to others can you fully experience the magic of Christmas.

Go home for Christmas if you can! If you could realize the joy you bring to your mother and father, you would feel that any expense you incur or inconvenience you experience would be trivial in comparison. Make this Christmas a real homecoming.

If you cannot go home write a letter telling all the little events that have happened from day-to-day. Dad and mother have always been your most intimate friends and miss you more than anyone else in the world. It will cost you so little in expense, and effort, but will mean so much to them. It will touch the hidden spring of happiness.

Christ gave to the world the true Magic of Christmas. Before his birth his parents were turned away from the inn. If they had been people of wealth or influence, no doubt the innkeeper would have made room for them, but they were lowly people. They turned to the most humble shelter available.

The lowly shepherds were the first to be told of Christ's birth. While a boy he followed a very humble trade, that of a carpenter. When he chose his followers He selected fishermen in almost every case; they were lowly men. He was always ready to help others. He asked for nothing but gave of Himself to all. He is the symbol of Christmas.

Pat: "When are you going to pay me them ten dollars for pasturing your cow? I have been keeping her now for ten weeks." Mike: "Why, Pat, she ain't worth ten dollars."

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON FOR SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17

PAUL IN ROME Golden Text.—I press on toward the goal unto the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.—Philippians 3: 14.

Lesson Text.—Acts 28: 11-22, 30, 31. Commit vs. 30, 31. Time.—A. D. 61-63. Place.—Rome. Exposition.—I. From Malta to Rome, 11-15.

No man ever craved human fellowship and sympathy more than Paul, and no man appreciated it more when he had it (v. 15; cf. Acts 17: 15; 18: 5; 2 Cor. 7: 6; 1 Thes. 3: 1, 2; 2 Tim. 4: 21). Paul was not at all the cold dogmatist and heartless logician that many fancy him to have been.

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WHEN YOU ARE RUBBED THE WRONG WAY

All of you know that the people who are hardest to get along with are not always those who have the most serious weaknesses. Oftentimes some little peculiarity, unimportant from the standpoint of moral values, is a constant irritation and offense.

Two lessons can be learned from the people who rub you the wrong way. One is not to mind them. If you stop to think of it, nothing is siller than to let yourself be upset by a little unimportant peculiarity in some one with whom you are associated. Learn to be tolerant of trifling vexations. Do not think about them.

The other lesson is equally important. The friend who irritates you by smothering you with advice, probably is not aware that he is rubbing you the wrong way. Possibly you have some peculiarity that your friends find equally objectionable. It pays to watch yourself closely, that you may not rub some one else the wrong way.

One of the prettiest customs of Christmas decorations is the use of candles. The original thought was to put a light in the window to guide the Christ child. Late—spellers—stopped—to—sing—before each house with a lighted window. This custom still prevails in many places.

A woman entered a grocery and asked for some good cheese. The grocer showed her some which did not please her. She wanted some particularly "lively" cheese. He exhibited the remainder of his stock, but she was not satisfied. She wanted it still more "lively."

The grocer finally called to his assistant: "John, unchain the Gorgonzola and let it walk in."

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MORE SHOOTING

Little Mary, aged five, came running up to her mother, crying, "Oh, mother! You'd better come quick and get daddy!" "Why, dearie?"

"Well, papa and Mr. Smith are down in the cellar and I heard Mr. Smith tell papa to give him another shot."

A naval officer entered a big store with his wife and said he would stay near the passenger elevator while she made a few purchases at the counters. It was a long time before she returned, and when eventually she did, he said, mopping his heated brow: "By Jove, May! I'm glad you've returned."

"Why, what's the matter?" "Matter! Why, I should think 30 people have asked me to run them up in the elevator while you have been away."

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Electric Upright Toaster, complete with cord, at \$2.69
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