SANTA CLAUS AND HIS MEN. A curibus place is Old Santa Claus' deu,

All stored full of treasures; where queer little men, No larger than drumsticks, yet active and

Are busily working from morning till night These quere little fellows, these workmen so small. All answer with pleasure Old Santa Claus'

call For "fifty more boubons, one hundred

more toys !" More names on my list of good girls and eyes and almost smiled. "Here, merrily ho," he gleefully cries

coming home that evening, fully primed for a domestic tirade, on the subject of a button that had drifted down from his "My sled is already-make haste, the time flies

shirt front during the day, to find his his especial easy chair, and corner of the My reindeer is prancing and pawing the Make haste there, make haste, we're imfire, occupied by an asthmatic old man,

whose head and face were enveloped in a silk handkerchief, and whose feot were patient to go." Soon the hundles are packed with the great-

est of care, Then off spring the reindeer, on; on; thro'

in amazement and horror the air, Till they stop at some home, where snug in

said Mrs. Grumble, who was busy warming a basin of gruel over the fire; and the their bed Sleep Cora and Mabel, or Willie and Fred. old gentlemen extanded one finger with-When the children awake at dawn's early but turning his head, saying, in a cracked

light, And steal from their beds, how they'll shut the door. Nobdy ever thinks of shut the door. Nobdy ever thinks of shutting a door in this house ! What's scream with delight On beholding their stockings, they hung that noise upstairs ? I beg niece that gour baby won't cry the whole time that

With treasures o'erflowing, and something am here. Is tea ready ? If so, I will for all. take a cup just here by the fire.' "What does this mean, my dear," ejaculated Mr. Grumble, in a hurried

Mr. GRUMBLE'S CURE.

A Lesson for Husbands.

"The old story—the coffee cold, the fire nearly out, and the room full of stifling smoke." replied, in the same tone : " Oh, you mustn't mind my uncle, dear; he doesn't mean anything, only he is old and whim-

Mr. Grumble drew his chair up to the mean breakfast table as he spoke, with the sical." face of a martyr. "The coffee is only just made, dear,"

said Mrs. Grumble, a pretty, timid look-ing wonan, with soft blue eyes and brown braids; " and I don't really think the room is very cold. As for the smoke the toast considerably charred; but just than twenty dollars, which is just about I am very sorry, but the man promised as Mr. Grumble was opening his mouth what my field will produce this year, me to have the chimney seen to yester to comment upon these facts, Uncle leaving nothing for use of the land."

day." "Of course he did; nobody ever grouned Mr. keeps promises to us," groaned Mr. Grumble. "If it had been Smith, now, the chimney would have been seen to long ago. Do give me a piece of steak house? I'm a dyspeptic, and have to be that is at least warmed through ; we re very careful of what I cat." not cannibals that I know of, to cat our meat raw. But that's always the waywe never had a cook who understood Toukins meant to stay. No sooner was how to broll a steak."

how to broll a steak." "But, my dear-" said Mrs. Grum-

ble. "Don't tell me," interrupted Mr. Grumble. "I know just how burge ought to be done. The paper hasn't come yet, I suppose't No, of course not. The paper hasn't racket wouldn't disturb me so much. A really don't know how I am going to stand that baby's noise." Grumble. GIBZY.

Mrs. Grumble, who was stirring the fre, according to her uncle's potulant re 'Its teeth trouble it," sighed Mrs. Grumbles, leaving the breakfast table to quest, said no hing, but smiled at he husband's trying to extenuate the baby's walk up and down the room with her fretiul little charge. ⁴ Oh, nonsense !" said Mr. Grumble, "Well," remarked Uncle Tomkins

sharply, charging at a slice of toast with his fork ; "you coddle it too much, that's ' all babies are noisy. And, by the way Grumble, I wish you would oil the him res of that squeaking door; and I don ike the smell of that geranium in th all.

Mrs. Grumble thought of the general commotion into which the house had been thrown, about a month previously, window. Halloo ! you haven's any to when Mr. Grumble had had the tooth niece isn't a careless wife.' ache. But she only nestled the baby s velvet head against her shoulder, and said nothing-woman's way of disposing and housekeeping duties absorb a grea

of a great many little martyrdoms. "Now, then, where's my hat ?" de-manded Mr. Grumble, rising and looking around " Very singular that that hat is never in its place. "It's just where you hung it yourself,

Uncle Tomkins, incredulously. About ten o'clock the old gentlem paga, in the hall," said little Harry, from hind his spelling book. was ushered to the spare room, accompanied by a procession of medicine vial Children shouldn't talk so much,"

and Mr. Grumble, tartly. tubs of hot water, woollen dressing gown " My dear, that rent in the lining of and heated blankets for the feet ; and

hind Tom Bessie put her baby in the miling, " but I saw that you had ancradle, and clasped her hands to her consciously become an habitual grumbler

aching head. What was Tom thinking und I had judged that the best antidotaching head. What was form thinking the final judged that the best antionce of 1 How could she exist without that growler audic ted for obody knew now long at her hearthstone f But perhaps they might neutralize one another, like two powerful poisons. There was a spice of comfort in that reflection. at least : and Bessie Grumble wiped her eves and almost smiled

blete

And so Beseie found it. What was Mr.- Grumble's surprise, on Agricultural.

THE POTATO CROP OF 1876.

Never was the uncertainty of the yield in a tub of hot water. He stopped short from the potato crop more clearly shown than in the crop of 1876 and the pre-

" This is Uncle Tomkins, Henry," ceeding year- the former a season of abundant produce and consequent low prices; the latter a season of clops so ight as by some to be called a failure. In 1875 potatoes were sold in these markets at 20 cts. to 25 cts per bushel. and so it was throughout the Dominion In the Maritime Provinces they were bought at as low prices, and large quantities of them made into starch. From New England we had similar reports. This year, in the very season when potatoes are cheapest, they are sold here at whisper ; and his wife, whose arm he \$1 per bag of 11 bush. In the Maritime Provinces they were bought at 50c. per bush., and shipped in large quantitics to New England. A correspondent of the Ohio Farmer says :-- " I won't have two hundred bushels of potatoes from

" But a man has, no business to make everybody else uncomfortable in this sort of way," muttered Mr. Grumble. Tea was brought in at this moment—a dug eight hundred bushels," He adds: -" According to my estimate, an acre

than twenty dollars, which is just about leaving nothing for use of the land.' Tomkins forestalled him by exclaiming The question naturally arises, is such

"What stuff this tea is ! One would suppose it was made of cabbage leaves. The toast, too, is as black as a cinder. loss unavoidable? Is there no method by which we can guard against the recur-Isn't there a slice of stale bread in the rence of such losing results? We cannot, we know, by any means in the least control the weather-and to the drought Mr. Grumble silently devoured his meal, secretly wondering how long Uncle or humidity of the weather much of the poverty of the crop must be attributable : but is it not within our power to guard gentleman began again : "Grumble, I against the injurious effects of an un-wish you'd stop the creaking of your chair, my nerves are so weak; and if you would keep your children upstairs that racket wouldn't disturb me so much. 1 focted, we have little doubt; and the more clearly we see that there is such a 1 more clearly we see that there is such a

aures Were this failure wholly owing to the nature of the season, there would be little difference between the returns in the same or similar localities. But this has not been the case. Some, a few, farmers have potato crops, while their neighbours' potatoes have scarcely been worth the labour. This difference of produce must be attributed to other causes-to

condition for the crop, and the variety of button on your shirt front ! I hope m potota planted. Any soil may be so treated as to produce a pretty good crop "Not at all, sir," said Mr. Grumble vervously; " but the care of her chile of potatoes in favorable seasons: but a farmer need not be told there are soils deal of her time. The instant she find-leisure she will look to my clothes." naturally adapted for its culture. Rotation of crops is another requisite to successful potato culture. With the writer her whole time keeping house and looking after a pack, of children," observed mentioned above this course was not followed.

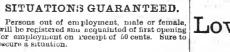
are better adapted to take their place in





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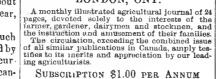


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and rebulads the osscous, inuscular, nervous, membranous and organic systems. It operaisas on the system without exciting care or thought upon the individual as to the process. It moves the hungs, liver, heart, kidneys, stomach and in-testines with a hurr ouy, vigor, yet mildness un-parableled in medicine. The Phosyhodyne gives back to the human structure, in a suitable form, the phosphorie or animating element of life, which has been wasted, and exerts an important influence directly on the spinal marrow and nervous system, of a nutritive; tonic and invigorating character, maintaining that buoyant energy of the brain and muscular sys-tem which renders the n ind cheerful, brillisat, and energetic, entirely overcoming that dull, in-active, and sluggish disjosition which many per-sons experience in all their actions. The beneficial feets of the Phosphodyne are frequently shown from the first day of its anni-nistration, by a remarkable increase of nervors power, with a feeling of vigor and confort, to which the patient has long been unaccustomed. Digestion is improved; the appetite increases of wonderfully; the bowels become regular: the eye a brighte; the skin lear and hashity, and the har acquises strength, showing the importance of the action of the Phosphodyne maintains a certain The second of the Phospholyne on the brane of nutrition Pinulty, the Phospholyne maintains a certain degree of activity in the previously debilitated nervous system; its use enables all debilitated organs to return to their sound state a.d perform their natural functions. Penso s suffering from Nervous Debility, or any of the hundred symp-toms which this distressing disease assumes, may rest assured of an effectual and even speedy core by the juccious use of this most invaluable



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possibility, the more likely will be to inquire into and to adopt preventive mea-

the quality and nature of the soil, its

The light potato crop of '76 seems to

have followed a potato crop of the previous year. This may in part account for its being almost a failure Some crops THE GREATEST WONDER OF

five acres. From the same field last year I The Farmers' Advocate, little smoky, it must be confessed, and of potatoes cannot be cultivated for less

my coat is not mended yet; why did you absence occasioned not see to it ?" lief

slight sigh.

"I intended to do so," said the wife, apologetically, " but you know we had company last nig't, and the baby slept so badly that I rose rather later than usual this morning, but-"

Always some excuse, " interrupted her liege lord. I really don't understand the reason that nothing is ever done in time in this house."

He gave the front door rather an emphatic slam as he went out, and I ttle little uneasily. Mrs. Grumble, instead of rebelling against her husband's iron rule, just sat

down and cried. Mr. Grumble was not by any means a bad husband. He really loved his wife, and believed hunself to be the pattern of conjugat amiability ; only he had, somehow or other, fallen into the un-conscious habit of fault finding ; and, like many another individual, whenever he could not think of anything else to

do, he grumbled. "Crying again, Bessie ?" exclaimed her brother, coming in an hour or, two lator. . Now that's too bad ! I suppose Honry has been treating you to another domestic growl? I've a great mind to tell him how uncomfortable you are made by his little eccentricities. Shall I,

Bossie "No, no; I wouldn't have you breathe

a syllable to him for the world !" eagerly exclaimed Mrs. Grumble, hurriedly drying her tears." Henry don't mean to He has the kind st beart in the world, and I know that he loves 120

"I dare say he does, said young Mr. Carlton ; " but why is he fretting and fault, finding hour after hour, and day think it's an oversight in our laws that there is not one to punish married men who seeld I'

who sould I" "Den't talk so, Tom," said Mrs Grumble, carnestly. "Henry isn't a all to blame, only baby is very trouble some and I had an indifferent nigh "Oh yes -I understand," he sad significantly smiling. My dear ti forgiving Bessie, you on ht to be made martyr of." He sat a moment or ta-in deep thought, then, suddenly startin up, exclaimed : "I must be gone, or shall be too late at the station to meet Uncle Tomkins. Did I mention to you, by the way, that Uncle Tomkins was coming to visit you ?"

"Uncle Tomkins ! I didn't know we had an Uncle Tomkins, Tom." "Didn't you, dear I Well, please to prepare your best bedroom for company -the old gentleman is rather particular -grumbles a good deal, in fact ; but

then, you are used to that sort of thing. But, Tom, I don't quite under-

stand--

very general re "What an insufferable old egotist he is ?" exclaimed Mr. Grumble, throwing himself into his favorite seat once more. " My dear Bessie, how could you en-dure such fault finding as this ?" " I am accustomed to that, Henry ; it

"I don't see how a woman can spin

is the lesson that most women are obliged have been of early sorts, as the Early to learn," replied Mrs. Grumble, with a Rose. They took hold of the ground

Her husband pricked up his cars a ttle uneasily. "Accustomed to it l

sible--it could not be 'possible-that he was like that odious old Uncle Tomkins. and yet he wished Bessie had not spoken in that way. Somehow it made him feel excessively uncomfortable.

en in that way. Somehow it made him feel excessively uncomfortable. Day after day passed away, Uncle Tomkins growing more and more in-tolerable the whole time, while Mr. Grumble unproved the occasion by mak-ing a sort of mental looking glass of that "Upon-my-word," said he to him-self, "I must have been a perfect nuis-

self, "I must have been a perfect nuis-ance all these years. Why didn't some-body tell me of it?"

At length Uncle Tomkins went away, flannel gowns, medicine bottles and all, and on the evening of the same day Tom Carlton arrived, from a temporary abscence, nobody knew where. "So uncle has been visiting you ?" he

said, gayly, to Mr. Grumble. "Yes," said the latter. with a slight

"What sort of a looking man is he ?" Mr. Grumble was silent a moment. Mr. Grumble was silent a moment. "Do you know," he exclaimed, bursting into a perplexed laugh, "I couldn't describe a single feature of his face. He was always enveloped, like an Egyptian mummy, in a silk handker-chief, something like that one you have in your hand. With my permission he shall never set foot in this house again." "No 1" soid Tom, archig

"No !" said Tom, archly. "The most intolerable fault finder l ever met with," said Mr. Grumble; "absolutely the most disagreeable man who ever cumbered the earth. I do not see how it is possible to take exceptions to everything as he did."

"That's not an un common failing, I believe," observed Tom, demurely smiling. "Very likely," said his brother in-law, emphatically; "but his visit has been emphatically; "but his visit has been productive of at least one good effect-it

has completely cured me of any tenden-

as completely curen his of any tenden-cy I might have had that way. I, for one, mean to leave off grumbling."
"I'm happy to hear it, nephew Grumble," exclaimed a cracked voice.
The victimized man started up in dis-

may, scarcely believing the testimony of his senses, as Tom twisted the silk handkerchief around his head, and b. nt him-

self usarly double with an asthmatic sound between a groan and a gruna

a rotation after other grops of a different mode of growth. We have raised out heaviest potato crops, and those of the best quality, on ground that had the previous year been under grass, peas, or

corn. As to the variety of potatoes, the Fer best crops we have known this season early ; the unfavorable season had less effect on their growth : their maturing

and ripening was not forced as it was of What did she mean ? It was not pose later sorts. A slow-growing, late-maturing potato is not the most suitable for

our short seasons. Were every farmer to make inquiries

principal in these history of the shorthorn cow, Duchess 66th, which was sold in 1855, at Earl Ducie's sale in England, to Col. Morris, of Fordham, for 700 guineas, or \$3,675, is remarkable as showing the actual value of one good breeding animal. From this cow. which was calved in November, 1850, there may be traced in direct des-

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-An Irishman's friend having fallen

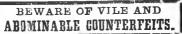
into a slough, the Irishman called loudly to another for assistance. The latter, who was busily engaged in cutting a log and wished to procrastinate, inquired, "How deep is the gentleman in ?" Up to his ankles." "Then there is plenty

of time," said the other. "No, there is rejoined the first : "I forgot to you he's in head first.

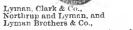
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