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THE STAR EDITORIAL AND MAGAZINE PAGE

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There Is a Santa Claus

Once a little girl wrote this letter to the editor of the New York Sun:

Dear Editor: I am eight years old. Some of my friends say that there is no Santa Claus. Papa says: "If you see it in the Sun, it's so." Please tell me the truth. Is there a Santa Claus? VIRGINIA O. HANLON.

And the editor of the Sun, mighty man of invective and sarcasm, became "even as a little child," and wrote the following charming reply:

VIRGINIA: Your little friends are wrong. They have been affected by the skepticism of a skeptical age. They will not believe except they see.

Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus. He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist, and you know that they abound and give to your life its highest beauty and joy. Alas, how dreary would be the world if there were no Santa Claus! It would be as dreary as if there were no Virginias. There would be no childlike faith then, no poetry, no romance to make tolerable this existence. We should have no enjoyment except in sense and sight. The eternal light with which childhood fills the world would be extinguished.

You might get your papa to hire men to watch all the chimneys on Christmas eve to catch Santa Claus, but even if they did not see Santa Claus coming down, what would that prove? Nobody sees Santa Claus. The most real things in the world are those that neither children nor men see. Nobody can conceive or imagine all the wonders that are unseen and unseeable in this world. You may tear apart the baby's rattle and see what makes the noise inside, but there is a veil covering the unseen world which not the strongest that ever lived could ever tear apart. Only faith, fancy, poetry, love and romance can push aside that curtain and view and picture the supernal beauty and glory beyond. Is it all real? Ah, Virginia, in all this world there is nothing so real and abiding.

No Santa Claus! Thank God, he lives and lives forever. A thousand years from now, Virginia—nay, ten times ten thousand years from now—he will continue to make glad the heart of childhood.

Women Will Decide What They Want

Every woman reader of this newspaper, and most men, will be interested in what Mrs. Josephine Dodge Daskam Bacon says in an interview with our New York correspondent, printed in another column.

A mother of three children, the youngest two months in the world, the famous authoress declares that woman's work is to produce good men and women—good men to do the world's work and good women to bring forth more good men. She abandoned her work as a writer, with an income of \$15,000 per year and an international fame, to do this thing, which she says is woman's only real work. And she says that it is the only way for her sex to find happiness.

Women are thinking big problems these days. Many are of the belief that the sex will not realize its full development until woman is made economically and politically equal with man. The great majority obviously believe with Mrs. Bacon that woman was not intended to race with men for world honors, that her province is of the home, and her best achievement must be the development of fine children.

It is well for women to think of these things, to discuss them and act upon their beliefs. We believe we have a democracy free enough to include our women when they shall decide that they wish to share equally with men in all things. Men cannot and will not decide—women will decide, and what they want they will have. Men will not give it—women will take it.

Some of the questions raised by Mrs. Bacon in the interview are subjects upon which men are not fully qualified to speak or write. This newspaper will be glad to receive from women readers, who are qualified to speak, letters discussing these great questions.

Perhaps if horses wore a high priced carriage finish that would mar when they fell down, drivers would equip them with skid chains on the slippery hills.

Lots of sensible people do not think being a good toastmaster is the first qualification for a mayor.

There are several other persons of the same opinion as Grand Juror Peterson, but for very different reasons.

If you can't be an early Christmas shopper, you can at least be as early as you can.

INTIMATE CORRESPONDENCE BY RATA

Washington, D. C., Dec. 8, 1909. Dear Dad: I have it on the best authority that President Roosevelt investigated the record of Judge Horace H. Lorton at the time the Brown vacancy existed on the supreme court, and rejected Lorton on the ground that the judge possessed "the railroad mind."

The health of Chief Justice Melville W. Fuller is extremely good. The chief justice has resumed his old habit of working evenings. All of which is not good news to Phander Chase Knox, who has the promise of Melville's gown in case—

where "prosecution" would be the word. When Hercules took that Augean stable assignment it wasn't exactly an "investigation."

The president has written a letter to Gifford Pinchot in which he says: "I still have entire confidence in Mr. Ballinger."

"What the president needs is to get into wireless communication with the outside world," said—well, he is an officeholder and friend of the administration. "Taft is hemmed in completely. He does not know what is happening, is not a diligent reader of the newspapers, and what he hears from his official family does not enlighten him on the real state of public sentiment. Taft's greatest blunder was made when he cut communication with the Washington correspondents, and decided to get and give all news through Aldrich & Co. Which, to my mind, is only half of the truth. Perhaps not that much. Sincerely, RATA.

MISUNDERSTOOD.

Friend—How did you fare on your tour through the provinces? Actor—My boy, we had the audiences standing up everywhere. Friend—Were they as restless as that?

JAPANESE BRIDES WED BY THE LOCAL BUDDHIST PRIEST

Proxy Marriages Are Confirmed by Interesting Ceremony in Seattle.

RULES OF CONDUCT LAID DOWN IN BUDDHIST WEDDING CEREMONY.

For the husband: 1—In going out and coming in, respect your wife. 2—Have your meals together, and, according to the season, supply her with food and clothing. 3—Also give her money. 4—This rule has to do with domestic affairs. 5—You are prohibited to commit adultery. For the wife: 1—On coming back from the outside, come to the door and welcome him. 2—When the husband goes out, give him a meal, also a clean house, and wait for his return. 3—It is not allowed that she give her heart to other people. 4—According to the husband's orders, perform the household duties and make no secrecy from your husband. 5—The husband going to bed, see that the house is locked and in good order, then you will retire also.



KATSU TAIMAI A Japanese Bride.

Six little heathen Japanese girls became brides in Seattle today and yesterday according to the rites of the Buddhist marriage service. Six more will be wed in the next day or two.

Having been made proxy wives in Japan, they sailed on the Kaga Maru for America to meet the husbands they had never seen. But marriage by proxy doesn't quite satisfy Uncle Sam, so marriage licenses must be obtained in the regular way and a United States marriage ceremony performed, either by a minister or civil magistrate.

These are the brides and bridegrooms: Yosuke Teramoto, 34, South Prairie, Wash., and Katsu Taimai, 24, Japan; Otsuhiro Toshi, 40, Orilla, Wash., and Taka Tamadani, 28, Japan; Kutaroo Nakano, 37, Leavenworth, Wash., and Tsuya Tachai, 29, Japan; Kaushiro Tahara, 38, Los Angeles, Cal., and Iwano Tohara, 31, Japan; Tamekichi Masuhoto, Kingsburg, Cal., and Kuni Tohmaka, Japan; Matsuhiro Imai, Olander, Cal., and Hideo Masumoto, Japan.

Come to Claim Brides. When inspection by the government officers on board the Kaga Maru had been completed and the investigation by the immigration board at the detention home had been finished, each little bride, as the bridegroom called for her, was accompanied to the Buddhist temple at 1020 E. Main st. From Washington and California and other

Western states the husbands came to claim their brides. Rev. Hoshin Fujii, priest of the temple of Buddha, conducted the solemn rite. And this is how they were married: With the bride standing on one side of the shrine and the bridegroom standing on the other, in the presence of two witnesses, the priest made the proclamation of marriage before the god and read from a Buddhist manuscript. Then followed the oaths.

The Oaths Taken. To the husband: "You will live with your wife with respect, accompanied with love, performing your husbandly duties. Swear that you live together forever, sharing pleasure and hardship." To the wife: "You will live with your husband, with love, accompanying him with respect, performing your wife's duties. Swear that you will live together forever, sharing pleasure and hardship."

The only difference in the oaths is the order of the words love and respect. The husband swears first to respect, then love; the wife swears first to love, then respect. Following the oaths they were told how to behave, and the five rules of conduct are laid down for each. Then the priest says: "You will please follow these words, do not make any contradiction." Prayer by the priest follows, and he gives his blessing to the husband and wife for all his happiness and prosperity.

Are Married for Keeps. They are married, and they're married "for keeps." Divorces are almost unknown among the Buddhist Japanese. Asked for the reason for few divorces, an attendant of the priest gave this explanation: "The marriage contract is very solemn, and is a contract not merely between the two young people. The marriage is arranged by their parents. Parents are older, they have more judgment, and choose with great wisdom. In America you young people make your choice for yourselves. You just love and go ahead."

MR. SKYGACK, FROM MARS

He Visits the Earth as a Special Correspondent and Makes Wireless Observations in His Notebook.

ENTERED ENCLOSURE MORE CLOSELY TO INSPECT BEARDED EARTH-BRUTE AIMLESSLY ROVING ABOUT EARTH-BRUTE ADVANCED UNAFRAID TOWARD ME WITH SWIFTNES AND PRECISION WAS COMPELLED, THROUGH BUMP-BUMP PROCLIVITIES OF EARTH-BRUTE, TO VACATE ENCLOSURE.



CURTIS OF HARVARD IS NAMED BY TAFT



President Taft has named Mr. Curtis as the successor to James B. Reynolds as assistant secretary of the treasury. Mr. Curtis was once intercollegiate golf champion, and later United States district attorney in Boston. He practiced law after getting his degree from Harvard in 1899. He was once assistant attorney general of Massachusetts under Atty. Gen. Malone.

POINTED PARAGRAPHS.

No woman is ever younger than she says she is. Some family skeletons are padded beyond recognition. A well-beaten path may not lead in the right direction. You don't have to run a boarding house in order to board a train. Some men are born liars and some are compelled to acquire the art. People who borrow trouble are always anxious to turn it over to others. Woman started the ball of trouble rolling and has kept it troubling ever since. Instead of hiding their light under a bushel, lots of people stand in their own light.—Chicago News.

MINSTREL MIDGETS.

"Eph, why am a stiddy beer drinker ink a good lawyer?" "Because he often starts on a new case." "Den why am oberturnin' a baby cab lik a dark cloud ober Lake Washington?" "Because it's shuah to be followed by a squall."

MR. JELLYFISH



STAR DUST

JOSH WISE SAYS:

"There's no escape. Ef Delilah hadn't shorn him, they'd shorn him in Wall st."

New field being invaded by the drama—that of portraying distasteful truths.

One of our gifted contemps, suggests sliding hand first to bases to prevent the spiking and crippling of baseball players. Wanted to know: If their heads are considered invulnerable? Looks to the average reader like a slam at the boneheads.

The gladsome Christmas tide is with us folks. And with us now abide The Christmas jokes. —Baltimore American.

King Alfonso has to undergo a serious surgical operation. It must grip on him to ponder upon the fact that Professor Ferrer, for instance, was so disgracefully healthy that he had to be shot to make a martyr of him.

"After all, there's only one thing absolutely certain in this world." "Indeed? What?" "That fashion will never increase the size of women's shoes as it does their hats and sleeves."—Boston Transcript.

Actor rehearsing a suicide act killed himself with a revolver. In the first place, there is no good excuse for depicting suicide on the stage.

An inspection of the Washington dispatches reveals that Senator Bailey is still a member. Anybody remember much about Bailey?

Bacon—What's his business? Egbert—Hops. Bacon—Well, is he a brewer of a dancing master?—Yonkers Statesman.

Congressman Sulzer has demanded a declaration of war against Nicaragua. And this after all what Secretary Knox has writ and did!

Jeff Davis says there are some rotten potatoes in the senate. The "eyes" have it.

Parson Primrose—How is it you are not a good little boy at Christmas? Grimsey—'Cause den I'd get Sunday school books. I want Indian stories.—Judge.

It comes but once a year. This holiday. But all the remaining time "It's on the way."

Baillargeon's Two Great Holiday Specials in Ladies' Suits \$25.00 Values that Are of Extraordinary Worth \$37.50 Values to \$55.00

The most sensible gifts to give, useful things, and these two great specials provide the opportunity. Two splendid groups of late models in long, semi-fitting coats, fitted just enough to show the figure to advantage; skirts with pleats in attractive styles, or full gores with ample fullness at the foot, appropriately trimmed in braids, velvets or buttons; every garment well lined. Colors, black, navy, brown, green, gray, helio, taupe, raisin, cawaba, etc.; values formerly to \$37.50. Special at \$25.00. Values formerly to \$55.00. Special at \$37.50.

Separate Coats in Mixtures We direct attention again to the great variety of these garments shown by us, embracing all the new colors and mixtures; cut plain or plaited sides and back or circular. The Coat Dress and all the desirable models; military collars, shield fronts, Presto collar and regular notched collars. Bust sizes, 34 to 44; Misses', 14, 16 and 18. Prices at \$10.50, \$11.75, \$13.50, \$14.50, \$17.50 and to \$35.00.

Christmas Suggestions from the Drapery Section

Couch Covers—Domestic and Imported An Imported Couch Cover, 60 inches by 3 yards, in neat Khelmin patterns and colors \$6.00 Domestic Couch Covers, 60 inches by 3 yards, in 15 designs; Oriental patterns and colors \$3.50 Table Covers, large range of designs \$3.50 While They Last 36 only, 26x50 Oriental Table Runners, copy of an Ispahan Prayer Rug, and in four colors—tan, green, blue and red grounds, with neat Persian border. Special at \$2.00

Our Entire Stock of Oriental Rugs at Reduced Prices

Especially large are the reductions on carpet sizes. Every Rug in the store personally selected and tested, and our collection second to none in the city. We note especially the great values in "Oriental Runners"—Iran Runners—13x53-3, at \$45.00—Reduced from \$60.00 14x54, at \$70.00—Reduced from \$90.00 Persian Runners—16x33-6, at \$65.00—Reduced from \$85.00 Antique Iran—16x33-3, at \$90.00—Reduced from \$115.00 23x33-2, at \$175.00—Reduced from \$225.00 Kermanshahs, in small sizes; choice styles, at \$45.00

When in Doubt Buy Handkerchiefs

Our assortments represent the best money can buy for the prices—dainty, sheer all linens, and marvels in real hand embroidery. Ladies' Handkerchiefs Sheer Linen and Hand-Embroidered French and Madeira Handkerchiefs, at each—25c, 35c, 50c, 65c, 75c, \$1.00, \$1.25, \$1.50, \$2.00. Pure Irish Linen Handkerchiefs, initials embroidered with shamrock designs \$50c Box of 6 \$2.75 Pure linen, solid color hem, with dainty hand-embroidered initial, encircled with colored design to match, each \$40c Pure linen, very sheer, with fine corded border about hem, hand embroidered, script initial with insert of Delft blue in bow knot design \$35c Pure linen, medium weight, with hand embroidered script initial and bow knot designs, 3 in dainty box \$1.00 Pure linen, sheer and medium weight, hand embroidered, white and colored initials, all letters, each \$25c Linen, hemstitched with dainty lace edge \$25c Sheer linen, with hand embroidered designs \$15c Cross bar linen, very fine \$15c Unlaundered pure linen, with hand initials \$12 1/2c Plain linen, sheer and medium weights, 1/4 and 3/4 inch hems \$10c Ladies' Plain Linen Handkerchiefs, sheer, medium and heavy weights, in 1/4, 1/2 and 3/4 inch hems, at each \$15c, 25c, 35c and 40c CHILDREN'S BOX HANDKERCHIEFS Box of 3, assorted borders \$15c Box of 3, colored hems with initials to match, "dutch cover" box \$17c White or colored initial, dainty box of 3 \$25c Pure linen, hemstitched, with hand-embroidered initials; box of 3 \$50c

Basement Salesroom The brightest, lightest, most comfortable Basement Salesroom in the city. A wonderful variety of Beautiful China, Brilliant Cut Glass, Russian Hammered Brass, Sterling Silver, Toys, Dolls, Wagons, Go-Carts and Steam Engines. Shopping early is most desirable, as stocks are at their best and the jostling of the crowds is avoided. To lovers of fine old "Royal Dresden China" the following items will be welcome: Genuine "Royal Dresden" Tea Cups and Saucers, Large Coffee Cups and Saucers; regularly \$2.00 to \$3.75 each. Choice at \$1.75. Genuine Royal Dresden and Limoges Cups and Saucers, that were \$4.50 to \$8.50. Choice at \$3.75. 3-Piece Fine Acid Gilt Limoges China Tea Sets, that were \$19.50 to \$23.50. Choice at \$15.00. 3-Piece Royal Dresden and Limoges Tea Set, Sugar and Creamer; were \$12.00 to \$15.00. Choice at \$10.00. Imported Samples of Fine German and Austrian China Cups and Saucers, regularly \$1.00 to \$2.00. Choice at \$50c. 7 and 8-inch Decorated Dinner Plates, bone china and Limoges china; regularly 50c and \$1.00. Choice at \$25c. All Pictures and Picture Frames to be closed out at one-third and one-half of regular prices; former prices 25c to \$3.25. Close-out prices 15c to \$1.50. 15c Backgammon Boards \$10c 25c Backgammon Boards \$15c About 200 Games of all kinds and slightly soiled from handling, reduced one-third. Sale prices—10c to 90c. 50-Piece Dinner Sets, in semi-porcelain; 3 beautiful patterns to select from, at \$6.50. 100-Piece Set, at \$13.00. (All Open Stock).

McCall's Books and Patterns for January Are Here J. BAILLARGEON & CO. SECOND AVE. & SPRING ST.

A dainty Xmas greeting A box of Societe Chocolats Davenport Lounges and Sanitary Couches in great array POYNER FURNITURE SAVED YOU 30 PER CENT. Waldorf Bldg. 705-10 Pike St.

The Raven prescription service means that the doctor's skill in prescribing is most efficiently supplemented by the druggist's skill in compounding. RAVEN DRUG CO., 1416 Second Av. Bankrupt Sale \$22,000 stock of Clothing, Hats, Shoes and Furnishings at your own price 424-PIKE ST.—424 X-MAS GIFTS AT COST. Hand-colored photos in a great variety of subjects, including Mt. Rainier and Snoqualmie Falls. Beautiful gifts for the holidays. Federal Paint & Wall Paper Co., 1314 First Av.

Children's Day at the Eastern Outfitting Co. This is the day we are making their little hearts glad. Fine gifts are presented to them by a good-hearted old Santa Claus, who is wishing them a Merry Christmas. Every day we are offering the one gift that is always appreciated—The Liberal Use of Credit It will be doubly acceptable during the Holiday season, when you must economize to meet the requirements of a cheerful giver. Both the Men's and Women's Departments are replenished with appreciative suggestions for Xmas shoppers. Eastern Outfitting Co., Inc. 1332-34 Second Av. 209 Union St. "Seattle's Reliable Credit House"