

**Gifts for Mother**

The gladdest hour of Christmas Day,  
The time the hearts are lightest  
An' every care is chased away  
An' all the smiles are brightest,  
Is when the family, young an' old  
From dad to little brother,  
With all the love that hearts can hold  
Come bringing gifts to mother.

We keep her presents till the last  
An' then when she sits rocking,  
An' all the other gifts are passed,  
We go an' get her stocking.  
We gather round her easy chair,  
First one an' then the other  
Steps up an' says: "Well, I declare,  
Here's something else for mother."

An' with each present goes a kiss,  
An' all is still an' quiet  
When mother murmurs "What is this?"  
An' hastens to untie it.  
Then everybody wildly cheers  
An' shouts for perfect gladness,  
An' mother's eyes are moist with tears  
But not the tears of sadness.



**Santa, waiting to bring Joy and Happiness to the little Boys and Girls of Prince Edward Island**

**A Child's Song of Christmas**

My counterpane is soft as silk,  
My blankets white as creamy milk,  
The hay was soft to Him, I know,  
Our little Lord of long ago.

Above the roof the pigeons fly  
In silver wheels across the sky,  
The stable-doves they cooed to them,  
Mary and Christ in Bethlehem.

Bright shines the sun across the drifts,  
And bright upon my Christmas gifts,  
They brought Him incense, myrrh, and gold  
Our little Lord who lived of old.

O, soft and clear our mother sings  
Of Christmas joys and Christmas things,  
God's holy angels sang to them,  
Mary and Christ in Bethlehem.

Our hearts they hold all Christmas dear,  
And earth seems sweet and heaven seems near  
O, heaven was in His sight, I know,  
That little Child of long ago.

By Marjorie L. C. Piekthall

**GOOD THINGS TO EAT**

**Christmas Punch**

A punch bowl of cooling beverage is a thoughtful addition to the Christmas party, for turkey dinner certainly does make one thirsty. One dozen lemons, 9 oranges, a small jar of maraschino cherries, the pulp from a fresh pineapple, 1 teaspoon grated nutmeg and a stock of cinnamon. Squeeze juice from lemons and oranges and add cherries and juice. Chill and about an hour before serving add pineapple, nutmeg and cinnamon, and sweetened water to taste. Pour over a large lump of ice in the punch bowl.

**Crisp Celery**

Take the stalks of celery apart, clean and scrape them. Then place upright in a pitcher of cold water containing a teaspoon of salt. Place pitcher next to the ice for several hours before using.

**Cranberry Frappe**

Cook 1 quart cranberries and 2 cups water for 10 minutes. Force through a sieve. Add 2 cups sugar and the juice of 2 lemons and freeze to a mush. Use equal parts of ice and salt for freezing. Serve with the main part of the Christmas dinner.

**Raisin-filled Cookies**

What would the house be without some interesting cookies over the holidays? One cup sugar, 1/2 cup butter, 2 eggs, 1/2 cup milk, 2 teaspoons cream of tartar, 1 teaspoon soda, 1 teaspoon vanilla, 3 cups flour. Make a cookies batter of these and roll out thin. Cut cookies and place one teaspoon of filling in the centre of each cookie. Place another cookie over the top of each and press the edges together. Bake in a moderate oven. Filling: Cook together until thick, 1 cup chopped seeded raisins, 1/2 cup sugar, 1/2 cup water, 1 tablespoon flour. Remove from fire and add 1/2 cup chopped nuts.

**Mushroom Appetizers**

If you are going to have appetizers in the living-room before the holiday dinner, here is a new one for you to try. Cut mushrooms into small pieces and cook in butter until tender. Season with salt, paprika and a little lemon juice. Spread on small squares of buttered toast.

**White Nut Bread**

Another pleasing addition to the holiday feast. One-half cup sugar, 1 egg, 1 cup milk, 3 cups flour, 5 teaspoons baking powder, 1 teaspoon salt, 1 cup chopped nuts. Beat egg and sugar together and add milk. Sift in flour, baking powder and salt. Mix in nuts and then add milk. Turn into a buttered and floured deep pan and bake 45 minutes in a moderate oven.

**Chocolate-coated Dates**

Another delicacy for the holiday season. Remove the stones from dates and fill with chopped English walnuts. Melt a cake of milk chocolate and dip the stuffed dates into the coating. When covered with chocolate place on buttered dishes to cool.

**Vanilla Wafers**

A delightful little cookie to have in the house at the holiday season. One-third cup butter, 1 cup sugar, 1 egg, 1-4 cup milk, 2 teaspoons baking powder, a pinch salt, 2 teaspoons vanilla, 2 1-4 cup flour. Cream butter, adding

**Silver for Luck**

Christmas creates in England a vast demand for three-pennybits. Every autumn the great presses at the mint are engaged in turning them out in thousands. People want them to put into puddings, for the three-penny-bit is regarded as a talisman of peculiar merit. They want them, too, to give to the children who sing carols.

But why "three-pennybits"? Would not three coppers do just as well? The reason is that there is an old superstition that it is lucky both to give and to receive silver at Christmas time. The three-penny-bit is a convenient coin for people who cannot afford to give more. Silver has always been considered a lucky metal. It is the only one which has any effect on ghosts.

If you are haunted by a ghostly dog it is no use shooting him with ordinary lead shot, but a silver bullet is supposed to do the trick every time!

sugar, milk and vanilla. Add sifted flour, baking powder and salt. Roll out thin. Cut with a round cutter and bake in a moderate oven.

**Luncheon Muffins**

One pint flour, 2 eggs, 2 teaspoons sugar, 3 tablespoons butter, 1/2 teaspoon salt, a generous 1/2 pint milk, 2 teaspoons baking powder. Mix and sift dry ingredients. Melt butter and add. Beat eggs until light and add milk to them. Stir into dry mixture and beat well. Pour into greased muffin tins and bake for 20 minutes in a hot oven. One dozen muffins.

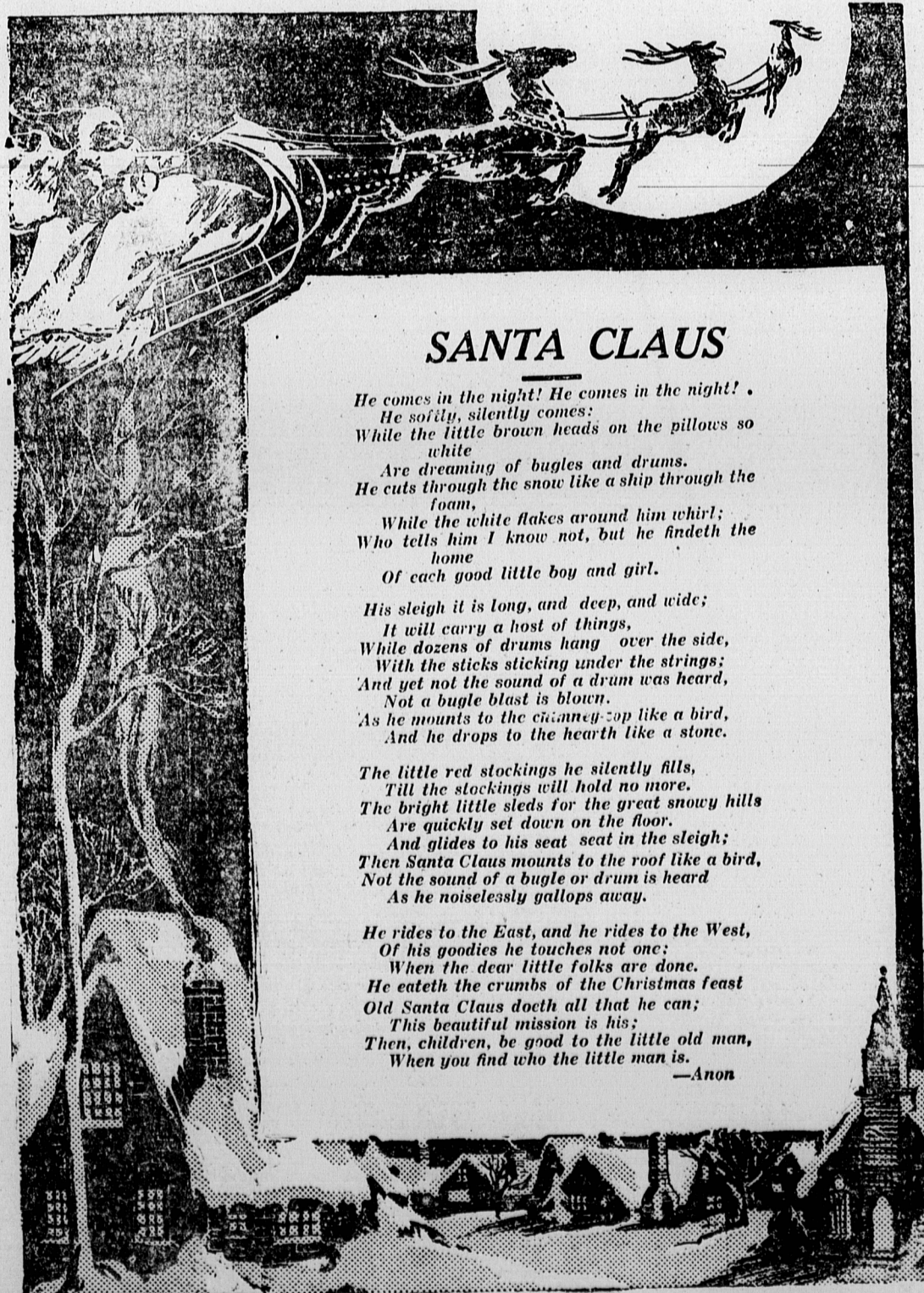
**On Writing Home for Christmas**

Christmas has the effect of reviving and strengthening home ties. It stirs the conscience and affections of those whose letters to home people are few and far between. This brings to mind the address given by the Prince of Wales to a party of boys who were leaving the old land for the new. After advising them to buckle to their task and play the game, he added "and don't forget to write home to your mothers." An English journalist says:

"Every mother who had a boy in that party will bless the Prince for those words."

"There would be few sorrowing hearts in the world today if those who had emigrated to another land had followed the simple advice of the Prince of Wales. There are heart-broken mothers who have eagerly listened for the postman's knock that would bring news from her boy in a far country until the heart grew sick with hope deferred as the years sped by and the expected letter never came. The young man who makes it a rule of his life when away from his people to write home regularly is not likely to go far wrong."

Unless your party is a very large one and a very formal one, do not use demitasse cups for your coffee. Almost everyone likes a large cup of coffee after a big dinner and that tiny cup is just an irritation.



**SANTA CLAUS**

He comes in the night! He comes in the night!  
He softly, silently comes:  
While the little brown heads on the pillows so white  
Are dreaming of bugles and drums.  
He cuts through the snow like a ship through the foam,  
While the white flakes around him whirl:  
Who tells him I know not, but he findeth the home  
Of each good little boy and girl.

His sleigh it is long, and deep, and wide;  
It will carry a host of things,  
While dozens of drums hang over the side,  
With the sticks sticking under the strings;  
And yet not the sound of a drum was heard,  
Not a bugle blast is blown.  
As he mounts to the chimney-top like a bird,  
And he drops to the hearth like a stone.

The little red stockings he silently fills,  
Till the stockings will hold no more.  
The bright little sleds for the great snowy hills  
Are quickly set down on the floor.  
And glides to his seat seat in the sleigh;  
Then Santa Claus mounts to the roof like a bird,  
Not the sound of a bugle or drum is heard  
As he noiselessly gallops away.

He rides to the East, and he rides to the West,  
Of his goodies he touches not one;  
When the dear little folks are done.  
He eateth the crumbs of the Christmas feast  
Old Santa Claus doeth all that he can;  
This beautiful mission is his;  
Then, children, be good to the little old man,  
When you find who the little man is.  
—Anon

