











YOUTH'S DEPARTMENT.

MYSTERIOUS SANTA CLAUS.

Did you ever see Santa Claus, Robbie? I do wish I could; and I've tried. My mamma has seen him quite often—

SANTA CLAUS' TEAM.

How Tom Granby Proved to His Grandmother that He Could Drive as Well as Anybody. Thomas Granby, jr., was just fourteen. He thought he knew every thing.

"Seein' ain't drivin', Thomas. I've seen 'em build a bridge. Well, I ain't no bridge builder." Tom sullenly affirmed, though that he "knew" he "knew." In the dark depths of his soul, he resolved that the next time Uncle Jeremiah came in his two-horse pug, he would settle that point.

And Tom had his wish. Soon granby seemed to be retreating. Her bright spectacles faded away, while her head-dress, with its knots and bows, the features of her face, the knitting in her hands, seemed to have departed before the spectacles.

"Good!" thought Tom. "Got the room to myself. What's that? Sleighbells." He rose and went to the window.

"Sleighbells' over-head!" he said in surprise. "I must get my cap and go out and see what it means." It was a white winter's night. The moon flooded the earth with a glory in which the snow flashed like sheets of marble.

"Oh dear! I shall hit that sure!" he shrieked. "Grandmother, don't let me be in the kitchen!" There was no help for it. With a tremendous crash, the reindeer team went against the chimney!

RAILROAD ACCIDENTS.

Dead Men Cheaper to the Companies than the Wounded and Maimed. Railroad accidents have, in the eyes of stock speculators, merely a commercial aspect.

A HISTORY OF DOLLS.

They Were Made Many Centuries Ago—The Japanese "Feast of Dolls"—German Dolls.

Dolls are by no means a modern invention. Dolls of baked clay, of wood and of other things have been found in Egypt in tombs, where they have lain buried since before the time of Christ.

In Japan, children have every year what is called a "feast of dolls." This is held only on one day of the year, at which time all the dolls that have belonged to the family are brought out from the safe places where they are usually kept and put upon tables with many kinds of playthings.

A young rat once fell into a pile of pig's food. Six of its older mates, after taking counsel together, hit on a plan of rescue which they put into force in spite of human spectators.

A Rat Tale.

The former got there first, and was half way across when the Michigan Central engine plunged right into the center of the train load of human freight.

He Deserved the Prize.

In the north of England, recently, there was a "parrot-show," at which a prize was offered for the best talker. There were scores of birds in the room.

KISSING THE BOOK.

What Originated the Custom of Kissing the Bible in Taking an Oath.

The idea on which oaths, or adjurations, was founded was that the unseen powers or deities would always punish a falsehood if their attention were called to it.

WADING BIRDS.

Habits of the Heron, Stork, Crane, and the Smaller Waders.

From the long neck and the long naked legs of the heron we may form a pretty good idea of what to expect of all wading birds, no matter how much they may differ in size.

Heron are found in all parts of the world, and they form one of the greatest ornaments of our Southern marshes and streams.

A GREAT DIFFERENCE.

The English Reform of the Civil Service as Compared with That of the United States.

The absurd and dishonest manner in which Mr. Blaine following the correspondence of the New York Tribune, has tried to misrepresent the purpose and nature of the investigation into the English civil service has had one good effect.

CONCERNING CARPETS.

Suggestions Relating to the Selection of Satisfactory Floor-Coverings.

In regard to the color of carpets the following rule may be laid down: For drawing-rooms, parlors and bed-rooms, while light and glaring hues should be avoided, we may nevertheless allow ourselves a liberal sprinkling of crimson, dead gold, russet brown and all the beautiful tints that nature distributes through the landscape in the autumn days.

Among the smaller waders, those of our pretty little shore birds, whose quick movements are so interesting to watch. Small flocks of these little birds on the beach may be seen running out eagerly after a retreating wave, snatching up tiny fishes and crabs, and hurrying to gather as many of these dainties as possible before the next wave comes in.

GUOULISH GLEE.

A Newspaper Organ Twists the President's Kindly Tribute to the Memory of His Predecessor in Office Into an Unconscious Indorsement of the Republican Party.

The warm expressions of esteem and admiration for the late President Arthur which have appeared in Democratic and Republican newspapers alike, or have fallen from the lips of preachers and statesmen, without regard to politics, testify to the broad, generous, kindly spirit that fills the American heart in the presence of death.

PRESS ITEMS.

The solemn silence of the Blaine organs over the rhetorical beauties of Senator Edmunds' delayed letter gives us pain.

Senator Logan made the statement that Blaine is running the politics of the whole country.

Blaine organs are so active in searching out reasons why American shipbuilders should not compete for contracts for naval vessels that the skeptical might conclude they would rather let the work go to foreign labor than have a Democratic Administration earn the credit of giving remunerative employment to American skill and energy.

The intimation that Mr. Blaine is "managing" or can manage the political labor movement in this city, or in Boston, is equally belittling and unjust to the earnest and independent men who are its inspiration.

AMONG THE ORANGE TREES OF VERMONT.

One More than Four Centuries Old, Which was Planted by Pagan of Castile, Queen of Charles III.

The beautiful ibis inhabits all warm countries. One species, the wood ibis, has gained for itself the reputation of being very greedy, and not without good cause.

AMONG THE ORANGE TREES OF VERMONT.

One more than four centuries old, which was planted by Pagan of Castile, Queen of Charles III. Among the orange trees of Vermont, one more than four centuries old, which was planted by Pagan of Castile, Queen of Charles III.

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