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Santa Claus' Assistants

Ernest Vincent Wright

Did you ever wonder, children dear,
How Santa always knows
Just what to bring you Christmas Eve?
Did you for once suppose
He comes around throughout the year
To watch the girls and boys
And find out what they want the most
In the way of dolls and toys?

Ah, no indeed! Old Santa is
A very busy elf,
And has no time to go around
And find out for himself;
And so he sends his son—what's that?
You think that isn't true?
Oh, yes! He has a little son,
And a little daughter too!

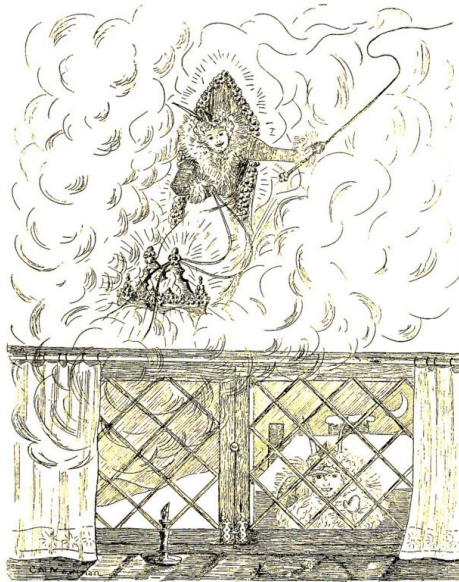
This little son, when Christmas time
Draws nearer, day by day,
Goes driving all around the world
In a tiny golden sleigh.
'Tis drawn by twenty wee white mice;
And, scampering o'er the ground,
They stop at every chamber where
A good boy's to be found.



And then young Santie skips about
And peeps in every nook
Where toys are kept; and scans them all,
Each top, ball, bat, or book;
Examines all the sleds and skates,
And when one's worn or old
He writes it down on a crystal slate
With a pencil made of gold.

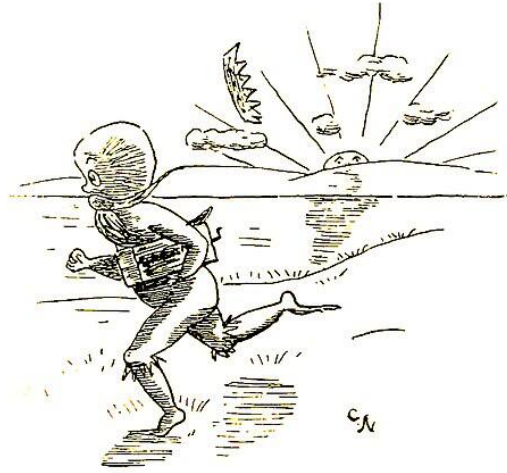
Then back he drives to Santa Claus
At the greatest rate of speed,
And tells what toys these boys have got
And what he thinks they need.
So Santa's workmen make the things,
And pack them in his sleigh,
All ready for his midnight ride
On the eve of Christmas Day.

But Santa's daughter! My! oh, my!
How she does travel round!
From north to south or east to west,
Where good little girls are found.
Her sleigh is made of glistening frost,
And whew! How she does go!
For she drives a hundred whirling flakes
Of the purest, whitest snow.



She visits rooms of little girls,
And hunts around to see
If she'd better order another doll
To hang on the Christmas-tree.
She rummages through the bureau drawers,
The closets, and everywhere,
To see what things like gloves and lace,
Or trinkets, are needed there.

So, children, bear this fact in mind,
That Santa Claus has spies
Who watch you all, throughout the year,
With sharp, all-seeing eyes;
And if you're naughty, those who drive
The snowflakes and the mice
Will simply peep inside your room
And scoot off in a trice!



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