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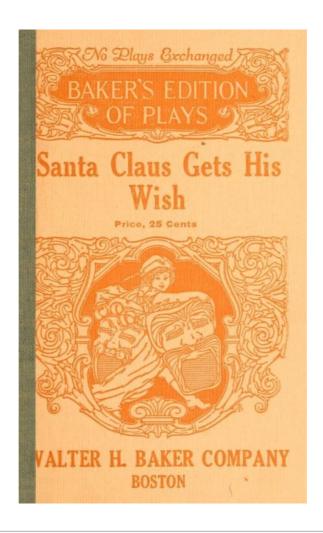
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# Santa Claus Gets His Wish

Price, 25 Cents

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BAKER, Hamilton Place, Boston, Mass.

Santa Claus Gets His Wish

#### By BLANCHE PROCTOR FISHER Author of "Finding the Mayflowers"



#### BOSTON WALTER H. BAKER COMPANY 1921

#### Santa Claus Gets His Wish

A Play for Children

### **CHARACTERS**

FIRST IMP.
SECOND IMP.
SANTA CLAUS.
SAND-MAN.
WISH-BONE.
LOLLIPOP.
ICE-CREAM CONE.
LITTLE GIRL.



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### SUGGESTIONS FOR CHARACTERS

IMPS. In red sweaters and red masks covering the head, with a little peak over each ear.

Sand-Man. In gray tunic and gray pointed cap.

Wish-Bone. Is a slender boy holding his arms close to his body and walking stiffly with legs spread far apart.

LOLLIPOP. A very slender boy with his head wrapped loosely in red tissue-paper.

 $\label{localized} \mbox{\sc Ice-Cream Cone. A little boy encased in a cornucopia of heavy wrapping-paper with some soft white material showing at the top about his face.}$ 

# Santa Claus Gets His Wish

[Pg 5]

front of the stage at the left, and near the front at the right is a table.

(As the curtain rises the two Imps are seated on the floor, each with a section of harness, the bells of which they are industriously polishing.)

 $\ensuremath{\mathsf{First}}$   $\ensuremath{\mathsf{IMP}}.$  You must hurry. It's almost seven o'clock, and soon it will be time to harness the reindeer.

Second Imp. I am hurrying as fast as I can. I shall get through now before you do, and my bells will be just as bright as yours. It seems to me that the more I shine them the sweeter their tone is.

FIRST IMP. I am polishing mine so bright that when Santa Claus drives through the sky all the people will look up and think they see stars twinkling overhead.

Second Imp. And I make my bells so bright that when they chime the children will hear them in their sleep and dream they are listening to birds singing in the springtime.

FIRST IMP (*scornfully*). What nonsense! How many children to-night do you suppose are dreaming of birds and springtime?

SECOND IMP. Why shouldn't they?

First Imp. Why should they,—when there are so many other things to dream of at Christmas time? If you don't believe me, we'll leave it to Santa Claus. Here he comes now. Hooray!

(As Santa Claus enters from L. of stage the Imps run to meet him, and holding an end of the harness in each hand form a ring and dance around him in time to the jingling of the bells.)

Santa Claus. Hold on! Hold on there! When a fellow gets to be my age his head isn't steady enough to stand any such merry-go-'round as this. Come on now, let's see if you've done your work properly and polished the bells as I told you.

(He sits down in his big armchair and the Imps climb upon his lap.)

First Imp. I said I would make my bells so bright that people would think they were twinkling stars.

Second Imp. And I said——

FIRST IMP (*interrupting*). Never mind what *you* said. There wasn't any sense to that. Santa Claus, tell us, what do children dream about at Christmas time?

Santa Claus. What do children dream about? Why, they dream about me, of course.

BOTH IMPS (each shaking a finger at him). O-ho!

Santa Claus. There! I suppose you think I'm a conceited old chap, but if you don't believe me we'll ask the Sand-Man. (*The* Sand-Man *enters*, L. *door*, *carrying a big bag over his shoulder*, *and a small bag in his hand*.) Just starting off on your rounds, I see. Have you a heavy load to-night?

Sand-Man. The sand-bag is heavy, but the dream-bag is light. There isn't much to a dream, you know;—just a whiff of fairy powder wrapped up in a bit of mist. But they do the trick all the same, —and how the children love them.

Santa Claus. And what are these dreams which the children love? Are any of them about me?

Sand-Man. Why, no, Santa. Of course they *used* to be, but times have changed, you see. Children nowadays have so many interests.

Santa Claus. But I thought perhaps just at Christmas time——

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[Pg 6]

Sand-Man. Yes, I know, I know. Yet, after all, dreams are really a matter of habit. It's the things which the children enjoy all through the year that stay in their minds after they fall asleep.

Santa Claus. Well, what are these things which the children enjoy all the year and dream about every night?

Sand-Man. Ah! That would be telling. Mustn't give away the secrets of the trade, you know. Well, I'm off. See you later.

[Exit, R. door.

Santa Claus (to the Imps). Run out with him, boys, and help him down the steps with his bags. (Exeunt Imps.) H'm! I didn't find out what I wanted to, did I? I wish I could, though (Yawning.), I wish I could; but what's the old saying: "If wishes were horses, beggars might ride"? Holloa! Who's this coming? (The Wish-Bone enters, R. door.) How strangely he walks,—must be kind o' stiff in his joints, or else he hasn't any joints at all. Good-evening, friend, who might you be?

Wish-Bone (in a melancholy tone). My name is Wish-Bone. I am all that's left of the Thanksgiving turkey.

Santa Claus (sympathetically). I say, now, that's rather a lonely fate for you; but cheer up, it might

be worse.

Wish-Bone (in the same melancholy tone). It will be worse. I expect to be laid up with a broken leg most any day now.

Santa Claus. Broken leg? Why, bless my stars, man, what makes you expect anything like that to happen?

Wish-Bone. It always happens to us wish-bones; runs in the family. Sometimes it's both legs that are broken, and the head flies off; and that's the greatest pity of all, for then there isn't any one gets their wish.

Santa Claus. Is your business something like mine, then; giving people whatever they wish?

Wish-Bone. N-no,-not exactly *giving* it,—just promising it. But it all amounts to the same thing. Once make people believe they'll get what they wish for, and somehow it always comes in the end.

Santa Claus. Then perhaps you can help me out. My great wish just at present is to know what the like the children are dreaming about to-night.

Wish-Bone. Sorry to refuse you, but I'm not ready for business yet. Don't feel quite equal to it. Wait until I get a little more snap in me, and then I'll call around again. Good-night.

[Exit Wish-Bone, R. door.

Santa Claus. He's about the gloomiest creature I ever saw; and yet he struck sort of a hopeful note when he said people would get what they wished for if they only believed it. I wonder how that would work out in my case. (*The* Sand-Man *enters*, R. *door*.) Ah! here comes the Sand-Man back again. Well, how did things go with you to-night? Is your sand-bag empty?

Sand-Man. Almost. It takes a powerful lot of sand to make the children sleepy the night before Christmas.

Santa Claus. And are the dreams all gone too?

Sand-Man. Not quite. There was one little girl who refused to go to bed at all, because she is so anxious to see Santa Claus when he comes. I had two nice dreams picked out for her but I couldn't use them. Well, my evening's work is over. (*Dropping his bags on the table.*) I suppose you'll be starting soon now.

Santa Claus. Pretty soon. But what you told me about that little girl has put me on my guard. It would never do to let her see me while I am filling her stocking. So I think I'll sit down by the fire and wait for a few minutes. She won't be able to keep awake very long. If you see my Imps around anywhere, send them along in here. Lazy little scamps! It's time they were helping me to pack up the toys. (As the Sand-Man goes out, L. door, Santa Claus draws his chair up to the fireplace, where he sits musing with his eyes half-closed; yawning.) I—wish—I—could—know—what the children are dreaming about to-night.

(The two Imps enter, L. door, and tiptoe forward cautiously.)

First Imp (whispers). Is Santa Claus asleep?

Second Imp. No, he's only thinking. But we could make him go to sleep if we wanted to. Here's the Sand-Man's bag, and it isn't quite empty. Wouldn't it be fun to drop some sand in Santa's eyes!

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FIRST IMP. Hush! He'll hear you.

(They creep up behind Santa Claus and toss the sand in his face. He yawns again.)

 $\ensuremath{\mathsf{SECOND}}$   $\ensuremath{\mathsf{IMP}}.$  I think he's almost asleep now. Here are two dreams in the dream-bag. Let's open them.

First Imp. Look out there, clumsy, you're spilling them!

Second Imp. They were so light I couldn't help it. The fairy powder is flying all around the room. It's filling the air so that I can't see. Are you afraid?

FIRST IMP. Of course not. There's nothing to be afraid of. Listen! Some one is coming.

(As the light grows dim, soft, slow music is heard, and the Lollipop appears at the R. of the stage and moves slowly across to the L., in time to the music.)

Second Imp (*whispering*). That looks like one of those red-headed lollipops that Santa Claus made to put in the children's stockings. Do you s'pose that one has escaped from the box?

First Imp. I don't think it's a real lollipop. Maybe it's only a dream. See! It's vanishing away.

(The Lollipop disappears. Santa Claus stirs in his sleep, while the music, slightly louder, changes to a livelier tune. The Ice-Cream Cone enters through the R. door and crosses the stage dancing a jig.)

SECOND IMP. Oh, how funny! What is it?

First Imp. That is an ice-cream cone. All children love to eat them.

Second Imp. Why, I could make one of those. If I took a tin trumpet from Santa Claus's toy-shop and piled it full of snow 'twould be just the same thing, wouldn't it?

First Imp. No-for even if you were to eat the snow all up, the tin trumpet would still be left in your hand. But there's never anything left of an ice-cream cone. Didn't you notice how quickly [Pg 10] this one went, almost as soon as it came?

Second Imp. But that is because it was only a dream.

FIRST IMP. That hasn't anything to do with it. A real ice-cream cone wouldn't have lasted much longer. Sh! Who's coming now? (As the Ice-Cream Cone disappears the music stops, and the light grows bright again. The Little Girl enters at the R. She is wrapped in a muffler and carries a lighted lantern. Coming toward the front of the stage she stops in terror on seeing the IMPS.) Don't be frightened, little girl. We're only Santa Claus's imps. We won't hurt you.

LITTLE GIRL. Then this really is where Santa Claus lives, and I didn't make a mistake in the place? Please tell me, is Santa Claus at home? Oh, there he is asleep by the fire. (She puts her lantern on the floor and goes up to Santa Claus! Dear Santa Claus! Please wake up. It's getting very late.

Santa Claus (rubbing his eyes). Why, bless my soul! I must have been napping. And who are you, my dear?

Little Girl. I'm the little girl who wouldn't go to bed to-night, for I wanted to sit up to see Santa Claus. But I waited and waited, and you didn't come. Oh, Santa Claus, don't say that you're not coming at all. The children would be so disappointed.

Santa Claus. The children are happy. They are having sweet dreams. Ah! I know now what they're dreaming about. Lollipops and ice-cream cones. They're not thinking much about poor old Santa Claus.

LITTLE GIRL. Oh, but Santa Claus, we do think about you very often. We love you much more than we do the lollipops and the ice-cream cones, for they just melt away and don't last at all.

Santa Claus. And what makes you think that I would last any longer?

LITTLE GIRL. Well, you know, Santa, you've already lasted a great many years.

Santa Claus. Kind of a slam on my age, that is. But it's true, every word of it. I have lasted a great [Pg 11] many years, and the best part of it is, I'm good for as many years more. So if the children are expecting me, we'd better hurry and be off. (To the IMPS.) Bring along your harness there, boys; it's time to hitch up the reindeer. Wrap your muffler around you tight, little girl. We're going to have a cold ride. Here, isn't this your lantern?

LITTLE GIRL. I shan't need the light of the lantern now, for the bells on your harness are so bright they shine like stars.

First Imp. That's exactly what I said when I was cleaning them.

Second Imp. And I said that their tones were so clear that the children would believe they were the birds singing in the springtime. I was right too, wasn't I?

LITTLE GIRL. No, you foolish Imp. When the children hear Santa Claus's sleigh-bells ringing they will smile in their sleep and think that they are listening to the music of the Christmas carols.

(As the curtain falls the IMPS jingle the bells, while behind the scenes voices sing "Carol, brothers, carol," or some other appropriate Christmas song.)

**CURTAIN** 

# THE CONJURER

A Dramatic Mystery in Three Acts

By Mansfield Scott Author of "The Submarine Shell," "The Air-Spy," etc.

Eight male, four female characters. Costumes, modern; scenery, two easy interiors. Plays a full evening. Royalty for amateur performance, \$10.00 for the first and \$5.00 each for subsequent performances by the same company. Free for school performance. George Clifford, incapacitated for service at the front, employs his great talents as a conjurer to raise money for the soldiers. He is utilized by Inspector Steele, of the U.S. Secret Service, in a plan to discover certain foreign spies. The plan goes wrong and involves seven persons in suspicion of a serious crime. Clifford's

clever unravelling of this tangled skein constitutes the thrilling plot of this play, the interest of which is curiously like that of the popular "Thirteenth Chair." This is not a "war-play" save in a very remote and indirect way, but a clever detective story of absorbing interest. Strongly recommended.

Price, 35 cents

#### **CHARACTERS**

Inspector Malcome Steele.
George Clifford.
Captain Frank Drummond Gleason.
Lieutenant Hamilton Warwick.
Colonel Willard Anderson.

Driscoll Wells.
Doctor Gordon Peak.
Detective White.
Marion Anderson.
Edith Anderson.
Ellen Gleason.
Dorothy Elmstrom.

#### **SYNOPSIS**

Act I.—The home of Colonel Anderson (Friday evening).

Act II.—The office of Inspector Steele (Saturday afternoon).

Act III.—The same as Act II (Saturday evening).

#### THE OTHER VOICE

A Play in One Act

By S. vK. Fairbanks

Three voices, preferably male, are employed in this little novelty which is intended to be presented upon a dark stage upon which nothing is actually visible save starlight. It was originally produced at Workshop 47, Cambridge, where its effective distillation of the essential oil of tragedy was curiously successful. An admirable item for any programme seeking variety of material and effect. Naturally no costumes nor scenery are required, save a drop carrying stars and possibly a city sky-line. Plays ten minutes only; royalty, \$5.00.

Price, 25 cents

### A COUPLE OF MILLION

An American Comedy in Four Acts

By Walter Ben Hare

Author of "Professor Pepp," "Much Ado About Betty," "The Hoodoo," "The Dutch Detective," etc.

Six males, five females. Costumes, modern; scenery, two interiors and an exterior. Plays a full evening. Royalty, ten dollars (\$10.00) for each performance. A more ambitious play by this popular author in the same successful vein as his previous offerings. Bemis Bennington is left two million dollars by his uncle on condition that he shall live for one year in a town of less than five thousand inhabitants and during that period marry and earn without other assistance than his own industry and ability the sum of five thousand dollars. Failing to accomplish this the money goes to one Professor Noah Jabb. This is done despite the energetic opposition of Jabb, who puts up a very interesting fight. A capital play that can be strongly recommended. Plenty of good comedy and a great variety of good parts, full of opportunity.

Price, 35 cents

### **CHARACTERS**

BEMIS BENNINGTON.
HON. JEREMY WISE.
JAMES PATRICK BURNS, "Stubby."
PROFESSOR NOAH JABB.
BEVERLY LOMAN.
SOUIRE PIPER.

FAY FAIRBANKS.
MRS. CLARICE COURTENAY.
GENEVIEVE McGULLY.
SAMMIE BELL PORTER.
PINK.

Several Hill-Billies.

#### **SYNOPSIS**

Act I.—The law office of Hon. Jeremy Wise, New York City. A morning in July.

Act II.—The exterior of the court-house, Opaloopa, Alabama. An afternoon in October.

Act III.—Same as Act II. The next afternoon.

ACT IV.—Mrs. Courtenay's sitting-room, Opaloopa, Alabama. A night in April.

#### **ISOSCELES**

A Play in One Act

By Walter Ben Hare

Two male, one female characters. Costumes, modern; scene, an interior. Plays twenty minutes. Royalty \$2.50 for each performance. An admirable little travesty of the conventional emotional recipe calling for husband, wife and lover. Played in the proper spirit of burlesque it is howlingly funny. Strongly recommended for the semi-professional uses of schools of acting. A capital bit for a benefit or exhibition programme, offering a decided novelty.

Price, 25 cents

#### NO TRESPASSING

A Play in Three Acts

By Evelyn Gray Whiting

Six males, five females. Costumes, modern; scenery, a single easy interior. Plays two hours. Free of royalty. Lisle Irving, a lively "city girl," goes down into the country on a vacation and to get rid of a husband of her father's choice whom she has never seen, and runs into the very man living there under another name. He meets her by accident and takes her to be one of a pair of twins who have been living at the farmhouse. She discovers his mistake and in the character of both twins in alternation gives him the time of his life, incidentally falling in love with him. An unusual abundance of good comedy characters, including one—Bill Meader—of great originality and humor, sure to make a big hit. Strongly recommended.

Price, 35 cents

#### **CHARACTERS**

BILL MEADER, "on the town."

JIM MEADER, son of Bill, a boy of sixteen to eighteen.

MR. PALMER, a New England farmer.

CLEVELAND TOWER, a young city fellow, guest of Raynor.

HERBERT EDMAND RAYNOR, a young Englishman.

MR. IRVING, father of Lisle.

LISLE IRVING, a girl of seventeen.

PEGGY PALMER, a girl of eighteen or twenty.

MRS. PALMER, Peggy's mother.

BARBARA PALMER, a girl of ten or twelve years.

ALMEDA MEADER, a girl about Barbara's age.

#### THE GIRL UP-STAIRS

A Comedy in Two Acts

By Gladys Ruth Bridgham

Seven females. Costumes, modern; scenery, an interior. Plays an hour. Daisy Jordan, crazy to get "on the stage," comes to New York and starves there in a lodging house waiting for her chance. She schemes to get an interview with Cicely Denver, a popular actress, to act before her, but the result is not at all what she intended. A capital play with strong and ingenious opportunities for good acting. Recommended.

Price, 25 cents

# TICKETS, PLEASE!

A Comedy in One Act

By Irving Dale

Four females. Costumes, modern and fashionable; scenery, an interior, not important. Plays twenty minutes. Mignon asks Charlotte to get the theatre tickets, Charlotte asks Maude to get them, Maude hands over three to Linda, who leaves two at Mignon's house after she has left home. But they get to the theatre somehow. Bright, funny and characteristic. Strongly recommended.

Price, 25 cents

#### HITTY'S SERVICE FLAG

A Comedy in Two Acts

By Gladys Ruth Bridgham

Eleven female characters. Costumes, modern; scenery, an interior. Plays an hour and a quarter. Hitty, a patriotic spinster, quite alone in the world, nevertheless hangs up a service flag in her window without any right to do so, and opens a Tea Room for the benefit of the Red Cross. She gives shelter to Stella Hassy under circumstances that close other doors against her, and offers refuge to Marjorie Winslow and her little daughter, whose father in France finally gives her the right to the flag. A strong dramatic presentation of a lovable character and an ideal patriotism. Strongly recommended, especially for women's clubs.

Price, 25 cents

#### **CHARACTERS**

Mehitable Judson, aged 70.

Luella Perkins, aged 40.

Stasia Brown, aged 40.

Mildred Emerson, aged 16.

Marjorie Winslow, aged 25.

Barbara Winslow, her daughter, aged 6.

Stella Hassy, aged 25, but claims to be younger.

Mrs. Irving Winslow, aged 45.

Marion Winslow, her daughter, aged 20.

Mrs. Esterbrook, aged 45.

Mrs. Cobb, anywhere from 40 to 60.

### THE KNITTING CLUB MEETS

A Comedy in One Act

By Helen Sherman Griffith

Nine female characters. Costumes, modern; scenery, an interior. Plays half an hour. Eleanor will not forego luxuries nor in other ways "do her bit," putting herself before her country; but when her old enemy, Jane Rivers, comes to the Knitting Club straight from France to tell the story of her experiences, she is moved to forget her quarrel and leads them all in her sacrifices to the cause. An admirably stimulating piece, ending with a "melting pot" to which the audience may also be asked to contribute. Urged as a decided novelty in patriotic plays.

Price, 25 cents

### **GETTING THE RANGE**

A Comedy in One Act

By Helen Sherman Griffith

Eight female characters. Costumes, modern; scenery, an exterior. Well suited for out of door performances. Plays an hour and a quarter. Information of value to the enemy somehow leaks out from a frontier town and the leak cannot be found or stopped. But Captain Brooke, of the Secret Service, finally locates the offender amid a maze of false clues, in the person of a washerwoman

Price, 25 cents

# **Plays for Junior High Schools**

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A Box of Monkeys	2	3	11/4	п	25c
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The Deacon's Second Wife	6	6	2	п	35c
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Local and Long Distance	1	6	1/2	п	25c
The Original Two Bits	1	7	1/2	п	25c
An Outsider		7	1/2	п	25c
Oysters		6	1/2	п	25c
A Pan of Fudge		6	1/2	п	25c
A Peck of Trouble		5	1/2	п	
A Precious Pickle		3 7	72 1/ <sub>2</sub>	п	25c
	7	2	$\frac{72}{1}$	п	25C
The First National Boot	7 1.4	۷		п	25c
His Father's Son	14		13/4	11	35c
The Turn In the Road	9		$\frac{1\frac{1}{2}}{3}$	11	25c
A Half Back's Interference	10	2	3/ <sub>4</sub>	11	25c
The Revolving Wedge	5 11	3	1	11	25c
Mose	11	10	$1\frac{1}{2}$		25c

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	<i>Males Fe</i>					
Camp Fidelity Girls		11		nrs.	35c	None
Anita's Trial		11	2		35c	"
The Farmerette		7	2		35c	
Behind the Scenes		12	$1\frac{1}{2}$	11	35c	
The Camp Fire Girls		15	2	11	35c	
A Case for Sherlock Holmes		10	$1\frac{1}{2}$		35c	
The House In Laurel Lane		6	1½		25c	
Her First Assignment		10	1		25c	
I Grant You Three Wishes		14	1/2		25c	
Joint Owners in Spain		4	1/2		35c	\$5.00
Marrying Money		4	1/2		25c	None
The Original Two Bits		7	1/2		25c	"
The Over-Alls Club		10	1/2	"	25c	"
Leave it to Polly		11	1½	"	35c	"
The Rev. Peter Brice, Bachelor		7	1/2		25c	
Miss Fearless & Co.		10	2		35c	
A Modern Cinderella		16	1½		35c	
Theodore, Jr.		7	1/2		25c	
Rebecca's Triumph		16	2		35c	
Aboard a Slow Train In Mizzoury	-	14	$2\frac{1}{2}$	"	35c	"
Twelve Old Maids		15	1	"	25c	"
An Awkward Squad	8		1/4	"	25c	"
The Blow-Up of Algernon Blow	8		1/2	"	25c	II .
The Boy Scouts	20		2	"	35c	II .
A Close Shave	6		$\frac{1}{2}$	"	25c	II .
The First National Boot	7	2	1	"	25c	II .
A Half-Back's Interference	10		$\frac{3}{4}$	"	25c	II .
His Father's Son	14		$1\frac{3}{4}$	"	35c	II .
The Man With the Nose	8		$\frac{3}{4}$	"	25c	II .
On the Quiet	12		$1\frac{1}{2}$	"	35c	"
The People's Money	11		$1\frac{3}{4}$	"	25c	"
A Regular Rah! Rah! Boy	14		$1\frac{3}{4}$	"	35c	II .
A Regular Scream	11		$1\frac{3}{4}$	"	35c	"
Schmerecase in School	9		1	11	25c	"
The Scoutmaster	10		2	"	35c	"
The Tramps' Convention	17		$1\frac{1}{2}$	"	25c	II
The Turn in the Road	9		$1\frac{1}{2}$	"	25c	II .
Wanted—a Pitcher	11		$\frac{1}{2}$	Ш	25c	11
What They Did for Jenkins	14		2	Ш	25c	II
Aunt Jerusha's Quilting Party	4	12	$1\frac{1}{4}$	Ш	25c	11
The District School at Blueberry Corners	12	17	1	Ш	25c	II
The Emigrants' Party	24	10	1	п	25c	II .
Miss Prim's Kindergarten	10	11	$1\frac{1}{2}$	п	25c	II .
A Pageant of History	Any nun	nber	2	п	35c	II .
The Revel of the Year	П	ш	$\frac{3}{4}$	п	25c	п
Scenes in the Union Depot	II	п	1	ш	25c	II
Taking the Census in Bingville	14	8	$1\frac{1}{2}$	п	25c	II
The Village Post-Office	22	20	2	п	35c	II
O'Keefe's Circuit	12	8	1½	"	35c	II

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# **Transcriber's Notes**

Obvious printer's errors have been repaired, other inconsistent spellings have been kept including inconsistent use of hyphen (e.g. "Air-Spy" and "Air Spy").

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