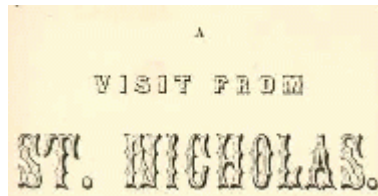
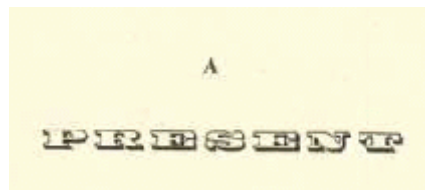




**Santa Claus's Visit.**



**A Visit From St. Nicholas.**



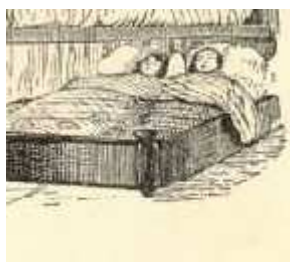
**A Present for Good Little Boys and Girls.**

The Night Before Christmas

By  
Clement Moore

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**A VISIT FROM ST. NICHOLAS.**



## VISIT FROM SANTA CLAUS.

- 1: 'Twas the night before Christmas, when all through the house
  - 2: Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse;
  - 3: The stockings were hung by the chimney with care,
  - 4: In hopes that St. Nicholas soon would be there;
  - 5: The children were nestled all snug in their beds,
  - 6: While visions of sugar-plums danced in their heads;
  - 7: And Mamma in her 'kerchief, and I in my cap,
  - 8: Had just settled our brains for a long winter's nap;
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- 9: When out on the lawn there arose such a clatter,
- 10: I sprang from the bed to see what was the matter.
- 11: Away to the window I flew like a flash,
- 12: Tore open the shutters and threw up the sash.
- 13: The moon on the breast of the new-fallen snow,
- 14: Gave the lustre of mid-day to objects below,
- 15: When, what to my wondering eyes should appear,

16: But a miniature sleigh, and eight tiny rein-deer,  
17: With a little old driver, so lively and quick,  
18: I knew in a moment it must be St. Nick.  
19: More rapid than eagles his coursers they came,  
20: And he whistled, and shouted, and called them by name;

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21: "Now, *Dasher!* now, *Dancer!* now, *Prancer* and *Vixen!*  
22: On, *Comet!* on, *Cupid!* on, *Donder* and *Blitzen!*  
23: To the top of the porch! to the top of the wall!  
24: Now dash away! dash away! dash away all!"  
25: As dry leaves that before the wild hurricane fly,  
26: When they meet with an obstacle, mount to the sky;  
27: So up to the house-top the coursers they flew,  
28: With the sleigh full of Toys, and St. Nicholas too.  
29: And then, in a twinkling, I heard on the roof,  
30: The prancing and pawing of each little hoof --

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31: As I drew in my head, and was turning around,  
32: Down the chimney St. Nicholas came with a bound.

33: He was dressed all in fur, from his head to his foot,  
34: And his clothes were all tarnished with ashes and soot;  
35: A bundle of Toys he had flung on his back,  
36: And he look'd like a pedlar just opening his pack.  
37: His eyes -- how they twinkled! his dimples how merry!  
38: His cheeks were like roses, his nose like a cherry!  
39: His droll little mouth was drawn up like a bow,  
40: And the beard of his chin was as white as the snow;

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41: The stump of a pipe he held tight in his teeth,  
42: And the smoke it encircled his head like a wreath;  
43: He had a broad face and a little round belly,  
44: That shook when he laughed, like a bowlfull of jelly.  
45: He was chubby and plump, a right jolly old elf,  
46: And I laughed when I saw him, in spite of myself;  
47: A wink of his eye and a twist of his head,  
48: Soon gave me to know I had nothing to dread;  
49: He spoke not a word, but went straight to his work,  
50: And fill'd all the stockings; then turned with a jerk,

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51: And laying his finger aside of his nose,  
52: And giving a nod, up the chimney he rose;  
53: He sprang to his sleigh, to his team gave a whistle,  
54: And away they all flew like the down of a thistle.  
55: But I heard him exclaim, ere he drove out of sight,  
56: "Happy Christmas to all, and to all a good night."

