

DEC. HATH XXXI DAYS
Peace on earth and good will
toward men is the proper
thing for this month.



ANDOVER NEWS



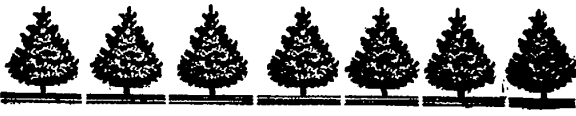
DECEMBER 21, 1934
Sun rises 7:44 a.m. Sets 4:44 p.m.
Day's length 9 Hours.
Moon rises 5:27 a.m.

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Christmas



Is There a Santa Claus?

New York Sun, Sept. 17, 1897

The News reprints this famous editorial from the New York Sun as voicing its own idea of the Santa belief:

Dear Editor: I am eight years old. Some of my little friends say there is no Santa Claus. Papa says "If you see it in the Sun, it's so." Please tell me the truth—is there a Santa Claus?
—VIRGINIA O'HANLON.

115 West Ninety-fifth Street:
We take pleasure in answering at once and thus prominently the communication below expressing at the same time our great gratitude that its faithful author is numbered among the friends of The Sun.
Virginia, your little friends are wrong. They have been affected by the skepticism of a skeptical age. They do not believe except they see. They think that nothing can be which is not comprehensible by their little minds. All minds, Virginia, whether they be men's or children's are little. In this great universe of ours man is a mere insect, an ant in his intellect, as compared with the boundless world about him, as measured by the intelligence capable of grasping the whole of truth and knowledge.

Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus. He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion and you know that they abound and give to your life its beauty and joy. Alas, how dreary would be the world if there was no Santa Claus. It would be as dreary if there were no Virginia's. There would be no child-like faith, no poetry, no romance to make tolerable this existence. We should have nothing except in sense and sight. The eternal light with which childhood fills the world would be extinguished.

Not believe in Santa Claus? You might as well not believe in fairies! You might get your father to hire men to watch in all the chimneys on Christmas Eve to catch Santa Claus coming down—what would that prove? Nobody sees Santa Claus, but that is no sign there is no Santa Claus. The most real things in the world are those that neither children nor men can see. Did you ever see fairies dancing on the lawn? Of course not—but that's no proof that they are not there. Nobody can conceive or imagine all the wonders that are unseen and unseeable in the world.

You may tear apart the baby's rattle and see what makes the noise inside, but there is a veil covering the unseen world which not the strongest man nor even the united strength of all the strongest men that ever lived could tear apart. Only faith, fancy, poetry, love, romance, can push aside that curtain and view and picture the supernal beauty and glory beyond. Is it all real? Oh, Virginia, in all this world there is nothing else real and abiding.

No Santa Claus? Thank God, he lives and lives forever. A thousand years from now, Virginia—may ten times ten thousand years from now he will continue to make glad the heart of childhood.

