Santa Claus by Anonymous 1907

He comes in the night! He comes in the night!  
He softly, silently comes;  
While the little brown heads on the pillows so white  
Are dreaming of bugles and drums.  
He cuts through the snow like a ship through the foam,  
While the white flakes around him whirl;  
Who tells him I know not, but he findeth the home  
Of each good little boy and girl.

His sleigh it is long, and deep, and wide;  
It will carry a host of things,  
While dozens of drums hang over the side,  
With the sticks sticking under the strings:  
And yet not the sound of a drum is heard,  
Not a bugle blast is blown,  
As he mounts to the chimney-top like a bird,  
And drops to the hearth like a stone.

The little red stockings he silently fills,  
Till the stockings will hold no more;  
The bright little sleds for the great snow hills  
Are quickly set down on the floor.  
Then Santa Claus mounts to the roof like a bird,  
And glides to his seat in the sleigh;  
Not the sound of a bugle or drum is heard  
As he noiselessly gallops away.

He rides to the East, and he rides to the West,  
Of his goodies he touches not one;  
He eateth the crumbs of the Christmas feast  
When the dear little folks are done.  
Old Santa Claus doeth all that he can;  
This beautiful mission is his;  
Then, children, be good to the little old man,  
When you find who the little man is.

At Christmas by Edgar Albert Guest

A man is at his finest towards the finish of the year;  
He is almost what he should be when the Christmas season is here;  
Then he’s thinking more of others than he’s thought the months before,  
And the laughter of his children is a joy worth toiling for.  
He is less a selfish creature than at any other time;  
When the Christmas spirit rules him he comes close to the sublime.  
  
When it’s Christmas man is bigger and is better in his part;  
He is keener for the service that is prompted by the heart.  
All the petty thoughts and narrow seem to vanish for awhile  
And the true reward he’s seeking is the glory of a smile.  
Then for others he is toiling and somehow it seems to me  
That at Christmas he is almost what God wanted him to be.  
  
If I had to paint a picture of a man I think I’d wait  
Till he’d fought his selfish battles and had put aside his hate.  
I’d not catch him at his labors when his thoughts are all of pelf,  
On the long days and the dreary when he’s striving for himself.  
I’d not take him when he’s sneering, when he’s scornful or depressed,  
But I’d look for him at Christmas when he’s shining at his best.  
  
Man is ever in a struggle and he’s oft misunderstood;  
There are days the worst that’s in him is the master of the good,  
But at Christmas kindness rules him and he puts himself aside  
And his petty hates are vanquished and his heart is opened wide.  
Oh, I don’t know how to say it, but somehow it seems to me  
That at Christmas man is almost what God sent him here to be.