

'Twas the Night Before



_____ holiday
'Twas the night before _____, when all through the _____
Not a creature was stirring, not even a _____;
The _____ were hung by the chimney with care
In hopes that _____ soon would be there;



The children were nestled all snug in their _____,
While visions of _____ in their heads;
And mamma in her kerchief, and I in my cap,
Had just _____ our brains for a _____ winter's nap,

When out on the _____ there arose such a clatter,
I _____ from the _____ to see what was the matter.
Away to the _____ I _____ like a flash,
_____ open the _____ and threw up the sash.



The _____ on the breast of the _____ snow
Gave the luster of mid-day to objects below,
When, what to my _____ eyes should appear,
But a miniature _____, and eight _____

With a _____, so lively and quick,
I knew in a moment it must be _____.
More rapid than _____ his coursers they came,
And he _____, and _____, and called them by name:

"Now, _____! now, _____! now, _____ and Vixen!
On, Comet! on, Cupid! on, Donder and Blitzen!
To the top of the _____! to the top of the wall!
Now dash away! dash away! dash away all!"



As _____ leaves that before the wild hurricane fly,
When they meet with an obstacle, mount to the sky;
So up to the house-top the coursers they flew,
With the sleigh full of _____, and _____ too.

And then, in a twinkling, I heard on the roof
The prancing and pawing of each _____ hoof.
As I drew in my head, and was turning around,
Down the _____ came with a bound.

He was dressed all in _____, from his head to his foot,
And his clothes were all tarnished with ashes and soot;
A bundle of _____ he had flung on his back,
And he looked like a _____ just opening his _____.

His eyes--how they _____! his dimples how merry!
His cheeks were like _____, his nose like a _____!
His _____ was drawn up like a bow,
And the beard of his chin was as white as the snow;

The stump of a _____ he held tight in his _____,
And the smoke it encircled his head like a wreath;
He had a broad face and a little round belly,
That _____ when he _____, like a bowlful of jelly.

He was _____ and _____, a right jolly old elf,
And I _____ when I saw him, in spite of myself;
A wink of his eye and a twist of his head,
Soon gave me to know I had nothing to dread;



He _____ not a _____, but _____ straight to his work,
And filled all the _____; then turned with a jerk,
And laying his finger aside of his nose,
And giving a nod, up the chimney he _____;

He _____ to his sleigh, to his team gave a whistle,
And away they all flew like the down of a thistle.
But I heard him exclaim, ere he _____ out of sight,
"Happy _____ to all, and to all a good-night."