

YULETIDE IN MANILA.

HOW THE AMERICANS CELEBRATED CHRISTMAS IN 1898.

Religious Services in Camp and at the Churches—An Extra Good Dinner for the Eighth Army Corps. Friendly Filipinos Feasted High.

BY W. G. IRWIN, TENTH PENNSYLVANIA VOLUNTEERS.

It is doubtful whether the orient ever before saw an American Christmas, and it is certain that the capital city of the Philippines celebrated its first American Christmas this year of our Lord 1898.

It is also certain that, in spite of the difficulties, the day was rightly celebrated, for American soldiers, especially those engaged in this war, do not do things by halves.

While the men of the Eighth army corps, the army of occupation in Manila, had been looking forward to the Christmas season for a long time, it was not until a week before Christmas that the real preparations for the proper observation of the season in the army were taken.

On Christmas day all business was suspended in Manila, and all observed the day. In the morning there were religious services held in the different commands by the chaplains, and these were largely attended by the soldiers.

Aside from the services held in the several commands of the army, there



FIGURES FANTASTICALLY DRESSED.

was a special service held in the great Cathedral of San Ignatius for the soldiers of the American army. There was a grand solemn high mass and Rev. Father McKinnin of the First California conducted the services.

The principal feature of the day, however, was the dinner, and every command had a change from the plain bill of fare provided by Uncle Sam to something more palatable and appetizing.

Christmas day here in the Philippines could not have been more perfect. The weather was fine. In the morning there were cooling breezes, and later the sun poured its rays straight down.

The natives celebrated Christmas with many queer ceremonies, and with them the joyful Pasco Dias was a great day. The Filipinos know how to enjoy a holiday as do no other people.

Musical was one of the principal features connected with the native observance of the holiday season. There are few people more musically inclined than the Filipinos, and on all occasions music is a principal feature with the natives.

CHILDREN'S COLUMN.

HOW COCO LOST HIS TAIL.

A Little Story About a Bad South American Monkey.

In South America there once lived a young monkey named Coco, who spent his time in playing pranks and even perpetrating cruelties upon his friends and neighbors in the forest.

The birds took turns in perching upon the high branching monkey made his appearance shrill cries of "Look out, here comes Coco!" resounded on all sides.

One afternoon, however, he thought he saw one of the sentinels asleep on the branch of a tree that overhung a stream.

"At last I shall avenge myself!" thought Coco.

He climbed noiselessly to the top of the tree and, hanging by the end of his tail, let himself carefully down to the branch

Menu For Christmas Day. To feed were best at home; From thence the sauce to me is ceremony; Meeting were bare without it. —Shakespeare.

- DINNER. SOUP. Cream of Celery. FISH. Fried Soles, Sauce Tartare. ENTREES. Mushrooms on Toast. ROAST. Wild Turkey, Wild Plum Sauce. Quails in Puree of Chestnuts. SALAD. Lettuce Salad with Small Balls of Cream Cheese. HOT ENTREE. Mince Pie. Plum Pudding in Burning Brandy. DESSERT. Pistache Ice Cream. White Cake. Branded Fruit Fruit and Coffee.

A Child's Query.

When little children travel Across the snowy plain Upon the eve of Christmas Upon a flying train And Santa brings them presents To make them blithely hop, Does he unto their stockings Adown the smokestack pop?



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Curiosities in Wedding Rings.

Among the curiosities of wedding rings it is on record that in the early days rings were made of rushes. Perhaps the most curious material used for rings required on an emergency is the case of one being hurriedly made by cutting it out of the finger of a glove and another cut out of a visiting card.

What Do You Know Of the Boers Or of South Africa?

Whether you know little or much you will enjoy reading Olive Schreiner's great masterpiece of fiction, "The Story of An African Farm."

It Will Be Published in This Paper

It deals with the personal characteristics, the peculiarities and the home life of the Boer people. It must be admitted that these are profitable studies just at this time.

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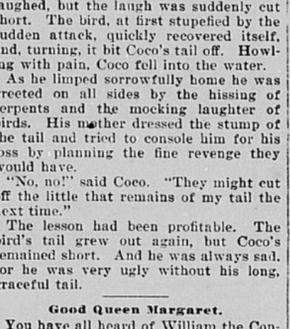
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