

**RING OUT, YE MERRY BELLS!**

Ring out, ye merry bells! Welcome brightest! Welcome, old holly-crowned Christmas again! Like a child at play, keeping his holiday, Welcome him back from the snow peak and plain, Up with the holly bough, green from the winter's brow, Look up your ledgers and cares for a day, Out to the forest go, gather the mistletoe, Old and young, rich and poor, up and away! Up with the holly boughs, ay, and the laurel now, In with the yule log, and brighten the hearth, Quick! here he is again, come with his joyous train, Laughter and music and friendship and mirth. Up with the holly boughs, high in each manor house, Garnish the antlers that hang in the hall, Yes, and the "neck" of corn with a gay wreath adorn, Rich as the bloom on the cottager's wall. Wealth has its duties now, Christian, you will allow; Think, then, ye rich, whilst your tables are spread, Think of the wretched ones, Poverty's stricken sons, Weeping whilst children are asking for bread. Ring out, ye merry bells! ring till your music swells Out o'er the mountains, and far on the main; Ring till those cheerless ones catch up your merry tones, Singing, "Come, Christmas, again and again!" —Frank Leslie's Popular Monthly.

**First Xmas Carol Found in the Roman Mass**

CAROLS were originally accompanied with a dance, and this carol dancing is part of the rhythmic movement of the Oberammergau play, as well as of the dances of the Shakers of Lebanon in New York state.

The first Christmas carol in history is the "Gloria in Excelsis" found in the Roman mass, and in the Episcopal Book of Common Prayer. It is ascribed to Telesphorus, bishop of Rome, about the year A. D. 130, and is common in both the eastern and western churches.

An old English carol begins with the notable words:

Behold a simple, tender babe In freezing winter night, In homely manner trembling lies, And in a wondrous sight.

The "higher critics" have wondered how the shepherds could watch their flocks by night, even in winter in Judea, but this presented no difficulty to Robert Southwell, the author of this quaint carol, who as a Jesuit was imprisoned in the Tower of London, and, after enduring the tortures of the rack, was executed in 1594.

A popular carol among the Germans is one written by Martin Luther for his little son Hans. It begins:

From the highest heaven I come to tell The gladdest news which e'er befell.

A very sad story is told in connection with this carol. In order to give it realistic effect in a certain Lutheran church it used to be sung by a boy let down from the roof of the church dressed as an angel. But one day the rope broke, and the boy was killed. This put an end to a very beautiful but dangerous Christmas custom.

At a time when the liturgical and biblical plays were popular the Christmas carol was an important feature. In Italy in the time of St. Francis of Assisi, in order to instruct the people, the villagers came to the church carrying lighted torches, and there they saw the scene of the manger filled with hay, and the ox and ass standing in their places near the Virgin and Child. Then it was that St. Francis and his friars stood by the manger all night long, giving God thanks that by this means the hearts of the people had been touched.

"Rare old Ben Jonson," in the days of the "Good Queen Bess," wrote a carol which begins "I sing the Birth was born tonight." And about that time appeared a very popular carol which is sung in "Merrie England" even to the present day, the first line of which is "God rest you, merrie gentlemen."

Some old Christmas carols have come down to us in half Latin and half English. Among them is a carol which appears in the collection for Grace church, New York city:

When Christ was born of pure Marie In Bethlehem, that fair citie, Angels sang with mirth and glee In Excelsis Gloria.

In this "Grace collection" there is a carol commencing "Over the world on Christmas morn," by Dr. Mackay Smith.

The unquoth carol of the sixteenth century has given place to the popular Christmas hymn of later days. Wherever the English language is spoken Charles Wesley's hymn, "Hark, the Herald Angels Sing" finds a place in the sanctuary. It is also translated into the languages of India, China and Japan. Its author was the brother of the founder of Methodism. He was a true poet and a perfect hymn writer. His masterpiece is the beautiful hymn "Jesus, Lover of My Soul," which was sung by the Princess Alice at the deathbed of the prince, consort of England, the lamented husband of Queen Victoria.

"Come all ye faithful" is the "Adeste Fideles" of the Latin, and

came originally from the pen of Aurelius Clemens Prudentius, a native of Spain, who flourished about the latter half of the fourth century. There is another hymn by the same Latin author which begins with "Of the Father's love begotten."

We have two well-born Christmas carols by American writers. "O Little Town of Bethlehem" was written by the popular Boston divine, Phillips Brooks. "Silent the Gnat Tidings, Ringing Sing" was composed by Dr. Mühlentberg, the founder of the Church of the Holy Communion, St. Luke's hospital, and other charities in New York city.

"Angels from the Realms of Glory" is by the great hymn writer James Montgomery, who for thirty years edited a Sheffield newspaper in England. He is often confounded with Robert Montgomery, who was ridiculed and denounced by Macaulay.

"Sing a Song This Blessed Morn" was written by Bishop Christopher Wordsworth, nephew of the great English poet and father of the present Bishop of Salisbury. Dr. Wordsworth was Master of Harrow, Canon of Westminster, and Bishop of Lincoln.

"White Shepherds Watched Their Flocks by Night" is by Nahum Tate, poet laureate, associated with the Tate and Brady version of the Psalms. He died when in prison for debt.

The popular hymn "Christ! Awake, Salute the Happy Morn" was written by John Byron, a Lancashire man, who was esteemed a good scholar and poet in his day. He was born in Manchester in 1601.

The two eminent sweet singers of the church, John Keble and Reginald Heber, bishop of Calcutta, have written Christmas hymns, but they lack those elements of popular song which constitute the Christmas carol. Keble sweetly sings:

Like circles widening 'round Upon a clear blue river, Orb after orb the wondrous sound Is echoed on forever, Glory to God on high, on earth in peace.

The lines of the gentle Heber have their lesson in these days of commercial unrest:

If gayly clothed and proudly fed, In dangerous wealth we dwell; Remind us of thy manger bed And lowly cot-age cell.

**Xmas Posy Party**

"A Garden of Flowers"—an ideal scheme this for a fancy Christmas dress party. When the invitations are sent out each guest should be requested to come to "the Garden of Flowers" dressed to represent a flower. Whatever flower is chosen should be intimated to the hostess when accepting the invitation. For the supper table decoration for this party, in the center stand a large doll dressed as a rose—the queen of flowers. In her hands should be fastened as many garlands of baby ribbons, or strings of small blossoms as there are guests. Attach little gifts at the other ends of the garlands appropriate to the costumes of the guests that are to receive them, such as brooches and

sacques with flowers in enamel, baskets of sweets trimmed with flowers, or pretty cut glass bottles of perfume, decorated with blossoms. The ribbons or garlands should be arranged that each small guest finds a corresponding gift; thus, Violet's presents are adorned with the flowers she represents, etc. The menus should be in the form of flowers or petals and the lamp or candle shades of rose colored silk.

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**"Lighting a New One"**



**New Year's Day in Many Lands**

NEW YEAR'S DAY is a time for thanksgiving and mirth and happiness, and in some countries, for the interchange of gifts. It is also a day which, because it is the beginning of another year in one's life, has associated with it a certain sacredness which often takes the form of resolutions to do more and better things than one has ever done before.

It is appropriate that the series of 12 months should open on the first day of January, because this is the period of the winter solstice, the turning point of the year, the time when earth begins to be reinvigorated in anticipation of the coming of spring. The ancients understood this significance and, although several changes in their calendar took place before the present date was made permanent, January 1st has been, we are told, the generally accepted date since the reign of the Roman king Numa Pompilius, 672 B. C.

He decreed that the year should begin as it now does, and added two new months to the already existing ten. The first month was named January in honor of the god Janus, who was represented by the Romans as having two faces, this signifying that he was acquainted with both past and future events. On this first day it was the Roman custom to offer to Janus sacrifice upon twelve different altars.

Among the offerings was a cake of sifted meal with incense and wine. The people took every precaution to conduct themselves so perfectly that nothing but good might be presaged for the coming year. Latin writers of the time say that all strifes and differences ceased at the New Year. The day was spent in visiting, feasting and exchanging gifts. Indeed, the burden of giving had become so heavy that during the reign of Claudius he felt forced to limit it by a decree.

In Belgium the children are especially active on New Year's. Their greatest fun is obtained by secreting all the keys belonging to the various doors of the house. Then they hide, watching, lynx-eyed, from their vantage ground for the chance to lock up an unsuspecting parent or uncle or aunt. When once caught they are not freed until they promise a certain forfeit of sweets.

In France it is called "le Jour de l'An"—the day of the year. Merry-making, calls and gifts reign supreme. Dancing, singing and wine also have prominence. Candy, not usually allowed to French children, is generously given out. January 1st is also the day for family reunions. And in the early morning hours relatives of anyone who has died during the year assemble at the grave for a brief service.

One of the prettiest customs in the world is that observed at Franfort-on-the-Main. Many are the gay parties which gather on New Year's eve, and when the great cathedral clock begins to chime the midnight hour every window of every occupied house is raised. Each person lifts high a glass and with one voice the whole city cries out, "Prosit Neujahr." By the time the twelfth stroke is reached the windows are closed and quiet reigns as the old year draws its last breath.

In rural parts of Russia the children, who have arisen especially early on this holiday, start out on a house-to-house pilgrimage, with pockets brimful of dried peas and wheat. Doors are never locked in Russia, so it is an easy matter to enter. If the occupants of the house thus visited

are asleep the children pelt with peas those whom they dislike, and then sprinkle wheat over their friends. High mass is celebrated on New Year's at Madrid. Many presents are given between friend and friend, and by the rich to the poor.

A Chinese New Year custom is for the people to buy or bake small cakes made of rice, flour and sugar, which, with fruit and dates, they put on Buddha. This is the one time of the year when everybody is religious. New gods are pasted upon the doors, consisting of colored prints of the reputed likenesses of two great warriors of ancient times, who were supposed to be defenders not only of the country but of the home. On the morning of the last day of the year they worship their ancestors and the Buddhas, and on New Year's day they worship the god of wealth for having brought them safely through another year.

Behold the resolution tree Lugubrious to view It stands so straight it backward leans, And all its leaves are new.

It does not glitter in the gloom, No cheerful gleam invites, There is no chance for jollity— The lid is on its lights.

And though alluring articles Festoon it round about, The branches are entirely hung With things to do without.

—McLandburgh Wilson.

**WHAT THE NEW YEAR MEANS**

THE New Year means new opportunity to every man, woman and child. It challenges the best that is in them and promises unusual reward for effort made. In it is the hope of years to come concerning whatever is for the well-being of society.

**AFFIDAVIT HAS OWNERS' NAMES**

(Continued from page 1.)

amount of bonds, mortgages or other securities, so we fail to see where the Liesch-Walter Printing Co. of New Ulm comes in as the owners of the Volksblatt. Even the use of a magnifying glass fails to reveal any signs, symbols, marks or other indications that the widest kind of an imagination could possibly construe to represent the name of the Liesch-Walter Printing Co.

Is German Editor.

One of the amusing statements contained in the publisher's affidavit is that to the effect that P. Liesch of this city is the editor and managing editor of the Volksblatt. It would be interesting were he to reveal, through the columns of the Volksblatt, if more convenient, through the Journal, just when and in what manner he qualified

**an editor of a German newspaper.**

It is softly whispered about that the name of the Volksblatt translator is not P. Liesch, nor yet does it bear any similarity to it, whatever.

Work for "Uncle's Sleuths."

In view of the contradictory statements sworn to in the publisher's affidavit and contained in the Journal's front-page article last week, it probably would be a good idea for Uncle Sam to put his sleuths on the trail and attempt to unravel the conglomerate mass of facts and fiction. While these sleuths are about it, they might also ascertain why the publishers of the Volksblatt failed to comply with one of the provisions of the act of Congress by delaying the publication of the sworn statement of ownership, management, circulation, etc., of the Volksblatt for two weeks.

FOR RENT—Offices over Schmucker & Burks Drug Store. Steam Heat. Will remodel to suit. Adv. 827.

**The Spirit of Jenny Lind Lives Again in Frieda Hempel**

Unique Concert Celebrates Centenary of Great Soprano Brought Here by P. T. Barnum.

Reviewed by John H. Daly

NEW YORK.—Jenny Lind has passed from the category of artists to the list of historical personages, and it was in tribute to her fame that on October 6th, last, this unique concert was given in Carnegie Hall. This was the centenary of her birth, celebrated in America, Sweden and England, but particularly in New York, where the program of the first American concert given by Jenny Lind was reproduced exactly in numbers and costumes. That great temple of music on Fifty-Seventh Street has housed many remarkable performances, but this concert was outstanding. The tickets and programs were replicas of the originals, now cherished relics. The ushers wore colored rosettes and carried beribboned wands, but it was the stage and the artists that worked so well the illusion of bringing us to that original concert. The orchestra wore quaint suits and stock-ties of by-gone days, while Miss Frieda Hempel, who represented Jenny Lind, was a charming pic-

ture in an exact copy of the gown of the earlier Queen of Song, and Arthur Middleton, portraying Signor Balletti, the portrayer who appeared that night with Lind, also dressed the part. The program follows:

First Program of Jenny Lind, Sung at Castle Garden.

Part I. Overture: Oberon. Weber. Aria: Sorgete (Maometto Secondo). Rossini. Signor Balletti. Mr. Arthur Middleton. Miss Frieda Hempel. Casta Diva. Bellini. Norma. Miss Jenny Lind.

Duet on two pianofortes. Benedict Messrs. Benedict and Hoffman. Duetto: Per piaccio alla Signora. Rossini. (At Turco in Italia). Miss Jenny Lind and Signor Balletti. Miss Frieda Hempel and Mr. Arthur Middleton.

Part II. Overture: The Echo Song, more generally known as The Echo Song. Miss Jenny Lind. Miss Frieda Hempel. The Welcome to America, written expressly for this occasion by Bayard Taylor. Miss Jenny Lind. Miss Frieda Hempel. Conductor. M. Benedict.

In answer to the tumultuous applause, Miss Hempel sang as encloses those heard at Castle Garden, while she played her own accompaniments to them on the piano that Jenny Lind autographed after her similar use of it on that historic evening.

It was on September 11th, 1850, that the first concert by Jenny Lind was given at Castle Garden, now the Aquarium. To the stroller along Broadway where it meets the Battery, the city then presented a far different appearance from the impressive one of today. Instead of skyscrapers there were low buildings, and beyond them the harbor was filled, not with Leviathan, but with full-sailed ships. Europe seemed

very far away in those days, and to many it was only a place of memory. The change, now so often made, that New York faces Europe, not America, would have been laughable then. But so great was the triumph of Jenny Lind abroad, that her fame had preceded her. Her steamer, the sidewheeler, *Atlantic*, was greeted with cannon salutes at Sandy Hook, and again as she passed through the Narrows. You can meet old New Yorkers who describe the excitement at her landing, and how forty thousand people crowded around the boat and surrounding piers.

She was then at the very height of her powers. Her listeners were electrified at her achievements, but it was when she sang the simple ballad, in the simplest possible way, that she had the greatest effect. From her earliest days her voice had a quality of intense melancholy which drew tears from the listeners.

Small wonder then that New York and elsewhere wished to observe her centenary in the fitting manner of this concert of October 6th. But it was the choice of Frieda Hempel as the impersonator of the "Swedish Nightingale," that made the evening so memorable. Of all the singers since Castle Garden, Hempel, in her voice, art and personality seemed most strikingly to resemble the rare gifts of that earlier singer. Her artistic conquests have been made in the leading musical centers of both continents and her especially successful roles were the favorites of Jenny Lind.

Many of us may have often wished that on the night of Jenny Lind's first concert we could have been in that memorable gathering, but after listening to Miss Hempel, we believe that we experienced most of the emotions felt that night long ago. Both as soloist and with Arthur Middleton, who sang superbly, she was the great soprano. The evening really seemed to have been spent in Castle Garden, formerly that historic fort of lower New York City, that served as the great concert and assembly hall of the earlier part of the last century.

There were no courtesying gatherings in silks and broadcloths; around were seated men and women in conventional evening dress, but save only that we were in Carnegie Hall instead of Castle Garden, the costumes of the singers and the orchestra, the retinue of the stage, and the glorious voice of Hempel ranging now in trilling, now in sympathetic tones, carried us back seventy years to a night that will live long in history.



MISS JENNY LIND



MISS FRIEDA HEMPEL



THE RESOLUTION TREE.

Behold the resolution tree Lugubrious to view It stands so straight it backward leans, And all its leaves are new.

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**SEARLES CLIPPINGS.**

On Monday, December 20, a son was born at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Grossman.

Hermann Weiland from Fargo, N. D. arrived here last Thursday, where he is staying a few days with friends.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Thiede from Arlington were visitors at the Albert Haas home from Sunday till Tuesday. Mr. Thiede left Sunday evening but Mrs. Thiede and children left Tuesday.

On Sunday night a number of neighbors and friends gathered at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Alf F. Haas. Cards were the chief entertainment after which lunch was served, which of course was the main function.

Mr. and Mrs. Emil Seifert left for Springfield last Friday to visit with Mrs. Seifert's folks and other relatives.

Mrs. Wm. Hughes and children left Tuesday for her home in Mankato after spending Christmas with her parents here.

The members of St. John's Society held their annual meeting and election of officers on Monday, December 27. The following were elected for the coming year: pres., Hy. J. Reinartz; vice pres., Geo. Hegler; secy., Leo P. Leick; treas., Otto Sprenger; trustee for 3 years, John P. Drexler; sick committee, Geo. Leikam Jr., Louis X. Reinartz, Frank Mack and Geo. G. Griebel.

After being in the Loretto hospital at New Ulm exactly five weeks on the day of his coming home, Mr. Jos. J. Spert was taken home again last Saturday, Christmas Day. Mr. Spert is feeling as well as can be expected but is only able to take a very few steps at intervals by the aid of crutches.

Mr. and Mrs. John Reinartz went to Cobden last Tuesday, staying with their son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Jos. Simmon. Mr. Reinartz came back sooner but Mrs. Reinartz returned Saturday, being accompanied by Bertha Reinartz, who has been there since last summer. Miss Reinartz is staying home now.

Mr. and Mrs. Otto Huhn from New Ulm spent Christmas with Mrs. Huhn's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Retzlaff.

Mike Elsner of St. Paul visited his son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Radke, and Mrs. Joe Platza and other relatives.

A card party was enjoyed at Peter Penning's Sunday evening. Prizes were won as follows: Ladies high, Mrs. Fred Rauschke; ladies low, Miss Anna Hacker; gent's high, Gust Wiedland; gent's low, Bill Kuester. A delicious luncheon was served.

Douglas Beecher was arrested for speeding on Minnesota street by Policeman Ed. Wagner, last Tuesday. A visit to City Justice George Hogen's court resulted in the young man entering a plea of guilty and paying a fine of \$5 and \$5.05 costs. He is now a full-fledged member of the "9:05" club.

Money to loan on First Farm Mortgage. Inquire at this office. Adv. 52

World War Veterans meeting at Farmers Creamery December 30, 8:00 p. m. Election of officers and other important business. Adv. 52

FOUND—A fur scarf on Christmas Eve. Owner can have same by identifying and paying for this ad. Mrs. F. Knoesp, 217 So. State St. Adv. 52

Will the person who took a set of chains, a Pyrex fire extinguisher and a robe from my car while standing east of New Ulm, please return same to S. P. Nielsen Auto Co. No questions asked. Person can have mittens which he left. J. L. Doig, Adv. 52 Walnut Grove, Minn.

**Origin of Yuletide**

Yule was the name of the ancient Scandinavian festival held at the time of the winter solstice. The word is of uncertain origin, says The Housekeeper, but it probably is taken directly from the Icelandic word "Jol," meaning a feast. It is curious to note how many nations of old marked the "turn of the year"—that is, the December solstice—by festivals. The Egyptians, the Hindus, the Persians, the Greeks and the Romans all had feasts at this season, but especially the Northern nations—the Teutons, the Scandinavians—the early natives of Britain—rejoiced at the event of the sun's turn on its course. The festival was kept with much eating and drinking and noisy jollity. One of the ceremonies was the placing of an enormous log of wood—often so large that it required the strength of several men to bring it in—upon the hearth fire in the huge fireplace. The burning of the Yule log was thought to insure good fortune to the family, especially when charred pieces of the log burned the year before and kept over for that purpose were used to light the year be-