



Among the 184 general holidays on the calendar of the Gregorian Armenians two are especially prominent—Christmas and Easter. Both of these festivals are extended over three days, and both come twelve days after our celebration of the same festivals, owing to the difference between the Greek calendar, which they reckon by, and the Roman.

Although their Christmas celebration varies materially from ours, the preliminaries are quite as engrossing as those antecedent to our Christmas and Thanksgiving.

In the street it is a joyful thing to watch the vermilion-maker as he pours the spotless dough from a shining ladle into the bright brass colander, from whence it drops in thin streams on the hot griddles, placed above the brick oven, to emerge curling into crisp white threads, which are then gathered and thrown into polished wooden bowls, for sale.

The "chatack" vendors do a rushing business—baking their pancakes in griddles over braziers in the sight of all mankind. These, like the kadayif, a preparation similar to our shredded wheat, are purchased by the customer and carried home, to be sauted in hot butter and eaten with syrup.

A PEEP INTO THE HOMES.

In the home the women are unusually busy. All the washing and cleaning are done the week before (there is no ironing). The house is made immaculate, the brass or silver trays and spoons brightened until they shine like mirrors, and the hoarded jars of precious sweetmeats, with the summer's sunshine and roses' fragrances still imprisoned in their translucent depths, are brought from under lock and key. Then comes the concoction of the luscious sweets for which the Armenian housewives are deservedly famous, and which they consider too important to be intrusted to the unskillful care of servants. The whole house is filled with the commingled perfumes of honey and sesame, fruits and flowers, and the small boy can scarce possess his youthful soul and appetite in patience.

Then all things being in readiness—the whole family go to the public bath—the father and grown boys one day, the women and children the next—with spotless house, immaculate linen and shining countenances they await the holiday.

CHRISTMAS EVE.

Christmas evening the father buys a dozen candles such as are used in the Gregorian churches. These are about the thickness of a lead pencil, but a little longer, and are fastened about the edges of the dining table, held in position by their own wax. The family now gather together, the father in the place of honor, the divan, with the table set in front of him, while the family group themselves about it, seated on rugs. The candles are lighted, and the Christmas speech made by the father, who times his remarks with the burning of the candles. In this annual speech the story of Christ's birth and childhood is told, with great emphasis laid upon his filial obedience, as a salutary lesson for the children, whose mouths water for the coming feast, but whose eyes watch anxiously for the burning out of the candles.

When the last taper is extinguished and the last moral pointed, all fall to—albeit very decorously—upon the luscious viands. There are delicious little beef rolls enveloped in watercress, curious dolmas of rolled cabbage leaves stuffed with mince-meat, the thin sheets of gul-laj, rolled and twisted, covered with syrup and Armenian butter, and crowned with crispy walnut meats. Pilaf, specially prepared for this occasion with raisins and beschnuts, is the piece de resistance. Then there is the popular mahleb, a kind of custard, made with flour, sugar and milk, flavored with rose water and served with clotted cream; to say nothing of rasbab, concocted from raisins, plums, apples, chemis, and often sweet-

father may send his compliments through his son. In each house the children, dressed in their best, are made ready to wait upon expected guests. If there is a little son he is deputed to open the door, otherwise this responsibility rests with the young daughter of the house. In the reception room, which is on the

and kiss his hands, and a conversation of generalities is engaged in until the young lady of the house brings in the refreshment tray.

This is of iron, brass or silver, as circumstances warrant; it is oblong and decorated with pictures of flowers or mosques. In the center are several glasses of delicious sweetmeats, pre-



THE NEWEST FAD—A JEWELLED COSTUME.

second floor, the mangal of brass or copper, with its "fire of coals"—just as when Peter stood in the high priest's palace and warned himself—sends out a ruddy welcome, and the perfume of ambergris and attar of rose fills the room.

When the iron knocker on the lower outer door announces the arrival of a guest, the small reception committee pulls the cord from the upper landing which opens the latch below. As the door swings open the lad descends the stairs to welcome the visitor. If he proves to be a gentleman of importance, the boy kisses his hand with great respect, assists him in removing his shoes, which he places in an or-

pared of sour cherries (fishneh), apricots or berries mixed with roses, geraniums, violets or other sweet flowers.

SERVING REFRESHMENTS.

On each end of the tray stand glasses, one containing spoons and the other water. The guest most honored is first approached. He helps himself to a spoonful of whichever sweet he prefers, the hostess meanwhile, with great courtesy urging him to try each kind, and he with equal courtesy declining. The spoon returned to the glass of water, the tray removed and a second, with a glass of sherbet or tea with lemon floating in it, and another containing clean water, takes its place. After this course the guest is served with porcelain cups, set in brass or gold filigree holders.

With the serving of the coffee the delicate Turkish cigarettes are also passed, the small boy again making himself useful by bringing a live coal from the mangal, using for this a little brass tray and tiny pairs of tongs made for this purpose of tongs.

This duty finished, he again sets himself—the pink of propriety—thinking of the days when he shall be old enough to make the rounds, and meantime wondering if the guest will remember to reward his diligence with a few paras for his special delectation.

THE SMALL BOY'S TIME.

In the afternoon comes the small boy's turn, when all the Armenian lads of the neighborhood, taking their accumulation of "pouches" and betaking themselves to the open square, where the windwheel peddler and the shekerdj, with his tray of "stick-jaw" and the brightly-colored candy roosters, camels, ducks and turkeys, do a rushing business, to the infinite joy of their patrons and their own enrichment.

In the isolated rural districts, if the days be bright and sunny, the men, sometimes accompanied by the women, go out in the fields and have a dance, similar to the Ionic dance of Homeric days.

A leader is appointed, who, with "many a perk and flutter," takes his place at the head of the line, with waving handkerchief and ambitious step, followed by the rank and file, hand in hand. Sometimes, too, they play at leapfrog and wrestling, or practice some of the household evolutions learned from their mountain neighbors, the Kurds.

Of late years, however, the natural joyousness of these folk has given place to extreme sadness, as their national spirit is bowed down by the accumulation of sorrows through which they have passed.

Although the general distribution of Christmas gifts is not common, save as introduced in church or school by the missionaries, the richer Armenians, in remembrance of the Babe of Bethlehem, take infinite pleasure in ministering to the wants of the poor at this time, believing that in this way they are giving to the Christ.

Made Over Gowns.

You would be astonished if you knew how many of society's pretty women, famed for their smart dressing, have their old frocks made over.

pretended not to think that madame made up that loss on the next new frock.

Out of the cupboard she produced a "duty to show you what can be done with made-over materials." It was a horse-show symphony, composed of a black moire skirt and a short jacket of dull red cloth, embroidered with jet. The jacket, however, was not done in time for the show, so it had been sent back for this.

Another made-over jacket was in dragon-plate cloth, remodelled from a Louis XVI. coat of last winter.

The old coat had simply been slashed off at the waist line in the back, with two smart little tails tucked up by a crush girle of black satin sewed on afterward the fronts cut off into short boleros, turned back with small revers braided handsomely with black. This braiding also covered a wide sailor collar at the back, the positions and the cuffs of the sleeves.

The skirt, however, was cut very long, flat, and close, much on the order of those shown in the princess gown here illustrated, and which are the most seen in gowns of heavy wool materials.

The cuffs were made by braiding the inside of the sleeve bottoms and turning them over carefully; and a dainty little vest, of white silk muslin and yellow lace was a ravishing feature.

This was placed smoothly over a plastron of gold-colored silk with the tucks and lace put in the front.

To put your trimmings crosswise of your body, it seems, is to round out your figure, make you seem larger than you are. Then, your neck is very thin and narrow, remember that it is much improved with all sorts of deep collar effects hanging loose from the shoulders and with tails to your bodice.

The simple, lopped-off jackets, just now the fashion, are only graceful on well-proportioned figures. All this one gathers en passant along with other valuable suggestions for made-over materials.

One house showed a stunning dinner gown quite fine enough even for the opera, fashioned from another old black moire silk. This was made entirely from the old moire, the design running round the neck and down, as is most commonly the case, loops of black satin ribbon and a soft girle trimming it handsomely.

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SMITH & FARWELL COMPANY'S HOLIDAY SALE.

This company has prepared for the holiday trade a display of furniture and novelties that is almost bewildering—floor after floor filled with everything in Furniture and Draperies with a completeness that could be expected only in the representative furniture house of the Northwest. Many St. Paul people do not yet know that in this elegant store St. Paul now has a display of Housefurnishings better than anything the Twin Cities can show.

It's unfair to your own city not to keep posted in the character and magnitude of the changes this firm has brought about in your midst. If a handsome Odd Piece for Parlor, Library or Hallway is wanted, this is the place to look for it.

Upholstered Arm Chairs and Rockers.



Turkish Leather Easy Rockers, Inlaid Mahogany, Flemish or Venis Martin—SEE our large Leather Rocker at \$50—SEE our New Polished Leather Seat Rocker at \$4.50. These are Gems in their way.

We have done a phenomenal business this year in Upholstered Furniture, caused, no doubt, by the immense variety shown, and also from the fact that we show our goods in such an elegant light as to bring out the fine points and lines on really artistic pieces. Ours is the only store in the city where every piece shows in so good a light. The fact that we make our own Couches and Dress Boxes, and can supply any size or style to please the fancy of our customers, has added largely to our business.

Writing Desks.

We have an assortment of different styles of Writing Desks, ranging in price from \$3.75 to \$85.00. Some of these desks have been reduced in price for this sale. \$90.00 inlaid desk reduced to \$75.00; \$10 desks reduced to \$5.24.

Tables.

We show over 150 patterns of Parlor, Library and Tea Tables, in all the various woods and finishes, ranging in price from 75 cents to \$50.00. Among these pieces are some reduced in price. \$35.00 Mahogany Table reduced to \$24.00; \$15.00 Mahogany Table, inlaid, for \$7.50.

Music Cabinets.

We have nearly 50 different patterns of Music Cabinets, ranging in price from \$5 to \$80, in all the various woods. Among these are some pieces reduced in price for this sale—\$18.00 Cabinet reduced to \$12.50.

Teakwood Furniture.

We are showing a new assortment of Teakwood Pedestals, better made and better finished than ever before, and at about one-half the former price. Pieces range in price from \$10.00 to \$20.00.

Dressers, Chiffoniers and Toilet Tables.

One entire floor is devoted to the display of bed room articles—dressers, chiffoniers, toilet tables, brass and iron beds, and shaving stands, different patterns of dressers, over 50 styles of chiffoniers, shaving stands and toilet tables, go to make up an assortment that cannot fail to please all. Many of these pieces have been reduced in price for this sale—\$25.00 dresser for \$18.00; \$65 chiffonier reduced to \$51.00; \$20.00 toilet table reduced to \$13.50.

Flemish Oak.

Many reproductions of odd and curious antique Flemish pieces in great variety can be had at very low prices. Some of the pieces reduced for this sale are a \$55.00 reduced to \$43.00. Flemish hall seats are also very handsome.

Office Desks.

We show a splendid line of roll top desks suitable for house or office use, ranging in price from \$12.50 to \$85.00. The prices on some of these desks and office chairs have been reduced for this sale. We mention a \$60.00 Mahogany.

An Elegant Christmas Gift, Reduced to \$4.75.

In order to sell a large lot. It's PIANO FINISH, High-Grade Cabinet Construction, Solid Mahogany back, arms and back of the best Hard Birch, or in Fine Quartered Oak. The ordinary price on this grade is \$8.00 to \$10.00, but a large purchase enables us to make this Special Christmas Price of \$4.75.



OPEN EVENINGS UNTIL CHRISTMAS.

To accommodate those who find it more convenient to select presents in the evenings, we will be open every evening next week.

Smith & Farwell Co., Complete Housefurnishers, SIXTH AND MINNESOTA STREETS.



THE LATEST FROM PARIS.

ered with honey and flavored with musk, rose water and limes. The next morning, after the ordinary breakfast of light soup, toast and coffee, paternfamilias, attired in all the bravery of his new suit, makes out his list for the day's visits. This must include not only his nearest relatives and friends, but prominent officials and business colleagues. Here acquaintances or lesser luminaries may be left until the second or third day, or the

derly line at one side of the stairway, then precedes and ushers him with grace and courtesy into the reception room, where the family are seated in state awaiting his arrival. After the Christmas salutation by the visitor, "Shnorhavor dzmoot; yev Mgurduootun" (The gracious birth and baptism of Christ), and the host's reply, "Ornyal e dzmoot, Christday Mgurduootun" (Blessed be His birth and baptism), the children advance

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with the most refined and sensible customs in the service of those making engagements after having finished the course and being pronounced "competent for a position." The first year of its existence the school prepared twenty-five women who were competent to serve at the most elaborate and perfect entertainments.

The instruction at the school is gratuitous, although a small percentage is deducted from the pay of those making engagements after having finished the course and being pronounced "competent for a position." The first year of its existence the school prepared twenty-five women who were competent to serve at the most elaborate and perfect entertainments.

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DREAMED OF A GOLD MINE. During the past year, on five or six successive occasions, Mrs. George Law, of Kansas City, had dreams of a gold mine near Cripple Creek. She went out there in August and located the mine after she had seen the place in another dream. She immediately began proceedings to get control of the property. Saturday her husband signed a lease for the section, 300 by 600 feet. The dream promises to be one of the richest mines in the world's greatest mining camp. The story which began in a dream is now ending in reality. Mrs. George Law is one of the lead-

ers in Kansas City society. Mr. Law is a prominent real estate and loan broker, and one of the solid men of the city.

Mrs. Law's first dream of gold came to her last winter. In her sleep she saw with the vividness of real vision a spot between two mountains where ravines formed a triangle inclosing a hard bed of sand. She stood upon this bank and scooped up handfuls of it. The sand glittered with grains of gold.

This vision made a deep impression upon Mrs. Law, though she is a realist of the pronounced type and scoffs at all such psychological chimeras. A few nights later she again beheld the same scene in her dreams. It was even

more vivid than the other. The outlines of the country were plainly visible. Three more times, at various intervals, the same vision came to her. Each time it was more and more distinct. She beheld an adjacent town. She knew perfectly every point in the

nearby were some placer miners. They said that gold was in that vicinity. A diving rod with which a search for water was being pursued turned up the party walked over the ground. It turned again at the nearby by miners, where gold was known to be. It proved that Mrs. Law's dreams were true.

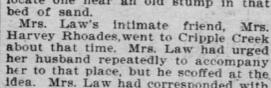
A short time ago friends of the Law in Cripple Creek went over the ground claim of the dream and picked up a number of bits of porphyry ore which cropped out from the surface. They were crushed and assayed, and the official certificate, now in Mrs. Law's possession, shows the surface ore to run \$5.85 to the ton. This is said to be one of the richest surface assays ever made in the Cripple Creek district. The certificate of this fact was sent to Mrs. Law, and the next day Mr. Law went to Cripple Creek. In a few days he telegraphed his wife that the lease had been signed. A company has been formed to work the claim. The officers are all women.

ARMENIAN YOUNG LADY—"A CHRISTMAS QUEEN."



surrounding country. In one dream she determined to sink a shaft, and did locate one near an old stump in that bed of sand. Her intimate friend, Mrs. Harvey Rhoades, went to Cripple Creek about that time. Mrs. Law had urged her husband repeatedly to accompany her to that place, but he scoffed at the idea. Mrs. Law had corresponded with Mrs. Rhoades, and was convinced that she would find her mine near Cripple

UNTIL CHRISTMAS WE WILL GIVE AWAY Bottle of Wine



With Every Purchase Amounting to Two Dollars and Over.

COLUMBIA Wine House

Eighth and Wabasha.

TELEPHONE 1417 BRECK & KRENT.