

CHRISTMAS FEATURES

Interesting Facts About the Mystic Mistletoe Bough, the Yule Log, the Giving of Presents, the Carols and the Custom of Decorating the Home at Yuletide

Christmas was first kept as a holy day in A. D. 98, but for three centuries it was the most movable of festivals. The date, Dec. 25, was selected in the fourth century by a commission of theologians.

This is the height of the rainy season in Judaea, which makes it improbable that shepherds would be watching their flocks by night and that the stars would be visible. October is the month agreed upon by many investigators.

The Decorations.

The custom of decorating dwellings and churches with evergreens is a relic of paganism.

It was transmitted to the English races of today directly from the Druids of ancient Britain, who believed that if a house were mantled in holly, laurel or bay the good sylvan spirits that loved those growths and kept them green by protecting them from winter frosts would also protect the dwelling from harm.

As a Festival.

In its aspect as a religious celebration Christmas entered into rivalry with the pagan festivals of the winter solstice in Rome.

Of these the most popular and the most scandalous were the Saturnalia. Making allowance for the mercurial Latin temperament, the fatuity of the church deemed it wise to give Christians an opportunity to make merry no less than their heathen neighbors and established the celebration.

The Gifts.

Why should people make presents at Christmas? "Is a gracious custom, subject to abuses, but what was its origin? Unlearned piety, to investigate the matter, studies the New Testament and reaches the conclusion that the exchange of gifts symbolizes the homage paid to the infant Jesus by the kings and wise men of the east.

But historians say that the early Christians exchanged gifts because their pagan neighbors did.

The Yule Log.

There is nothing Christian in the Yule log, which has almost become obsolete in these days of steam heat and "gas logs." It belonged to the Saxon feast of Jul.

It was used in Christian observance of god Jul was forgotten and the heathen made his hearths big and smoky. The Yule log, which was made of the best wood, was continued to burn after day.

The Mistletoe Bough.

To the mistletoe bough our heathen ancestors attached the greatest importance. The forest yielded no more sacred emblem. The very oak on which it grew were hallowed.

No significance belonged to mistletoe from any other tree than the oak—and it may be found on the fir, the lime and even the apple tree. The graceful parasitic creeper with its pale berries symbolized the choicest blessings of the gods and was a defense against evil.

The Carols.

Christmas carols were another invention of the early church to offset the joyous license of paganism. Song was an expression of rejoicing among the Romans.

Hence the making of pious canticles, simple in form, so that they might be sung by learned and ignorant. Such is the origin of the custom, which still lingers in certain parts of England, of "wails" going from house to house on Christmas eve and singing carols.—New York World.

Christmas in the Orient.

It is a strange but significant fact that the natives of India—Hindoo and Mohammedans—call Christmas the great day of the year, "Burra-din" (literally "great day"), thus unwittingly bearing testimony of the influence of the Babe of Bethlehem, the world's Redeemer. No one knows the origin of this Hindustani phrase. The Hindoo have a great many festivals and celebrate the birthdays of several of their gods and goddesses, especially those who were the most famous, but no one of these days is called "the great day." Of course this expressive phrase in India is a constant argument in favor of Christianity. Christmas is indeed a great day in India. People begin preparing for it three months beforehand. Merchants send to London or Paris for dolls, toys, sweetmeats, Christmas cards and a great many other things. Native shopkeepers lay in a large supply of raisins, almonds and all sorts of material for cake and pastry; butter and eggs grow dearer and dearer. The courts adjourn and European banks are closed for the holidays; visits among friends (there are very few foreigners in India who have relatives there) are planned, and great preparations are made for the festive season.

The native people, of course, do not celebrate Christmas. They know that Christmas do, however, and this simple fact, so constantly observed, causes them to think about the power of Christianity. Many are led to ask: "Who was Christ? What did he do? Why do the Christians observe his birthday?" These inquiries call forth various answers; discussion follows, and thus the whole nation, with its many millions of people, is thinking and talking about the world's Saviour.

The Dinner Table.

The Christmas dinner table should be appropriately and prettily decorated with evergreens, holly, a bunch of mistletoe hanging below the chandelier and sprays of wintergreen everywhere they can be tucked. Roses and chrysanthemums seem to be the favorite flowers. Wherever ribbons are used let them be of a rich, bright red, for that is a warm and glowing color, and especially fashionable this season. Branches of holly placed tastefully among the draperies of an apartment add much to its cheerful feast day appearance.

CHRISTMAS WISH.

I wish that good old Santa
Would travel like a show
And to his tent of playthings
For nothing let me go,
And take along my stockings
To fill in laughing glee
With all the things he fondly
Hangs on the Christmas tree.

I'd see the postbeard camel
Wink at the kangaroo;
I'd see the china wombat
And quagga chase the gnu;
I'd see the rubber ostrich
Serenely wink his eye
To see the monkey capture
The peanut on the fly.

And then I'd see old Santa
With all his books of rhymes;
I'd grab him by the whiskers
And kiss him fifty times
And on his back go riding
Beneath the fairy dome
And with a lot of playthings
Go running gayly home.

'Tis then I think old Santa
Should up and go away
And in some other village
Put up his tent next day,
And then go on still farther,
And farther still and still
To let all lovely children
Their great big stockings fill.

'Twould then be always Christmas
All musical with joy
And bending tree and turkey
And hobby horse and toy,
For while upon his travels
Old Santa'd scatter cheer;
He'd make a Christmas somewhere
Each day throughout the year.
—Woman's Home Companion.

WHO IS SANTA CLAUS?

Tradition Answers With a Pretty Story.

It is frequently asked, "Who is Santa Claus?" Here is a story about him that lets light upon his real character. He was bishop of Myra and died about the year 326. Among his parishioners (so runs one story) there lived a certain nobleman who had three daughters. From being rich he became so poor that there seemed to him no means of obtaining food for his daughters but by sacrificing them to a dishonorable life. Over and over again the thought came into his mind to tell them so, but shame and sorrow held him dumb. Meanwhile the maidens went continually, not knowing what to do and having no bread to eat, and their father became more and more desperate. When St. Nicholas heard of this, he thought it a shame that such a thing should happen in a Christian land. Therefore one night when the maidens were asleep and their father alone sat watching and weeping he took a handful of gold and tying it up in a handkerchief repaired to the nobleman's dwelling. He considered how he might bestow it without making himself known, and while he stood irresolute the moon coming from behind a cloud showed him an open window. So he threw in the gold, and it fell at the feet of the father, who, when he found it, returned thanks and presented to his oldest daughter as her wedding portion. A second time St. Nicholas collected a similar sum, and again he threw it in by night. So a wedding portion was provided for the second daughter. But the curiosity of the old nobleman was now excited. He greatly desired to know who it was that came to his aid. Therefore he determined to watch. When the good saint came for the third time and prepared to throw in the third portion, he was discovered, for the nobleman seized him by the skirt of his robe and flung himself at his feet, saying, "Oh, Nicholas, servant of God, why seek to hide thyself?" And he kissed his feet and hands. But St. Nicholas made him promise that he would tell no man.

CHRISTMAS IN THE SOUTH.

How the Day Was Celebrated in Olden Times.

Sixty years ago skyrockets, Roman candles and Chinese firecrackers were unknown in the south. The same may be said of the Christmas tree outside the old Episcopal parishes. And the boys of those early days made pother by the bursting of hogs and the firing of shotguns at day. The morning eggnog was omitted in their mutual banter. The old time negroes, the many of the world, were their traditional Christmas were then no poorhouses, hospitals, and the benevolent these degenerate days cause not needed.

Country quilting the rural districts finished the summoned. After scraping the swan stood up vis-à-vis. The words "Set to you" it quite nimbly through Virginia red—no star falutin german, but that shook the floor puts it.

The roof and rafters 'd did Those were halcyon days which is not seen nowadays.

Cunning.

Jimmie—But your stockin's have holes in them.
Johnnie—Sh! I'm goin' ter put a basket beneath 'em.—New York Journal.

Old English Saying.

As many mince pies as you taste at Christmas so many happy months will you have.

MENU FOR CHRISTMAS DAY.

- BREAKFAST. Oranges, Grapes, Oatmeal, Cream, Baked Apples, Omelet, Stewed Potatoes, Old Fashioned Sausage, Ham, Wheat Cakes, Gems, Coffee.
- DINNER. Blue Points on the Half Shell, Cream, Tomato Soup, Celery, Radishes, Olives, Boiled Cod, Lobster Sauce, Plain Potato Balls, Cucumbers, Roast Turkey, Oyster Sauce, Cranberry Jelly, Sweet Potato Croquettes, Peas, Boiled Onions, Roman Punch, Roast Duck, Nut Stuffing, Orange Salad, Plum Pudding, Brandy Sauce, Ice, Cake, Jelly, Cheese, Water, Coffee.
- Bonbons, Fruits, Nuts.
- SUPPER. Lobster à la Newburg in Chafin Dish, Mayonnaise of Celery, Potato Croquettes, Pickled Beets, Parker House Rolls, Frozen Jelly, Whipped Cream, Sponge Cake, Tea.



When a man is tortured with backache or lame back he doesn't want to experiment with new and untried remedies. He realizes that the backache is kidney ache.

The lame back virtually means lame kidneys, and he knows that there's very serious trouble in store if he doesn't get his kidneys to do their duty. In his trouble he naturally turns to

Doan's Kidney Pills

Others all around him have been cured of kidney complaint by this wonderful little remedy. He has the testimony of others to guide him. He KNOWS that Doan's Kidney Pills WILL cure, no matter what form of kidney complaint he may have.

He learns this by reading emphatic evidence like the following: Mr. H. J. Woodbury, carpenter, of 37 South Chestnut street, Augusta, Me., says:

"I was interviewed in the spring of 1896 by a gentleman who asked me for my experience with and opinions of Doan's Kidney Pills. I told him that I had been greatly annoyed by the action of my kidneys, that the slightest cold always settled there and produced intense suffering, and that Doan's Kidney Pills had cured me. It is now two years and a half since I was first interviewed, and I can conscientiously say, the longer and more fully you know Doan's Kidney Pills the greater faith you have in them. Everyone, as far as I have heard, speaks in the highest terms of their great value."

Doan's Kidney Pills are for sale by all dealers. Price 50 cents. Mailed by Foster-Milburn Co., Buffalo, N.Y., sole agents for the United States. Remember the name—Doan's—and take no substitute.

Guardian Notice.

LICENSE TO SELL. State of Vermont, District of Lamolle, ss.—I, Probate Court, held at Hyde Park, within and for said district, on the 14th day of Dec., A. D. 1901.

F. R. Child, Guardian of Arthur, Anna, Geo. and Ida Grimes, makes application to said Court for license to sell the following described real estate of his said wards, to wit: What is known as the Bailey farm in E. more about 2 acres with buildings thereon, representing that the sale thereof, for the purpose of putting the same in stocks or real estate, would be beneficial to said wards: Whereupon, it is ordered by said Court, that said application be referred to a session thereof, to be held at the Probate Office, in said Hyde Park, on the 4th day of January, A. D. 1902, for hearing and decision thereon; and it is further ordered, that all persons interested be notified hereof, by publication of notice of said application and order thereon, three weeks successively in the NEWS AND CRITIC, printed at Morrisville and Hyde Park, before said time of hearing, that they may appear at said time and place, and if they cause, object thereto.

By the Court—Attest, EDWIN C. WHITE, Judge.

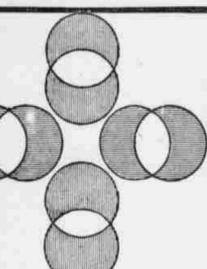
ONCE IS ENOUGH TO SEE

Gustave Doré's portrait of Dante is worth seeing—once. But once is enough. Some such look you notice on the faces of those who have suffered, and still suffer, from physical pain; people subject to rheumatism, gout, neuralgia, periodic headaches, or pain from some old lesion, or whose habit puts its marks on them, as the habit of handling ropes crooks a sailor's face, or as too much riding of a bicycle gives a worried expression on a man's face.

POZZLER

- No. 211.—Jumbled Flowers. Copy. 2. Knip. 3. Sore. 4. 5. Yill. 6. Nettiegnom. 7. Siri. 8. Ymer. 9. Rimerpos. 10. Yopp. 11. Ymer. 12. Boxmece. 13. Sissarcum. 14. Huteayh. 15. Axlf. 16. Beutours. 17. Narentoi. 18. Peecetwa.

No. 212.—Transformation Puzzle.



Long optical illusions one of the most curious is the "ring trick." It consists of two rings so drawn that if held a yard or so away and looked at steadily for a few moments it will appear as if they had changed and turned inside out.

This is a difficult trick to explain. It is simply one of those strange deceptions which lead us to believe that while we are looking at an inanimate object it undergoes some inexplicable alteration.

No. 213.—A Synecopation.

- 1. Synecopate an organ of the body and leave a wild animal.
- 2. Synecopate a southern word for carry and leave a member of the body.
- 3. Synecopate a certain meal and leave who parakes it.
- 4. Synecopate a state of the U.S. and leave a large deposit of ore.

The synecopated letters name a volcano.

No. 214.—Triangles Opposed.

- The central letter in the crossword No. 5 connects the two triangles.
- 1. A letter.
- 2. An exclamation.
- 3. To study over.
- 4. A termination denoting state or fixedness, quality, character, condition.
- 5. A well known flower.
- 6. A ferocious animal.
- 7. A name given to the elements which appear at the respective poles when a body is subjected to electro-chemical decomposition.
- 8. A position.
- 9. In nation.

No. 215.—Riddle.

Where can there be—
A cherry without any stone?
A bird without any bone?
A gown without any thread?
A book that no man ever read?

No. 216.—Word Square.

- 1. A kind of poisonous serpent.
- 2. A likeness.
- 3. Complex.
- 4. The lesser white.
- 5. Sleeps.

No. 217.—Charade.

When my first is glory burst

We Leave it to The Reader to Say "WHO JUGGLES"

AND

Who "Bobs up with one lie after another."

It is characteristic of that class of people who have no scruples and must depend on their wits for success. Our "wonderful competitors" are requiring testimony from the United States Dairy at the Pan-American Exposition for all sorts of schemes to "do the story" of the United States Dairy Separator.

They say we put the separator to be a skim milk record. Some say the U. S. machines are "Model Dairy." We gave the exact statement signed by the Superintendent of the Model Dairy, namely: Average test of the U. S.—0138.

They published a statement also signed by the Superintendent of the Model Dairy showing average of 0161. The Superintendent afterwards found he had made an error, and stated over his own signature the correct average for the DeLaval was 0172; but these "wonderful competitors" do not correct the error, but continue to advertise the figures which they know to be wrong.

The DeLaval Co. published their second period of running, which was in the best season of the year, from August 9th to September 28th inclusive. We published our second period from September 29th to October 30th inclusive. All experienced dairymen know that the U. S. had the hardest milk to separate, as the cows were longer in milk, giving less quantity, and cold weather coming on; yet with all these conditions against the U. S., it excelled the DeLaval, as the Superintendent's reports show. (It also beat the DeLaval in the first period, after adjustment.)

The DeLaval statement reads "Tests were from August 9th to September 28th," but the record books of the Model Dairy show no record was made until the 11th of August. This gives them two days to adjust the machine under the friendly expert operators before any tests were recorded. Our statement includes the first run of our machine with no time allowed for adjustment.

The records after adjustment of the first period show that the United States beat the DeLaval on these runs also. The DeLaval Co., being aware they were beaten in the first period, sent their machine back to the factory to be fixed over and improved, if possible, for a second trial. Their machine was made special for that work. The U. S. was taken from regular stock and was returned to its booth after the first run and remained there until we were requested by telegram from the Superintendent of the Model Dairy to put in the U. S. to make a second run. We wondered why they made a telegram for telegraphing such a request, and graphed back we would comply with any request. We learned later that the DeLaval Co. was shaking so badly that it was not safe to run it longer, therefore the need for arranging by telegram to replace it with the U. S.

The DeLaval Separator is a top-heavy machine filled with 40 to 50 metal discs, when they get out of balance, cause trouble if continued in use. Therefore the need for immediate change when it begins to wobble. They claim to run on slow speed, but when in competition with the U. S., att-

partment was unable to get sufficient steam to run so much as a Babcock Tester, until very late in the forenoon. The work in the Model Dairy was done before he got around in the morning.

Now read what Mr. Van Alstyne, Superintendent of the Model Dairy, over his own signature, says in reference to power in September when the DeLaval was running:

"We found the power insufficient, and were obliged to take an out-off in the pipe leading to the separator to prevent the herdsman from being on our steam any time an expert had worked it for the dairy was so bad that the weather became so cold that the latter part of September was a trouble increased to such an extent that one day, with both burners lighted, we found our steam entirely out, so that we intended making a change before you were put in, and we were delayed a week in order to get the consent of the proper authorities. We then used soft coal, which did not give satisfaction, because it filled up the flues of the boiler, and we changed to coke, which has been eminently satisfactory."

Remember this was when the DeLaval Separator was running and before the U. S. was put in. They could not get steam enough to run the DeLaval.

This "voluntary" (?) statement says further "that the 'U. S.' had an expert to run it." He was in no sense an expert, had never worked in a creamery or a dairy or attended a Dairy School or Experiment Station. The DeLaval did have experts to run their machines. The operators were graduates and ranked as such by the DeLaval, and were angry because we objected to having unfair and prejudiced operators run the U. S.

The DeLaval Co. advertise that our Gold Medal was awarded on a "combined exhibit" of separators, Babcock Testers, Davis Sizing Churn and other apparatus. The official record reads "Gold Medal on U. S. Separator, Babcock Tester and Davis Sizing Churn." It does not read on "combined exhibit" and does not use the word "exhibit" in any way. The reader will notice the DeLaval Co. add the words "combined exhibit" and "and other apparatus," of course, to mislead in their endeavor to break the force of their defeat.

We had in our booth nine separators, two Babcock Testers, and a model of the Davis Sizing Churn, but no full-sized churn. Our booth was 10 feet long by 10 feet deep.

The space was limited in size for telegraphing such a request, and graphed back we would comply with any request. We learned later that the DeLaval Co. was shaking so badly that it was not safe to run it longer, therefore the need for arranging by telegram to replace it with the U. S.

The DeLaval Separator is a top-heavy machine filled with 40 to 50 metal discs, when they get out of balance, cause trouble if continued in use. Therefore the need for immediate change when it begins to wobble. They claim to run on slow speed, but when in competition with the U. S., att-