

THE CHILDREN'S FRIEND.



"A BUNDLE OF TOYS HE HAD FLECKED ON HIS BACK, AND HE LOOKED LIKE A PEDDLER JUST OPENING HIS SACK."

THE ORIGIN OF CHRISTMAS.

The 25th of December was originally the Roman Saturnalia.

The celebration of Christmas as the birthday of Jesus is universal among Christians of every sect, and as such it is regarded throughout the year as the most festive of all holidays.

Christmas is not alone among Christian holidays in being the follower of a somewhat similar holiday among the pagans. In Rome it was called the Saturnalia.

All these nations observed about the same date for this feast. It is supposed to have been caused by the feelings of delight experienced shortly after Dec. 21, because the days then begin to lengthen.

The midwinter festival of the Saturnalia was observed for several days in the most unbecoming manner, the people feasted and work was quite suspended. Even the slaves were allowed complete liberty for the time being.

It was for the purpose of counteracting the evil influences of the Saturnalia, to the celebration of which the young of both sexes were very prone, that the early Christian teachers in Rome sought to adapt the rites of heathen feasting and render them subservient, instead of antagonistic, to the cause of religion.

In Britain there were other modifications. To the modified Saturnalia were added first some of the Druidical rites and superstitions, and after the arrival of the Saxons, some of the ceremonies of the ancient Germans and Scandinavians.

In England the burning of the Yule log takes place Christmas eve. In feudal times the bringing in of the ponderous block and burning it on the wide hearth of the great chimney of the baronial hall was observed with the greatest rejoicing.

Of course none of the fair sex ever places herself under the mistletoe with malice aforethought.

A little seed lay in the earth's path; A little seed sown in the strong wind's waft; A little shrub grew by its roots held fast; Then a stout tree leaved all the winter's blast.

The Great Destroyer.

What the cause of paralysis, this great destroyer of health and life, is, no physician or scientist has yet been able to accurately determine to the satisfaction of mankind, and it is equally true that this disease is becoming every day more prevalent.

Medical men say that it is brought on sometimes from one cause and sometimes from another; but the fact that cases of paralysis are of almost daily occurrence at the Hot Springs and other resorts for the treatment of blood and skin diseases, would seem to indicate that the continued use of strong mineral poisons is a great factor in producing this much dreaded scourge.

Blaine is not pleased with President Cleveland's message. Such a lack of appreciation, on the part of Mr. Blaine, is to be regretted.

Why is death like the letter E. It is the end of life. Which often comes too soon when you neglect to check diarrhoea or dysentery with Dr. Biggers' Huckleberry Cordial.

Why is a riddle which is very clearly discovered like a letter written by a child to its mother? It is too apparent (to a parent). It is apparent to every mother who has cured her child of croup with Taylor's Cherokee Remedy of Sweet Gum and Mullein that it should be kept by all parents.

Moody is in his fifty-first year, and has been engaged in evangelistic work twenty-three years. He is married and has three children.

W. D. Howells' stay at Buffalo is that he and his wife may be near an invalid daughter who is at the Danville (N. Y.) Sanitarium.

Don't let that cold of yours run on. You think it is a light thing. But it may run into catarrh. Or into pneumonia. Or consumption.

Gen. Gourko, Governor Governor of Poland, is to be installed by the Czar as Commander-in-Chief of the Russian armies.

Why is a widow like a gardener? She tries to get rid of her weeds. If she was trying to get rid of that hacking cough and pains in her chest she would use Taylor's Cherokee Remedy of Sweet Gum and Mullein.

Gen. Thomas, who rented the country residence of the late Henry Ward Beecher at Peekskill, recently vacated it, finding Hudson River country life unsuited to his taste.

General Master Workman T. Y. Powderly is in the city of New York collecting information to be used by the Knights of Labor legislative committee in their attempt to induce the government to establish a telegraph system of its own.

Mr. Thurber, of New York, sold \$18,000,000 worth of groceries last year.

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