

CHRISTMAS EVE.

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"This little tree, a young child of the forest, shall be your holy tree tonight; it is the wood of peace for your houses are built of fir; it is a sign of endless life, for its leaves are always green. Let this be called the tree of the Christ child; gather about it, not in the wild wood, but in your homes; there it will shelter no deeds of blood, but loving gifts and rites of kindness." Still another tale bestows upon Martin Luther the honor of originating the practice, he having used, on a Christmas night, a fir tree, lighted with candles, to illustrate to his children the beauty of the stars shining from a clear sky.

Real seekers after the history of the Christmas tree have concluded, however, that it may be a revival of the fir trees of the Roman Saturnalia, and still others think it may be derived from the ancient Egyptian practice of decking houses, at the time of the winter solstice, with branches of the date palm, which was the symbol of life triumphant over death. These vague traditions, no doubt, led to the permanent establishment of the Christmas tree.

As a regular institution, it can be traced back to the sixteenth century. An authentic manuscript speaks of its appearance in Strasburg, though it was not generally throughout Germany till the nineteenth century. It was the marriage of Queen Victoria to a German prince that led to the adoption of the custom in England, and it was brought to this country by the German immigrants.

It was on Christmas Eve, in 1776, when one of the most picturesque events of the Revolutionary war took place—

Washington's crossing the Delaware near Trenton. At the twilight hour, as the earliest stars began to twinkle on the cold Christmas night, the little army began their struggle with the ice flows and rapid current. It required many hours. By midnight the sky was overcast and the snow was falling, but by 4 o'clock in the morning the entire army was safely landed on the Jersey shore.

They marched nine miles to the city.

The enemy was wholly unprepared.

The battle was sharp and decisive and was over in three-quarters of an hour.

The American victory was complete.

Washington always afterward affirmed that it was the happiest Christmas of his life.

INTERESTING PEOPLE.

The interesting people do not pose. They do not rave. They do not strut and swagger. They walk normally and talk unexcitedly. They do not become soulful in a few seconds after you meet them. They do not talk shop or parade the distinguishing labels and earmarks of their craft. They are more likely to dodge behind pillars than to jump in front of camera, nor do they contend with the other playerfolk on the world's stage for the star or the leading lady's share in the limelight.—Ex.

NOT RELATED.

Michael McCarthy was suing the Swift Packing company in a Kansas City court.

A colored witness was called. "Did you work at the plant?" he was asked.

"Yassir."

"Do you know the foreman and the other officials?"

"Yassir."

"What were your relations with them?"

"Now, look here," said the witness, "I'm black and they's white. They ain't no relations of mine."—Cleveland Leader.