

**WHEN HEARTS ARE TRUMPS**

Tragedy if Child Should Have Christmas Come and Go Without an Ecstasy.

IF YOU have no child of your own, you must borrow or beg one for Christmas eve; for it is the time when the world lights its happiness with a child's joy, writes Dr. James I. Vance, in the Illinois State Journal.

Only a child may have the right of way on Christmas eve. If you do not stand in with the children, you must stand aside.

It is the hour when the world makes a cradle its shrine; when not only wise men from the East, but grown-ups from all points of the compass slip down over the hills of memory toward childhood's dawn, saying under their breath: "We have seen his star in the East and are come to worship him."

What a wonderful thing is this yearning of the old world for the happiness of children that characterizes Christmas! The better side of human nature comes to the front. We throw off our cynicism. Meanness is shamed into generosity, and for a little while on Christmas eve the tightwads of earth have a look in on paradise.

Was there ever a sweeter eagerness, a holier joy, a more heavenly anticipation, than that which all through the house is felt on Christmas eve? Every one is thinking of making somebody happy. The delicious secretiveness of it intensifies the spirit. Care is forgotten. Excitement is rigging the bells. Peace is over all the world. And here is a child.

Thank God for children! "Of such is the kingdom of heaven." It is a sin to disappoint a child. Then it must please God when we make the children happy.

If there is no child in your home, maybe there is one on your doorstep, waiting for you to be its saint on Christmas eve. There are certainly some there in the street. They are looking at the toys in the window with wistful faces, and wondering what the lover of children will bring them. It is your time to play, and hearts are trumps!

What a tragedy if a single child in your town should have Christmas come and go without an ecstasy!

**BOAR'S HEAD AT CHRISTMAS**

Ancient Custom Which is Now Believed to Be Observed Only at Oxford University.

RINGING in the boar's head at Yuletide is not celebrated widely in Great Britain today, and probably the only place where it survives with something of its old-time glory is Queen's college, Oxford university.

The custom is believed to antedate Christianity; in fact, it is said to have come down to Englishmen from the Druids. The Detroit News recalls Freya, goddess of peace and plenty, was always represented as riding a boar, and the Druid priests are believed to have made yearly sacrifices of boars to this divinity in order to win her good will.

At Queen's the procession of the boar's head forms in the buttery. A soloist, who usually is a former student of the college, heads the line. Behind him march two or three broad-shouldered youths who bear the boar's head, mounted on a silver salver. In the old days the head weighed as much as eighty pounds.

Flags and pennants of the college flutter about the head, which is crowned with gilded sprays of rosemary, bay, laurel and other evergreens. A lemon or an orange, the old Norse symbol of plenty, is placed between the tusks.

Behind the bearers of the silver march the surpliced men and boys of the choir and the organist in a robe of an Oxford doctor of music.

On a dais at the end of the dining hall the provost and the principal guests stand. The provost says grace in Latin; the call to dinner is sounded with trumpets through the cloisters and the procession starts through the cloisters.

**Origin of the Word Yule.**

Many explanations are given of the origin of the word Yule. One of the most probable is that it is derived from the ancient Gothic word, *Yul*, or *Yel*, the origin of our word wheel. The Yule festival is said to have received its name from being the turning-point of the year—when the sun apparently turns back from the south and begins to set each evening farther and farther to the north until in June it goes down almost in the northwest. In the old clog almanacs of the Middle Ages a wheel is the device used for marking Yule-tide or Christmas.

**Chocolate Sea-Foam Fudge.**

Put *ayr*, the *ayr* is a clean saucepan one cupful of light brown sugar, a half-cupful of water and a third of a cupful of grated chocolate and boil without stirring until it spins a thread from the point of a spoon. Have beaten stiff the white of an egg; pour the boiling mixture upon it and stir until it begins to stiffen. Drop from a spoon on waxed paper in little bonbons, or pour into a greased pan beforeside begins to stiffen and mark into squares with a buttered knife.—The Delicatessen.

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**YULETIDE IN THE COUNTRY**

Christmas Day in the Old Farm Home Recalls Fond and Pleasant Recollections.

CHRISTMAS in the country, Christmas day in the old farm home. What pleasant memories it recalls to some of us, and what good times it will mean for many of us this year. There is really no place like the farm home for Christmas good times and jollity and good cheer. Here, if anywhere, prosperity and plenty abound, and in family gatherings and in neighborhood reunions, with an abundance of the fruits of our labor with which to spread our bountiful boards, old friendships may be renewed, new ones made, and even the stranger within our gates may be added to the list.

At Christmas time we may put into practice the real principles of neighborly living. Living close together does not always make neighbors. Speaking acquaintances are not always neighbors. To be real neighbors we must have the spirit of neighborliness in our hearts which prompts us to get together once in awhile, to gather around a well-laden table and feast, and visit, and laugh and joke and have a rousing good time. To love our neighbor as we do ourselves, we have to know him pretty well, and there is nothing like these neighborly reunions as a means of getting acquainted.

It may be that some of us will have to do a little mental and spiritual housecleaning before Christmas day dawns. We shall have to rid ourselves of all the old rubbish of grudges, dislikes, jealousies and ill feelings which we will find pigeon-holed away when we begin to overhaul the accumulation of the years. You will have to throw all this into the discard before you can get into the real Christmas spirit, because the two will not mix. If you have wronged your neighbor in any way, Christmas is a good time to make reparation. And if you feel that you have been wronged, why, just forget it, and the Christmas spirit and the "Christmas get-together" will do the rest. Christmas should be a time of peace and good will to all mankind, and not to a few favored friends. It should be a time of reviving old associations, of renewing old friendships, and of making new friends, and the peace and good will, the neighborliness and good fellowship thus revived should not be allowed to die out as the yule fires cease to burn, but should flow out in a plentiful stream to enrich our lives through all the days of the coming year.

**A Christmas Sermon**

TO BE honest, to be kind—to earn a little and spend a little less, to make upon the whole a family happier for his presence, to renounce when that shall be necessary and not be embittered, to keep a few friends but those without capitulation—above all, on the same grim condition, to keep friends with himself—here is a task for all that a man has of fortitude and delicacy. He has an ambitious soul who would ask more; he has a hopeful spirit who should look on such an enterprise to be successful. There is indeed one element in human destiny that no blindness itself can controvert; whatever else we are intended to do, we are not intended to succeed; failure is the fate allotted. It is so in every art and study, it is so above all the continent art of living well. Here is a pleasant thought for the year's end or for the end of life. Only self-deception will be satisfied, and there need be no despair for the despairer.—Robert Louis Stevenson.

**Cookie Rooks.**

One and one-half cupfuls of sugar, one-half cupful of butter; cream. Add three eggs well beaten, three cupfuls of flour, one teaspoonful of soda in a tablespoonful of hot water, one pound of dates cut in small pieces, three-quarters pound of shelled walnuts (one and a half pounds in shell), one teaspoonful of cinnamon, one-half teaspoonful of allspice. Break the nuts in large pieces and cut the dates about the size of raisins. Drop this stiff dough from a spoon on buttered tins in the size of walnuts. Bake in a slow oven.

**MERELY POSTPONED**

Frank: So you didn't manage to catch Ethel under the mistletoe?  
Jack: That's all right, I'm going to take her for a sleigh-ride tonight.

**The Indian's Vigil.**

In a book of sketches of upper Canada, a pretty incident is cited of the writer meeting an Indian at midnight, on Christmas Eve. During a beautiful moonlight, cautiously creeping along and beckoning him to silence. In answer to an inquiry the Indian said: "We watch to see the deer kneel; this is Christmas night, and all the deer fall upon their knees to the Great Spirit and look up."

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