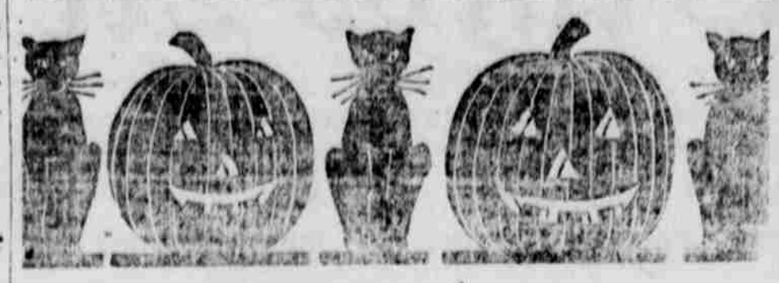
The Way It All Started



All-Hallow Eve falls on the last day of October, the day following being All-Saints' Day, or All-Hallows.

This s the date of the last of three festivals held by the Druids, who in olden times were scattered over northern Europe. These festivals were observed on May 1, the time of sowing; June 21, the season of the ripening of the crops, and October 31, the harvest season.

One of the religious rites of the Druids consisted in maintaining, throughout the year, immense fires on stone alters erected upon eminences in honor of the Sun-God. On the night of Oct. 31, the Druids assembled at the alters in their snow-white robes, and at a given signal, during the absolute silence on the part of the multitude gathered to witness the ceremony, they solemnly extinguished the fires. New fires were then kindled, and as the flames leaped heavenward, the people raised a mighty shout, and then, obtaining live embers from the altars, they returned to their homes to extinguish the old fires left burning on their hearths, and kindle them anew with the sacred embers of the priests. This new fire was believed to protect each homestead from peril so long as it remained burning.

As the Druidis faith faded in the light of Christianity, the heathen festivals lost much of their grandeur and former significance, and assumed a lower character. Gradually the simple country folk came to believe that on Oct. 31 the fairies forsook their hiding places to dance in the forest glades, while witches, goblins, and other evil spirits had revels in deserted abbeys, or plotted against mankind in the shadows of ruined castles and keeps.

By a very natural transition the Hallowe'en fire came to be looked upon as a charm against evil spirits; and even as late as the seveenth century we learn that it was customary for the farmer to make the circuit of his acres brandishing a lighted torch, and chanting of some doggerel rhyme to protect his farm from evil during the coming year.

From the fact that these supernatural agents seemed so near at this season, Hallowe'en was supposed to be the night of all nights for the prying into the mysteries of the future; and this is probably the origin of these games and ceremonies by which it is claimed that one's fate may be learned, at the same time providing a great deal of innocent fun and diversion for youths and maidens of every degree at a Hallowe'en celebration.

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Plain duties are often not relished simply because they are plain. A little of the spectacular injected into them would cause their performance with alacrity.

If you find a button off your coat be gallant and tell your wife when she is busy. It will afford her an excuse for forgetting.

"Lucky is the woman who can tell a lie when she hears it," says an exchange. But some don't wait to hear it, and neither do some men.

Any one can readily secure the comforts of home. It only requires the slight formality of paying for them.

Many tongues wag incessantly. A few say something.

Soon, now, the pre-election agony will be over. But then, b'gosh comes the rejoicing and the weeping We just can't get from under.