

CURRENT EVENTS OF THE WEEK

Doings of the World at Large Told in Brief.

General Resume of Important Events Presented in Condensed Form for Our Busy Readers.

Imperial forces in China are preparing for another big battle.

Samuel and William Muncy, twins, of New York City, celebrated their 93rd birthday on Christmas day.

President and Mrs. Taft escaped their special guards and went calling on friends for two hours on Christmas eve.

More than 1,000,000 gallons of molasses were destroyed by fire on the wharves of the Boston Molasses company.

Europe is profoundly impressed by the force of public opinion in the United States on the Russian passport question.

A South Chicago newspaper which had been active against writers of Black Hand letters was dynamited and the plant practically destroyed.

General Reyes, head of the new Mexican insurgent movement, was located by government authorities on a ranch, together with five of his followers, and captured.

A throng of 100,000 people gathered on the streets and at the windows and on the roofs and balconies of buildings in the heart of San Francisco on Christmas eve and sang songs of peace and good will.

Russian and Persian troops have had a battle near Tabriz.

Alaska delegation says that territory can support millions of people.

Persian officials declare the Russians are murdering women and children in cold blood, and ignoring overtures for peace.

Several hundred newboys struggled for hours in the streets of Portland Christmas day for coins thrown by generously inclined parties.

Several hundred men are racing with dog teams to a new strike on the head of Sixty-mile river in Alaska. The temperature is about 40 degrees below zero.

Senator Borah plans a new irrigation loan which will help the Umatilla project.

Indicted packers in Chicago declare the public was benefitted by their business methods.

C. L. Smith, newly appointed agriculturist for the O.-W. R. & N. Co., will visit many farms along the line to gather practical information.

A government engineer has approved the proposed expenditure of \$800,000 for the improvement of Tillamook bay, on the Oregon coast.

President discusses currency, army reforms, parcels post and other topics in a message to congress.

A telephone rate war has begun in California and is expected to extend over the entire Pacific coast.

Hop interests of America, backed by J. Ogden Armour, are planning a big combine to handle the crops in future.

The powers are now trying to induce the Chinese rebels to accept terms offered by the government and end the war.

PORTLAND MARKETS.

Wheat—Track prices: Bluestem, \$1.60@82c; club, 79c; red Russian, 78c; valley, 80c; forty-fold, 79c@80c.
Corn—Whole, \$37; cracked, \$38 ton.
Millstuffs—Bran, \$23 per ton; middlings, \$30; shorts, \$24; rolled barley, \$37@38.

Oats—No. 1 white, \$30.50@31 ton.
Hay—No. 1 Eastern Oregon timothy, \$18@18.50; No. 1 valley, \$15@16; alfalfa, \$13@14; clover, \$11@12; grain, \$12@13.

Barley—Feed, \$36@37 ton.
Fresh Fruits—Pears, 60c@1.50 per box; grapes, \$1.25@1.50; cranberries, \$12@13 per barrel; casabas, \$1.50 per crate.

Apples—Jonathans, \$1.50@2.25 per box; Spitzenberg, \$1.62@1.50; Baldwin, 75c@1.50; Red Cheek Pippin, \$1.25@1.75; Northern Spy, \$1.25@1.75; Winter Bananas, \$2@3; Bellflower, \$1.10@1.35.

Potatoes—Buying prices: Burbanks, 90c@1.20 per hundred.
Onions—Jobbing price, \$1.50 per sack.

Vegetables—Artichokes, 90c per dozen; cabbage, 10@12c per pound; cauliflower, \$1.90@2 per crate; cucumbers, \$1.25@1.75 per dozen; celery, California, \$4@4.25 per crate; egg plant, 12c per pound; garlic, 6@10c per pound; lettuce, \$2.50 per crate; peppers, 8@10c per pound; pumpkins, 10@12c per pound; sprouts, 9@10c per pound; squash, 14@16c; tomatoes, \$1.75 per box; carrots, \$1 per sack; turnips, \$1; beets, \$1; parsnips, \$1.

Butter—Oregon creamery butter, solid pack, 36; prints, extra; butter fat, 1c less than solid pack prices.

Poultry—Hens, 12c; springs, 11@12; ducks, young, 17@18c; geese, 12@13c; turkeys, live, 20@21c; dressed, choice, 22@23c.

Eggs—Fresh Oregon ranch, candied, 37c per dozen; case-count, 35c per dozen.

Pork—Fancy, 80@84c per pound.
Veal—Fancy, 14@14c per pound.
Cattle—Choice steers, \$5.75@6; good, \$5@5.50; choice cows, \$4.60@5; good, \$4.25@4.50; choice heifers, \$5@5.25; good to choice heifers, \$4.50@4.60; choice bulls, \$4.25@4.50; good, \$4@4.25; choice calves, \$7@8; good, \$6.75@7.

Hogs—Choice light hogs, \$6.55@6.65; good to choice hogs, \$6.25@6.50; fair, \$6@6.25; smooth heavy hogs, \$5.25@5.50.

Sheep—Choice yearling wethers, \$3.75@4; choice killing ewes, \$3.25@3.75; choice lambs, \$4.90@5.10; good to choice lambs, \$4.75@4.90; culls, \$3@4.

SHUSTER READY TO QUIT.

Chief Concern is for Staff of American Assistants.

Teheran—M. W. Morgan Shuster, the American treasurer-general who has been dismissed from office by the cabinet in compliance with the demands contained in the Russian ultimatum, has sent his reply to the cabinet, in which he stated his willingness to hand over his accounts when his successor was named. He added that his chief solicitude was for the welfare of his 14 American assistants, concerning whom nothing has yet been decided.

Meetings were held in the various mosques to protest against the action of the government. The minister of the interior has issued an order that new elections be held as soon as possible.

The latest dispatches from Tabriz report a temporary lull in the fighting. A telegram from Shiraz, province of Fars, where a boycott has been instituted against the Indian troops, reports another attack on the Indians near Kazeron, in which two Sowars were killed. The situation is regarded as serious.

ADMIRAL DEWEY IS 74.

Hero of Manila Bay Holds Informal Birthday Party

Washington, D. C.—Admiral George Dewey, celebrated the 74th anniversary of his birth December 26. Twelve years after all other naval officers are by law retired from active service, the admiral was busy at his desk. He received a few old friends at his home in the evening, among the callers being President Taft.

The admiral believes the secret of good health is congenial employment. His walk is brisk, his handclasp as firm and his energy as abundant as that of a man many years younger.

He appeared at his office promptly at 9 o'clock and plunged into his work. At intervals he was interrupted to receive greetings and congratulations of almost all the senior officers of the navy and army and then again he laid aside official papers to scan some telegram or letter of birthday greeting.

The admiral said he would head the line of naval officers that would pass in review before President Taft at the New Year's reception at the Whitehouse.

KING'S SKULL IS STOLEN.

Tomb of Black George of Servia Desecrated; Jewels Untouched.

Vienna—The vault in St. Mark's cemetery in which reposed for many years the bones of Kara-George Petrovitch, founder of the Servian dynasty, has been desecrated. The skull of the former Servian chief has been stolen, but the decorations and rings were not touched.

The coffin of Queen Persida was not opened. There is no clew to the desecrators.

Kara-George (Black George, or George Czerny) was a peasant, born in 1766, who in 1806 became the leader of the Servians in the revolt against Turkey. He defeated the Turks, captured Belgrade and liberated Servia. He was driven out of Servia in 1813 and was murdered in 1817.

Contract is Not Yet Off.

Washington, D. C.—American Treasurer General Shuster's contract with the Persian government to manage the finances of Persia has not been formally cancelled, so far as the State department can learn. A cable message received from American Minister Russell at Teheran, however, dealt with plans being made to get Mr. Shuster and his family safely out of Persia.

Hence it is assumed that the formalities attending the termination of Mr. Shuster's activities in that country will not be long delayed.

The meagerness of the news from the Persian capital has led to the suspicion that a severe censorship is being exercised by the Russians, who control some of the telegraphic channels of communication.

Rate Reduction Made.

Seattle—An announcement was made here of a freight rate reduction of 10 cents a hundred pounds on lumber shipments from Western Washington to Denver and points in that territory. The new rate, which will go into effect the latter part of January, will increase the market for red cedar shingles at least 25 per cent, lumbermen say. The railroads have also announced reductions ranging from 10 to 20 per cent on fir lumber from the Pacific Coast to points east of the Rocky mountains.

Joy is Fatal to Woman.

San Jose, Cal.—Joy over the news that her family had won a seven years' fight in the courts over a right of way through property near here caused the death of Mrs. Frank Corea. The news was told her on Thursday by a mounted messenger who rushed from the courtroom to the Corea home at Evergreen. Mrs. Corea was ill and in bed. She arose to kiss and congratulate her aged husband and fell back stricken with paralysis. She died without regaining consciousness.

Funeral Charges Go Up.

St. Louis—The St. Louis Livery & Undertaking association has announced an increase of \$1 on every carriage and \$2 on every horse used in funerals in this city. The readjustment makes the scale uniform throughout the week. "The automobile has just about 'put the cab to the bad,' said Louis Landvogt, president of the association. "What the automobile hasn't done in this line the owl car has."

Luggage Explosive Laden.

Pittsburg—Carrying a suit case containing 72 sticks of dynamite, a roll of fuse, and two quarts of whisky, George Bridges, who refuses to tell anything concerning himself, was arrested at Coonesson, Pa., a mill town near here.

MEN OF THE HOUR IN THE CHINESE CRISIS.



ABOVE, DR. WU TING FANG, WHO REPRESENTS REPUBLICAN IN PEACE NEGOTIATIONS, AND YUAN SHI KAI, WHO CONCEDES NECESSITY FOR REPUBLIC. BELOW, ANOTHER PICTURE OF DR. WU, WITH HIS FAMILY.

TAFT SAYS WOOL DUTY EXCESSIVE

Recommends Reduction, But Does Not Name Rate.

Believes Difference Between Cost at Home and Abroad is Proper Basis for Tariff.

Washington, D. C.—President Taft sent a message to congress Thursday recommending a downward revision of the tariff on wool. Accompanying the message was the report of the tariff board. Neither the message nor the report attempts to fix the rate of duty, but the president recommends that the proposed revision adhere to a policy of protection based upon the difference in cost of production at home and abroad.

The message says that the present method of assigning the duty on raw wool operates to exclude wools of high shrinkage in scouring, but of fine quality, from the American market, and thereby lessens the range of wools available to the domestic manufacturer, and that the duty on scoured wool of 33 cents is prohibitory and operates to exclude the importation of clean, low-priced foreign wools of inferior grade, which are, nevertheless, valuable material for manufacturing and which cannot be imported in the grease because of their heavy shrinkage. Such wools, if imported, might be used to displace the cheap substitutes now in use, the president says, and continues:

"These discriminations could be overcome by assessing a duty of ad valorem terms, but this method is open to the objection, first, that it increases administrative difficulties and

Commission Form Wins.

Baker, Or.—Mayor Palmer made public his first annual report under the commission form of government and says he believes that the new form, although beset with many difficulties resulting from inexperience and reorganization, has, on the whole, proved entirely satisfactory and that it is better, because those in charge have given constant consideration to the municipal affairs. The necessary changes and improvements, have caused an expense of 14.7 mills, while for next year they will be 6.4 mills.

Harrington's Trip Halted.

Albuquerque, N. M.—John R. Harrington, the Chicago attorney who was employed as one of the investigators for the defense in the McNamara case and who is wanted as a witness before the Federal grand jury now probing the alleged dynamite conspiracy at Los Angeles, was served with a subpoena by a deputy United States marshal here. Harrington and his wife were passengers on the Chicago limited. He accepted service and voluntarily returned to Los Angeles, leaving at midnight.

Postal to String Heavy Wires.

New York—Minor M. Davis, who was recently appointed superintendent of telephones for the Postal Telegraph Cable company, announced that his company has issued instructions to its construction department to proceed with the erection of additional heavy copper wires between all important points on the system of the company for the purpose of extending the telephone use of the same to the independent telephone companies.

Chaperonage is Urged.

Chicago—Better medical supervision in co-educational institutions, training in the newer vocations for women, self-government and closer chaperonage of girls were urged in resolutions adopted at the close of the fifth biennial conference of deans and advisers of women in state universities.

tends to decrease revenue through under-valuations, and, second, that as prices advance, the ad valorem rate increases the duty per pound at the time when the consumer most needs relief and the produce can best stand competition, while if prices decline the duty is increased at the time when the consumer is least burdened by the price and the producer most needs protection.

"Another method of meeting the difficulty of taxing the grease pound is to assess a specific duty on grease wool in terms of its scoured contents. This obviates the chief evil of the present system, namely, the discrimination due to different percentages, and thereby tends greatly to equalize the duty. The board reports that this method is feasible in practice and could be administered without great expense.

"They should be reduced and so adjusted to the rate of wool as to bear their proportion to the real rate levied on the actual wool imports.

"The duties on many classes of wool manufacture are prohibitory and greatly in excess of the difference in cost of production here and abroad.

"The findings of the board show that in this industry the actual manufacturing cost, aside from the question of the price of material, is much higher in this country than abroad; that in the making of yarn and cloth the domestic woolen or worsted manufacturer has in general no advantage in the form of superior machinery or more efficient labor to offset the higher wages paid in this country. The findings show that the cost of turning the wool into yarn in this country is about double that in the leading competing countries and that the cost of turning yarn into cloth is somewhat more than double. Under the protective policy a great industry, involving the welfare of hundreds of thousands of people, has been established despite these handicaps.

"In recommending revision and reduction, I therefore urge that action be taken with these facts in mind, to the end that an independent and established industry may not be jeopardized."

New Treaty is Considered.

St. Petersburg—Having accepted in an equitable spirit the notification of the American ambassador that the treaty of commerce and navigation entered into by the United States and Russia in 1832 would be abrogated on January 1, 1913, officials of the Russian government are now directing their attention to the question of a new treaty. It is recognized that diplomacy of the most experienced kind will be required, especially on the American side, if negotiations for a new treaty are to proceed.

Passport Refused to Rabbi.

London—Dr. M. S. Levy, of San Francisco, is a recent sufferer in an encounter with the Russian barriers against the admission of Jews. The rabbi is now in London on a world tour, which is to last several months, and he has found that he cannot get his passports indorsed in order that he may travel in Russia. "The Russian ambassador told William Phippe, secretary of the American embassy in London, that he regretted that he was unable to indorse the passport of a Jew," said Dr. Levy.

Would Change Homestead Law.

Washington, D. C.—Secretary Fisher, of the department of the interior, is not disposed to favor an out-and-out three-year homestead bill, such as that introduced by Senator Borah, of Idaho, but rather inclines to the view that the homestead period should remain five years, as at present, but with the provision that the homesteader need not maintain his residence upon his land the first two years after initiating his entry.

Dynamite Left in Garden.

Los Angeles—Twenty-two sticks of high-power dynamite were found in the shrubbery near the residence of Arthur Letts, owner of two of the largest department stores in Los Angeles, by a gardener. After an investigation, the police announced that they believed the dynamite had been placed in the yard by someone who wanted to get rid of it.

YUAN REMAINS STEADFAST.

Will Resign Rather Than Yield to Republicans.

Pekin—Yuan Shi Kai, the premier, evidently still remains steadfast in his decision not to accept a republican form of government for China as the price of peace within the empire.

Members of the premier's entourage reiterate that Yuan never will advise the abdication of the emperor and thereby become a traitor. They say that if the formation of a republic is unavoidable he will resign as prime minister.

It has been suspected that Tang Shao Yi, the representative of Yuan and the imperial government at the Shanghai peace conference, and Yuan were playing a pre-arranged game with the intention to shear the Manchurians of power gradually and thereby prevent a Manchu uprising in Peking, but the fact that Tang has telegraphed friends here asking them to endeavor to persuade Yuan of the necessity of accepting a republic seemingly indicates that Tang and the premier are not in accord.

After many conferences prior to his departure from Shanghai, Tang evidently believed that Yuan had been won over to the republican idea, while on the other hand Yuan thought Tang had been brought around to see the necessity for the continuance of the monarchy.

ARMY REFORMS PRISONS.

Deserters to Be Treated as Subject to Good Influences.

Washington, D. C.—A sweeping change in military prison methods was instituted by order of the War department. All of the short-term prisoners on Alcatraz island, San Francisco, have been ordered transferred to Fort Leavenworth, Kan.

All of the long-term prisoners in the latter prison are to be transferred to Alcatraz, which will thus be made the place of confinement for the criminal element, while Leavenworth will be the place of detention of soldiers guilty of purely military offenses. To save transportation expense, a second criminal jail is created at Fort Jay, Governor's island.

The effect of these changes is to carry out the recently developed British system of treating deserters and the soldiers guilty of breaches of discipline as subject to reformatory influences and of segregating them from the absolutely criminal and vicious class.

BIG PRIZES FOR MARCHERS.

Elks Offer Great Inducements to Competitors in Parade.

Portland—With prospects of from 25,000 to 30,000 uniformed marchers in the big Elks Grand Lodge convention parade here in July, the local lodge of Elks has decided to award a total of \$10,000 in cash prizes for the winners of the different classes. This is by far the greatest aggregation of prizes ever offered by the Elks or any other order in the country. These prizes will be for the lodge making the best showing, the lodge having the largest number of men in line, the one having the largest total mileage, the best drilled marching team, the lodge bringing the greatest number of ladies, the best band, the biggest and the tallest Elk, the hand-somest and the ugliest, for the most comical costume and for a number of special feature classes.

Standard Hash Proposed.

Topeka, Kan.—With the ultimate object of standardizing all hash served in public places in Kansas, the State board of health has instituted an investigation as to the ingredients commonly used by restaurants and hotels in the concoction of the dish. "This department has found," said Dr. S. J. Crumbrin, secretary of the board, "that all mixed foods must be standardized or the pure food law cannot be enforced. The board does not propose to denature hash—merely tone it down."

Traffic Advantages Hold.

Washington, D. C.—"Power has not been lodged with the Interstate commerce commission to equalize economic advantages, to place one market in competition with another, or to treat all railroads as a part of one great whole; to apportion to each a certain territory or to acquire all to meet upon a common basis at all points." This important principle was laid down by the commission in deciding the cases of the Ashland, Ohio, Fire Brick company brought against the Southern railway and other roads.

Maine Relics Are Held Up.

Washington, D. C.—Sentimentalists and souvenir-hunters, as well as town governments and patriotic organizations have been pouring requests into the navy department recently for relics from the ill-fated Maine. The department has no authority to dispose of any part of the vessel, and all requests have been refused. The department is awaiting action of congress before making any plans for the disposition of the wreck.

Japan Ready to Intervene.

Tokio—Although the reports of Japanese military intervention in China are premature, it is understood that preparations have been completed to send an expedition to China if necessary. The belief prevails here that the Shanghai peace conference is a pretext on the part of both the revolutionists and the imperialists, in order that they might strengthen their military positions.

Antipodian Trust Fined.

Sydney, Australia—The prosecutions against the coal combine, on which writs were served on August 26, 1910, for breaches of the Australian anti-trust law, resulted in the fining of each member of the trust \$2,500 by the Federal court. The court granted an injunction against the continuation of the monopoly.

Happy New Year of Many Nations

NEW YEAR'S day has for generations been the occasion of revels. It has come down to us from the old German custom of dividing the year at the close of those months when it was no longer possible to keep cattle out doors.

This was made quite a fete and in the sixth century was merged into the feast of St. Martin, November 11, on which day the opening of the New Year was celebrated.

While in Germany Martinmas and the New Year were identical, with the introduction of the Roman calendar the celebration was gradually transferred to the first of January, and with it went many of the jolly Martinmas customs.

Traces of these old New Year observances and superstitions can still be traced in the way the season is kept in different lands.

Our decorations of greens, for instance, are a relic of the old Roman superstition of presenting branches of trees for good luck in the coming year.

The giving of presents has also come to us from the Romans. They could even the generous Americans, for they used to ask for gifts, if not received, until one of the emperors forbade his subjects demanding gifts save on the New Year.

One of the favorite New Year's gifts after pins were invented in England, in the sixteenth century, were the rough hand-made pieces of metal that took the place of bone and wood skewers. Later pin money was substituted.

A gift that must never be omitted was an orange stuck with cloves to grace the wasall bowl. Apples, nuts and fat wool were popular offerings of the season.

Gloves and glove money is a very old New Year custom which is still kept up in the increasing use of gloves as holiday gifts.

Even more curious are the old New Year customs. Many of these are still observed by old-fashioned people who cling to the old traditions.

The old-fashioned Englishman will formally open the outer door of his house on New Year's eve just at the approach of midnight. This is to let out the old year and usher in the new.

The Scotch make much of New Year. It is generally ushered in with a "hot pint," brewed at home and drunk by the family standing around the bowl just as midnight strikes.

After hearty greetings to the New Year, the "hot pint," with bread, cheese and cakes, is taken to the houses of the neighbors. The first to enter another's home on the first of January bestows good luck on the family for the year.

In many of the Scottish regiments even yet the ushering in of New Year is most picturesque. At five minutes before twelve the soldiers, headed by the oldest man in the regiment dressed as Father Time, march out of barracks headed by the band playing "Auld Lang Syne."

Just at the stroke of twelve there comes a knock at the gate.

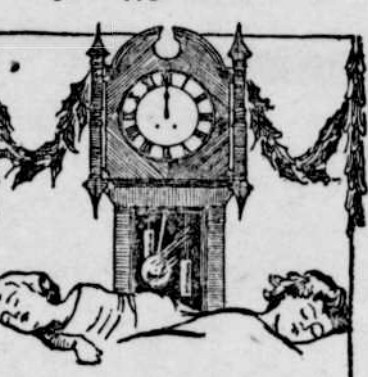
"Who goes there?" calls the sentry. "The New Year," is the answer. "Advance, New Year," is called back.

The gates are thrown open and the smallest drummer lad in the regiment, dressed in Highland costume, is carried in on the shoulders of the men, and marched around the barracks to the pipers' tunes. The rest of the night is spent in carousing.

A Prayer for the New Year

ETERNAL God, in whom is the hope of all our years, remember us in Thy mercy also in this new year of our Lord. Reveal Thy glory in the experience of its joys and sorrows. Forestall its tears with the abiding comfort of Thy presence. Make us strong rightly to measure all our gains and to endure with patience every loss Thy love allows. Show us Thy meaning in the gifts and opportunities of each new day. Assure us of Thy help in labor, Thy delight in our joys. Quicken our minds to clear vision and our hearts to cheerful content. Provide for our bodies such vigor as shall be needful for our allotted work. We leave to Thee the mystery of the year's events, assured that Thou wilt guide our way. Withhold from us all gifts which would prevent Thy purpose for our growth in wisdom and in service. Only deny us not Thyself—Thy Spirit to instruct our hearts, Thy work to share, Thy peace to still our restlessness, Thy presence to resolve our doubts. In the sifting of temptation grant that our faith fail not, and when our years are ended bring us to Thyself, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

A Happy New Year



Just at the turn of midnight, When the children are fast asleep, The tired Old Year slips out by himself, Glad of a chance to be laid on the shelf, And the New Year takes a peep.

Best Gift of Time

The passing of years is like the coming of dawn—slow, silent, inevitable. The most eager cannot hasten the quiet, irresistible movement, and the most reluctant cannot forbid. Some gifts the years bring which we would fain decline—age, sorrow, disappointment. Some treasures they take which we would keep forever—youth, beauty, innocence. But there are more precious treasures which time cannot supply and the years cannot remove—friendship, patience, faith and love—Herbert L. Willert.

The New Year

The wind blew there and the wind blew here, And brought from somewhere the small New Year. It tapped for him at each door and pane, And never once was a knock in vain! All good folks waited the coming child, Their doors they opened and on him smiled. Inside he stepped, with a happy face, And softly slipped in the Old Year's place. Said he: "I bring you a Box of Days. Tied round with tissue of rainbow rays; I give it joyfully, for I know, Though all days may not with gladness glow, Each gift holds some precious bit of cheer. To win your thanks," said the sweet Child Year!

Origin of New Year Gifts

Like the customs of Christmas, which in their origin, are a curious mixture of poetry and symbolism and of superstition, those that belong to the observance of New Year's day are also relics of ideas that date from early heathen ages. The French derive their term for New Year presents from the Latin word, Strenia, the name of a goddess whom the Romans venerated as the patroness of gifts. There was a grove in Rome dedicated to this goddess, where it was customary to get fresh twigs, to give as presents to friends and relatives on New Year's day. During the sway of the emperors, Roman subjects made New Year's gifts to their sovereign. Augustus received such quantities of these that he had gold and silver statues made of them. Thertius did away with the usage, because he considered it too troublesome to express thanks for the gifts. Calligula, on the other hand, reintroduced the custom, and trust law, resulted in the fining of each member of the trust \$2,500 by the Federal court. The court granted an injunction against the continuation of the monopoly.

"Blowing in the Yule."

Blowing in the yule from the grim old tower that had stood 800 years against the blasts of the North sea was one of the customs of the old town that abide, however it fares with the Nisse; that I know. At sunup, while yet the people were at breakfast, the town band climbed the many steep ladders to the top of the tower, and up there, in fair weather or foul—and sometimes it blew great gusts from the wintry sea—they played our old hymns, one to each corner of the compass, so that no one was forgotten. They always began with Luther's sturdy challenge, "A Mighty Fortress is Our God," while down below we listened devoutly.

There was something both weird and beautiful about those far-away strains in the early morning light of the northern winter, something that was not of earth and that suggested to my child's imagination the angels' songs on far Judean hills. Even now after all these years, the memory of it does that. It could not have been because the music was so rare, for the band was made up of small storekeepers and artisans who thus turned an honest penny on festive occasions. inconspicuously enough, I think the official town mourner, who bade people to funerals, was one of them. It was like the burghers' guard, the colonel of which—we thought him at least a general, because of the huge brass sword he trailed when he marched at the head of his men—was the town tailor, a very small but very martial man. But whether or no, it was beautiful. I have never heard music since that so moved me. When the last strain died away, came the big bells with their deep voices that sang far out over field and heath, and our yule was fairly under way—Century Mag.

