

CHRISTMAS AND PAGANISM.

Many Customs and Emblems of Yuletide Antedate Christ.

Most of our festival days are of pagan origin, and so it is with our Christmas holly and mistletoe. But shall we think any the less of them because in ancient days they were associated with the Roman saturnalia and with the Druid ceremonies at which sometimes human beings were sacrificed? How many remember that the custom of decorating homes with evergreens is mentioned in the Bible, where Nehemiah wrote:

"And they found written in the law, Go forth into the mount and fetch olive branches and pine branches and myrtle branches and palm branches and branches of thick trees to make booths."

This was for the feast of tabernacles. So we see that the custom was early practiced by the Jews.

Holly is the emblem of peace and good will, and the ancient poets tell us that it was also significant of the resurrection. How fitting its use today and how interesting to know its history! Who knows but that the Romans may have derived their idea from the Persians, who have a saying to the effect that the sun never shadows the holly tree and who used to make a concoction from the bark which they threw in the face of a newborn child as an omen of good luck?

Closely associated with the holly is the pearly mistletoe with its romance. The Druids held a solemn procession each year on the sixth day of the moon nearest the new year, going forth with a golden sickle to cut the mistletoe from the sacred oak. The oak to the Druids was a symbol of strength. It was also the tree sacred to Jupiter, and only the mistletoe that grew on an oak had holy virtue. Each year when the voice of the cuckoo was heard in the land the priests sent envoys to spy out the finest mistletoe growing on an oak, and when taken from the trees it was placed in white linen cloth.

From time immemorial the mistletoe has been considered an omen of good, and it was said that fairies took refuge in its thick foliage, so any one who hung a spray in the home would have the protection and gratitude of the good fairy folk. Today, with its enchantment, its beguiling sweet human smiles under its white berries, and all who are kissed may be sure that the hidden elves will sanction and not condemn the practice. In Sweden amulets were made of mistletoe, and in Wales a necklace made from the waxen berries was supposed to protect from snake bites.

Sir Walter Scott wrote this beautiful poem describing the social element in the Christmas celebration of medieval times:

And well our Christian steeple of old
Loved when the year its course had rolled
And brought blithe Christmas back again
With all his hospitable train.
Domestic and religious rite
Gave honor to the holy night.
On Christmas eve the bells were rung;
On Christmas eve the mass was sung.

WHEN THE MAIL MAN IS SANTA CLAUS.



SOMETIMES the mail man acts as Santa Claus, or, maybe, he just substitutes for the dear old saint. Anyhow, he comes around to the house loaded down with packages, and sometimes those packages contain things even more warmly appreciated by the children than the gifts Santa puts in the stockings. They come as Christmas presents from the uncles and the cousins and the aunts or from the friend you met at the seashore or in the mountains last summer or from the kind old lady who patted you on the back when you went to the county fair, asked your name, said you were a "nice child" and she would always remember you.

At any rate, when the mail man takes the place of Santa Claus he has a great many families to look out for, and you should be kind to him and thank him for delivering the packages to you, for he is very hard worked at Christmas time. If he looks weary and worn wish him "Merry Christmas." Perhaps he has children at home who are not so well remembered at Christmas as you are. Maybe you'll think of them and hand the mail man a little package, telling him to take it home to his own children.

That only night in all the year
Saw the staid priest the chalice rear.
The dame donned her kerchie sheen.
The hall was dressed with holly green.
Forth to the wood did merry men go
To gather in the mistletoe.

The Comfort of Peace.
Some must be sad on even Christmas day,
Some sufferings and sorrows cannot
cease,
To some we cannot "Merry Christmas"
say,
But heaven comfort them and give them
peace.

CHURCHES ARE ALL TO OBSERVE CHRISTMAS DAY

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singing, all of which has been especially prepared.

At the Presbyterian church there will be two Christmas trees. On Sunday morning the pastor will

preach a Christmas sermon and in the afternoon, at 3 o'clock, the primary department of the Sunday school will have a program, given by their class membership and to consist of recitations and songs. At 7:30 in the evening the adult and more advanced classes in the Sunday school will present a program, consisting of dialogues, small Christmas plays, recitations and songs.

At the Baptist church the Christmas exercises will be held tonight (Saturday). There will be a tree and a splendid program. The different classes are expected to give something in the way of food, clothing or cash for the needy poor of the city. Sunday morning at the usual hour the pastor will preach a sermon to the new converts, while his evening

AUNT SANTA CLAUS.

While Santa takes orders for each gift and toy
And jingles about in his sleigh
His wife is preparing her part of the joy,
For she stays at home, stitching all day,
So I'll tell you about her, for no one, I find,
Has heard of Aunt Santa Claus, patient and kind.

She sits every hour at her needle and thread,
With dolls all around her in rows,
Now she's fitting a bonnet on this little head,
Now slippers on those little toes.



And to count all the dresses would puzzle you quite,
Such heaps upon heaps, red and blue, pink and white.

And she makes for the dollies a little bed,
too,
With pillows and sheets soft as snow,
And there's something she's stitching for each one of you,
But that is a secret, you know,
When Christmas has come you shall know then at last
Why the dear, good old lady sits sewing so fast.
—Youth's Companion.

sermon will be especially applicable to Christmas time.

The members of the Methodist Episcopal church, South, Sunday school will hold its Christmas exercises tonight (Saturday). There will be a tree and a program to consist of songs and recitations.

The Free Methodist church and Sunday school members will have a tree at their church Sunday evening. There will also be a program. At the Catholic church mass will

be held at 6, 7 and 8 o'clock Sunday morning; high mass and sermon at 10:30. A Christmas crib has been erected in the church. At Jacksonville mass will be held at 8 and 10 o'clock.

Pension Bill Discussed.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 23.—Senator Brown of Nebraska today discussed the Sherwood \$1 day pension bill in a speech in the house. He said its passage would be an appropriate Christmas gift for the veterans.

Cardinal Takes Church.

ROME, Dec. 23.—Cardinal Diomede Falconio, recently elected to the college of cardinals, took formal possession of the titular Church of Santa Maria in Araucoli with impressive rites today.

Not many employers will talk business with work hunters who cannot be reached through want advertising in this city this week.

Haskins for health.

BOY EMULATES TEDDY IN FRISCO

Armed With a Popgun and With a New Book, "Terrible Teddy in Africa," Youngster Opens Fire on Mechanical Toys.

SAN FRANCISCO, Cal., Dec. 23.—A small boy with a popgun and inspirations from a new Christmas book, "Terrible Teddy in Africa," fortified himself behind a packing box in front of a big department store here and opened fire on mechanical rabbits, monkeys and crawling toys being sold by a curbstone fakir. That's the beginning of the story of how San Francisco decided this year to do away with the annual epidemic of hallyhooing toy hawksters. When the lad's mother, Mrs. George F. Jarvis, came out of the store she was told by an excited crowd that she'd find her son at the police station. He was closeted with Chief White. After his mother took him away the chief issued the edict: "Clean out the toy peddlers."

The girl who can't cook should keep out of the matrimonial frying pan.

Valley Second Hand Store

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Merry Christmas

Thanking our many friends for the greatest year's business we have ever experienced, we wish them all a Merry Christmas

THE WARDROBE

If You Are on the Fence

And don't know just where to go to have your dental work done, let me give you a few pointers. We have acquired our solid reputation only on account of our known skill and experience. We are experts in all branches of high class dentistry, perform painless extraction and render highly efficient service in the way of crown and bridge work, crowning, filling, etc., and our charges are known to be reasonable. This is the finest equipped office in Oregon and that is saying a great deal. We may not have the



largest office, but it is complete in every respect. It contains all modern appliances of value known to the dental profession for the convenience of patients and for the performance of first class work. We charge you nothing for consultation and estimate and if we do your work it will be absolutely guaranteed. Come in and see us and you will be convinced. You receive only the best treatment here.

LADY ATTENDANT

22 Karat Gold Crowns	\$5.00
Porcelain Crowns	5.00
Bridge Work (per tooth)	5.00
Silver Fillings	1.00

Gold Fillings	\$1.50
Full Set of Teeth on Rubber Plate	7.50
Best Set of Teeth on Rubber Plate	10.00
Painless Extraction50

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