

Christmas in Samuel Pepy's Time

Marjorie Howe Dixon knows that Samuel Pepy's diary in cipher, and the two hundred years ago. Due to the fact that the diary was written in shorthand, she writes intimately of the day, in a way that otherwise have dared. By interest we feel in Pepy's life.

How he celebrated his Christmas was turkey in Merrie England, but served on the 23rd of December because it fell on the year 1660. In the morning, where our pew all rosemary and baize. A dull sermon. Home to wife and maid with made shift to spit a letter me this week from my old colleague, in Huntinghouse, but ated, and so I was faint two o'clock, and after with my wife, and a there was, and so home, Christmas Day) In the church, where Mr. Mills good sermon. Home to my brother Tom (who came to see my wife's out on, which do please to a good shoulder of chicken. After dinner we and I, where we had of a stranger, which p.

er we find that Pepy's ch as usual on Christmas that the following day wife and a merry group round a merry bowl of alehouse,—the good old tioned in Dickens and King's tale of Bracebridge ear of 1662, there was

Christmas given, just as there is now, and the tipping of servants. On December 24th Pepy writes, "This Evening Mr. Gauden sent me against Christmas, a great chine of beef, (whatever that may be) and three dozen tongues. I did give 5 s. to the man that brought it and half a crown to the porters.

On Christmas day Pepy heard a sermon on the text, "Glory to God on high, on earth peace and good will towards men." Later he says, "I walked home again with great pleasure, and there dined by my wife's bedside with great content having a mess of brave plum-porridge and a roasted pullet for dinner, and I sent for t mince pie abroad my wife not being well to make any herself yet." Evidently his wife soon recovered for she was able to join him at a theatre party the 28th of that month.

Many times Pepy held a celebration before Christmas. Thus on the 24th of the month (1665) we find he made this entry: "24th. (Sunday) To dinner, my landlady and her daughter with me and had mince pies, and very merry at a mischance her son had, in tearing of his new coat quite down the outside of his sleeve in the whole cloth. Then to church, and placed myself in the parson's pew under the pulpit, to hear Mrs. Chamberlain in the next pew sing, who is daughter to Sir James Bunce, of whom I have heard much, and indeed she sings very finely."

Mince pies were certainly Pepy's favorites. His wife seemed to have gone to great measures to provide her husband with his mince pies. In December, 1666, he wrote: "25th. (Christmas day) Lay pretty long in bed, and then rose, leaving my wife desirous to sleep, having sat up till four this morning, seeing her maids make mince pies. I to

church where our parson Mills made a good sermon. Then home, and dines well on some ribs of beef that are roasted and mince pies; only my wife, brother, and Barker, and plenty of good wine of my own, and my heart full of pure joy; and thanks to God Almighty for the goodness of my condition at this day.

In 1667 Pepy spent Christmas eve at the Queen's chapel and there witnessed a religious presentation of the advent of our Lord. He mentions his amazement at the mixture of the crowd, there being many footman and beggar, with here and there a fine lady, the clergy and noble with the Queen and her ladies. Pepy was most concerned about his pockets being picked. The "shew" as he called it lasted until early morning when he finally took a coach after drinking some burnt wine at the Rose tavern door. He begins his diary for the 26th with his ride home in the moonlight and he stopped and dropped money at five or six places which he was the willing to do, it being Christmas day." His wife was asleep when he arrived but Jane his house maid was making pies and in all probability He retired and rose again about nine and "to church, and there heard a dull sermon of Mr. Mills, but great many fine people at church, and so home.

Christmas seemed to be celebrated very quietly in England if we are to take Pepy's activities as an example. It is to be remembered that England was at that time going through a period of reconstruction politically with the restoration of the monarchy under Charles the First. Christmas celebrations were not as highly developed as they were later, when we find the joyous and hearty and even lively affairs which are recorded by Dickens and Irving.

MICKIE SAYS

THE CUSTOM OF PRINTING OBITUARIES COMES HAS WENT OUT OF STYLE, ALONG WITH CONGRESS GAITERS, RUBBER COLLARS 'N BUSTLES, WHICH IS A GREAT RELIEF TO ALL EDITORS, WHO HATE 'EM!

We Do Job Work

Christmas Gifts by Garden Lovers

By Marjorie Howe Dixon

Gifts that recall the joy and glory of summer in the garden will be greatly enjoyed by garden lovers. Plants, seeds, bulbs, small and unusual tools, even this short list presents fascinating possibilities to a person who delights in the appropriate in giving. One of the chief things to be considered, perhaps, is whether the friend's garden is an old one or whether it is in its infancy. Of one thing one may always rest assured, no garden is ever complete, no gardener is ever satisfied; always there is a tree, a shrub, a flower needed to complete the collection; always there is a new or novel tool desired to make gardening a greater delight. The friend who supplies the smallest of these needs is sure of a harvest of gratitude.

A pleasant way to announce the future arrival of something for the garden is to send a small fore-runner on Christmas morning. If you wish to tell your friend that you have paid for a rare evergreen that the nurseryman will send at the right time send a note to that effect with a box of tiny Christmas trees and bright berries with which to fill the window box.

Such a box will be both a present joy and a promise of permanent joy to come. If instead of an evergreen a collection of rosebuds has been ordered, a single rose may be sent with the note of greeting that announces the fact.

Perhaps the recipient of the gift only rents her house, yet finds the garden necessary to her happiness. To such an one, send a collection of the seeds of the less commonly used annuals. Grandmother's garden knew some of these as Painted Tongue, Morning Bride, Butterfly Flower, Scedmen sell them as Salpiglossis, Scizanthus, Scabiosa. To these add single annual chrysanthemums, sweet sultan, bush morning glories, varieties of the glorified Phlox Drummond and the splendid improved petunias. Even if these are not entirely new to her, the garden lady will be pleased.

A Present of Vines

Perhaps the garden which is to have the Christmas present needs some climbers. A pleasant gift would be a collection of seeds of annual vines, such as the balloon vine, the cypresses, including the new cardinal climber, the Brazilian morning glory and the graceful Murandia vine in its many colors.

A garden new or old needs a collection of such summer bulbs as the Zephyr lilies and Hyacinthus candelae, and always there is room for such old time sweet smelling things as lavender, bergamont and the "musk" of our grandmothers, which growers call mimulus mochatas.

Do you prefer to send something besides seeds or plants? Then why not a collection of clear, slender glass vases of different heights? Or one or two of the books on amateur gardening that are both practical and pleasing? Or if your gar-

dener friend is an expert, why not a specially bound copy of Bacon's Essay on Gardens which has charmed the heart of every gardener since the time of the great Elizabeth?

Lending a Personal Touch

If the intense personal touch is desired, home designed gifts may be made. A wide flat basket, painted or dyed at home, together with a stout pair of gardeners shears, and a pair of garden gloves will be appropriate. These are no handier small tools for the garden than a steel-tined kitchen fork and a long tin spoon. Two such forks one spoon and a small watering pot, the sprinkler and the fork and the spoon handles to be painted a gay favorite color, would make a set both useful and acceptable.

Another home made gift might be a dozen round stakes a foot long and a dozen flat ones, four inches long, all painted a pleasant gay green. The first would be used to tie up budding plants while the others could have pasted on them the names of seeds shown and would be used for markers.

A still different type of gift might consist of colored prints of old gardens designed for framing, or what would also please the zealous gardener a scrap book for garden snap shots and treasured newspaper clippings on such gardening information as most appeals to the recipient's heart.

a glass chimney were invented, the candles with their dripping and their smoking were discarded for what seemed a better lighting device. Later on, kerosene lamps were perfected, then the gas jet and electric bulb entirely supplanted the tapering stick.

Today without efficient lighting, is it not interesting that we have rediscovered candles and their use? Now the beautiful housekeeper supplies herself with candle and candlesticks. For their decorative beauty she stands a pair over the mantle, another on the side board and still another on the consul table while sometimes she has a little row of bedroom candlesticks at the head of the stairway.

The housewife of today permits romance and good cheer to enter, when she turns off the electric glare and lights her candles. She has found there is no substitute for the soft shielding glow they give. There is nothing more flattering to her dinner guests than to light her table with a beautiful glass candelabra as a center piece.

Beauty and Romance in Candles

Modern fixtures may have efficiency and convenience written all over them, but beauty, romance, conviviality depart under the piercing rays of an unshaded gas jet or electric bulb. Candles bring a sense of quiet and restfulness which is so desirable in these days of rush and hurry.

The old disadvantages of the candle have been greatly eliminated under modern manufacture. Candles

Holiday Greetings

from

The Quality Store

of

Portland, Oregon



A Story of Candles

By Marjorie Howe Dixon

If you and I were suddenly transported back to the days of Louis XVI and found ourselves dressed to attend the court ball in Versailles we would certainly be impressed with the scores upon scores of candles lighting the brilliant hall. The candelabra hanging from the ceiling and the sconces upon the walls would be elaborately fluted in scrolls and bedecked with glass prisms, reflecting light in countless rays.

Candles Recently Discussed

Candles have always been used more or less but about a hundred years ago when little oil lamps with

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