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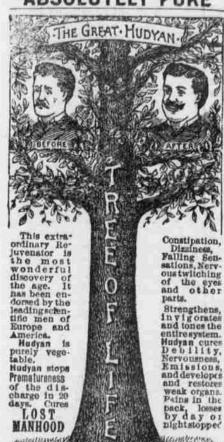
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I OLD SAXON CHEER. flow They Pledged Each Other From the Spicy Wassail Bowl.

Among quaint Christmas customs which are prominent as we look back through the vista of ages appears the burning of the rule log. It comes down from Scan-dinavians, Goths and Saxons, who at the yule feast kindled huge bonfires in bonor of Thor. In feudal times the cutting of the yule log was the beginning of a series of festivities. Brought into the baronial hall and lighted in the great fireplace, it was the well understood harbin-ger of hospitality and kind feeling, of wide open doors and good cheer.

If by chance any enmity existed between those gathered around the festive board, it must all be drowned in the bubbling wassail bowl. The mandate of the host

Come, bring with a noise, My marrie, merrie boys,
The Christmas log to the firing,
While my good dame she
Bids ye all be free,
And drink to your hearts' desiring.

This wassail bowl was a huge tankard of spiced ale or wine, in which each drank his neighbor's health—the old Saxon phrase "was hael," meaning "to your health." It was a custom in some places to "wassail" fruit trees by pouring or sprinkling upon them a prepared liquid,

with various ceremonies. Wassaile the trees, that they may bears You many a plumb and many a pears, For more or less fruits they will bring, As you doe give them wassailing

Substantial viands were not lacking to company the favorite Christmas beverage, yet the piece de resistance was not anciently, as in later times, the fat turkey or plump goose, but the boar's head was the dish served in baronial balls with greatest ceremony. It was brought in on an immense silver salver—or a golden one if such were in possession of the host—or-namented with holly and rosemary and carried by some tall servitor, elaborately dressed and accompanied by minstrels inging carols.

The boar's head in hand I carry, Bedecked with bays and rosen And I pray you, my masters, be merry.

The boar's head, as I understand Is the bravest dish in all the land When thus bedecked with gay garland. Our steward hath provided this In house of the king of Bliss

Which on this day to be served is. Serving the boar's head at Christmas is still a custom among certain nations. Another odd dish was the peacock, which, after being stuffed and roasted, was readorned with its plumage, and the gilded beak being added and the long tail feathers unfurled was brought into the hall in great state and occupied a place of honor on the banqueting table. No servile hands were allowed to touch the proud bird. The poblest lady of the household or some

high born guest prepared it for the table and brought it in. Of course the plum pudding and Christmas pie and scores of other favorite dishes were not lacking, among which always appeared the yule cake and frumenty—a preparation of eggs, milk of almonds and various spices. Some of these viands would not appeal to the more refined palates of the present age.

MISTLETOE TRADITIONS.

Time Honored Myths of the Famous Plant. Emblem of Love.

The ancient British Druids attached much importance to the plants, trees and vines which they employed as Christmas decorations for their temples. The mistletoe especially they invested with a peculiarly hallowed and mystic character. They regarded it as an emblem of love and believed that it typified the beneficent feelings of their gods toward mankind. It is doubtless to this old Druidical association of the mistletoe with love that the English custom, which still obtains, of enforcing the forfeit of a kiss from any woman who is caught under a branch of

it at Christmas time is traceable. In the old Scandinsvian mythology there is told a characteristic fable of this famous Christmas bough, the mistletoe. Balder, the god of poetry and eloquence and the sor of Odin and Friga, one day told his mother that a dream had convinced him he should die by violence. To avert this destiny Friga invoked all the powers of nature—earth, air, fire, water, plants and animals—and made them swear to her an oath that they would not harm her son, who then fearlessly took his place among the gods and in all their combats fought unharmed smid a shower of ar-rows. But he had a bitter enemy in the person of a god called Loki, who, convinc-ed that Balder's life was protected by some of that Balder's life was protected by some charm, resolved to fathom it. Disguising himself as an old woman, he visited Friga and in the course of their conversation onsually asked how it was that her son Balder invariably came forth unseathed from all the fiercest battles of the gods. Frigs told him how she had invoked the powers of nature in Balder's behalf, but added that she had neglected the mistle-toe, which she regarded as too insignif-cant to harm him. Leaving her, Loki straightway made from a mistletce bough an arrow, with which Balder was sisin by a blind god called Hocia.

by a bilind god called Hecia.

There is a superstition connected with the mististee that it is unlocky to fall an oak on which it grows, and the author of "Magna Britannia" describes a great wood belonging to the archbishop of the Hundred of Croyland, said to have consisted wholly of oaks, and among them was one that hore mististee, which some persons were so hardy as to cut down for the gain of selling it to the apothecaries of London, leaving a branch of it to species. att, but they proved unfortunate after it, for one of them fed lame, and others lest an eye. At length, in the year 1607, a certain man, notwithstanding he was warned against it upon the account of what the others had suffered, adventured to out the tree down, and he soon after

broke his icg.
To foll take had long been considered fatal, and such as believe it produce the instatute of the East of Winchelson, who, thering fedied a curious grove of cake, some after found his counters dead in her hed suddenly, and his eldest son, Lord Maid-stone, was presently killed by a cannon

A couple of centuries ago, and many bundands of years provious, mistinion was reparaled as toing a medicine of spuch value in application affections, but modern schesics says that the gestimmen who year there is such that the said

"Hung t'p" Mis Watch, At Christman that page, water leasing up at human At Christman that page, with poles, a archer to pay for all fascin Chaos becought. Had to being up his gold water and shale.

"Biello Billio, snory Christennei What

AN UNCANNY PHOTOGRAPH.

A Newly Wedded Couple's Picture Marred by a Ghostly Intruder.

The people of Elma, a bustling, live ly town in the upper part of Chehalis county, are mystified over a photograph. Last Tuesday afternoon Major Rogers and wife entered the gallery of H. B. Merriweather of that city and had their pictures taken. On removing the plate the artist noticed that the picture was not perfect, and throwing the plate into the bath took another, which was a very good likeness of the old maor and his bride. They have been married less than three months and are each on the shady side of 50.

Mrs. Rogers called Wednesday for a proof and expressed a desire to see the first plate. On holding the plate up to the light the photographer saw three figures, one a man appearing between the major and Mrs. Rogers.

Handing it to the lady, she glanced at it and went into hysterics, exclaiming, 'It is --- '' (her first husband). She begged the artist to say nothing about it, as it would scare the major to death, but in some way the matter became known and soon spread over the town, nearly every one calling at the office to see the negative. Mr. Merriweather claims the plate was taken from a new box and had not been exposed.

Mrs. Rogers, it is said, is a medium of note. She is from the east and has lived in Elma about two months. The figure is distinct, both in form and feature, and stands out apparently shead of the major and Mrs. Rogers.-Aberdeen (Wash.) Cor. Portland Oregonian.

THE MARRIAGE MARKET.

Prices Are Fair For Gilt Edge Stock, but

Job Lots Are Cheap. It is too early in the season to predict what the prospect for business in the matrimonial market will be. Dealers are carrying over large stocks from last year, and the overproduction of debutantes and the importation of foreign fascinators may have a depressing effect upon the market. Dealers are anxious to realize, but the market continues firm, with an upward tendency.

Prim, first class, country bred winners are at a premium. Last season's society whirlers are below par. There is a better feeling in rosebuds, and prices to foreign noblemen are phenomenally low. Mothers-in-law, after having touched bottom figures, A1, are reviving and are quoted at 88%, middling 78, good ordinary 61. It is confidently predicted that before the fiscal year ends mothers-in-law will go to 114 unless unforeseen complications arise calculated to bear the market. Fathersin-law are extremely dull. Small brothers find no market, and maiden aunts are not listed. Gilt edged orphans are scarce and but few offering. The stock on hand Oct. 1, 1894, of good matches among the men is too small to note in a sworn to statement of effects and liabilities. - Washington Post.

Driven to Suicide by Women

The fact is carefully suppressed by the English press that Viscount Drumlanrig, the eldest son of the Marquis of Queensberry, whose death was announced last week, committed suicide. The young man was recently engaged, and the announcement caused two other women with whom he had relations to threaten him. The young man blew his

After the Ball. If the lady who brings suit for damages against her partner in a waltz, to whose clumsiness she attributes a broken leg, wins her case dancing orders here-after will have to be furnished with a blank form to be signed by the lady, holding her partner harmless in case of accident.—Boston Transcript.

To Cure the Law's Delay. The chief justice of Georgia is in favor of the admission of women to the bench. If this were done, it is quite probable that there would be less of the law's delay. The faculty woman enjoys for getting at the truth of things quickly should make her a very desirable judge.—Memphis Appeal-Avalanche.

#### Should be Looked Into.

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