

Democratic Watchman

Bellefonte, Pa., Dec. 25, 1896.

Christmas in Bethlehem.

How the City of Christ's Nativity Observes Its Anniversary.

There are always more or less pomp and display in Bethlehem at Christmas time. Christmas night is a night of watching, and few people go to bed until the gray streaks of dawn are showing in the east.

Many of the people of Bethlehem gain a livelihood by selling to tourists beads, carved mother of pearl shells, small tables, crucifixes, cuff buttons made of olive wood and cards on which are arranged and pressed the flowers of the neighborhood.

Tough on the Turkey.



Landlady—Are you ill, Mr. Middleage? You do not seem to be enjoying your Christmas turkey with Mr. Youngblood?

Mr. Middleage—No, not ill. But I'm not so muscular as I was once.

We love and bless the hands we press When the Christmas log is burning.—Cook.

Christmas in Brittany.

In Brittany, in France, a curious custom in almsgiving is of very old origin. When the country folk go to the midnight mass, the opening mass, of Christmas day, they all carry lanterns to light them on their way.

The worshippers enter the sacred building and then attend to the devotions, which the church teaches should be of especial fervor at this holy season. But when the mass is ended, and they are dismissed with the benediction, they come forth to find the patient old woman.

Carrying them outside the church bearing the lanterns. The lanterns are given back to their owners, and as each takes his own he exchanges for it a piece of money.

The Yuletide Log.

Christmas eve is the time to put the Yule log on the fire. In old times it was the custom to bring it into the house with great ceremony and merriment.

The Blossoming Thorn Tree. At Glastonbury, in south England, there is a thorn tree which is believed to blossom on Christmas day, and then again about Easter.

The Kneeling Cattle. In many parts of Germany it is believed that oxen fall on their knees in the stalls at the moment of Christ's nativity.

Christmas Menu.

It May Be Indicated by Quotations Rather Than Names of Dishes.

- "An oyster may be crossed in love." "Beautiful soup, so rich and green, Waiting in a hot tureen, Who to such dainties would not stoop? Soup of the evening—beautiful soup!" "Canst thou catch any fishes there?" "Some wish a pinion, some prefer a leg; Some for a merry thought, or side-bon, beg." "My more having is a sauce to make me hunger more." "No man's pie is freed from his ambitious finger." "How fresh you are and green in this old world!" "Cheese is indeed a peevish elf, Digesting all things but itself." "Coffee, which makes the politician wise." "Sublime tobacco, which from east to west Cheers the tar's labor or the Turkman's rest." "I will show myself highly fed." "All's well that ends well."

Austrian Gastronomy.

The gastronomical taste of Austria differs very materially from that of Germany. Fried carp, little sausages, noodles and cakes flavored with pears compose the ordinary menu of the middle class Viennese, but on Christmas day roast turkey, or, in the absence of that, goose, with potatoes, is the simple feast on the Austrian's table.

Telling the Bees.

In Devonshire, England, a messenger is sent from the house of the farmer to tell the bees that Christmas day has come, and they are supposed to greet the glad tidings with a joyful hum.

OLD CHRISTMAS SPORTS. Some Ancient English Ways of Making Merry at This Season.

In the olden times Christmastide was essentially the season of sports, and few relics of the olden days are recurred to with more zest by our fathers than the mirthful games and the goodly frolics which were wont to usher in the days of "merrie Christmas."

Christmas was in its best estate in the days of the good Queen Bess, and it is a pleasant reflection to think what "high jinks" Shakespeare, Ben Jonson and the rest of that right merry crew must have indulged in.

Only fancy "the worshipful master Shakespeare" enacting the part of the Lord of Misrule at the court of Elizabeth, while the queen and Leicester and Essex and Southampton and Pembroke and Raleigh and that "ponderous sink of learning," Bacon, and the whole bevy of beauties took part in the revelries.

What we call Christmas sports now were in England of very ancient origin, and the Druids celebrated during the winter solstice the rites in honor of Thor, one of the Scandinavian deities, and some few of the customs by which the festivities attendant upon Christmas in later days were characterized may be traced to the established ceremonies in honor of that heathen deity.

Furniture.

HOLIDAY Furniture Suggestions.. FROM..

NAGINEY'S.

Anything in our line would make an acceptable Christmas present to any one of your friends and Remember that if you intend making purchases after the Holidays we will still be in business at the old stand.

Some seasonable suggestions are:

- Rockers, Morris Chairs, Tables, Side Boards, Ladies' Desks, Dining Chairs, Carpet Sweepers, Onyx Tables, Blacking Cases, Toilet Trees, Medicine Cabinets.

A CARPET SWEEPER IS JUST THE THING FOR YOUR MOTHER OR YOUR WIFE.

F. E. NAGINEY, BELLEFONTE, PA. Reynold's Bank Building. 41-50

Montgomery & Co. Gifts so Many and so Good.

But to aid you in deciding just what to give, we quote a few articles which make most useful and acceptable presents.

- SUITS AND OVERCOATS, in both ready to wear and made to order. HATS, in all the leading styles. UNDERWEAR. HOSIERY. KID GLOVES. HANDKERCHIEFS, in Linen or Silk. NECKWEAR, in Four-in-Hand, Puff, Scarfs Ascots, Tecks and String Ties. HOUSE COATS. SMOKING JACKETS. UMBRELLAS, for Ladies and Men. CANES. SWEATERS, with large sailor collar for Boy's and Men. SHIRTS, in fancy colors and white. COLLARS. CUFFS. SACHELS. TRUNKS.

Christmas Economy's Easy Here. MONTGOMERY & CO. Bellefonte.

CHRISTMAS GIVING. The Poor Were Not Forgotten in the Days of Tong Ago. There is an ancient custom for the rector of Piddie Hinton, in Dorsetshire, to give away on old Christmas day, the 6th of January, annually, a pound of bread, a pint of ale and a mince pie to every poor person in the parish, and this distribution is regularly made by the rector to upward of 300 poor persons.

Alsatian Cookery. Stewed Hare with Noodles. One of the Traditional Dishes.

Alsace still preserves her traditions of cookery, and every Christmastide the traditional dishes appear on the table—sauerkraut, surrounded by little white sausages and crowned by a piece of smoked bacon; stewed hare, with noodles, and roast goose stuffed with chestnuts.

SWISS CHRISTMAS DINNER. Roast Goose Occupies the Place of Honor. Geneva Fritters the National Dish.

In this beautiful country, where the laws and the customs vary in every canton, the mistress of the kitchen has a wide variety of German, Italian and French cooking to select from. But on Christmas day, although all these styles may be united on one table, there is an invariable although unwritten law that roast goose shall be the chief dish.

Knecht Rupert. Santa Claus was introduced into America by the Dutch of Holland. He is the American representative of the Herman Knecht Rupert.

A Christmas Lyric. Christmas comin—don't you fret—Carve off possum fine!

Oh, believers, See de bright light shine! De life en drum Say Christmas come—So carve dat possum fine!

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Celebration of Christmas. The celebration of Christmas is said by the church historians to have been formally instituted by Pope Telesphorus, who died A. D. 138.

Old Time Mince Pies. Christmas mince pies in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries were made with a coffin shaped crust, to represent the manger.

"What's In a Name?" The Swiss name for mistletoe is donnerbesen—thunder beson—and, when suspended from the rafters, is believed to protect the house from fire.

Jewelry.

Advertisement for F. C. RICHARD'S SONS, BELLEFONTE, PA. Lists various jewelry items like SILVER TRINKETS, JEWELRY, UMBRELLAS, WATCHES, WALKING STICKS, CLOCKS, POCKET BOOKS, Etc. Etc.

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