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In certain parts of New Mexico, among the old Spanish settlements, the celebra-tion of Christmas begins more than a week before the day. In the evenings, a party of men and women go together to the house of some friend—a different house being or some friend—a different house being visited each evening. When they arrive, they knock on the door and begin to sing, and when those in the house ask "Who is there?" they reply: "The Virgin Mary and St. Joseph seek lodgings in your house." At first the inmates of the house refuse to let them in. This is done to carry out the Bible story of Joseph and Mary ry out the Bible story of Joseph and Mary being unable to find lodings in Bethlehem. But in a little while the door is opened and the visitors are heartily welcomed. As soon as they enter, they kneel and repeat a short prayer; and when the devotional of the well-to-do families of the village, But in a little while the door is opened and

On Christmas eve the people of the village gather together in some large room or hall and give a solemn little play, commemorating the birthday of the Saviour. One end of the room is used as a stage, and this is fitted up to represent the stable and the manger; and the characters in the sacred story of Bethlehem—Mary and Joseph, the shepherds, the wise men, and the angels—are represented in the tableaux, and with a genuine, reverential spirit. Even the poorer people of the town take part in these Christmas plays.

AMONG THE SHAKERS

The Shakers observe Christmas by a din-ner at which the men and women both sit down at the same table. This custom of theirs is the thing that serves to make Christmas different from any other day among the Shakers. During all the rest of the year the men and women eat their

munity-house, where the dinner is waiting The men sit on one side of the table and the women on the other. At the head sits an old man called the elder, who begins the meal by saying grace, after which each one in turn gets up and, lifting the right hand, says in a solemn voice, "God is love." The dinner is eaten in perfect follows. silence. Not a voice is heard until the meal comes to an end. Then the men and women rise and sing, standing in their places at the table. As the singing pro eeds they mark time with their hands and feet. Then their bodies begin to sway from side to side in the peculiar manner that has given this sect its name of Shakers.

elder chants a prayer, after which the men and woman silently file out and leave the

AMONG THE PENNSYLVANIA GERMANS "You'd better look out, or Pelznickel will catch you!" This is the dire threat held over naughty boys and girls at Christ-mas-time in some of the country settlements

Claus. But he is not altogether the same old Santa that we welcome so gladly. On Christmas eve some one in the neighborhood impersonates Pelznickle by dressing up as an old man with a long white heard. Arming himself with a switch and carrying a bag of toys over his shoulder, he from house to house, where the children

He asks the parents how the little ones supposed to get no presents, but Pelznickel catches them by the collar and playfully taps them with his switch.

IN PORTO RICO.

frightened out of their wits if Santa Claus should come to them in a sleigh drawn by reindeer and should try to enter the houses and fill their stockings. Down there, Santa Claus does not need reindeer or any other kind of steeds, for the children say that he just comes flying through the air like a bird. Neither does he bother himself looking for stockings, for such things are not so plentiful in Porto Rico as they are in cooler climates. Instead of stockings, the children use little hoxes, which they make themselves. These they place on the roofs and in the courtyards. and old Santa Claus drops the gifts into them as he flies around at night with his bag on his

run out eagerly to see whether anything more has been left in their boxes during

tival of much importance, and the celebra-tion of it is made up chiefly of religious ceremonies intended to commemorate the principal events in the life of the Saviour Beginning with the celebration of his birth, at Christmas time, the feast-days follow one another in rapid succession. Indeed, it may justly be said that they do not real-

ly come to an end until Easter. Oue of the most popular of these festi val-days is that known as Bethlehem day. This is celebrated on the 12th of January, in memory of the coming of the Mag The celebration consists of a procession of children through the streets of the town. The foremost three, dressed in flowing robes to represent the wise men of the East, come riding along on ponies, holding in their hand the gifts for the Infant King; horn and shouting a "Merry Christmas!" their hand the gifts for the Infant King; the was promptly brought to his senses by

AMONG THE MORAVIANS.

men and women still living who knew ravian housewives in Bethlehem, Pennsylnothing of Christmas as children—who never hung up their stockings; who never good things for the holidays—mint-cakes, ravian housewives in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, are busy in their kitchens making waited for Santa Claus; who never had a tree; who never even had a Christmas present!

Nowadays, however, Christmas in New Good things for the nonaxys—mint-cakes, pepper-nuts, Kummelbrod, sugar-cake, mince-pies, and, most important of all, large quantities of "Christmas cakes." These Christmas cakes are a kind of ginger cooky, crisp and spicy, and are made according to a recipe known only to the Moravians. They are made in all sorts of curious shapes -hirds, horses, hears, lions, fishes, turtles,

mas tree surrounded at its base by a miniature landscape made up of moss and greens

presents with them, go back to their homes.

IN NEW MEXICO.

In certain parts of New Mexico, among the old Spanish settlements, the celebration of Christmas begins more than a week are brought into the church, by men on one side and women on the other, and passed around to the little folks—one for each boy and girl. This is meant to represent the coming of the Light into the world, and is but one of the many beautiful customs observed by the Moravians.

> "Going around with the star" is a popular Christmas custom among some of the natives of Alaska who belong to the Greek church. A large figure of a star, covered ed by the star-bearer and two men or boys

ments. After enjoying the cakes and other good things, and singing one or two carols, they take up the star and move on to the next house.

These processions take place each night during Christmas week; but after the second night the star-bearers are followed by men and boys dressed in fantastic clothes, who try to catch the star-men and destroy their stars. This part of the game is sup-posed to be an imitation of the soldiers of Herod trying to destroy the children of Bethlehem; but these happy folks of Alaska evidently don't think much about its meaning, for they make a great frolic of it. Everybody is full of fun, and the frosty air of dark winter nights is filled with laughter as men and boys and romping girls chase one another here and there in merry excitement.

IN HAWAII.

The natives of Hawaii say that Santa Claus comes over to the islands in a boat. Perhaps he does; it would be a tedious journey for his reindeer to make without stopping from San Francisco to Honolulu.

They look for him as eagerly as do the boys and girls in the lands of snow and ice, and although it must almost melt him to get around in that warm climate with his furs on, he never misses a Christmas.

Before the missionaries and the Ameri can settlers went to Hawaii, the natives knew nothing about Christmas, but now they all celebrate the day, and do it, of course, in the same way as the Americans who live there. The main difference between Christmas in Honolulu and Christmas in New York is that in Honolulu in December the weather is like June in New York. Birds are warbling in the leafy trees; gardens are overflowing with roses and carnations; fields and mountain slope are ablaze with color; and a sunny sky smiles dreamily upon the glories of a sum-mer day. In the morning people go to church, and during the day there are sports and games and merry-making of all sorts. The Christmas dinner is eaten out of doors in the shade of the veranda, and everybody is happy and contented.

IN THE PHILIPPINES.

Buenas pasquas! This is the hearty greeting that comes to the dweller in the Philippines on Christian pines on Christmas morning, and with it, perhaps, an offering of flowers.

It starts at midnight, or even before; behave themselves during the year. To and all day long fire-crackers are going off in the streets of every city, town, and village of the South, from Virginia to Louisiana A Northern boy welving up and do not start and all others who have lived under Spanish rule, look upon Christmas as a great religious festival and one that requires very special attention. On Christmas eve the churches are open, and the coming of the great day is celebrated by a mass at mid-night; and during all of Christmas day mass is held every hour, so that every one may have an opportunity to attend. Even the popular Christmas customs among the people are nearly all of a religious character, for most of them consist of little plays or dramas founded upon the life of the

Saviour. These plays are called pastores, and are performed by bands of young men and women, and sometimes mere boys and girls, who go about from village to village and present their simple little plays to expectant audiences at every stopping place. The visit of the wise men, the flight into Egypt -these and many other incidents as related in the Scriptures are acted in these pastores. Sometimes, by the way of variety, the sacred scenes are interspersed with dancing and singing of popular songs; and some-times the village band will play a few airs at intervals; altogether the performances are very entertaining and are always very much enjoyed.

On moonlight nights during the Christmas holidays the young people hold merry gatherings out in the open air, while they dance and play and sing amid the delicious perfumes of glorious night-blooming flowers and the balmy breezes of a tropic land. -By Clifford Howard in St. Nicholas.

Christmas Decorations.

How to use Ferns, Oak Leaves, Pine and Holly. In holiday decoration, says Collier's Weekly, the roadside ferns, both green ones and those in brown and yellowed by early frost, are most manageable, and the Christmas or evergreen fern has the qualities of richness and pliability which make it invaluable for trimming. The russet leaves of the white oak and the great tanned ones of the shrub oak give the shades of brown so beautiful in combination with dark green. We may also obtain these colors in ones and chestnut burrs.

The pine, holly and box boughs can, of course, be procured at Christmas time. The way in which the ground pine, the ar-The way in which the ground are stripped bor vitæ and other evergreens are stripped into ropes is inartistic. The and tortured into ropes is inartistic. The boughs themselves should be used when ever it is possible to obtain them. A beautiful looped frieze can be made by tying sprays of pine and hemlock along a cord; one knot is sufficient to hold each. The ball of twine should be held unwound as the sprays are tied. When this garland is ready it can be caught in loops around the cornice or picture molding with common pins. It is a delicate fringe, much prettier less work and less expensive than the tigh rope of greens. Such a garland is pretty in the hall and may be carried up the staircase. Banisters are a fine opportunity for trimming, the newel-post especially. If this holds a lamp or gas fixture branches of boxwood can be placed about it with beau-tiful effect. Boxwood is an ideal Christmas green, beautiful in color and not scattering its leaves as pines, etc., do.

Colorado's Garden Crops.

To the Easterner, used to his garden bed of peas a few feet square, the idea of growing this product in beds of 2,500 acres and harvesting and threshing peas like so much wheat, is a revelation. The West just now holds in store many such agricul-

tural surprises for those from a distance.
In Longmont, Col., the land is prepared for peas just as it is for wheat. The regular wheat drills are used in sowing peas. Two rows of peas are sowed and then a space equal to that occupied by the two rows is skipped, thus leaving 21 inches be-tween the double rows for cultivation and irrigation purposes. When the pea vines become large enough to cultivate, a corn cultivator is used in throwing earth up to them; when five to six inches in height a furrow is made between the rows in the

highest part of the field by a broad ditch. At the harvesting of peas all are mowed down by a cutter that runs just beneath the ground. Then the hayracks arrive and carrying lanterns on long poles. They are great loads of peas on the vines are hauled warmly welcomed at each place, and are invited to come in and have some refreshments. After enjoying the cakes and other threshing is done by means of machines. threshing is done by means of machines

constructed especially for this purpose.

When the peas have been shelled by means of these machines, they are next put through grading machines which sort out the different sizes. The filling of the cans is accomplished by means of machinery. Each machine fills 12 caus at one time. At the factory at Longmont 40,000 cans are

filled in a day.

Longmont boasts, further, of the largest asparagus bed in the world. The bed comprises 120 acres and contains three-fourths of a million plants. The rows are about six feet apart, and the plants are 12 to 15 inches apart in the rows. The demand for asparagus to-day is greater than

the supply.

One more agricultural novelty in Colorado is an 80-acre currant patch. As far as known this is the largest currant patch known this is the largest currant patch extant. It is situated, like the asparagus bed, at Longmont. In this currant patch there are 135,000 plants set out in rows seven feet apart. The plants are three and a half feet apart in the rows. One hundred and fifty hands, old and young, are employed at picking time. One and one-fourth cents per pound is paid for picking, which enables expert pickers to make as high as \$2.50 per day. A currant bush in Colorado will produce at least a gallon of currants will produce at least a gallon of currants. Some produce 10 gallons. Owing to irriga-tion, it is claimed that the berries are superior in flavor to those grown under other conditions. - Scientific American

What became of that little kitten you had here?" asked a lady visitor of the small girl.

"Why, haven't you heard?"
"No; was it drowned?"
"No."

"Lost ?" "No." "Poisoned?"
"No."

"Then whatever did become of it?" aid the lady. "It growed up into a cat," was her reply.—Little Chronicle.

Personally-Conducted Tours via Penn sylvania Railroad Season of 1902-1903.

The Pennsylvania Railroad Company announces the following Personally-Con-ducted Tours for the season of 1902-1903: California .- Two tours : No. 1 will leave New York, Philadelphia, Harrisburg and Pittsburg January 29th; No. 2 will leave February 19th, and will include the Mardi

Gras at New Orleans. Florida.—Three tours to Jacksonville will leave New York and Philadelphia February 3rd and 17th, and March 3rd. The first two of these admit of a sojourn of two weeks in the "Flowery State." ets for the third tour will be good to return by regular trains until May 31st. 1903.

Tickets for the above tours will be sold from principal points on the Pennsylvania Railroad. For detailed itineraries, giving rates and full information, address Thos E. Watt, passenger agent Western Districts Pittsburg; E. Yungman, passenger agent Boltimore District, Baltimore; C. Studds, passenger agent Southeastern District, Washington; or Geo. W. Boyd, Assistant General Passenger Agent, Philadelphia.

Pennsylvania Railroad Company will Issue Clerical Orders for 1903.

Pursuant to its usual custom, the Pennsylvania Railroad Company will issue clerical orders for the year 1903 to ordained clergyman having regular charges of churches located on or near its lines. Clergymen desiring such orders should make individual application for same on blanks furnished by the Company through its Agents. Applications should reach the General Office of the Company by December 21, so that orders may be mailed December 31 to all clergymen entitled to receive them.

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ences distress after eating, nausea between meals, and is troubled with beiching and fits of nervous headache-he's dyspeptic and miserable.

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Bellefonte, Pa., December 19, 1902. HOW UNCLE SAM OBSERVES CHRIST-MAS. Of course Uncle Sam is best acquainted with the good old-fashioned Christmas—the kind we have known all about since

Democratic Watchman.

we were little bits of children. There are the Christmas trees with their pretty decorations and candles, and the mistletoe and holly and all sorts of evergreens to make the house look bright, while outside the trees are bare, the ground is white with snow, and Jack Frost is prowling around, freezing up the ponds and pinching people's noses. And then there is dear old Santa Claus with his reindeer, galloping about on the night before Christmas, and scrambling down chimneys to fill the

stockings that hang in a row by the fire-It is the time of good cheer and happiness and presents for everybody; the time of chiming bells and joyful carols; of turkey and candy and plum-pudding and all the other good things that go to make up a truly merry Christmas. And here and there throughout the country, some of the quaint old customs of our forefathers are still observed at this time, as, for instance, the pretty custom of "Christmas waits"boys and girls who go about from house to

house on Christmas eve, or early Christ-mas morning, singing carols. But, aside from the Christmas customs we all knowso well, Uncle Sam has many strange and special ways of observing Christmas; for in this big country of his there are many different kinds of people, and they all do not celebrate Christmas in the same way, as you shall see.

IN THE SOUTH Siss! Bang! Boom! Sky-rockets hissing, crackers snapping, cannons roaring, horns tooting, bells ringing, and youngsters shouting with wild delight. That is the way Christmas begins down South.

It starts at midnight, or even before; ana. A Northern boy, waking up suddeuly in New Orleans or Mobile or Atlanta, would think he was in the midst of a rousing Fourth-of-July celebration. In some of the towns the brass bands come out and add to the jollity of the day by marching around and playing "My Maryland" and "Dixie"; while the soldier companies parade up and down the streets to the strains

of joyous music and fire salutes with can-To the girls and boys of the South, Christmas is the noisiest and jolliest day of the year. The Fourth of July doesn't compare with it. And as for the darkies, they look upon Christmas as a holiday that was invented for their especial happi-They take it for granted that all the "white folks" they know will give them presents; and with grinning faces they are up bright and early, asking for "Christmas gif', mistah; Christmas gif', missus." No one thinks of refusing them, and at the end of the day they are richer

and happier than at any other time during the whole year. Except for the jingle of sleigh-bells and the presence of Jack Frost, a Christmas in the South is in other ways very much like that in the North. The houses are decorated with greens, mistletoe hang above the doorways, Santa Claus comes down the chimneys and fill the waiting stockings, while Christmas dinner is not complete without the familiar turkey and cranberry

sauce and pies.

IN NEW ENGLAND. For a great many years there was no Chritsmas in New England. The Pilgrims and the Paritans did not believe in such celebrations. In fact, they often made it a special point to do their hardest work on Christmas day, just to show their contempt for what they considered a pagan festival. During colonial times there was a law in chusetts forbidding any one to celebrate Christmas; and if anybody was so rash in those days as to go about tooting a

Of course things are very different in New Eugland now, but in many country towns the people still make more of Thanksquipus then there and shepherds and flute-players, all represented by children dressed in pretty customes and carrying garlands of flowers. Thanksgiving than they do of Christmas; and there are hundreds of New England

England is like Christmas anywhere else; but here and there, even now, the effects of the early Puritans ideas may still be seen. In some of the smaller and out-ofthe-way towns and villages you will stars, leaves, and fuuny little men and a very few of the houses, and in some places—particularly in New Hampshire—often used by the good fathers and mothers as decorations for the "Putz." find Christmas trees and evergreens in only and there the children go to get their gifts, Christmas-time. This consists of a Christwhich have been hung on the branches by the parents. Sometimes the tree has no

exercises are concluded, the rest of the marching about from house to house, head evening is spent in merrymaking.

meals at separate tables.

At sunset on Christmas day, after a service in the church, they march to the com-

When the singing comes to an end, the

of the Pennsylvania Germans, or Pennsylvania Dutch, as they are often called.

Pelznickle is another name for Santa

are expecting him.

The Porto Rican boys and girls would be

He is more generous in Porto Rico than he is anywhere else. He does not come on Christmas eve only, but is likely to call around every night or two during the week. Each morning, therefore, the little folks

Christmas in Porto Rico is a church fes-

For many days before Christmas the Mo-

the parents. Sometimes the tree has no decorations—no candles, no popcorn strings, no shiny balls. After the presents are taken off and given to the children, the tree remains perfectly bare. There is usually a short entertainment of recitations and songs, and a speech or two perhaps, and then the little folks, carrying their turn and songs, and a speech or two perhaps, and then the little folks, carrying their turn is and songs and adorned with toy houses and tiny fences and trees and all sorts of little animals and toy people. On Christmas eve a love-feast is held in the church. The greater part of the service is devoted to music, for which the Moravians have always been noted. While the