

SANTA CLAUS IN PORTO RICO.

CHRISTMAS in Spain is a religious festival rather than a social one. It was so originally in Porto Rico, but the population has been influenced partly by the spirit of the new world and partly by the many American merchants who reside in the cities and who exert an influence much greater than the numbers would seem to warrant.

The churches welcome the day with chimes which begin at midnight and last until the midnight of the next day. What with one church beginning ten minutes too soon and another ten minutes too late and a third at the right moment, what with bells which ring every fifteen minutes and bell ringers who under some ancient custom will sound the great bells every half hour, the air is filled with music which never seems to end.

If you are near a campanile the effect is not altogether pleasant on account of the volume of sound striking the ear with too much force, but in a public square several hundred yards from the nearest belfry, where trees



A DAUGHTER PLAYS ON THE GUITAR.

and buildings break the sound waves, or in suburbs on the hillside the effect is unspeakably delightful.

Pleasantest of all is it when you are sitting in the inner court or quadrangle of a Porto Rican home. Around you on four sides the house rises above you, and in the grounds or in great tubs and porcelain pots rich flowers, graceful vines and restful trees afford shade, color and perfume. The sound of the bells descends from the air above very much like a benediction. You sit in an easy chair, and servants bring you tea or steaming coffee, sweetmeats and biscuits, confections and cigarettes, while a daughter or son plays ancient songs or dances upon a mandolin or guitar.

The churches are crowded; so are the clubs and most of the places of recreation. Every vehicle is in use, and here and there can be seen young men and women trying to imitate English models. Some of the people of the mountain districts carry out many of their early superstitions in regard to Christmas. They hang over the doors of their houses bunches of trees which are supposed to possess charms and often conduct marriage ceremonies under great canopies made of these charmed trees.

A great many wild flowers are in bloom at Christmastide, and these are worn by children of the mountain districts in wreaths and garlands about their heads, necks and waists. The Christmas giving is sadly missing in our new possessions. The churches hold no Christmas tree, and there are few charitable societies to give feasts. However, one hospital for old people and orphans in Ponce gives a Christmas fete, and the inmates have a good meal and receive warm clothing, medicines and other useful gifts.

The American occupation has brought extra Christmas cheer to the people of the island. The American residents celebrate the day in good American fashion, and, best of all, they put money into circulation and give zest to industry and business.

Hardness of Icebergs.
The hardness and strength of ice increases with the degrees of cold, and as icebergs come from the region of perpetual cold of an intensity difficult to realize it is readily seen how they can become "demons of destruction." The hardness of icebergs is something wonderful, even surpassing that of the "land ice" reported from St. Petersburg in 1740, wherein it is declared that "in the severe winter of that year a house was built of ice taken from the river Neva which was fifty feet long, sixteen feet wide and twenty feet high, and the walls supported the roof, which was also of ice. Before it stood two ice mortars and six ice cannon made on a turning lathe, with carriages and wheels also of ice. The cannon were of the caliber of six pounders, but they were loaded only with one-quarter pound of powder and with hemp balls—on one occasion with iron. The thickness of the ice was only four inches, and yet it resisted the explosion." Ice palaces have also been built in late years in this country and in Canada which have stood for weeks, so, then, how strong must be the ice in masses hundreds of feet in thickness!—Pittsburg Press.

A CHRISTMAS DANCE

BY JAMES D. CORROTHERS



EBENIN', dah, Miss Mandy Jane!
See me comin' up de lane!
Speck you waitin' foh me.
Kin' o' late a-gittin' roun'—
Had to walk hyeah clean fom town—
But we'll be in time, Ah'm boun',
Do' hit's putty sto'my.

TAKE ma ahm 'n' le's push on
'Cross lots, 'ca'se de time's done gone.
'N' we ought to be dah!
Chris'mas ain't de time to crawl
To er ole time country ball.
Preachah may not lak it 't all,
But he'll sho' fine me dah.

LOOKEE you'ah! Dah's de light,
Up de road dah to de right!
Let de roads be smooer rough,
Soon we'll j'ine de measah!
Snow, blow, drif'in' lak a bluff,
Cain't come col' er snow eruff
Foh to stop ouh pleasah!

CO'SE Ah b'lebes in doin' right;
Goes to chu'ch o' Sunday night,
Spesh'ly of it's handy.
But seem lak Ah's gittin' so,
Ef it rain er snow er blow,
Don' keer ef Ah go er no—
Dis hyeah's diff'unt, Mandy.
—New York Mail and Express.

THE TERROR'S CHRISTMAS.

Turkeys Were \$17 Each During the Siege of Paris.

When the Christmas day of 1870 dawned upon Paris the city had been in the iron grip of the German investment for about three months. The winter was a bitterly cold one, the thermometer registering 10 degrees below freezing point on Christmas morning. The Seine was frozen over.

The poor's daily rations were a few ounces of horseflesh and a piece of repulsive looking black bread.

By Dec. 25 food prices had reached their highest point since the beginning of the siege. On Nov. 13 a pound of butter fetched \$14 and a rabbit \$3.50. By Dec. 19 rabbits had risen to \$5, a box of sardines brought \$2.50 and eggs 25 cents apiece. For one's Christmas dinner one could buy a goose for \$10 or a turkey for \$17. Pigeons were \$5 each, and a small fowl could be obtained for \$5. Ham was \$1.50 a pound. As for vegetables, carrots and turnips were 4 cents each, and a bushel of potatoes cost \$6.25. There was hardly any milk in Paris, and the little there was had to be preserved for the sick and wounded. However, there were oceans of wine, and the wineshops did a roaring trade.

For some time before Christmas the starving people had been feeding on cats, rats and dogs until by Dec. 25 a dish of cat's flesh was hardly obtainable. Dog was 30 cents a pound, and fine rats fetched 14 cents each. Many domestic pets were killed for food. "Poor Amor!" said a humorous citizen as he finished a stew made from his favorite dog. "How he would have enjoyed these bones!"

With true Parisian light heartedness the citizens tried to make the best of things, and the cafes and restaurants wore almost their normal aspect. At half past 10, however, an order of Trochu closed every shop and cafe, and by 11 o'clock Paris had gone to bed.

The midnight mass of Christmas eve was celebrated as usual in the churches, which were crowded with praying, weeping women. Newspapers appeared as usual, some of them containing glowing accounts of perfectly imaginary French successes. The satirical sheets were even more bitter and venomous than at other times and published scathing caricatures. Some showed the fallen emperor, Napoleon III, as a shoeblack at King William's boots, or as a beggar with his pockets turned inside out, or as a traitor handing over France to a Prussian in exchange for a bag of coin. In all the idea of Parisians that France had been betrayed by those who ought to have protected her was prevalent.

So at this season of peace and good will suffering Paris was nearly at her last gasp. Owing to the tenacity of her rulers and citizens, however, her agony was to be prolonged for some weeks longer, as it was not until February that the negotiations for a capitulation began.



"If I was only Santa Claus,"
Said Annie with a grin,
'I know of just one stocking-
I'd put all the presents in!"



"I know my feet are awful big.
Mama says they're shocking.
But they're all right just once a year when I hang up my stocking!"

The Quest of the Auto.
Mrs. Newlywed—I am hoping and praying that my hubby will give me an auto for Christmas.
Her Friend—How long are you married?
Mrs. Newlywed—Six months.
Her Friend—Well, hoping and praying may fetch it this year, but next year it will have to be sobbing and jawing.—Judge.

SANTA CLAUS A STRANGER.

He is Officially Unknown to Uncle Sam's Mail Agents.

The postoffice department does not know Santa Claus. The old saint has no official existence so far as Uncle Sam's mail agents are concerned. This is due entirely to the fact that Santa Claus lives everywhere at the same time instead of having a single local habitation like other people. It is very sad, but it cannot be helped. Letters which children address to Santa Claus or Kris Kringle must go straight to the dead letter office.

Some time ago an effort on behalf of the children was made to induce the postoffice department to permit postmasters to open all letters addressed to Santa Claus and turn them over to the parents of the child correspondent or to some local organization having a Christmas fund to spend, but the attorney general for the department rendered an adverse decision, holding as follows:

If postmasters were granted authority to open all such letters and select those which they thought proper to deliver to persons applying for them, there would be temptation and opportunity for postmasters and other employees to open letters indiscriminately, some of which contain inclosures of value, and give us an excuse for such action the authority granted by the department.

The department's legal adviser also was of the opinion that, if permission were granted to deliver such letters to benevolent societies and individuals, it would be difficult for the department to draw the line where benevolence ends and commercialism begins. Many persons desire such letters for use in newspapers and magazine stories, the name of the child of some prominent public man attached to such a letter making it especially valuable for that purpose and often correspondingly embarrassing to the parent of the child. Furthermore, the opinion states, such a practice would violate the principle of the sanctity of the seal, which is one of the best features of our postal system, and the department would continually be open to serious suspicion.

Candles For Christmas.
Christmas candlemakers are busy for many months in the year. It would be impossible to estimate how many hundreds of thousands of dozens of pretty little colored wax candles are required for Christmas trees all over Europe and America. There are also candles for church decoration at Christmastide. Whereas the Christmas tree tapers are, some of them, so tiny as to require seventy-two to make a pound, the great altar shafts of pure beeswax will sometimes stand six feet and weigh forty pounds apiece.—Tit-Bits.

Avoiding Temptation.
Hammett—Syringham has never bought a Christmas tree for his children.
Callahan—Probably he is afraid of temptation.
Hammett—Temptation?
Callahan—I mean that he is afraid that if he did buy a tree he would be tempted to buy something to hang on it.—Town and Country.

Hurry Up Santa Claus!
Yander Mistah Chris'mus.
'Lordin' long de way.
"He slower than a railroad"—
Dat what chillun say.
Dey wants 'im fer ter hurry up
An' pass de time er day.
Dreamin' 'bout de comin' er de Chris'mus!
—Atlanta Constitution.

Yeagers Shoe Store

Bellefonte, Pa.

We are ready to show you anything that you may need in the line of Shoes, Slippers, Rubbers, or anything that goes on the feet.

When you are doing your Christmas Shopping remember you can always find just what you are looking for at

YEAGER'S SHOE STORE.

successor to Yeager & Davis.

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CHRISTMAS OPENING.

We are prepared for the early Christmas buyers. We will make shopping easy for you. Come in and see our large assortments. Here is just a small list of the many things to select from:

FURS, FURS.
The largest assortment of Furs, Pillow Muffs, Rug Muffs in black and colors to match. The new shapes in the long pelrine and throw scarfs. Prices the lowest; qualities the best.

SILK SCARFS.
Our assortment of Silk Hemstitched Scarfs is the best ever shown in the town. All colors. Black and white from 50c. to \$5.00.

PETTICOATS.
A handsome gift and appreciated by all women. A fine Silk Petticoat or a handsome Heather-bloom Petticoat. Prices always the lowest.

SILKS, SILKS.
Silk Messaline and Silk Crepe De Chine. The largest assortment of black and colored Silk and Messaline suitable for waists, street and evening gowns.

BLACK TAFFETA SILK.
SPECIAL—We just received a soft Taffeta Silk (in black only). Suitable for dresses, skirts and linings, 36 inches wide. Special price 85c per yd.

LINENS, LINENS.
Our assortment of Table Linens is better and larger than you will see in any other store. See our 2-yard-wide in the stripe and floral patterns. Also have 2 1/2 yard Satin Damask in the rose stripe patterns. Napkins to match all table linen. Linen Scarfs, hemstitched and lace and insertion trimmed, from 25c up.
Handsome Doilies, lace edge and drawn work insertion.

HANDKERCHIEFS.
In Cotton, Linen and Silk, initial and plain, hemstitched, all white and colored border; for men, women and children.
HOSIERY.
Hose in cotton, wool and Hete gauze, in black and all colors, to fit the youngest or the oldest.

LACE COLLARS.
Lace Collars and Jabots in all styles from the cheapest up, including the handsome baby Irish Jabots and Dutch Collars.
LEATHER GOODS.
The latest styles in Leather Goods. Everything new in Chate lains Bags and Pocket Books.

Big reductions in all Ladies' and Misses' Coats and Coat Suits and Children's Coats. Come into our store and we will save you money and help you do your Christmas buying with little worry.

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