

Christmas Prayer

COME Thou, dear Prince, Oh, come to us this holy Christmas time! Come to the busy marts of earth, the quiet houses, the noisy streets, the humble lanes...

CHRISTMAS FOR THE BIRDS

Scandinavian Custom of Providing Feast of Barley for Feathered Creatures.

Among the other delightful traits of the Scandinavian people is their custom in their Yule festivities of thinking not only of the happiness of their little ones, but of teaching these children to bear in mind the happiness of others...

At the Yuletide season, we are told, the market place of Christmas presents a very gay aspect, filled in as it is with spruce trees of all sizes for the children's festival.

At the Yuletide season, we are told, the market place of Christmas presents a very gay aspect, filled in as it is with spruce trees of all sizes for the children's festival.

the children's Christmas tree arrayed with boys and girls, and brilliant gew-gaws deftly hung, that catch the eye of old and young.

The Cakes Were Baked. The great Dutch feast of St. Nicholas the first week in December last year was celebrated in Holland with difficulty.

A Christmas Carol. Twiddle-de-dum, Twiddle-de-dum, Playing the game of Expectancy, Under the glare of the Christmas tree...

Christmas Rites. One of the charms of Christmas is its perpetuation of ancient rites and customs.

One Drawback. At the same time, the man who does his Christmas shopping early, will find it all the harder to hide his purchases from the prying eyes of the kids.

Forethought. Happy is the woman who has saved out some money for the after Christmas bargains.

FRENCH CHRISTMAS OMENS

Ancient and Curious Beliefs Regarding the Holiday—Miraculous Cures for Various Ailments.

In France, particularly, superstition dies hard, and there is probably no other country where the people still retain so many ancient and quaint beliefs in connection with Christmas day.

A cure for everything, however, can be found in the large loaf chiefly made in Provence, and called "Le pain de calende."

With regard to bread, it is believed that loaves baked on Christmas eve remain fresh for ten years, and during the whole of the holidays a portion of bread was left out on the table night and day because the Madonna might come in to share it.

Cattle can be kept in good health by giving them something to drink immediately after midnight mass on Christmas eve before entering the house.

If you visit a fountain or a well on New Year's day and place in it either an apple or a nosegay, the water will be rendered wholesome throughout the year.

HOW HE DOES IT

COMES right down the chimney When the Christmas bells are rung. When little folks are fast asleep...

YOU might hear him swiftly coming, Riding on the wintry blast; His reindeer team a-jingling, And their hoof beats falling fast.

HE lights upon the sleety roof And doesn't step a minute; He jumps upon the chimney top, And down he plumps within it;

HE goes about on tiptoes, Nor makes a bit of noise, He fills up all the stockings With sugar plums and toys;

Find out something to make you a smiling, sunny personality around the home. Christmas is a great day for shining.

CHRISTMAS JOYS.



"I suppose you will have a merry Christmas at your house?" "Oh, yes," replied the sophisticated small boy.

What He Gave Brother. Little six-year-old Harry was asked by his Sunday school teacher: "And Harry, what are you going to give your darling little brother for Christmas this year?"

Real Luck. "Tommy," said his mother, at dinner on Christmas day, "do stop eating. How can you possibly eat so much?"

Believe in Santa. No sound, healthy, wholesome child is a disbeliever in Santa Claus.



WHAT CANDLES SYMBOLIZE

Higher Meaning of Little Burning Tapers that Ornament the Christmas Tree.

It is little wonder we cling to the old custom of lighting the little pink and blue and green and yellow candles. For we apprehend, I am sure, not altogether dimly, as we go about touching them into flame, the shining potency of those things they do but symbolize—of goodness, of love, of spirituality, and the far-reaching power of these to lighten the world.

Yet I do not forget that the Paradise Bird scorned the little bits of blackened candles that lay in the Christmas box.

Over again and once a year the human spirit makes for itself a festival, and under the light of the abiding heavens which do not fall—God's glowing heavens of stars that are forever lighted, forever sure—it lifts up the tapers of its own lighting, tapers which, though they burn out humanly, yet with a touching devotion of faith shall be replaced, relighted, rekindled each year, as the blessed season comes around.

Types they are, these Christmas candles, of our lives, so apt to fall and of our purposes, so easily wasted, but types also of our glowing longings, our luminous, unconquerable hopes; nor can it be said that we have failed so long as we relight them, year after year, a pledge of our own faith in better things, and to do honor to that Little Lord, whom, with touching devotion to the old shining symbol of "a light that shineth in darkness," shedding blessing across our way, we still lovingly and how appropriately call "The Light of the World."

THE CHRISTMAS GOODNESS

By Rev. George Hodges, Dean of the Episcopal Theological School, Cambridge, Mass.

And on earth peace, good will toward men. For a few weeks at least of every year we take the Christmas lesson of fraternity into our lives.

For a few weeks the Christmas spirit animates the churches. The kingdom of heaven comes. What we want is to have this fraternal time continued. What we need is Christmas every day.

The holly—or holly—tree is called Christ's thorn in Germany, and the early Christians referred to it as "the righteous branch."

Day for Little Ones. Do you think enough of the children? After all, Christmas is a day for the baby and the little ones.

Be Thankful for This. One of the other nice things about Christmas is that it marks the time when the days begin to grow longer.

Believe in Santa. No sound, healthy, wholesome child is a disbeliever in Santa Claus.

BIRDS' HOLIDAY DAINTIES

Yellow-Leg Snipe Travels Some 9,000 Miles for Christmas Dinner—Robins Like Holly Berries.

The yellow-leg snipe travels a matter of 9,000 miles to get his Christmas dinner. It is pretty nearly the longest journey made annually by any living creature, and the object of it seems to be to procure certain dainties in the way of aquatic insects and crustaceans appropriate for holiday fare.

Another bird which has an interesting Christmas is the mockingbird. He is a planter of the mistletoe berries and mistletoe contribute largely to his Christmas dinner.

The canvasback duck breeds in the far North, from Minnesota to the Arctic circle, in the interior. But the call of Christmas turns it southward, and it spends the holidays along the southern Atlantic coast, from the Chesapeake to Cuba.

The wild Canada goose goes all the way to Mexico in winter, spending Christmas among the lakes in that far southern latitude, where nutritious grasses and water plants are plentiful.

The chances are that at least the hinting for Christmas presents will be done early.

A CHRISTMAS CAROL

Scrooge was better than his word. He did it all and infinitely more. He became as good a friend, as good a master, and as good a man as the good old city knew, or any other good old city, town, or borough, in the good old world.

MISTLETOE.

We two stood near The chandelier With mistletoe upon it. A lovely girl, My head awhirl, Her wrap—I'll help her don it.

Great Process.

"I am glad to see you home, Johnny," said the father to his small son who had been away at school, but who was now home on his Christmas vacation.

Cake Candles.

If you wish to place red or green candles around your cake, take a piece of pasteboard somewhat larger than the cake, cover with fine white paper, set the cake in the center; melt paraffin slightly, dip candles in and set around the cake.

To Hang in Guest Room.

Sleep sweet within this quiet room, O thou, who'er thou art, And let no sad, dull yesterday Disturb thy quiet heart.

Shortest Reference to Christmas.

"December 25th—Rained all day." This is the shortest reference to Christmas in any book.

More Blessed to Give.

Because you give a five-dollar bill is no reason why you should expect the same.

WHAT NEW ENGLAND MISSED

Not Until Late in the '60s Was Observance of Christmas Festival General.

General as are today both the religious and secular observance of the Christmas festival, it is barely half a century since Christmas was tabooed in large sections of the United States as well as in other countries where the old Puritan element predominated.

AN EXPENSIVE INSTITUTION

But Cost of Christmas Pays Big Returns in Joy and Happiness of Children.

Christmas is a very costly institution. It makes deep holes in millions of well-filled pockets. Father's hand reaches into his pocket more often in the few weeks before Christmas than during any other period of equal extent in the whole year.

A SANTA TRAP.



First Boy—We've put the bureau in front of the fireplace? Second Boy—Yes. First Boy—You tied the string to the handle of the door? Second Boy—Yes, and I tied the other end of the string to the water pitcher.

Cheap Christmas Cake.

Dissolve a level teaspoonful of soda in two teaspoonfuls of warm water, add half a pint of very thick cream, stir for a moment, then add half a cupful of New Orleans molasses, mix thoroughly, add half a pint of brown sugar, three and a half cupfuls of sifted flour, through which has been mixed a tablespoonful each of cinnamon and a tablespoonful each of cloves, spice and nutmeg; add a tablespoonful of grape juice; stir into this a pound of sultana raisins cut into halves and floured, and half a pound of citron. Bake one and a half hours in a moderate oven.

Imprisonment is too good for the thief who steals a Christmas purse.

EARLY ROMAN CHRISTMASSES

No Special Ceremonies for Christ Figured More as a Historic Being Than World Savior.

The early Roman Christmas, says J. A. Symonds, probably kept Christmas with no special ceremonies. Christ was as yet too close to them. He had not become the glorious creature of their fancy, but was partly a historic being, partly confused in their imagination with reminiscences of pagan deities.

Love Essential.

Because this old world is hungry for love, "the simple art of being kind" is needed to carry Christmas through the year.

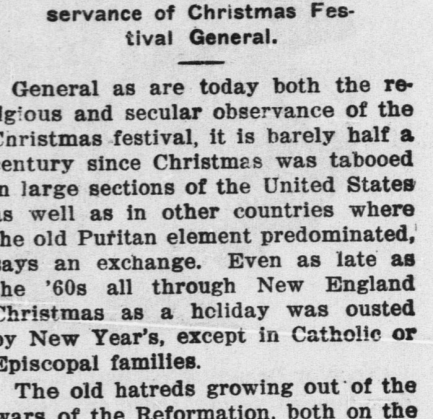
Kiss for Every Berry.

In olden times a berry was pinned for every kiss under the mistletoe, and when they were all gone, no berry, no kiss!

The Worst Kicker.

It is the man who kicks the most about his Christmas cigars who gives the fewest of them to the janitor.

At the sign of the candle on Christmas Eve Under our tree there a gift you'll receive



Christmas Evening.

To make the table pretty for the evening meal, leave the shades off the candles. Use white candles in glass sticks. Wipe with a moist cloth and dip the candles in diamond dust.

Tough.

"My dear, did you make this Christmas pudding out of the cookery book?" "Yes, love."

That's Why.

"Why should they tell us there is a Santa Claus if there isn't?" "Mother and father want someone to lay the blame on if we don't get the presents we want."