

Bellefonte, Pa., December 17, 1915.

## ×+++++++++++++++++++++++++++\*\* Christmas Prayer

OME 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 Come to us all, and with Thy love touch every human heart, that we may know that ove and its blessed peace bear charity to all mankind.

--- Eugene Field.

# 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 and in particular of the animals about them.

At the Yuletide season, we are told, for each Christmas tree a Juleneg, or of Circumcision. little sheaf of barley; each person who buys a tree also buys a sheaf. Then, when the tree is set up in the main room of the house at Yuletide for the bairn (born, as they are called in Northe end of a pole and put out in the yard for a Christmas feast for the birds!

the Childrens' Christmas tree arrayed with toys and filigree, and brilliant gew-gaws deftly hung. that catch the eye of old and young. With fairies bright and tinted birds I call forth glad enraptured words; and erry eyes will greet the sight when I am viewed by candle-light. Beneath my boughs there ites a scene of house and yard and village green. with mimic railway running through as railroads oft are wont to do I am alas, a Christmas tree! And this will be the death for me; for when the Yuletide season's past, upon the ash-heap I'll be cast. However, while I m standing here a host of children I will cheer, and cause their outhful cheeks to glow, because of One Child long ting world to bless and

# 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. Several of these relate to miraculous cures of all the ills which flesh is heir to. For instance, the chilly proceeding of bathing on Christmas day is supposed to insure one against both fever and toothache during the coming year, another preventive of fever being the abstention from all meat on December 25th, a great sacrifice for the average man; while a remedy for ulcers could be obtained by those who refrained from eating prunes on that day.

A cure for everything, however, can be found in the large loaf chiefly made in Provence, and called "Le pain de calende." It is very large and very white, and from it is cut a small piece, old custom of lighting the little pink marked with a knife with three or and blue and green and yellow canfour crosses. This is carefully pre- dles. For we apprehend, I am sure, served as a remedy, and used when not altogether dimly, as we go about required, the remainder of the loaf touching them into flame, the shining being divided among the family on the

Feast of Epiphany. 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 the market place of Christmas pre- bread was left out on the table night sents a very gay aspect, filled in as it and day because the Madonna might is with spruce trees of all sizes for come in to share it. But unless she the children's festival. But there is a wishes to bring misfortune on the enfeature in the Norse Christmas that 1 tire family, it behooves the French have not heard of in any other country housewife not to bake any bread bein that in this market place there is tween December 25th and the Festival

Cattle can be kept in good health by giving them something to drink immediately after midnight mass on Christmas eve before entering the house. And a good harvest could be way) the sheaf of grain is fastened on insured if the corn about to be sown is carried to its destination in the cloth used for the Christmas dinner.

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. No Frenchman, however, will lend anything to anyone on January l, for it is believed that by so doing he would bring ill luck upon himself for the ensuing year.

### HOW HE DOES IT

COMES right down the chimney D When the Chrismas bells are rung. When little folks are fast asleep And stockings all are hung; All loaded down with pretty things, With guns and dolls and drums; to be sure to hang your stockings Where he'll see 'em when he comes.

YOU might hear him swiftly coming, Riding on the wintry blast; His reindeer team a-jingling,



WHAT CANDLES SYMBOLIZE Higher Meaning of Little Burning

Tapers That Ornament the Christmas Tree.

It is little wonder we cling to the 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. It cannot be but the Tinsel Star was right. The gifts and ornaments of Christmas, fair and fitting though they are, might all be done away with and we should still have a very good Christmas indeed, if but the Christmas candles shed their light.

Yet I do not forget that the Paradise Bird scorned the little bits of blackened candles that lay in the Christmas box. We are very human after all, and the candles of our kindness seem but little things sometimes and soon burned out. Fail they may, but there shall be, and with all the more reason, others to take their places.

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 fail-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 fail 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 devetion 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."-Woman's Home Companion.

#### HOLIDAY BIRDS' 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.

One might say, however, that the most appropriate of Christmas dinners is eaten by the robins which at this holiday season feed largely upon the berries of the holly-particularly upon the berries of a kind of holly called the black alder, which are as bitter as guinine. Another bird which has an interest-

tion. It makes de p holes in millions ing Christmas is the mocking bird. ot well-filled pockets. Father's hand He is a planter of the mistletoe berreaches into his pocket more often ries and mistletoe berries contribute in the few weeks before Christmas largely to his Christmas dinner. Bethan during any other period of equal ing particularly fond of them he inciextent in the whole year. And lots of dentally, though without intention, money goes for presents that, in the carries the seeds to tree branches hands of happy children, last a very where they promptly fasten themselves and sprout. In this way the day sees many toys in mangled heaps parasitic plant is widely propagated that bright and shining and new greetin Texas, which is the principal winter resort of the mockers. 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. It feeds on variof Christ's birth in the way it does? ous aquatic plants, but the piece de resistance of its Christmas dinners is wild celery-a succulent, water vegetable which gives to its flesh a flavor highly appreciated by the epicure.

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

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\* pennies to buy the little presents ?--Savannah News.

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

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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. Some people laughed to see the alteration in him, but he let them laugh, and little heeded them; for he was wise enough to know that nothing ever happened on this globe, for good, at which some people did not have their fill of laughter in the outset: and knowing that such as these would be blind anyway, he thought it quite as well that they should wrinkle up their eyes in grins, WHAT NEW ENGLAND MISSED

We spend too much time wonder

ing what the new year will bring us.

It is better to ask ourselves what

we are going to make of it. Life

does not come in sealed packages,

ready for use when opened. Time

is only its raw material, and from

it we can make very much what we

choose. Instead of waiting for some

prize to drop into our hands, let us

seize the days as they pass and

mold them into forms of usefulness

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EXPENSIVE INSTITUTION

But Cost of Christmas Pays Big Re-

turns in Joy and Happiness of

Children.

Christmas is a very costly institu-

and beauty

AN

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

General as are today both the religious and secular observance of the Cnristmas 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, says an exchange. Even as late as the '60s all through New England Christmas as a heliday was ousted by New Year's, except in Catholic or Episcopal families.

The old hatreds growing out of the wars of the Reformation, both on the continent and in Great Britain, for centuries practically abrogated this annual festival wherever the Puritan element or its posterity was the dominating factor in the community. The following from Edward Eggleston's "Transit of Civilization," will give something of an idea of the eclipse which darkened the joyous holiday history of the United States:

"In 1670 the Massachusetts legislature ordained that the mere abstainshort time. Nightfall of Christmas ing from labor on December 25 should be a penal offense. The observance of Christmas was held objectionable ed the little folks as they hopped out not only because it 'afforded opportunof bed Christmas morning. And millions and millions of things are bought lty for the playing of games and prothat never would be, if it were not for fanity,' but because Christmas observe Christmas. But does all this mean that ance was iniquitous on its own ac Christmas is not worth the money it count, for all honoring of days, times costs, that it would be better if the or seasons other than the Sabbath seemed to the fine spun Puritan mind world did not observe the anniversary a masked idolatry. The strict Puritan Sabbath, first rigidly enforced in Eng-Nobody in the whole wide Christian land and Scotland, was early transpart of the world will say that Christplanted in New England, where its mas does not pay for itself, that it is observance was, under similar penalnot worth all it costs, and that it is not a bargain at any price. Where can ties, made as strictly compulsory as was the nonobservance of Christmas." be found a father and mother who One of the old as well as the modern features of the Christmas service Christmas, after they hear the gurwas its magnificent music. But durgling laughter of their children, in ing the Puritan eclipse not only ecstasy among their new toys, even if there had to be skimping and saving of Christmas music, but practically all church music worthy the name, disappeared.

As the religious prejudices and hatreds, born in persecutions, softened with time, the Christmas festival grew in favor even throughout the hostile communities of both Great Britain and America.

# **A CHRISTMAS VISION**

On Christmas eve 'mid all the joyous gles That in my plenteousness surrounded me. I happened by some chance to turn mini

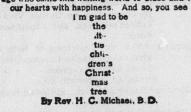
eye Out through a window-wreath that hung near by.

And as I glanced through it into the night

night I seemed to see, lit by some holy light, A childish face with wistful, smiling ligs That thrilled me to my very finger-tips.

Two eager hands stretched forth called,

as in stress, Fo me to carry help to Helplessness, First Boy-We've put the bureau And in the sad eyes of that child I saw In all its loveliness the Christmas Lawmand, no everlasting Must Upon Reluctance for its teaching thrust, But just a pleading hint to him who runs That all who suffer are God's Little Ones! er end of the string to the water And then the picture in the wreath was gone, And in its place the Eastern Star-beams The same that nineteen centuries ago



#### The Cakes Were Baked.

The great Dutch feast of St. Nichotas the first week in December last year was celebrated in Holland with difficulty. For one thing, the war cut off the supply of almonds, for centuries a constituent of the famous figures, or "speculaas," baked out of St. Nicholas cake, as well as of the seasonable confection known as "banket." At the last moment, however, a single shipload of almonds arrived from Spain and partly saved the situation There still remained the shortage of white flour due to government restriction, and of cooks owing to the mobilization of the troops. But the government removed its embargo for the festival, and the bakers called up to arms were granted a week's leave at their ovens, and so the feast of St. Nicholas held its traditional sway.

### A Christmas Carol.

Twiddle-de-dum, Twiddle-dum-de, Playing the game of Expectancy, Under the glare of the Christmas tree, Blending of craft and philanthropy. Marvelous game of humanity, Twiddle-de-dum, Twiddle-dum-dee.

#### Twiddle-de-dum. Twiddle-dum-dee

The rules are as simple-just listen and

The gift you receive should be worth about three Of the one you bestow upon-possibly me,

Annually tempting the powers that be; Twiddle-de-dum, Twiddle-dum-dee. -Life -Life.

#### Christmas Rites.

One of the charms of Christmas is its perpetuation of ancient rites and customs. The Christmas tree, the mistletoe and the holly, the chants and anthems, Santa Claus and the reindeers-all hark back to earlier centuries when life was simpler and man kind sought its joys on a less intensive plan. In a sense, there is no such thing as a modern Christmas, though we may give it a modernist touch here and there.

#### 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.

Foresighted. Happy is the woman who nas saved out some money for the after Christmas pargains.

And their hoof beats falling fast. His furs are black with chimney soot, His beard is white as snow. His sleigh is full of pretty toys, You ought to hear him go!

HE lights upon the sleety roof And doesn't stop a minute: He jumps upon the chimney top, And down he plumps within it; He pauses on the hearthstone, And he takes a little peep To see if all the curly heads Are safe in bed asleep.

HE goes about on tiptoe, Nor makes a bit of noise, He fills up all the stockings With sugar plums and toys And then he gives a little laugh, Pops up the chimney quick, And off he jingles on the wind, The jolly old St. Nick.

### \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\* 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 Christmas at your house?"

"Oh, yes," replied the sophisticated small boy. "We younger people will endeavor to make it so. You know, so much depends on the tactfulness of children. I always endeavor to make the holidays pleasant by showing an enthusiastic interest in the mechanical toys that afford grown people so much amusement."

### 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?" "I dunno," said Harry. "I gave him

the measles last year."

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

much?" "Don't know," said Tommy between bites; "I guess it's just good luck.'

# THE CHRISTMAS GOODNESS

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

### And on earth peace, good will toward

For a few weeks at least of every year we take the Christmas lesson of fraternity into our lives. Men and women and little children have been going about thinking what they could do for others. The streets and shops have been full of people whose arms have been full of bundles. There have been sweet domestic conspiracies in every household. The idea has possessed the community that the right thing to do is to make other people happy. For a little while, as the year draws near its close, and we look across into a new time, it seems as if the old manner of living were being put away, with all its narrowness and pettiness and jealousy, with its selfseeking and its vicious self-content, and as if the dawn of the blessed millenium were already shining upon the summits of the mountains.

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. If that blessed kingdom is ever to be established here; if the will of God is ever to be done by the employer and the workman, by the landlord and the tenant; if the present discontent is ever to met and ministered to, it must be by the cultivation in us of the Christmas goodness. We must learn the lessons of simplicity and fraternity. We must follow more closely the blessed footsteps of his life who on this day for our salvation was born at Bethlehem, and cradled in a manger.

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

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# 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.

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

as have the malady in less attractive forms. His own heart laughed; and that was quite enough for him. . . And it was always said of him that he knew how to keep Christmas well, if any man alive possessed that knowlpitcher.

May that be truly said of us, and all of us! And so, as Tiny Tim observed, God bless us every one!

# MISTLETOE.

### We two stood near

edge.

The chandelier With mistletoe upon it. A lovely girl. My head awhirl, Her wrap-I'll help her don it. A button caught; I surely ought To help, when she'd begun it.

A pause, a hush, kiss, a blush, And now, by Jove, I've done it! -Lehigh Burr.

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. "How are you getting on at school?"

"Fine," said Johnny. "I have learned to say 'Thank you' and 'If you please' in French."

"Good!" said the father. "That's more than you ever learned to say in English."



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.

| <b>Tough.</b><br>"My dear, did you make this Christ-<br>mas pudding out of the cookery |
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| book?"                                                                                 |
| "Yes, love."                                                                           |
| "Well, I thought I tasted one of the                                                   |
| covers."                                                                               |
|                                                                                        |
| 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."

First Boy-You tied the string to the handle of the door?

in front of the fireplace?

econd Boy-Yes

A SANTA TRAP.

Second Boy-Yes, and I tied the oth-

First Boy-Then we ought to find out the real facts about Santa Claus.

# 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 haives and floured, and half a pound of citron. Bake one and a half hours in a moderate oven.

### 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. This keeps the cake icing whole, and there is no danger of the candles falling over. Little sprigs of holly may be placed between the candles.

At Christmas Time.

If the mother of the family is a very busy person, and if the trimming of the Christmas tree seems one thing too much, try giving the kiddies the fun of trimming it themselves. This, of course, applies only to the children who have grown out of the baby stage.

### To Hang in Guest Room. Sleep sweet within this quiet room, O thou, whoe'er thou art, And let no sad, dull yesterday Disturb thy quiet heart. Forget thyself and all the world, Put out each flickering light. His star is shining overhead, Bright Christmas, dear-good night.

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\* The mistletoe could tell some

funny tales had it the gift of speech. 

Shortest Reference to Christmas. "December 25th-Rained all day." This is the shortast reference to Christmas in any book. It is the only entry under that date in the diary of our old friend Robinson Crusoe.

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

Led on the Wise Men with their heavenly glow; And e'en as they I wandered through the

drifts And into lowly places carried gifts To cheer, and give release, and pay my

Unto my Lord through them that suffer

-John Kendrick Bangs, in Scribner's.

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

EARLY ROMAN CHRISTMASES

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. As the Good Shepherd, and as Orpheus, we find him painted in the Catacombs; and those who thought of him as God loved to dwell upon his risen greatness more than on the idyl of his birth. To them his entry upon earth seemed less a subject of rejoicing than his opening of the heavens. They suffered and looked forward to a future happiness. They would not seem to make this world permanent by sharing its gladness with the heathen. Theirs, in truth, was a religion of hope and patience, not of triumphant recollection or of present happiness.

Love Essential. Because this old world is hungry for love, "the simple art of being kind" is needed to carry Christmas through the year. We may get along, comfortably without any further wisdom or guile or sophistication; but, ah, sorely do we need the gentle offices of love as we meet one another by the way.

Kiss for Every Berry. in olden times a berry was pulled for every kiss under the mistlerge, 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 lewest of them to the janitor.

