

CHRISTMAS GREENS HAVE SIGNIFICANT HISTORY.

With the approach of the Christmas holidays, decorating and festooning our homes with greens to express our sentiment for the season causes many of us to wonder where and why these customs originated and what was their original significance.

Take the Christmas tree, for example. Millions of American families, in a few days, will decorate with electric lights and ornamental objects just as many millions of Christians trees. What is the real significance of this tree?

Legends and mythology tell us that the symbol of the god of the sun was a great ash, explains Emil Kant, extension landscape architect of the Pennsylvania State College. The Christmas tree is believed to be an offspring from this tree, and at times of great feasts it was the custom to decorate small trees with candles. These earthly symbols for the heavenly tree of light were then placed outside the dwellings. As the time advanced, various other decorations were added to the tree to represent the god of light and soon the tree was moved indoors.

At the beginning of the Christian era a new significance was given to the tree so that today it still remains the symbol of heavenly light. It is very much corrupted at present, however, and in order to give the tree its full significance nothing but the lights should be used to symbolize the character of the god of new light—Christ.

Leaves and branches of trees and shrubs used as decorations at Christmas date back to heathen times when similar customs were practiced at periods of common rejoicing. It was the worship of the spirit of vegetation. Those plants holding their leaves during the winter naturally were chosen as symbols of life. With the birth of Christ those plants bearing red berries were used as Christmas decorations to symbolize the passion of Christ. Even today the American holly with the jagged, evergreen leaves and blood-red berries is one of the most popular Christmas decorations.

The mistletoe is another plant associated with Christmas decorations. It too has its origin in the old Scandinavian mythology and it was believed to be the site of life of the tree on which it grew. Some connection between this and the English custom of kissing beneath the mistletoe there must be, although it seems to be lost in the passing of time. The English maiden of the olden times who was not kissed at least once under the mistletoe stood a very slender chance of being married during the coming year. Although such a thing as a mistletoe is not necessary in this age for a boy to kiss a girl, many a boy, nevertheless, makes use of it for that purpose.

Ladies' Holeproof silk hose, \$1.95 grade, special Friday and Saturday only, at \$1.45.—Sim, The Clothier.

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Workmen's Compensation Increases.

Under an act passed at the last session of the Legislature changes in the workmen's compensation law which will become effective January 1, include increases in the minimum and maximum weekly compensation from \$6 to \$7 and from \$12 to \$15, respectively; an increase in the maximum amount for total disability from \$5,000 to \$6,500, and a decrease of the waiting period before disability payments start from ten to seven days.

The amount allowed for funeral expenses is increased from \$100 to \$150 and total compensation for disability from permanent injuries is increased from 60 to 65 per cent of the wages for the stipulated number of weeks, which vary with the nature of the injury.

The maximum weekly benefits are: Widow, no children, \$10; dependent widower, \$10; widow or widower with one child, \$12.50; two children, \$14, and three or more children, \$15; one or two orphaned children, \$7.50; three, \$10; four, \$12.50; five, \$14, and six, \$15.

The schedule for maximum weekly payments for compensation for orphaned children after 300 weeks and until they reach 18 years of age provides for the following compensation: One child, \$3.75; two, \$6.25; three, \$8.75; four, \$11.25; five, \$12.50, and six or more, \$13.75.

The maximum weekly compensation for one or both parents, partially dependent, is \$5, and when totally dependent, \$10.

Escaped Ribbon Snake Killed at State College.

Hard luck has again caught up to the collection of snakes that professor George R. Green maintains in Old Main for demonstration and lecture purposes before his nature study classes at the Pennsylvania State College and in various cities throughout the State.

Over six months ago a harmless pet ribbon snake that had come from Florida escaped from its cage on the fourth floor. Constant search of the old building from basement to attic failed to reveal its whereabouts. Students unfamiliar with the value and owner of the handsomely striped reptile, spied it a few days ago in a deep window casement outside the basement, and believing it as harmful as its appearance, promptly dispatched it on the road to snake heaven with a broken back. Tender care by the college veterinarian failed, and the ribboner died.

The scenic will probably change hands on January 1st, but there will be another week of good pictures under the old management. It will be a good place to spend the evenings of your holiday week.

At the annual meeting of the State Grange, at Erie last Thursday, John S. Dale, of State College, was made chairman of the finance committee.

Snowballs.—One cupful dates, one cupful nuts, two tablespoonfuls honey or syrup, one cupful figs, grated rind of half an orange, grated coconut.

Stone the dates and pass them, with the nuts and figs, through the food chopper; add the orange rind, the honey or syrup, and blend all well. Form into small balls, and roll each in grated coconut.

Vituperation Had Big Part in Old Campaign

When a man was a candidate for President in the early days of the United States it generally was with the knowledge that the campaign would be hot, with the air full of lusty invective. One of the warmest tilts was that between the supporters of Andrew Jackson and the friends of John Quincy Adams. Adams had had a long public career and apparently had given satisfaction until the campaign started. Then everything that could be raked up against him was hurled in a merciless storm of abuse.

It was claimed among many other things that Adams had, while minister to Russia, given up an American servant girl of Mrs. Adams to the emperor and that he had applied the White House funds to the purchase of gaming tables (he actually had bought a billiard table). The Jacksonites found plenty was also known about their candidate.

The general's quarrels, duels, his gamecocks, his swearing, his "murder" of deserting militiamen at Mobile, his contempt of court at New Orleans, his insubordinate invasion of Florida, and his marriage. That was the big talking point, his marriage.

Tact and good sense were forgotten. Venomous pamphlets, countless editorials, the verse and chorus of endless shameful ballads all told of "that brazen hussy, that no-account, vulgar, disreputable little frump, his wife." The general managed to keep most of these cowardly attacks from her and did not countenance the invective that his supporters hurled in return.—Kansas City Star.

Put Personality Into Tokens of Friendship

There's always just one more story about any of America's former Presidents. This time there is another about Andrew Johnson, Lincoln's tempestuous successor.

Johnson, while governor of Tennessee, once resumed his vocational implements. He had formed a strong friendship in the Tennessee legislature for W. W. Pepper of Springfield, a staunch Whig, and once a blacksmith. Despite their irreconcilable political creeds the personal relations of Johnson and Pepper were extremely cordial. Pepper became a judge in 1854, and after a visit to Johnson, then governor, set about fashioning a shovel, which he sent with a note explaining it was intended as a memento of a friendship proof against all political differences.

Johnson, to show his appreciation took up his scissors and needle and made a handsome beaver cloth coat which he sent to Pepper. It was a splendid piece of workmanship, probably the last of that kind of work Johnson ever did, and exists to this day.

Right View of Life

It is time to get over the idea that we have to be comfortable because we were brought up that way, while others were predestined to misery and are so hardened to their condition that we needn't bother. One effect of travel—if the traveler is impressionable, and some travelers are not—is to show us that no country has a monopoly of certain homely virtues that take root and flourish in the bleakest, as in the richest soil. Nor is any other country particularly interested in our introspective studies of how good we are and our ingrowing imagination of our greatness. Boastfulness is a posture as unlovely for the millions as it is for one. Let us give credit to others for possessing some of the qualities we admire so much in ourselves.—Exchange.

Knew His Nightingale

One time on the Texas frontier a man came into a camp riding an old mule.

"How much for the mule?" asked a bystander.

"Jist a hundred dollars," answered the rider.

"I'll give you five dollars," said the other.

The rider stopped short, as if in amazement, and then slowly dismounted.

"Stranger," said he, "I ain't a-goin' to let a little matter of ninety-five dollars stand between me and a mule trade. The mule's yours."—From the Outlook.

Has Had Ten Capitals

North Carolina has had at least ten capitals, including Bath, Edenton, Brunswick, Wilmington, Newberry, Hillsboro, Smithfield, Fayette and Raleigh. The reason for so many lay in the custom prior to 1791 of transferring the seat of government to the place of residence of the governor or the temporary meeting place of the assembly.

In 1791 one square mile of land was purchased for the foundation of Raleigh as the permanent seat of government. At present the city covers four square miles.

Something Like an Egg

If the average husband eats two eggs every morning for breakfast and the wife uses six eggs in a cake and devils a dozen more for the family dinner and bakes two cream custards every week, it would take nearly five weeks for the average family to consume the contents of an ancient giant ostrich egg that reposes in the Natural History museum of the University of Illinois.

Napoleon Happy When Hailed as Liberator

One evening, after dinner, the question assumes a personal aspect. An inquisitive member of his circle has asked when he was happiest, and all present give their ideas. Napoleon tells them that he was made content by his marriage and when his son was born, "I cannot say happy, but content."

"When you were first consul?"

"I was not yet sure of myself."

"At the coronation?"

"In Tilsit, I think. By that time I had learned the vicissitudes of fortune; Preussisch-Eylau had been a warning to me, and nevertheless I had won a victory there; I had dictated the terms of peace, the czar and the king of Prussia were paying court to me. But no, I am wrong, that was not the best."

"The happiest days I ever knew were after my first victories in Italy, when the masses surrounded me, shouting: 'Viva il liberatore!' I was only twenty-six, but I foresaw what I might become. It was as if I were being lifted up into the air, and the world were disappearing beneath my feet!"—From Emil Ludwig's "Napoleon."

Settled All Chance of Getting Customer

A young man of Indianapolis, in his early twenties, suffered a fell blow to his pride recently when he answered the doorbell at his home to find a young man making his way in the world by taking magazine subscriptions. The young salesman's unpossessing appearance heralded his age at approximately sixteen or seventeen years and his faltering approach indicated no great amount of experience in the commercial world.

Smilingly brightly, he ventured: "Is your mother at home?"

"No."

"Is she taking any of these magazines?" naming a few familiar names of magazines.

"I really don't know, but I don't think she is in the market for any more."

With a weary "Thank you," he started away when a new hope lit up his face and he played his last card:

"Y-y-you wouldn't care to take the Youth's Companion?"—Indianapolis News.

Jury Wanted Beer, Got It

Soon after his appointment as medical director of an asylum, Sir James Crichton-Brown, the British physician, had to attend an inquest on a patient who had died of heart disease. The evidence was heard, he relates in his book of reminiscences, and the coroner, turning to the jury, composed mostly of laborers, said:

"Now, gentlemen, are you agree on your verdict?"

The jurors talked among themselves for a few moments and then the foreman spoke up:

"We find as how the deceased died from natural causes, but," he went on, "the jury wish to add that as this is the first occasion on which they have met the new medical director, they hope as how he will stand the jury some beer."

With the coroner's sanction, he did.

Sleep

Now, blessing light on him that first invented this same sleep; it covers a man all over, thoughts and all, like a cloak; it is meat for the hungry, drink for the thirsty, heat for the cold, and cold for the hot. It is all current coin that purchases all the pleasures of the world cheap; and the balance that sets the king and the shepherd, the fool and the wise man, even. There is only one thing which somebody once put into my head, that I dislike in sleep; it is that it resembles death; there is very little difference between a man in his first sleep and a man in his last sleep.—Cervantes.

African Treasure Sought

The Africaner still believes in the "cave of gleaming gold" that was described by an excited Kaffir in the Krugersdorp; and in the Orange river country a Boer family has sought for years for a parcel of diamonds handed hastily to one of their ancestors by an Englishman flying from pursuing justice, and supposed to have been secreted in an ant-heap in the dusk. The Boer, finding the packet contained many big stones, and fearing the mounted police, hid it and forgot the place.

Vain Search for Treasure

An Australian miner spent part of his life in the bush trying to re-find a mine his partner found and died in describing. But he never succeeded, and, eventually, the bushmen stumbled on his skeleton. A party of French scientists narrowly escaped death from thirst in the Sahara seeking traces of a lost caravan of precious stones that never reached Timbuctoo, and was supposed to have been overwhelmed by a sandstorm, lost its tracks, and missed the wells.

When Trees Grow

Many believe that trees grow from early spring when the leaves begin to come out until the frost when they start to show their autumn color. But this widespread belief is not correct, says the American Tree association. For instance, in the latitude of southern Pennsylvania the native forest trees make 90 per cent of their height growth in 40 days of spring and early summer.

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