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NO 51



+ A MERRIE CHRISTMAS! +

CHRISTMAS EVERGREENS.

SUGGESTIONS FOR APPROPRIATE FESTAL EMBLEMS.

Laurel, Holly and Mistletoe, and How They May Be Utilized as Aids to Christmas Cheer—The History of Their Use—Church Decorations.

The use of evergreens at Christmas is of very ancient origin, the custom in England having been derived directly from the rites of the Druids. The Greeks and Romans used evergreens freely, the laurel and bay being held sacred to joyous festivals, and green boughs were strewn during celebrations of victory and peace. The Hebrews and Egyptians also made free use of evergreens, and the palm and lotus have become emblems of religious sentiment. The modern custom of evergreens at Christmas is due to the grafting of early Christmas practices upon the heathen rites of Northern Europe. Our Teutonic and Saxon forefathers brought many pleasant customs and poetic ideas to the service of Christianity.

The Puritans passed laws prohibiting the use of green as a heathen practice, and away back in the year 1600 the austere council "enacted it was not lawful to begirt or adorn houses with laurel or green boughs, for all this practice savors of paganism." But today the custom is universal, and even puritan New England contributes her share to the universal decoration.

Among the popular Christmas evergreens, the holly, with its splendid red berries and rich green leaves, signifies rejoicing, and can be appropriately used anywhere. Rosemary means remembrance, as unfortunate Ophelia was aware, and in the early days of "Merry England" was used to decorate the wassail bowl. The mistletoe is the mystic plant of Christmas to all English-speaking people, emblematic of jollity and mirth, of domestic love, and the shy confidences of lovers. The suspended sprig of mistletoe is a veritable ally of Cupid. All of our American evergreens are

in the autumn, and kept fresh in the cellar by being packed in barrels, with a layer of ferns alternately. The evergreen kind is found all winter, but a heavy fall of snow near Christmas will effectually hide them from view. The small ferns or leaflets of the larger ones, make pretty letters, borders and other designs, while the long, light-looking fronds hanging over the edge of the font, have a very good effect.

Twigs gathered from tree shrubs can be made to do good service in the decoration of the dinner table. They are invaluable attached to baskets, and then bronzed with metallic paint. Tied with colored ribbons they make the most delightful ornaments on the table for ferns, as the bronze is so attuned to the green foliage.

A pretty design for a decorated mantel is shown in our first illustration. The main feature is the motto, "A Merry Christmas," consisting of a plaque of green, with the letters in red holly berries. The plaque is framed in holly leaves and berries. The idea can be adapted to a mantel without a mirror.

The hallway and stairs afford the proper starting point for decorating a house at Christmas time. The hallway may be adorned with mottoes made of brilliant berries and appropriately framed in greens, and the balustrades of the stairway may be twined with evergreens. A pleasant feature of Christmas decoration, and



Design of Decoration for a Doorway.

one of the most appropriate, may be made of a doorway, preferably that of the reception room. Our illustration shows a design for decorating such a doorway. The space above the portiers is adorned with holly, while wreaths of leaves and berries are twined gracefully over the portieres, and an ample sprig of mistletoe is suspended from the centre of the rod.

The main idea of Christmas decoration is to give the home a joyous aspect. There should be no ostentation—decoration is for the home and the dear ones whom it shelters. The making of Christmas a home festival is essentially Saxon in origin. In England and in Virginia, not the day only, but the season, which lasts till Twelfth Night, or Candlemas Day, is one round of merriment, and all the houses continue their adornment of green boughs and laurel wreaths. Even the simplest form of decoration is appropriate and not to be despised. Simple bunches of mistletoe or branches of holly may be placed over a picture, stuck in a vase, suspended from a chandelier, or used in masses anywhere with but little work. Garland can be made of the running green with slight expenditure of time or labor, or a single set piece used at some central point. Even the smallest branch of green can be utilized to bespeak the time of merriment and good cheer. Every home should exhibit some sort of decoration on Christmas.

He could lift three hundred pounds,
Box for ten or twenty rounds;
He could sprint a wondrous distance without
stopping.
But his triumphs found a check;
He came out a total wreck,
When he finished up a tour of Christmas shopping.
Washington Star.

Death of an Aged Citizen.

John S. Sterner, expired this life on Thursday, the 13th instant, at 10 o'clock A. M., at the age of 80 years, 6 months and 13 days. He had been complaining of Bright's disease, more or less, for several years before death took place, as the culmination of this ailment. His aged wife, 79 years old, and five children survive and mourn the loss of a father. Of his offspring there were four sons and one daughter, named respectively as follows: William, James, George, Charles and Mrs. Thos. Gorry.

The deceased was born in Conyng-ham township, Luzerne county, in 1814. His parents resided for a time on the Lehigh between Allentown and Bethlehem. His grandfather was a resident of what is now known as Wilkes Barre during the occupancy of that section by the Indians. Being on friendly terms with the Indians they saved his life by admonishing him to go over on the Lehigh just previous to their attack upon the whites. From this grandfather the name of John was transmitted to decedent.

The burial took place in Rosemont cemetery on Sunday at 2 o'clock, and another of the older inhabitants has gone to his eternal home.

Death of Mrs. Wm. Beers.

In the death of this beloved and motherly woman we are convinced that there is a loss to earth and gain in heaven. Unassuming in character she yet possessed the motherly qualities and was always looking after the comfort of others. In her family she was the ruling spirit through love and motherly devotion. She easily secured and held the respect of all coming in contact with her. As a boarding-house keeper she studied the individual peculiarities and tastes of her patrons, and by catering to them as far as her limited means would allow, she was successful as the keeper of an unpretentious boarding house, where well-cooked food and plenty of it, counted for more than cut glass and silverware.

Taken with pleuro-pneumonia on Friday, the 7th instant, she lingered till Thursday afternoon when she expired at the age of 64 years, 3 months and 19 days. Rev. P. A. Heilman, pastor of the Lutheran church to which she belonged, conducted the funeral services at the house on the following Monday and her remains were interred at Canby among her immediate friends and relatives. A husband and four daughters survive and sadly mourn the loss of this kind-hearted and beloved mother.

Death After Years of Sickness.

Mrs. Kate Vanderslice, so well and favorably known in Bloomsburg as a devoted christian mother, expired last Sunday night at her home at 10:30, after suffering some five years, more or less, with that fell destroyer, consumption. She attained the age of about 49 years, was the daughter of ex-commissioner John Ent, of Light Street, the widow of C. M. Vanderslice, whom the writer remembers very respectfully; the mother of seven children, four living and three dead, the dead being all girls. She was a consistent member of the Methodist church and a willing worker in the moral vineyard and has evidently gone to her promised reward.

The burial took place Thursday afternoon at 2 o'clock, in Rosemont Cemetery, where she was tenderly laid to rest beside her precious dead. The services at the house were conducted by Rev. W. G. Ferguson, her respected pastor.

A Prosperous Church.

The Methodist Episcopal church of this place, Rev. W. G. Ferguson pastor, has had an increase in last two years and half of full members (after deducting all cases of death and removals) of three hundred and thirty-one, which is fifteen more than doubling its membership.

The builders of the new Dormitory of the Normal have commenced work on it. Its erection is in charge of and under contract with Messrs Logan and Long, reliable and experienced contractors. When finished it will no doubt be both ornamental and useful.

The following letters are advertised December 18, 1894. John T. Blackwall, (2.) Mr. R. C. Chase, Miss Anna Conyers, Miss Lillian Fowler, Mrs. J. L. Harter, Mr. D. Langell, Mrs. J. F. Licon, Miss Hattie Miller, Mr. J. F. Miller, John J. Rosencrans, Miss Anna Walters, H. Winbush, James Yost. Will be sent to the lead letter office January 1, 1894. JAMES H. MERCER, P. M.

BRIEF MENTION

About People You Know.

Prof. C. H. Albert is attending teachers' institute at Williamsport this week.

Mrs. J. M. Gidding will entertain friends from Danville during the holidays.

Mrs. O. B. Mellick is entertaining her sister, Miss Martha Bachman, of Shamokin.

Arthur Grotz, son of Cashier Harvey Grotz, will spend the holidays at home from school.

Mr. J. M. Gidding returned from Philadelphia, where he had been on business on Saturday.

Mr. Max Gross and daughter visited Danville on Tuesday, on business and pleasure combined.

S. A. Goodhue, and Frank Ricketts were among their many friends in Bloomsburg on Wednesday.

Carlton A. Caswell, a student at the Industrial Art School in Philadelphia, will pass the holidays at home.

John P. Creasy, of Forks, and John C. Shellenberger, of Almedia, are among those recently granted pensions in Columbia county.

Mr. Amos Buckalew, who was reported recently as again in dangerous condition, we are pleased to learn upon inquiry to be fairly convalescent.

Mrs. Frea Brown and Doctress Honora Robbins are now in the mild latitude of Florida, where it is said they will sojourn for some months.

We are pleased to mention a friendly call at this office on Tuesday afternoon of an old subscriber in the person of Dr. D. H. Montgomery of Millinville.

Ex-County Commissioner, Washington Parr, of Franklin township was a visitor at the county seat and a friendly caller at this office on Tuesday last.

District Attorney Hanly and Richard Oswald are again at home after an enjoyable outing with dogs and guns. As to the game they got — 1-2-3-4-5-6-7-8-9-10-11-12-13-14-15-16-17-18-19-20-21-22-23-24-25-26-27-28-29-30-31-32-33-34-35-36-37-38-39-40-41-42-43-44-45-46-47-48-49-50-51-52-53-54-55-56-57-58-59-60-61-62-63-64-65-66-67-68-69-70-71-72-73-74-75-76-77-78-79-80-81-82-83-84-85-86-87-88-89-90-91-92-93-94-95-96-97-98-99-100-101-102-103-104-105-106-107-108-109-110-111-112-113-114-115-116-117-118-119-120-121-122-123-124-125-126-127-128-129-130-131-132-133-134-135-136-137-138-139-140-141-142-143-144-145-146-147-148-149-150-151-152-153-154-155-156-157-158-159-160-161-162-163-164-165-166-167-168-169-170-171-172-173-174-175-176-177-178-179-180-181-182-183-184-185-186-187-188-189-190-191-192-193-194-195-196-197-198-199-200-201-202-203-204-205-206-207-208-209-210-211-212-213-214-215-216-217-218-219-220-221-222-223-224-225-226-227-228-229-230-231-232-233-234-235-236-237-238-239-240-241-242-243-244-245-246-247-248-249-250-251-252-253-254-255-256-257-258-259-260-261-262-263-264-265-266-267-268-269-270-271-272-273-274-275-276-277-278-279-280-281-282-283-284-285-286-287-288-289-290-291-292-293-294-295-296-297-298-299-300-301-302-303-304-305-306-307-308-309-310-311-312-313-314-315-316-317-318-319-320-321-322-323-324-325-326-327-328-329-330-331-332-333-334-335-336-337-338-339-340-341-342-343-344-345-346-347-348-349-350-351-352-353-354-355-356-357-358-359-360-361-362-363-364-365-366-367-368-369-370-371-372-373-374-375-376-377-378-379-380-381-382-383-384-385-386-387-388-389-390-391-392-393-394-395-396-397-398-399-400-401-402-403-404-405-406-407-408-409-410-411-412-413-414-415-416-417-418-419-420-421-422-423-424-425-426-427-428-429-430-431-432-433-434-435-436-437-438-439-440-441-442-443-444-445-446-447-448-449-450-451-452-453-454-455-456-457-458-459-460-461-462-463-464-465-466-467-468-469-470-471-472-473-474-475-476-477-478-479-480-481-482-483-484-485-486-487-488-489-490-491-492-493-494-495-496-497-498-499-500-501-502-503-504-505-506-507-508-509-510-511-512-513-514-515-516-517-518-519-520-521-522-523-524-525-526-527-528-529-530-531-532-533-534-535-536-537-538-539-540-541-542-543-544-545-546-547-548-549-550-551-552-553-554-555-556-557-558-559-560-561-562-563-564-565-566-567-568-569-570-571-572-573-574-575-576-577-578-579-580-581-582-583-584-585-586-587-588-589-590-591-592-593-594-595-596-597-598-599-600-601-602-603-604-605-606-607-608-609-610-611-612-613-614-615-616-617-618-619-620-621-622-623-624-625-626-627-628-629-630-631-632-633-634-635-636-637-638-639-640-641-642-643-644-645-646-647-648-649-650-651-652-653-654-655-656-657-658-659-660-661-662-663-664-665-666-667-668-669-670-671-672-673-674-675-676-677-678-679-680-681-682-683-684-685-686-687-688-689-690-691-692-693-694-695-696-697-698-699-700-701-702-703-704-705-706-707-708-709-710-711-712-713-714-715-716-717-718-719-720-721-722-723-724-725-726-727-728-729-730-731-732-733-734-735-736-737-738-739-740-741-742-743-744-745-746-747-748-749-750-751-752-753-754-755-756-757-758-759-760-761-762-763-764-765-766-767-768-769-770-771-772-773-774-775-776-777-778-779-780-781-782-783-784-785-786-787-788-789-790-791-792-793-794-795-796-797-798-799-800-801-802-803-804-805-806-807-808-809-810-811-812-813-814-815-816-817-818-819-820-821-822-823-824-825-826-827-828-829-830-831-832-833-834-835-836-837-838-839-840-841-842-843-844-845-846-847-848-849-850-851-852-853-854-855-856-857-858-859-860-861-862-863-864-865-866-867-868-869-870-871-872-873-874-875-876-877-878-879-880-881-882-883-884-885-886-887-888-889-890-891-892-893-894-895-896-897-898-899-900-901-902-903-904-905-906-907-908-909-910-911-912-913-914-915-916-917-918-919-920-921-922-923-924-925-926-927-928-929-930-931-932-933-934-935-936-937-938-939-940-941-942-943-944-945-946-947-948-949-950-951-952-953-954-955-956-957-958-959-960-961-962-963-964-965-966-967-968-969-970-971-972-973-974-975-976-977-978-979-980-981-982-983-984-985-986-987-988-989-990-991-992-993-994-995-996-997-998-999-1000-1001-1002-1003-1004-1005-1006-1007-1008-1009-1010-1011-1012-1013-1014-1015-1016-1017-1018-1019-1020-1021-1022-1023-1024-1025-1026-1027-1028-1029-1030-1031-1032-1033-1034-1035-1036-1037-1038-1039-1040-1041-1042-1043-1044-1045-1046-1047-1048-1049-1050-1051-1052-1053-1054-1055-1056-1057-1058-1059-1060-1061-1062-1063-1064-1065-1066-1067-1068-1069-1070-1071-1072-1073-1074-1075-1076-1077-1078-1079-1080-1081-1082-1083-1084-1085-1086-1087-1088-1089-1090-1091-1092-1093-1094-1095-1096-1097-1098-1099-1100-1101-1102-1103-1104-1105-1106-1107-1108-1109-1110-1111-1112-1113-1114-1115-1116-1117-1118-1119-1120-1121-1122-1123-1124-1125-1126-1127-1128-1129-1130-1131-1132-1133-1134-1135-1136-1137-1138-1139-1140-1141-1142-1143-1144-1145-1146-1147-1148-1149-1150-1151-1152-1153-1154-1155-1156-1157-1158-1159-1160-1161-1162-1163-1164-1165-1166-1167-1168-1169-1170-1171-1172-1173-1174-1175-1176-1177-1178-1179-1180-1181-1182-1183-1184-1185-1186-1187-1188-1189-1190-1191-1192-1193-1194-1195-1196-1197-1198-1199-1200-1201-1202-1203-1204-1205-1206-1207-1208-1209-1210-1211-1212-1213-1214-1215-1216-1217-1218-1219-1220-1221-12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