

**A Belgium Christmas Legend.**  
The children of Belgium have a charming Christmas legend about Santa Claus' pony. They always place their wooden sabots on the window ledge, stuffed full of oats, hay and fodder for the "dear Christmas pony." In the early morning they run on tiptoe to look, and behold, the hay is all gone, and the shoes are brimming over with toys and sweetmeats! Then the children clap their hands with glee and wish they could only have waked in time to see the pony munching his oats. That would have been such fun!  
—Ella F. Mosby in St. Nicholas.

- Christmas Menu.**  
Oysters.  
Chicken Gumbo.  
Patties of Mushrooms.  
Broiled Shad.  
Cucumbers.  
Saddle of Mutton, English Style.  
Potato Croquettes.  
Turkey with Chestnuts and Truffles.  
Stuffed Green Peppers. Roast Sweet Potatoes.  
Ruddy Duck. Escarole Salad.  
Bris Cheese.  
Plum Pudding, Hard Sauce.  
Ice Cream.  
Fruits. Cakes. Nuts and Raisins.  
Coffee.

—Ranhofer.

### PHILADELPHIA HAPPY

Because She Has Captured the Republican National Convention.

SO ARE ALL PENNSYLVANIANS.

General Frank Reeder Says It Will Mean That the Keystone State Will Give an Unprecedented Majority For the Entire Republican Ticket.

(Special Correspondence.)

Philadelphia, Dec. 19.—Republicans and Democrats as well, have not gotten over celebrating the victory of the Quaker City over all her rivals in the exciting struggle for the Republican national convention. In this movement politics were set aside, and every Philadelphian was eager to have the City of Brotherly Love carry off the prize. There is a wonderful amount of public spirit existing among the citizens of this municipality, and it takes but a slight provocation to make it manifest.

While Philadelphians are especially pleased, there are unmistakable evidences of the fact that throughout Pennsylvania there is a feeling that the Keystone state has scored a triumph in the success of the leading city of the commonwealth.

The decision of the national committee to bring the convention here is another evidence of the growing popularity of this city, and emphasizes the fact that if Philadelphia makes up her mind to get a thing she can get it. The intelligent work performed by the advance committee, backed by Senator Penrose and the five congressmen from Philadelphia, one from New Jersey and that of the main committee of 100 of Philadelphia's representative public officials and business men, all working in unison, brought about the result, which will be most gratifying to our citizens.

#### McKINLEY'S FAVORITE CITY.

Next June will prove to the members of the national committee that when they decided to come to Philadelphia they made no mistake. They will find her people ready to receive them with open arms and a generous hospitality second to no other place in the country. The claims of Philadelphia, as set before the committee, will all be proven beyond a doubt. Philadelphia had the honor of the convention which gave Grant a unanimous nomination for his second term, and as things appear at the present writing the convention which will be held within her gates will do the same thing for President McKinley.

While it was not to be expected that the president would express an open preference for Philadelphia, yet the fact that this city has been selected will certainly not prove displeasing to him, as he has shown by his actions since he became president that he recognizes the loyalty of Philadelphia to himself and the principles of the Republican party. Unless hindered by the pressure of official business, he has always accepted Philadelphia's invitations, and has expressed his pleasure time and again regarding the receptions accorded him.

The work of preparing for the convention and the entertainment of the delegates has already gotten under way and will be pushed with energy and intelligent and experienced direction characteristic of every public spirited movement that is undertaken in Philadelphia.

#### GREAT CONVENTION HALL.

The convention hall will be the largest auditorium in this country. It will be the main building of the National Export exposition in West Philadelphia.

The shallow walls inclosing the present auditorium will be taken out, thus leaving a hall with solid brick walls 500 feet long and 295 feet wide. This will give a floor space of 88,500 square feet, with a seating capacity of 18,000. There will be numerous large aisles, and the hall will be free from galleries. The floor will be elevated in tiers, giving a full view of the stage from all parts of the hall. It will take less than a month to make the changes, and, after the convention has adjourned, it will require but a comparatively short time and small expenditure to reconvert that section of the building into its present form. This will be required for exposition purposes, the arrangements as they now exist being excellent.

It is estimated that it will cost about \$35,000 to erect the building in the desired shape. The exterior of the buildings will remain as at present. When alterations are completed there will be a seating capacity of about 16,000, and the stage will seat from 2,500 to 3,000. Extreme care is to be taken of the acoustic properties of the altered auditorium.

#### STALWARTS DELIGHTED.

The leaders of the stalwart Republicans of Pennsylvania are delighted over the fact that the Republican national convention is to be held in this city. They appreciate the fact that the men who become delegates to national conventions of either the Republican or Democratic party are, with rare exceptions, firm believers in the principle of adherence to the fundamental rule of party organization that the will of the majority shall prevail and be respected by the minority. The insurgents of Pennsylvania Republican politics who, when defeated by popular vote at the regularly called primaries of their own party, proceed to make deals with Democrats, Prohibitionists and any other elements that will help to defeat the Republican nominees, will have few sympathizers among the delegates to the Republican national convention.

"Many of the delegates from different parts of the country will be men who have fought in the ranks of the great Republican army when Colonel Matthew Stanley Quay, as the chairman of the Republican national committee, was the field marshal," said Representative Charles E. Voorhees, of this city. "They will be true to their old commander as well as to the principles of their party. It will not go well with the party wreckers should they attempt to play any game to advance their cause while the Republican national delegates are in this state.

"Republicans everywhere will breathe the air of stalwart party. The atmosphere hereabouts will be charged with stalwart Republicanism and the kicker or the bolter will get scant consideration for insurgent newspaper addresses and scurrilous attacks upon Colonel Quay and his colleagues in the regular Republican organization of Pennsylvania."

#### GENERAL REEDER'S PREDICTION.

General Reeder, chairman of the Republican state committee, was in town today. He is delighted over the fact that the national convention is to be held here. He was one of the most enthusiastic supporters of the project to have President McKinley renominated within the borders of the Keystone state.

"Every Republican of Pennsylvania," said General Reeder earnestly, "should be pleased with the fact that the national convention is to be held within the confines of our commonwealth. The gathering of leading Republicans from every section of the country in Philadelphia and the enunciation of the principles of the doctrines of the Republican party by some of the ablest among the recognized leaders of our party cannot but be an inspiration to every true Republican and an incentive to labor for the success of the party in the coming campaign. Pennsylvania will certainly show that she appreciates the honor of having another presidential convention held within her borders, and it is fair to assume that at the election next November there will be given the largest majorities for the candidates on the Republican ticket that have ever been recorded in this state."

#### GOVERNOR STONE HONORED.

Governor Stone was paid a splendid compliment here last Saturday evening. A brilliant reception was given in his honor by the Penn club of this city, one of the oldest and most substantial social organizations in Philadelphia. Its membership is composed of representative men in the various professions, lawyers, physicians, editors and clergymen, and bankers, merchants and manufacturers. It is noted for the high character of its membership. Its receptions are attended by the leading citizens of the community. The reception of Governor Stone was no exception, and that the chief executive of Pennsylvania is admired and respected by these men of affairs was attested by the unusually large attendance of the most influential members and the array of distinguished guests.

"Philadelphia," said Governor Stone in commenting upon the national convention coming to this city, "is an ideal convention city. Its very name implies hospitality, and the hundreds of thousands of citizens from every section of the country who have been guests of the Quaker City upon occasions of large public gatherings will bear testimony to the fact that her people are generous and public spirited and progressive and liberal. They are as proud of the reputation of their municipality as they are of their country, and in the wide world there can be found no more patriotic and law abiding community, and visitors can be assured of full protection. All Pennsylvanians will rejoice in Philadelphia's success."

The convention of next year will be the twelfth in the history of the Republican party. The first was held in 1856 in Philadelphia. Chicago captured the convention of 1860. Grant was nominated for the first time in 1868 at Chicago. He was renominated here in Philadelphia in 1872. Since then Cincinnati, Minneapolis and St. Louis have each had one convention, while Chicago has entertained the delegates to three separate conventions. Now, after a lapse of 28 years, the convention returns to Philadelphia and to the east. For more than a quarter of a century the west had held its grip upon these quadrennial events. It was high time that the east should have been recognized.

### CHRISTMAS GREENS.

#### Decoration of Evergreens and Flowering in Pagan Origin.

The Christmas decorations may have originated in the saturnalia or in the old Teutonic practice of hanging the interior of dwellings with evergreen as a refuge for sylvan spirits from the inclemency of the winter, but the Christmas tree is of German origin. It is their chief ornament and symbol. It is not used for the hanging of gifts, but it is used entirely as a bright ornament, being made to glisten with lights and tinsel.

It is kept throughout the 12 days of Christmas and at intervals is lighted and on New Year's eve is lighted for all night.

The custom of decorating dwellings and churches with evergreen was known by the Christians to be a remnant of paganism and was forbidden by the council, but it had too strong a hold to be given up.

Even in Boston Justice Samuel Sewall cried out against it, but it crept to its place by degrees. Holly and ivy were favorites in Great Britain, being regarded as sacred emblems of the season.

Holly used in churches was kept by families to insure a lucky year.

The mistletoe was held in so much veneration by the pagans that it was cut with a golden sickle by the prince of the Druids, with whom it first appears.

The introduction of flowers to the tokens of festivity seems to have existed universally and at all times of history. It was a pagan manifestation of rejoicing, and, although forbidden by the early church and denounced by the Puritans of New England, it became a general custom.

While obliged to give credit to early and heathen notions for much of the Christmas which we so fondly cherish, we can but remember our own Benjamin Franklin for the one motto as being American, "A good conscience is a continual Christmas."—Boston Globe.

### YULETIDE GAMES.

#### Snapdragon a Diversion Popular in England.

Little known in this country, snapdragon is a diversion in which in England young and old participate throughout the Christmas season. Apparently it is a dangerous pastime. Really it is harmless, and no one ever suffers an accident through playing it. Babies of 3 or 4 years engage in it with great glee, in which there is an admixture of fear, but nerve generally conquers, and once in the game they cannot be kept out of it.

The requisites of snapdragon are one or two large platters such as roasts are served on, some large, fat raisins, a little brandy or gin, a match and a darkened room. The platters are arranged thus: If there is but one and the party is of moderate number, it is laid in the center of a dining table. If the number of participants is large, then two platters are laid, one at each end of the table, or there may be two small tables, with a platter on each. Next the raisins are laid over each platter, singly and at short distances apart. A small quantity of brandy or gin is then poured over each platter and ignited. Put out all the lights in the room, leaving none but that from the dancing blue flames in the platters. Everybody looks weird and feels inebriated, and the fun begins. Each participant "snaps" at a raisin on the dish, and, hit or miss, the blue flame clings to the fingers in writhing, forked tongues, thus providing the "dragon." The raisins are all finally secured, the flames die out, the lights are turned on, and the company is ready for another diversion, unless, as is often the case, there is a call for a repetition of the fun just ended.—San Francisco Post Magazine.

#### Bearing Home the Yule Log.

In the Black mountains at the present day the custom of bearing home the Yule log is still carefully observed in all its ancient detail. The housefather fells the chosen trees. Then he utters a prayer and carefully lifts up his log and bears it home on his shoulder. His sons follow his example, each bearing a log for himself. The father then leans his log up against the house, being very careful that the freshly cut end is uppermost. The lesser logs of the other members surround it, and this is the Glavni Badnjak. As the housefather places each log he says, "Veseli badnji dan!" or "A merry log day!"

The fire thus kindled was not allowed to go out until the following year or great evil would befall the household. The fagots of the old fire lighted the new logs and then were carefully extinguished and stored away among the household treasures. In the highlands of Scotland to this day it is considered a great misfortune if the fire is allowed to go out, and often one hears it said, "Yae nae luck, ye've left the fire."—Boston Herald.

#### Roast Turkey With Chestnuts.

Draw, singe, pare, truss and remove the breastbone the same as for roasting. Chop up separately 10 ounces of kernel of veal and 16 ounces of pig's leaf lard and then mix together. Season with salt and spice, adding a little shallot and the liver, both well chopped. To this add also the peelings of a dozen medium sized truffles. Put this into a mortar with a gill of stock, pound well and place in a sautoir to cook for 15 minutes. Let it cook and stir in 40 cooked chestnuts and the dozen peeled truffles. Stuff the turkey with this preparation and roast, dress and pour over a little good gravy.—Exchange.

The Christmas carol, with its elevating and inspiring effects, corresponds in many ways to the song of praise by the heathens for Saturn at the festival of ancient time.

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- SEWER PIPES,
- GAS STOVES, ETC.

My store room is well supplied with Bath Tubs, Wash Stands, Gas Lamps and anything required in my trade. Contracts taken for all lines of work; satisfaction guaranteed. Write me when you have any work in my line. Out of town orders promptly attended to.

S. E. MURRY.

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Our liniment and powders for horses or cattle are always the best.

Our medicines are pure and always get there. The prices are right, too.

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### CASTORIA For Infants and Children. The Kind You Have Always Bought

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#### SEE THESE BARGAINS.

- 40 Pieces Print at 4c, former price 7c.
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- 20 Pieces Cambrie Lining, 3c, former price, 6c.
- 10 Pieces Shambra, 10c, former price, 12 1/2c.
- 20 Pieces Dress Goods, at one-half former price.
- 15 Pieces Canton Flannel, at cost.
- 15 Pieces Outing Flannel, best quality, 8c.
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Ladies' and Children's Underwear, Bleached and Unbleached Muslin, Ladies' and Children's Hosiery, Colt's Spool Cotton, Corsets, White Goods, Notions, Ribbons, Carpet Warp, Table Oil Cloth, Yarn, Etc., Etc.

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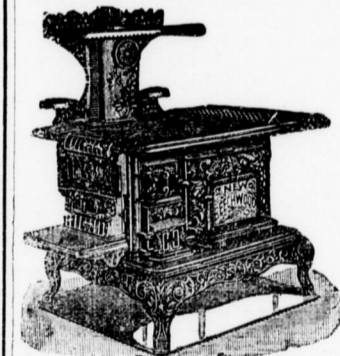
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