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**R. H. HIRSCH.**

Christmas In  
A Scotch City.

Glasgow, the commercial metropolis of Scotland, with its well nigh million inhabitants, can be chosen as an interesting illustration of the manner in which one-fourth of the people of the country spend the holidays. Many days before the store fronts on Argyll street—a thoroughfare as busy as any in the land—are gayly and profusely decorated with holly and evergreens. Above nearly every entrance signs of welcome and the compliments of the season are exhibited in holly leaves. On Christmas eve the stores keep open late. Either side of the thoroughfare is a mass of blazing, cheerful light, and there is a moving mass of humanity between. But when the stores close they close until boxing day. All the working people now get their Christmas holiday.

On Christmas forenoon the lord provost or mayor presides at the annual meeting and breakfast given by the directors at the royal infirmary. His lordship makes a speech, after which there is a distribution of good things to all the patients in the large institution. Then he visits sundry other institutions for the care of the sick and poor, where there are Christmas trees and feasting. By the way, Christmas day is one of the lord provost's busiest days. At 2 o'clock, according to annual custom for years past, he presides at the annual dinner given to from 5,000 to 6,000 poor men, women and children in the city hall, Albion street. His lordship and the city magistrates occupy the stage and take dinner with the poor. During the repast, which consists of soup, beef, an entree, plum pudding, tea or coffee and fruit, stirring Scotch airs are played on the big organ by the city organist. At the close his lordship makes a speech, which is reported verbatim in the newspapers. It is usually a masterly production.

Outwardly the aspect of the city resembles that of Sunday. Nevertheless thousands of people are moving about. The myriad of riveters in the miles of shipbuilding yards along the Clyde have come to the city with their wives and families and are attending the matinees or evening pantomime performances that have already been running. These pantomimes are a feature of city life in Scotland during the winter. Usually three open at the big theaters in Glasgow Christmas eve. They are rehearsed for weeks before. The playwright usually chooses as his theme a fairy tale. "Jack the Giant Killer," "Al Baba and the Forty Thieves" and "Aladdin and the Wonderful Lamp" have been favorite themes. As a rule, the playwright re-

tains enough of the tale so that the young folks can recognize the characters, but taken altogether the production becomes really a dramatic burlesque of local life and character. Interesting, entertaining and even elevating to old and young. Actors and actresses of renown take the leading parts, while there are dazzling costumes, magnificent scenery and a gorgeous ballet thrown in. No wonder it is that often until the middle of spring the pantomimes enjoy a continuous run. Latterly they become in a sense classics, for their libretti undergo weekly improvement at the suggestion of local wits noted for the pungency of their sayings and the fund of dry Scotch humor they possess. It is no exaggeration to say that these pantomimes are visited by some persons each night all the season through and by others fully a score of times.

Then there is the usual exodus of young men to the country at Christmas tide. It is a common saying among Scotchmen that all roads lead to London. This is changed to Glasgow in some cases. There is scarcely a family of note in the Highlands that has not a son at the universities of Glasgow or Edinburgh studying for the professions of law, medicine, the pulpit, the army or the home or foreign civil service. With what hope and pride the advent of the young student is looked for at the little railroad station up in the mountains on Christmas eve or morning! If he lives on an estate the next day he is given a side by his rustic countrymen in their annual Christmas day football match. The game is usually a stoutly contested one, umpired and refereed by the laird and heads of the estate. At the corner of the field is placed a cask of good Scotch ale, from which the players regale themselves at half time. Then the game resumes, and the second half is fast and furious. Around the ropes are the young women of the estate looking on with pleasure and discussing their choices in the dance list of the evening.—Brooklyn Eagle.

**Santa Claus in the Zoo.**  
Said Santa Claus: "Tis Christmas eve (The animals looked pleasant),  
And each of you will now receive  
His yearly Christmas present.  
But I'd be glad if every guest  
Would mention what he'd like the best."  
The tapir said: "That pleases me  
I'll state succinctly, therefore,  
If I may be so bold and free,  
The only thing I care for  
Would be these matches on the shelf,  
With which I'd like to light myself."  
His wish was granted. Then up spake  
A timid little adder:  
"Sir, but a trifle it will take  
To make my Christmas gladder,  
A slate and pencil, if you please,  
Would let me do my sums with ease."  
The reindeer said, "You may believe  
I'd be a happy fellow  
If I were sure I would receive  
A good sized umberbellow,  
And also I'd like four gaidoche,  
Yes, and a rubber mackintosh."  
—Walton Williams.

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