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A CHRISTMAS HYMN.

Welcome to Thee, heavenly Stranger, Gladness shall Thy birth-day bring, Tho' Thy birth-place was a manger, Nature saw her God in Thee!

MERRY CHRISTMAS.

On Christmas eve the bells were rung; The daisies donned their kirtle soon; From the tower and the spire men go To gather in the mistletoe.

THE PRACTICE OF USING GREEN BRANCHES FOR THE DECORATION OF CHURCHES AND HOUSES AT CHRISTMAS TIME IS OF VERY REMOTE DATE.

In early carols the holly and ivy are both spoken of, but the former more frequently than the latter, because one of the plants regularly used with holly and bay, to which goodly company the mistletoe was afterwards added.

THE REVELLS OF THE INNS AT CHRISTMAS.

At this period, the Christmas festivities of the Inns of Court had become celebrated in a way far surpassed those of the court in fact, if not in splendor; nor is this surprising, considering the talents that must always exist in these communities.

EBENSBURG, PA., FRIDAY, DECEMBER 21, 1877.

conjurmy, and maupigryum. These names convey to modern ears very little idea of what was the real nature of each compound. Dilettout must have been something very remarkable, for the tenant of the manor of Addington, in Surrey, held it for the service of making a mess of the delicacy on the day of the coronation.

MORAT WAS MADE FROM HONEY AND MULBERRIES; CLARET, PIGNON, AND CHAMPAIGN.

It is a curious fact, that the above counties receiving such an order, were to cause twenty salmons to be bought and put into pies for Christmas, and the sheriff of Sussex to buy ten bracewings with the heads of ten peacocks, and other provisions.

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RUSSIA ON PUBLIC AFFAIRS.

On that day, he was received at Blackwall, as if on his return, and that the following day were spent in revelling and feasting.

CHRISTMAS IN NORWAY.

The great festival of the year in Norway, as among all Germanic nations, is Christmas. Whether it owes all its sanctity to its association with the birth of the Saviour is, however, an open question; for many customs still kept alive in the remoter valleys seem to point beyond the beginning of the Christian era, to the time when the Norsemen ate horseflesh in honor of Odin and Thor and Frey.

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HANG UP BABY'S STOCKING.

Hang up baby's stocking—The sure you don't forget—The best little thing of the kind!

CHRISTMAS HINTS.

Remember the poor, not by sending a turkey or one large family, or a ton of coal to another, and then dropping the whole class out of your mind for the rest of the holidays, but by actually taking thought how to help them substantially.

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ST. NICHOLAS.

St. Nicholas, as all the world knows, is the patron of children, with whom he is the most popular saint in the calendar. Bishop of Myra, in Lycia, in the time of Constantine the Great, according to the Roman breviary, he supplied three destitute men, more or less with dowries by secretly leaving a great quantity of the rice portion for each at their windows; hence the popular fiction that he is carrying a bag of gold.

CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS.

The custom of decorating with evergreens at Christmas is far from being a modern one. The Romans two thousand years ago did the same thing. Indeed it is more than probable that the origin of adorning our homes with ivy, holly, and bay must be sought for in the Roman saturnalia, held every year toward the end of December.

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