

CHRISTMAS CUSTOMS.
THE ORIGIN OF CHRISTMAS AS A HOLIDAY—THE MANNER OF ITS OBSERVANCE IN VARIOUS COUNTRIES.

The 25th of December is the day on which the sun is near the most southern point in its apparent annual journey, and for so long as we have historical records it has been celebrated by ceremonies and rejoicings.

The Hindoo on this day decorate their homes with garlands of flowers and papers of gold and tinsel, and the custom of making presents to relatives and friends is universally observed.

The Egyptians recognized it by their fast in honor of the birth of their god Horus.

In China it is a general holiday, the shops are shut and the court closed. No journey would under any circumstances be commenced on this day.

The Persians kept it as the birthday of Mithras the Mediator, a spirit of the sun, and the ceremonies of incense and splendor.

The old Romans held high festival in honor of Bacchus, rejoicing with him that the sun was about to return and re-vivify the vineyards. They designated the day the birthday of the inevitable sun.

There is no record that the birthday of Jesus the Christ was observed till the second century. At the suggestion of Pope Telephorus some of the Eastern churches recognized the 6th of January as the day, while those of the West added it to other celebrations in the last week of December.

In the fourth century Pope Julius made an examination of the chief proceedings of the time for the purpose of examining all evidence bearing upon the date of the birth of Jesus, that they should, if possible, fix the day, in order that its observance might be universal. After due deliberation they decided that it was on December the 25th. This decision was, at the time, followed by many, but others, like the Church to be arraigned, and they went so far as to assert that the examinations had been biased in their decision by the desire to please the public, to whom this day had already come to be a noted one. Popular feeling, however, sustained their decision, which was finally universally accepted and commemorated, although it was not until the year 354 that the Council of Tarragona declared it a public holiday. On the publication of this decision the Roman Church desired and instituted special prayers to priests, to be said on that day, which are known as Christ masses.

But we find another derivation for the name. The old Saxons had the word *Messias*, by which they designated all days freed from labor, whether holidays or fast days. The holidays remain as monuments of the birth of Christ, were *Christ Masses*.

The spread of the Christian religion carried with it the observance of Christmas as a religious festival with which became connected other observances varying with the customs and habits of different nations.

With the Germans, Christmas is a season of the "Children's Festival," and with them originated the world-famous myth of "Saint Nicholas," alias "Santa Claus," alias "Kris Kringle," the patron of Yule-tide, and the friend of all poor boys and pretty-bairied girls. Happily the customs in the observance of this, which is now a general German custom, and is still the practice in some of the small villages in North Germany, to concomitant the persons of "Knecht Ruprecht," corresponding with Santa Claus, to distribute gifts to all the presents made by parents and friends to children. Disguised by a mask wearing an enormous flaxen beard, clad in a long white robe, he was received by the parents with great ceremony, called for the children, and after the strictest investigation into their deserving, dispensed gifts accordingly. Santa Claus, we all know, reports himself unctertainingly.

CHRISTMAS AND CHRISTMAS TREES.—As well might we dance without music as to wear a coat without a rhythmic gait to keep Christians without a Christmas tree. Love and tradition have endowed it with an almost sacred prestige, and ages of custom invested it with an import which growing years seem not to blot out. Without it the celebration of Christmas becomes but an empty ceremony—glittering, abundant, sumptuous, gay, but in the main, and, but if this beautiful emblem be absent, the quintessence of poetry, which should ever be the distinguishing characteristic of this day's enjoyment, is missing; and girls, even though they be of inestimable value, have no such significance of the earth, earthly, they are but a mere ornament. And yet, though the tender nuns of mystery tell us that scars expressed, which should ever pervade and isolate the tokens of this holiday of holidays. Yet, let them dangle by a bright ribbon from the branches of one of those tall, plump, graceful evergreens which we instinctively select, and let a fairy posy on the tapering tip, peep a little divinely, and capriciously, with a smile, like Kris Kringle. Winking and blinking little lights, like a whole galaxy of stars escaping from their spheres for a holiday and a thousand quaint and serial fancies flutter and fit like fairy whispers before the imagination, evoked not by aerial expectation, but born of our more delicate sense of beauty, which is the secret of their color of purity that these shadowed soft, chaste and tone all to exquisite harmony. This is the ideal Christmas, and none are more susceptible to its fascinations than children, who, with their vivid imaginations and unblended creativity, revel in the unique enchantments of the tree. In its beauty, which is a power of itself, and a marvel, as well as a refreshment to older spectators. By all means, let the people of the utilitarian age cherish tenderly this ancient emblem of Christmas festivities, watching jealously lest the relentless wheels of progress crush this last remaining relic of the dear old days' types and symbols.

AND FISH DISEASES.—Most trout fishermen would laugh at any scientist who should tell them that trout are deaf. As accustomed to move noiselessly along the banks of brooks, to have the timid fish take alarm, and their sports be spoiled, the mere mention of deaf trout seems absurd to them. But Seth Green, the famous binder of fish, who knows more about trout than where to find them, except in the ocean, says that fish cannot hear. He also gives sufficient facts in support of his opinion. In a pond a hundred feet long, well stocked with trout, when the fish were gathered at one end, his servant, laying flat on the ground, and unseen by the trout, could strike together heavy stones in the water without惊起ing any trout, and none of them. Mr. Green often fired his gun close to the pond, but if the trout could not see the flash, they never stirred. On the other hand, a slight jar of the ground communicated to the water would start them in alarm. Mr. Green is convinced by his experiments that trout cannot hear common sounds. They are quick-sighted to detect any moving object, and this may be started by the step of a fisherman, if he jars the ground. But to ordinary sounds, he believes they are utterly deaf.

\$10,000
Worth of all kinds of GOODS
will be opened this week at

Corn's Store, in Chest Springs.

Everybody should remember that we are NOW OPENING the largest and most complete stock of

Dry Goods, Groceries, Clothing Boots, Shoes, &c., &c.

For the HOLIDAY TRADE are offered for sale in Cambria County. Mr. Corn has just returned from New York and Philadelphia, where he has purchased an immense stock of fashionable goods at the lowest figures. Everybody, therefore, should go to

Corn's Store, Chest Springs,

WHERE THEY MAY OBTAIN UPON CREDIT

GREAT BARGAINS

In everything they buy. The largest stock of goods on the Allegheny Mountains, we repeat, will be

OPENED THIS WEEK

AT CORN'S STORE, CHEST SPRINGS.

BING YOUR CASH OR PRODUCE.

SIX ROOMS FILLED WITH GOODS.

Mr. Corn himself, aided by an efficient corps of clerks, will be at your service, and always ready, willing and anxious to wait on you all, with or without large or small. Thankful to

Farmers, Lumbermen and Citizens Generally

for their past patronage, and hoping for a continuance of the same, we remain

Yours, Respectfully.

STRICTLY CASH FOR GOODS. S. B. CORN & CO.

BEST BARGAINS IN TOWN FOR THE READY CASH DOWN!

New Stock of Winter GOODS
IN GREAT PROFUSION AT
FREIDHOFF'S CHEAP STORE.

While so many are looking forward to the coming Presidential election in hopes of being the lucky man, the subscriber has concluded to remain in the mercantile business and give it his undivided attention by supplying his friends and the public generally with ALL KIND OF GOODS

AT PRICES SO LOW
THAT NONE CAN OR DARE COMPETE WITH HIM.

Buyers will always find a full and elegant stock of everything to be found in a general store, comprising a complete line of

DRY GOODS, DRESS GOODS, NOTIONS, HATS, CAPS,

Boots, Shoes, Groceries, Hardware, Tinware,

Quenware, Glassware, Woodenware, Cigars, Tobacco, Canned Goods, &c., &c.

Also, FLOUR, CORN MEAL, FISH, SALT by the bushel and barrel, DRUGS, NAILS

GLASS, PUTTY, BRUSHES, BROOMS, &c. I have likewise to my stock

BIRD'S PATENT CORN SHELLER,

which will be sold at the remarkable low price of 60 cents each. Also for sets, the

BEST AND QUICKEST BUTTER-PRODUCING CHURN EVER INVENTED.

For a large increase of business has necessitated the enlargement of my store room and the erection of an additional warehouse, and still my establishment is literally crowded with choice goods and greater stocks after bargains. Still being determined to accommodate all who come, and to sell at the lowest prices, I have thrown open my large and commodious stable for the use of all who may wish to put up their stock. Thankful for past favors and hopeful for many future ones! Remain as ever,

N. J. FREIDHOFF.

High Street, Ebensburg, December 1850.

Look! Look! See! See!
JUST RECEIVED:

A LARGE AND NOBLY LINE OF

FALL AND WINTER CLOTHING.

Also, a Full Stock of

CHILDREN'S AND BOYS' CLOTHING

IN ENDLESS VARIETY. OUR LINE OF

OVERCOATS

CANNOT BE BEATEN FOR QUALITY, MAKE-UP AND PRICE.

We have also received a large and complete line of

CENT'S FURNISHING GOODS!

Hats, Caps, Umbrellas,

Trunks, Valises, &c., &c.

—AT THE—

Young America Clothing House,

Corner 11th Avenue and 11th Street,

OPPOSITE THE OPERA HOUSE,

ALTOONA, PA.,

N. B.—Do not fail to give me a call before purchasing elsewhere, as we are acknowledged to be the

cheapest house in Blair county.

Sept. 24, 1850.—11.

HEADACHE & DYSPEPSIA
A CURE GUARANTEED \$25 CENTS BY USING

DR. METTAUR'S HEADACHE PILLS

Dr. Mettaur's Headache Pills are much more rapidly and effectually removed than any other Pill for Headache or Dyspepsia. It is the most powerful Remedy for Headache, and is equal to any Pill in the world.

A full size box of these valuable Pills, with a receipt for a complete cure, mailed to any address on receipt of nine 3-cent Postage Stamps. For sale by all Druggists, SOLE PROPRIETORS.

DR. METTAUR'S CHEMICAL CO., BALTIMORE, MD.

Cannot get out of Order. Will ship by Life-times.

NEW PREMIUM CORN SHELLER

ONLY CHEAP PRACTICE HAND CORN SHELLER

MADE OF SOLID WOOD, DOLLAR

SELLLED IN THE MARKET.

Two IMPORTANT ADVANTAGES.

First—It does not injure the corn, and is therefore just the best for the market.

Second—The top and butt end of the corn are cut off.

It is a great convenience, as many farmers plant only

the top end of the corn, and it is a great convenience.

Farmer wants this Sheller for poultry, for feeding, for meal, for seed, or for any similar purpose, no matter how small the quantity.

11 WILL PAY FOR THEM Any Time.

Our PREMIUM CORN SHELLER is destined to become the best for the market.

Wells, Richard & Co., Proprietors, 1402 Eleventh Ave., Altoona, Pa.

Agents wanted, and it has not got it, we

are sorry to say, and there is no one else.

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