How Different Nations Observe the Day.

The traditions and legends connected with Christmas have an interest peculiarly their own, and it is worth noting that the spirit of charity and good-will. which is the leading characteristic of the happy time, pervades them all. Some of the most interesting of these customs we will endeavor to briefly de-

In England the custom of staying up to midnight to hear the Christmas "waits" is still observed, although many good people if asked the question would find it difficult to give a reason for doing so. The tradition that Christ was born at midnight originated this custom. At one time the bands of singers used to go about from house to house singing Christmas carols. These were the "waits," and by degrees the quaintly beautiful carols which they sang degenerated into mere doggerel, and the custom for a time fel! into disuse. Lattererly, however, it has been revived somewhat, as also the custom of singing Christmas carols in Protestant Episcopal churches.

In the feudal times when the old baronial halls gloried in vast fireplaces the bringing of the Yule log, an entire trunk of a tree which was burned whole, was a great event and attended by pecultar ceremonies and great rejoicing. Then feasting followed; the mighty wassail bowl was introduced and the solid pleasures of the table followed and were kept up with a zest and ability to put away vast quantities of provisions that would astonish most people of the present generation. The central dish was the boar's head, flanked by other spoils of the chase. At the present day the crowning ideas of Christmas pleas ures in England, as, indeed, in every where else throughout Christendom, are still the grosser joys of eating and drinking. The "roast beef and plum pudding" of Old England has a Yulethe characteristics of Christmas cheer at English tables. First comes the savory roast goose, which is the recognized Christmas dish among all clases, peers and commoners alike, and the plum pudding, which is brought in steaming, causing young hearts to rejoice and bringing in a vista of future el, catarrh of the bladder. \$1, druggists. stomach ache and physic to small boys. Throughout the land Charity expands her wings, and in all the targe cities a general movement is heartily made to let the poor have at least one good din-

In America the custom of hanging up the stocking is as heartily observed as ever, and little boys and girls in town and country for weeks before Christmas speculate on what Santa Claus will bring them. The North German custom of the Christmas tree has been largely revived of late years, and in bleemany households has become a regular observance every year. Both Christmas tree and the Santa Claus custom are the relies of the days when Thor, Weden and Frica were worshiped, but modifled by Christianity till they are now emblematic of the charitable feeling of the day of gladness.

In France, many years ago, it was the habit for people to stop all kinds of labor at noon on the day before Christmas, and masters kept open house and feasted their employes. It was also the fashion for the people to assemble on the outside of churches and cathedra's long before midnight, and the time was passed away by singing of Christmas carols, the Monks teaching them how to sing the carols as well as the Latin can times of the Church. As the Saturnal ian element began to come uppermos:, the carols became scurpilous and obscene, and no regret was felt when the custom was done away with.

In sunny Italy the most visible characteristic is the excessive love and devotion felt for the Virgin, which shows itself in many quaint ways. The whole scope of the teaching of the Church tends to make the people realize the birth of Christ as an actual yearly occurrence. This has led to the manifestation of the pifferari, the bagpipe players, who are all from the mountains of Calabria. The pifferari divide themselves into three bands, which march down the streets, stopping at every shrine and pouring out wild music characterized rather by loudness than meledy. This is one of the sights of Rome at Christmas time. It is the mission of the pifferari to go through the city and pray before all the shrines to the Virgin to cheer her spirits while undergoing the auguish of accouchement. In Ger many, Christmas is observed with pecu-Har heartiness. There Santa Caus has an abiding home, and the Christman tree, with its cheerful light, is found in every house where money can be raised to procure it. Like the people of England, the Germans place eating and drinking among the foremest of pleasures at Christmas-tide.

The Russian observances at Christmas are peculiar in one important respect. They lag behind the other Christian nations. Their Christmas eve falls on our 5th of January, as the Russians never surrendered the Julian Calendar. The Christmas festivities sie marked with quaint games in which parts are assigned for youths and maidens, and a strict code of etiquette is observed through them all.

In the Spanish-American cities of Central America solemn observations take place in the churches on Christmas Eve. Among the customs is the exhibition of miniature figures of wax illus trating the Nativity and colored according to nature. This representation is called nacimento, and every family of consequence prepares one, which is set in the best room.

Help to Mothers Nursing.

Mothers who have the care and draught of nursing infants need the aid of strengthening tonic to make up the nourishment equired for the growth of the child. Ale. porter and lager beer has often been recommended. Of late, since physicians have become aware uhat the Port Wine produced by Alfred Speer, of Passale, N. J., is strictly pure, they have prescribed it instead of ale or porter, as being more blood making. This wipe is principally sought for by mothers who have pursing lufauts at the breast, as the best supplying medium to be found. The wine is eigh in bedy and not intoxicant but gently stimulating and makes good blood. Druggists generally keep it, and sell it for a deliara bottle. —Enquiter.





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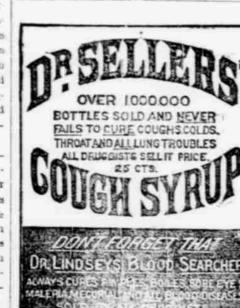
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Kicking fom, of Dutch Flat.

In the early days of Dutch Flat a large boned and gigantic Indianian was known to his rough but kindly associates as "Kicking Tom." He had won the nickname by reason of the terrific force with which he could launch his great sinewy foot against an opposing object. He was, beside, as lithe and The Largest and Cheapest Democratic springy as a panther. In those days men were not very particular about the character of their amusements, although nothing mean or underhanded eyer took place among them. Their rough courtesy was genuine and hearty, and they were as brave as Norman bar-

ons or Paladins of France. Mexican burro, which, when excited, would attack man or beast with desperate fury. Several mountain ponies had been kicked to death by him, and more than one had nearly lost his life by the savage heels of the brute. So exciting achievements that they became the subject of universal conversation and inquiry among the miners. Sitting in their cabius, they spun wonderful tales of what he had done and was capable of

"He is the livest kicker in the world," said one.

"You are right, old man. That beast can kick the hair off a man's head without touching the skin," replied one of his companions.

This was touching Tom in a tender place, and after a moment's reflection he spoke up with the remark: "He can't out-kick me." The observation makes received by the group in amazed of the year complete, week by week, it will be a year of great conventions, of great political activity in State and nation; of Presidential nominations of a tremendously active and suggressive Democratic campaign; and we believe of a

"Lord, Tom! Why, he'd make mincemeat of you in a minute."

"Would be ?" replied the athletic Indianian. "Then he can have the chance. I'm ready to kick for \$100, and may the best man win."

Promptly at the appointed hour every inhabitant of Dutch Flat was asembled in a little level spot just outside the limits of the camp. The preliminaries were soon arranged and the fight began. The beast seemed to take in the situation at a glance, and laying back his ears be watched his wiry opponent with angry eyes. Suddenly Tom leaped forward and landed a terrific kick squarely on the junction of the neck and head. The brute reeled before the force of the blow, but recovering on the instant he wheeled and launched both heels at his antagonist. The man leaped aside, and as quick as as lightning responded with another fearful kick on the burro's neck. And so the conflict raged. Sometimes the jack would get in a savage blow on his opponent, but oftener the man had the best of it, and at last putting forth al! his worderful strength he landed a kick with the fury and irresistable force of a pile-driver on the jack's neck, which had been his objective toint from the beginning. The beast reeled back. and with a convulsive quiver fell over dead. Tom was terribly bruised, but no bones were broken, and in a few days

he was as spry as ever. The miners next day gave the "jack regular funeral. Amid the pomp and circumstance of the camp he was laid to rest underneath the sod of the valley, and a local poet thus canonized his memory :

ay his waxen hoofs together. Fold back his long and spreading ears,

or he has gone to blend his geehaw With the music of the spheres.

Saving Seed Corn.

The importance of saving seed corn by careful selection has been preached from time to time out of date, and repeated experiment has proven the necessity for care in the storing of the corn elected for seed. In sections where short seasons prevail early varieties are desirable, hence earliness ought to be promoted even in sorts already early by selecting such from stalks that first ripen their ears. The importance of choosing fair-sized, well-developed ears, taken from stalks which bore at least two ears, is apparent to every one who

has given the subject any thought In the selection of seed corn too much care cannot be exercised in keeping a well-established and desirable variety pure. It should be borne in mind that two sorts growing within a quarter of a mile of one another are liable to mix, hence it is not wise to save seed from

There does not appear to be any safer, easier or better mode of saving corn for seed than the old-time one of pulling back and braiding the husks of twenty or more ears together, and then hanging these braided strands from the rafters of a corn or smoke house, the attic, or any other dry place. The corn must be kept dry and out of the reach of rats and mice. It is a wise plan to select only the perfectly matured ears for seed; these dry more quickly and are not so likely to mold. Not a few farmers always plan to hang their seed corn between the rafters of their somke houses, believing that, in addition to the dry atmosphere there found, the smoke that permeates the kernels acts as a preventive to insect pests after the seed

It is Well to Remember.

That economy is a great revenue. That not every one who cances is glad.

That is it as natural to die as to be born. That the road is never long to a friend's house.

That we have all forgotten more than we remember That busy lives, like busy waters, are generally pure.

That labor disgraces no man, while man disgraces labor. That the strongest men are often the most tender -hearted.

That life is too short to be spent in minding other people's business. That he who buys bath need of a hundred eyes, and he who sells hath Work and prices. V. Phonsburg, April 13, 1885-tf.

That inclination never wants an excuse, and, if one won't do there are a dozen others at hand.

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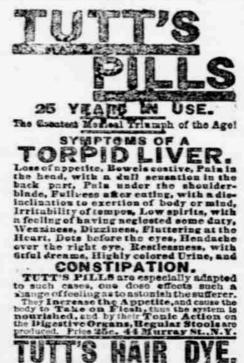
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Rich and Miserable.

The death recently of Thomas Foster, of Shamong township, Burlington county, N. S., furnishes the people of Mount Holly and neighbring villages something further to wonder at and discuss says the New York World. Foster was seventy years old, and was known to his neighbors as "The Herm! of the Pines." For fifty years be had lived alone in the primitive little log house in which he died, and for a great part of the time was known to be a miser. Hence little surprise was manifested by those who found in an old chest in his cabin bills and gold and silver coins to a large

When Foster, then a prepossessing youth of twenty, appeared in Shamong township half a century ago and took up his abode in the little cabin with dogs and books, the people wondered. He possessed an excellent scholastic education and polished manners, and soon had many friends among his rural neighbors. Why he had fled from cities and buried himself in that out-of-the-way place he never told, but little by little a story was woven for him, in which the timeworn motive of disappointed love was made to fit his case, and he ceased to be an object of interest. Then it came to be noised about that Foster was a miser. The country people fell away from him, and he secluded himself more and more until he was almost forgotten. Surrounded by his dogs, his mind buried in his books, with which the cabin was plentifully supplied, days would sometimes pass without his stirring abroad.

The howling of a dog attracted some farmers to the little log but, and there they found the hermit dangerously ill. Accordingly the overseer of the poor of Medford visited the cabin for the purpose of removing the old man to the almshouse.

"Take me to the almshouse?" he almost shouted. "Never! I have money to pay for taking care of me here, and here are the keys to that chest. Open it and you will find what say is true."

When the the chest was opened, sure enough there was the money as he had said. The gold was neatly packed away in little bags. The notes were crisp and clean, though of the issue of old State concerns long since become national banks. Foster obstinately refused to have a nurse, saying : The nurse would eat so much." Just before the end came he raised himself on his elbow, motioned convulsively toward the old chest and fell back dead. The cabin and the miser's effects were taken in charge by the authorities. It is thought that there may be more money secreted about the old structure.

An effort will be made to find his relatives in Philadelphia, from which city it is said he came to the pines.

A Parrot that Prays.

A family living on Reed street, above Fourth, is the owner of a pretty poll parrot that has already conclusively shown the evidence of early religious training. The bird is an unusually bright one, and it salutes the members of the family every morning with a regularity that is as interesting as it is remarkable. St. Alphonsus' German Catholic Church, on the southwest corner of Reed and Fourth streets, 18 provided with a set of chimes, which, besides ringing on every Sunday and holy day, ring out the "Angelus" every evening. This is for the purpose of reminding pious Catholics who live withn the sound of the bells of a little prayer that is to be recited at that time of the day. Recently one of the little girls of the house began to call the atention of the parrot to the ringing of the chimes. The bird was a careful observer, and attentively watched the little one recite the prayer. Suddenly, one evening, as the bell rang out, the parrot jumped from his perch to the bottom of its cage, and assuming a reverent position, bowed its head and numbled the first few words of the prayer. Since that time, it is claimed, the parrot is as regular and attentive to ts daily prayers as any member of the family.

Superstitions About Marriage.

Three young society ladies whose wedding had been announced to take place within the past fortnight were obliged to have the proposed ceremony indefinitely postponed on account of their illness. It is no wonder that many young ladies become Ill as the great day for them draws near, as the amount of work they have to do in preparing for the event is enough to wear them out entirely. The worry and bother of dressmaking and constant shopping and the incidental excitement might prostrate a delicate bride. Just think of the dresses the young woman of moderate ideas generally starts off with! Of course, there's the wedding gown, then he traveling frock for the tour, and, say four morning dresses, with a like number of tea gowns and reception oilets; then house dresses and two tailor made walking suits with one slightly more elaborate for special oceaslons. This is only a part of the outfit, for undergarments, household linen and the thousand and one etceteras must be prepared.

As the fall is the rushing season in the marriage mart, it is well to recall one or two interesting superstitions that were religiously noted in the time of our grandmothers. In the first place, according to an ancient and reliable chronicle, there are thirty-two days in the year that are especially unlucky for marriages and journeys. They are as follows: January 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 10 and 15 February 6, 7 and 8; April 6 and 11 May 5, 6 and 7; October 7; November Wednesday and Thursday are the luck- students to advance rapidly. Special The school district of Allegheny township will pay the above reward for the arrest and conviction of any persons repersons found breaking into ing and before injuring, or is any manner defacing any of the the ceremony. man she was about to marry after dressing and before the time had come for

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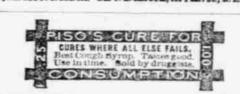
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The bride, after finishing her toilet and satisfy yourselves as to my leaving her looking glass, should turn around again for a last glauce at herself. It was also bad for her to see the self. It was also bad for her to see the dents sent to ordlege in 1883, 15 in 1884, 10 in 1884 has seven churches and a temperance charier which prohibits the sale of all intoxicating drinks. For new illustrated circular address the Principal and Proprietor, SWITHIN.C. SHORT.

> WHEN you want Job Printing of any kind done give the Ferguan office a treat

The Bustle in a New Role.

How that important part of the feminine wardrobe known as a bustle served as a life preserver for a young lady in a recent encounter with a mad bull is thus related by the Haywards (Col. Journal:

We don't think history has recorded a more singular escape from death than occurred in Redwood Canyon last week The male sex, who are an unfeeling lot taken altogether, have severely eriti. cised bustles, which are a most import. ant part of the female wardrobe, but after reading this thrilling episode "forever hold their peace." A hand, some young lady of sweet seventeen arrived from Arizona a couple of weeks ago and spent a very pleasant visit with friends in the above named canyon. One evening when the head of the family was away the milking naturally fell on the female portion of the house. hold. The Arizona fair one at once offered to do her share, but the aunt protested. The protest was of no avail, however, and shortly afterward the started for the corral, pail in hand, a typical Maud Muller. The young lady was just in the act of milking when a ferocious bull spied her and at once started on the warpath. It was a crisical position, and, as the bull came charging at her with lowered horns and blood in his eye, the young lady quietly dropped on the ground, face downward and lay as still as death. This manocuvre was something new for the ball and he was a moment nonplussed, but he soon recovered from his surprise and made for the prostrate maiden, and had it not been for that bustle that young lady never would have lived to tell this exciting experience. The bull gored that tenderly framed air castle, called a bustle, until it gave way and he retired with the trophy. The aunt saw the charge and was about to run in to assist when the brave girl called out to keep back or else both would be killed, As it turned out, the bull, after laves. tigating the bustle, corcluded that he had made a slight mistake and retired from the battle. Had the young lady started to run the bull would very likely have soon overtaken and killed her. Hereafter all young ladies should have an extra bustle in reserve when they go into the country and play the milkwaid

## Explosion of a Bird.

Newton Tabor was digging a well at Pilot Point, Tex. To blast out the rock he used dynamate enclosed in small metallic capsules. In the course of his operations he depasited an open box of these dangerous capsules at the foot of a tree near where he was working. A ladder teaning against the tree reached up to a mockingbird's nest containing a young brood. His ten-year-old son, lick, with a couple of the capsules his hand, ascended the ladder, and, discovering the young birds with distended mouths, boy-like dropped the capsules, one at a time, in one bird's mouth They forthwith disappeared in the bird's craw. This rendered the bird uncomfortable, and in a struggle for relief it fell from the nest. Upon striking the ground an explosion occurred which tore up the earth, dumped a quantity of the loose dirt and the fragments of rock piled around into the well, and came near killing Mr. Tabor, who was working down below. The boy fell from the ladder and was badly hurt, suffering the fracture of some hones. This shows what a boy will do when he gets a chance.

A Stream of Logs.

Homestake mine, near Deadwood, has railroad twenty-two miles long to the pineries where fuel is obtained, and the road ends at the top of a high hill just above the mill. Here the wood is dumped into a chute made of heavy logs lined with iron. The logs descend with tremendous velocity and on reaching the mouth of the chute leap out into the air, pass over the mill, and land some 250 feet from the foot of the bluff. For boars a perfect stream of logs passes over the heads of the men at work helow, and to a newcomer it seems sufficiently dangerous, but no accident ever occurred and one soon gets over the nervous feeling. Five thousand cords of wood are piled at a time by this arrangement, which saves tens of thousands of dollars annually to the company, disposing of 80,000 cords a year without any cost for piling.

Four Morals.

Here is the French story with four distinct morals: Four files were in search of a breakfast. One found some jelly and regaled himself. The jelly was not genuine and the fly turned nion his back. The second fly seeing the fate of his friend, resolved to eat plain bread. But there was so much alum in the bread that he, too, turned over and breathed his last. The third fig attacked a glass of beer, but the aloes laid him out cold. The fourth fly, seeing that everything eatable was tampered with, resolved to commit suicide. He found some German fly-paper or which was inscribed "Death to flies." He partook freely, but the more he ate the better he felt. He stuck to the flypaper and lived to a good-old age.

ENGLISH religious papers are again rotesting against the over decoration of churches at harvest home festivals. At a recent festival in a Laucushire hurch the sacred edifice was about Ill d with sacks of potatoes and great mantities of beets, turnins, carrols pples, pears, tomatoes and huge vegetable marrows. Altogether it looked more like a green grocer's shop than a

THE advice we have to offer to young mon and maidens is, let your hair alone; keep at a safe distance from hairdresting rooms and drug shops, where are sold oils, alkaline substances, alcoholic mixtures, etc., for use upon the hair. They are all pernicious, and will do you

JUMPING Doo, the Indian who fired the Chayenne Agency a few days ago, was captured on thursday night at Pierre, Dak, Next morning he attackto death with a pair of shears and then

LIDGE, A. M., (Harvard Graduate) Media, Pa. | ed his guards and stabbed two of them committed suicide.