

### THE FESTIVAL OF JANUS.

ITS CELEBRATION AMONG DIFFERENT NATIONS.

The Hindus and Chinese Way of Observing the New Year—Gifts Among the Japanese—Druid Customs—The Hindus' Thought.

Among the Romans the deity of the new year was Janus, the president of doors, gates and all new enterprises. Commonly represented with two faces, he was supposed to look both into the past and into the future. He was the father of the new year, and on his festival was sacrificed the famous enigma, "There is one father, who has twelve sons; each of these has sixty daughters, of whom thirty are white and thirty black; all are immortal and yet all must die. In Rome March 1, formerly the opening day of the year, was signalled by sacrifices; white steers were offered that the year might be fortunate for the state, the cowards made oblations and libations, at the same time assuming the duties of their offices; offerings were presented at the shrine of Janus, and friends made each other gifts of first of republican stability, such as baskets of dates or figs, pots of honey or clusters of grapes, but with increasing years the gifts became more and more costly, until completely made that the young men were sometimes beggared by the necessity of satisfying the demands of female avarice.

The custom of celebrating the new year in some especial way probably had its origin in the cradle of the human race. The Hindus religiously observe the oldest forms of established worship. It is somewhat remarkable to find among the people of India the same reverence attached to the day as that which is known to ourselves. All stores and offices are closed and the day—indeed most of the month is given up to religious observance and merriment.

Hands of singers, from two to six in number, make the rounds of the houses in their districts and are received with consideration, invariably obtaining a large or small, for on this day to refuse to give is accounted a sin. They do not ask for charity as such, but for a contribution, invariably obtaining a large or small, for on this day to refuse to give is accounted a sin. They do not ask for charity as such, but for a contribution, invariably obtaining a large or small, for on this day to refuse to give is accounted a sin. They do not ask for charity as such, but for a contribution, invariably obtaining a large or small, for on this day to refuse to give is accounted a sin.

But the observance of the day does not begin and end with almsgiving. The idols are to be washed, pictures and other vessels and food are to be offered at the sacred shrine, every Hindu lays up for himself treasure in heaven by opening his pocketbook.

Some persons deem it wise to gain her good will by leaving presents of food and dainties outside their doors for her use, and as these articles are always given in the morning, of course the deity must have taken them and passed by the house where she was so well received.

But as it has sometimes been noticed that she returned and brought the disease even where she was well fed, it is considered the safer plan to frighten her away. Her only object in coming infirmly is to make handsome children ugly, and if she can be distressed in any way, she is all the more likely to be kind to them already so, the end is gained.

On the last day of the old year all handsome children are fitted out with grotesque masks, and are paraded in the streets to the belief that they are homely, while at the same time great quantities of fireworks are discharged and crackers lighted, it being well known that all evil spirits despise the sight and smell of all kinds of profane noise. When the children are sent to bed a guard is placed over the head of each, and the goddess may pour into it the seeds of the dispenser, and in case all these precautions fail, a large package of paper, the head of the household cleans out, sets fire to large packs of crackers, without which any ceremony is incomplete in China, lights the sticks of incense and burns the paper money and other articles provided. The theory of this performance is that by burning the wax, currency and other articles of value their reality will be transferred to the goddess, and she will be satisfied to depart to the other world for when they are designed, and as most of these goods are procurable only from the prince, the reason for the perpetration of the rite is quite apparent. Worshippers of the household gods is best performed with some similar precautions and is sometimes accompanied by the adoration of the ancestral tablets.

They have been done to the death—for all Chinese deities are but dead men—reverence to the living follows; all children are brought in to adore their parents, all servants to the obligations to their masters. Presents are made both to children and to servants, all money given at this season being strung on a red cord for good luck, while the presents are wrapped in red paper for the same cause. Visiting is common, and all maternal sons are presented at each house with watermelon seeds done up in red paper. A married man must visit his wife's relatives, provided they live within a half day's journey, though he need not give them presents. As all courts and tribunals are closed on this day, it is commonly known in China as "Peak of the Chinese." The festival, which lasts among the poor for three and among the rich for thirty days, processions, with music, drums, and dancing, and paper lanterns are common modes of diversion.

The New Year day observance of the Japanese in many respects resembles those practiced by the Chinese. The gifts are generally superficial, and a favorite New Year's present is a fish, as announced by a wreath, an orange and an artificial cabbage. The significance of these articles among the Japanese was formerly very great—the wreath symbolizing the perpetuating year, since its leaves, when broken, gave forth snow, and the whole animal was returned to its origin in the spring itself from a state almost the reverse signifying perpetuity and the wreath's return. Among the Hindus the festival of Janus is observed with much more solemnity than among the Chinese. The festival, which lasts among the poor for three and among the rich for thirty days, processions, with music, drums, and dancing, and paper lanterns are common modes of diversion.

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CULTON, Op. the Park. Beautiful Plush and Silver Toilet Cases Work Boxes, and Jewel Cases, Handsome Silverware, Pretty Jewelry, Magnificent Dolls, Wonderful Toys. Confections, Nuts, Fruits, Groceries. At our usual very low prices. FINE SILVERWARE, WATCHES AND BEAUTIFUL JEWELRY. Are among the new things now on exhibition in our store. We believe that nowhere in this county can you find a prettier assortment to select from at lower prices. Our goods are not trash but good honest goods at lowest prices.



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Instead of Starting our Reduction Sales in January we will offer all our Novelty Dress Goods and Coats at January Prices. We Quote a Few Bargains: Novelty Dress Patterns that were \$7.00 to 10.00 a Pattern are reduced to 5.00 a Pattern. A Black Reffer Coney fur trimmed at 8.50 reduced from 10.00.

H. GUTH & SON, 634 Hamilton St., Allentown. FINE HOLIDAY FURNITURE. We beat last year's assortment of Furniture all to pieces. We are now showing a handsome new line of Plush and Willow Rockers, Beautiful Sideboards, Bed Room and Parlor Suits, Handsome Pictures, Beautiful Carpet Patterns. Any of the above articles will make a handsome Christmas present. Prices are the Lowest. KEMERER & SWARTZ, NORTH FIRST STREET.

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JOSEPH E. REY, Over the Canal Bridge, East Weissport. 'A Feet to Properly Fit Feet.'

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Nothing for the New Year. The most prominent signs of the New Year, the most prominent signs of the New Year, the most prominent signs of the New Year, the most prominent signs of the New Year, the most prominent signs of the New Year.

It is a good thing. I see this for the first time. I have been in the drug business many years, and this is one of the most successful of my remedies.

One-half of the entire population of Paris is made up of foreigners. Allow a single day to run until it gets beyond the reach of medicine. They often say, "Oh, it will wear away, it will wear away, it will wear away."

It is the tree that stands the straightest that does not bow to the wind. The most prominent signs of the New Year, the most prominent signs of the New Year, the most prominent signs of the New Year, the most prominent signs of the New Year.

There is a doctor of the name of Miller in nearly every town in Missouri. The most prominent signs of the New Year, the most prominent signs of the New Year, the most prominent signs of the New Year, the most prominent signs of the New Year.

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After Death. The most prominent signs of the New Year, the most prominent signs of the New Year, the most prominent signs of the New Year, the most prominent signs of the New Year.

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Glossy Sheen. The most prominent signs of the New Year, the most prominent signs of the New Year, the most prominent signs of the New Year, the most prominent signs of the New Year.

And Silky Texture. The most prominent signs of the New Year, the most prominent signs of the New Year, the most prominent signs of the New Year, the most prominent signs of the New Year.

Ayer's Hair Vigor. The most prominent signs of the New Year, the most prominent signs of the New Year, the most prominent signs of the New Year, the most prominent signs of the New Year.

Dr. Sellers' Cough Syrup. The most prominent signs of the New Year, the most prominent signs of the New Year, the most prominent signs of the New Year, the most prominent signs of the New Year.

DEAFNESS, ITS CAUSES AND CURE. The most prominent signs of the New Year, the most prominent signs of the New Year, the most prominent signs of the New Year, the most prominent signs of the New Year.

CARTER'S LITTLE LIVER PILLS. The most prominent signs of the New Year, the most prominent signs of the New Year, the most prominent signs of the New Year, the most prominent signs of the New Year.

Scientific American Agency for PATENTS. The most prominent signs of the New Year, the most prominent signs of the New Year, the most prominent signs of the New Year, the most prominent signs of the New Year.