

# The ancestry

Claus will endure until the end, as op and his suite begin their round he has endured from the beginning. of visits. It is the season for juvenile No one can say how old he is or at parties, and almost all the children

what period he made his first appear- of the village are collected in a few ance among prehistoric men. The name of Santa Claus, by which he is Nicholas visits in turn. He enters O tidings of comfort and joy, known in America, is the Dutch pet with the two angels, while his swar-Criss Cringle, by which he is known in England, is a corruption of Christ Kindlein, or the Christ child. But the festivities that distinguish Christmas existed long before Christianity, and a jolly god of good cheer appears as the personification of the period from the earliest pagan times. Now, the Santa Claus of today is simply that old jolly god sobered up, washed and purified.

The Dionysia of the Greeks, the Saturnalia of the Romans, the Twelve Nights of the old Norsemen and of the Teutons all celebrated the coming of the winter solstice. People then gave themselves up to all sorts of revelry and excess. In the Dionysia the representative figure was not the young Dionysus or Bacchus, but the aged, cheery and disreputable Silenus, the chief of the Satyrs, or the god of drunkards. In the Saturnalia it was Saturn, in the Germanic feasts it was Thor, both long bearded and white haired gods like Silenus.

Now, although the central figure of the Christian festival is the child God. the Christ Kindlein, the influence of long pagan custom was too strong within the breasts of the early Chris tians to be easily superseded. The tradition of hoary age as the true representative of the dying year and its attendant jollifications still remained smoldering under the ashes of the past. It burst into new flame when the past was too far back to be looked upon with the fear and antagon ism of the church, and there seemed no longer any danger of a relapse in to paganism. At first, however, the more dignified representative was chosen as more in keeping with the occasion. Saturn was unconsciously rebaptized as St. Nicholas, the name of the saint whose festival occurs in December, and who, as the patron of young people, is especially fitted the patronage of the featival which has come to be looked upon as especially that of the young. At first St. Nicholas did not supersede the Christ child, but accompanied Him to His Christmas travels, as, indeed, he still does in certain rural neighborhoods of Europe where the modern spirit has been least felt.

St. Nicholas according to the hagio logists, was a bishop of Myra, who flourished early in the fourth century. achoolboys.

It is strange that everywhere St Nicholas is most honored and his mon people know little of the legend of the saint. He is treated with that is ended the devils are called in. mixture of seriousness and frivolity which becomes a dying myth. One masquerades in his dress in the evening and prays to him in the morning. and so fulfils a duty without speiling the fun. Yet even the mumraing

THE GERMAN SANTA CLAUS, In Southern Germany and Austria a outh possessing the necessary religous knowledge is masked, dressed arf and furnished with a miter and crozler. He is accompanied by two angels and a whole troop of devils. The angels are dressed much like the choir boys in Anglican or Catholic churches. Each carries a basket. The devils blacken their faces and add

E jolly, potbellied, roist horns of pigs' snouts or such other ering old Santa Claus is fantastic devices as the ingenuity in hot water. Preachers of boyhood can devise. They are girt and parents are rising with chains, which they shake or ratup against him, declar- tle furiously. It is thought much beting that he is a fraud ter fun to be a devil than an angel, and as such ought to be hence the number of the former is Thank heaven, a spora- only limited to the number of boys dic agitation like this can have no who are able to command the necesserious results. Recalcitrant parents sary regalia. In the twilight of the and preachers will pass away. Santa evening of December 5 the good bish-

separate houses, each of which St.

of the sound nerves of the children that no harm comes from the ordeal When St. Nicholas has left the children return to their own homes, but they do not believe that the generosity of the saintly bishop has been ex-hausted. After saying their prayers and going to bed they place dishes or baskets upon windowsill, with their names written within them, and in these their parents deposit small presents, which their little sons and daughters fancy he has brought.

ty or their elder sister is known to

particularly attractive. It is proof

In many places the bugbear over shadows in importance both the Christ child and St. Nicholas. He ap pears under different names and in different guises. In Lower Austria he is the frightful Krampus, with his clanking chains and horrible devil's mask, who, notwithstanding his gilded nuts and apples, gingerbread and toys, which he carries in his basket, is the terror of the nursery. In Hanover, Holstein and Mecklenburg he is known as Clas. In Silesia his name

Sometimes the bugbear was a female. In Lower Austria she was called the Budelfrau. In Suabia it was the Berchtel who chastised children that dld not spin diligently with rods but rewarded the industrious with dried

pears, apples and nuts. The female bogie survives, especially in Russia and in Italy. In the former place she is known as the Baboushka, in the latter as the Befana. Befana is a corruption of Epiph ania or Epiphany. For it is on Epiph any, Jan. 6, that the Itlanians make presents to their children in commemoration of the gifts given by the three wise men to Christ on that date.-New York Herald.

### A Surprise For Father Christmas.

Dear me, how very strange this is! So Father Christmas cries. Whose can these small red stockings

This very curious size?

While traveling round the world I've seen

Of stockings, many a score, But never till tonight have found Such tiny ones before."

Gladys was tucked up fast asleep; Her doll, too, was in bed; But Dolly's eyes were open wide, And she heard what he said.

She sat right up and called (dolls

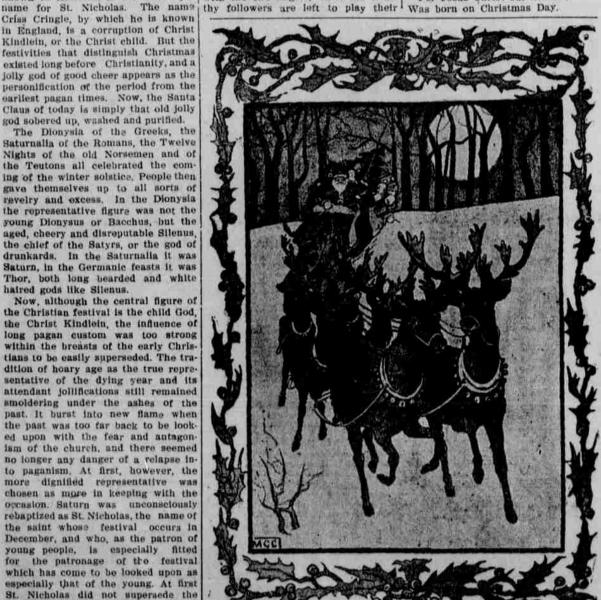
On Christmas night, you see)-They are mine, those stockings; Gladys

Has hung them there for me!"

God Rest You, Merry Gentlemen! (Old English Carol.)

God rest you, merry gentlemen! Let nothing you dismay, For Jesus Christ our Saviour Was born upon this day,

To save us all from Satan's power When we are gone astray; For Jesus Christ our Saviour



pranks outside. A great stience falls upon the children, and one by one they are called up and examined by the saint. This part of the evening's business is carried on with the greatest seriousness and decorum. Simple He is the patron of children and religious questions suited to the age of each child are propounded, after which it has to sing hymns and recite prayers. If the ordeal is sucessfeast day most observed the most fully passed the angels present it plous and instructed among the com- with nuts and apples. If it fails it has to stand aside. When the examination

They are not allowed to approach the good children, but may tease and frighten the naughty ones as much as they like. They do this at first as a matter of duty. Duty is followed by the pleasures whose anticipation had caused them to enlist-pleasures which consist in pursuing the large girls with the attempt to blacken their faces. Their whole appearance is intended to be grotesque and fareical For the entire evening they are allow ed full license in the villages, though

MOTHER AND CHILD.



# Aerial Flight is Assured---Its Vehicle an Aeroplane

As Easily as the Sea is Navigated, Says Sir Hiram Maxim, Will the Air Be Used, in a Decade, For the Purposes of Trade and Travel .-: -: -: -: -: -: -:

## BALLOON . FOR . WAR, . BUT . NOT . FOR . WORK

rapidly.

ily damaged.

"However, it all amounts to this:

The flying machine is an accomplished

fact, as several others beside the

brothers Wright have arrived at good

results. I think we will soon see a

workable machine. You see when

once you get a machine that will lift,

improvements are sure-some very

plane at present is its lightness and

construction, but this will be grad-

ually overcome, I have no doubt. In

order to clear any obstacles near its

starting point it must be light, so

very account the machine can be eas-

to produce it at small cost, and the

"There is no reason to doubt that

an aeroplane can be driven against

the wind, and the great thing wanted

in it now is stability. In this lies

any one of these might turn the aero-

"In dealing with aeroplanes, it

must be borne in mind that you are

traveling near the ground and, to be

successful, the machine must be built

trees and anything else that may

come in the way. These difficulties

is dependent upon actual experiment.

Theory helps us to see the limitations

of any particular form of construc-

tion, but we do not know enough at

present to say what is the best form

experiment and by this method alone

"Still, I think that well within the

next five years a very considerable

Not so very long ago people scouted

the idea of sending messages across

M. Georges Besancon, of Paris,

secretary of the Aero Club, an editor

This letter adds little to what is al-

It is this problem, in fact, with which

M. Santos-Dumont is now struggling.

scepticism reigns concerning the

ment has practically purchased the

france (\$200,000) for its purchase

withdrawn. He considered it aston-

never from the commencement had

the slightest confidence in the state-

distance flights. Missions had been

The Curse of Pockets.

A tailor who had received an order

"I want to ask you as a special

"Why not?" asked the astonished

"Because they are responsible for

clothes for weeks without pressing

because he says it is too much trou-

If that is so, just leave out the poc-

shabbiness,"

kets and they will have no excuse for

"That is a new point of view," said

But when the suit came home it had the usual number of pockets.—

Lobsters For Boulevardiers.

The head waiter of the Cafe de

favor," she said, "not to put any poc-

M. Bezancon said that so far as he

At the Aero Club a good deal of

that we shall learn.

come a reality."

apparatus.

future rests with the aeroplane.

overcome these difficulties.

"This has occurred with M. Santos-

"The objection I see in the aero-

Sir Hiram Maxim, in an interview | tion of working out the details. in the New York Herald, says that within ten years at the outside men will be navigating the air as surely and safely as they do the land or the sea, and Professor Huntington also joins in his belief, both declaring that the aeroplane is the airship of the future. A Herald correspondent interviewed some of the leading authorities in England, and on all hands he was practically told: "If it be not now, it will come soon."

Sir Hiram Maxim said: "We shall not have any balloons in future; we shall have flying machines. The flying machine is beavier than air, just that it can lift rapidly, and on this as the birds are. There are no bailoons in nature."

Continuing, the famous inventor said: "In his recent lecture Colonel Dumont. Still, when once we have Fullerton advised continuing experi- got to the principle of the thing, imments with balloons. I don't agree provements are only a question of with him. As a matter of fact, it has only been on very rare occasions that dirigible balloon will be valuable for the balloon has returned to its start- war purposes, but we can never hope ing point, and these results have only been obtained in France.

"Much experimenting has been done in England, but we have not attained such satisfactory results. At present several of the best engineers are engaged in studying aeronautics, the weakness of this demonstration. and perhaps the whole science of But, of course, one is sure to try to aerial navigation may be solved any

"These men are being assisted in in the air for a longer time than M. their work by clever balloon makers, Santos-Dumont succeeded in doing, but, as I have already said, I think It is not possible to say that, through the balloon will soon be a thing of some fault of its construction, the the past. So I always advise my friends to give their attention to the flying machine.

'A few years ago the automobile plane over. was looked upon as a sort of monstrosity; now it is practically a necessity, and I really think that in ten years, at the very outside, we will be navigating the air as easily and as so that it will go a sufficient height surely as we are now navigating the from the ground to clear houses, sea and even roads.

"For a balloon to lift it must have specific gravity less than air. To will, of course, be overcome in time attain this it must be exceedingly "But the solution of the aeroplane fragile. Therefore it is useless for all practical purposes. Again, it has to be of comparatively enormous dimensions.

"Thus, you see, in a balloon you have a combination of size and fragil- of construction. Therefore, it is by ity, which must tell against its usefulness. But with the advent of the true flying machine these drawbacks will disappear.

"So I have no hesitation whatever advance will have been made in this in saying that before many more particular branch of aeronautics. years pass we shall do away completely with the balloon. If we are ever to fly it must be with a machine the sea by wireless telegraphy. Yet heavier than air. Many men are it has been done, and in the same way busily engaged in trying to invent a traveling through the air will bemachine which, like a bird, will stay In the air as long as they wish and go wherever they desire to guide it.

'Wright brothers are engaged in of the Aerophile, has received a long making these machines in America letter from the Wright brothers, of and M. Santes-Dumont has spent a Dayton, Ohio, explaining their exlarge fortune and, I am pleased to periments in the last few years. say, has met with a certain amount of success in his experiments. The ready known of the claims of the German Emperor; too, is taking the Wright brothers, beyond bringing out matter up, and he will have the lead- more clearly than ever the fact that ing scientists in Germany at his dis- considerable trouble has been met Then Professor Langley and with in finding the correct way of myself have both worked hard trying maintaining one's balance in the air.

"That solution is coming, whatever people may think, and I really believe myself that within a year from now there will be a great number of ma- claims made by the Wrights, especialchines in the air. This is certain to ly with regard to the oft repeated happen within two years at any rate. statement that the French Govern-

We cannot get away from the fact that the real flying machine has now made its appearance. M. Santos-Dumont has proved this in his recent knew the offer made by the Wrights, demonstrations, and these mark the that they would display the apparatus beginning of a totally new epoch in to any one willing to pay a million the history of the world. There are sure to be some startling develop- in case they succeeded in flying fifty ments within the next year. We are kilometres (thirty-one and one-fourth only on the threshold at present, and miles) in an hour, had never been the immediate future is full of possibilities.

"Personally, I think that the road accepted, seeing that no risks were to success lies in the development of to be run. powerful motors. This means careful and expensive experiments, yet I sensational cross Channel balloon feel sure that success will soon be trips and other long distance flights. achieved. The flying machine will be seen by a Herald correspondent cona sporting affair in the beginning, cerning the Wrights, said he had just as the automobile was.

But in the same way it will be de veloped so that it can be used for ments made concerning their long practically all commercial purposes. Some persons may declare this the sent over from France to investigate dream of a visionary. It is no such the statements made, and had rething. Flying machines have come. turned with a verdict of "Not proven." will be improved, and at no very distant time, ten years at most, we shall be traveling from place to place in our flying machines just as for a suit of clothes was asked by at the present day we go by train or the customer's wife for an interview

Professor A. K. Huntington, of King's College, London, who was one kets in my husband's clothes. of the two British competitors in the international balloon race which end- tailor. ed in England, also thinks that the immediate future holds great proba- his looking so shabby so much of the bilities in the development of aerial time," she explained. "He wears his

navigation. He said: "The future is with aeroplanes. Personally I have not done much with ble to change the things in his pocthem up to now, except having mod- kets to another suit. He says that els made. Probably what has retard- half the men who go round in seedy ed progress up to now is the expense clothes do so for the same reason. attaching to the experiments.

"The Wright brothers have been pegging away for years, and must have tried a great number of models. Some years ago they got as far as an the tailor. "I will see about it." apparatus that would life a man, and although they have kept the result of their trials secret, there is no doubt New York Sun. that they have made a great advance in the last year or two.

"Of course I am only going on what I heard, but I think they have cceeded in producing a flying machine of practical value. A great deal of scepticism has been expressed about their flying twenty-four miles. That is a very considerable achieve-

"Yet, personally, I think they have done it and now, so far as they are looncerned, it simply becomes a ques-

GHINGS WORTH KNOWING

A soldier in the Philippines is reported to have been cured of stuttering by being shot through the throat.

It is estimated that the apple crop in the United State this year will amount to more than 36,000,000 bar-

In West Bridgewater, Mass., reforty-four years took place in the Unitarian church.

rels.

In the west cloister of Westminster Abbey is a gravestone to John Broughton, once champion prize fighter of England.

A New Yorker, a youth in his teens, is reported to have sued a young woman of the same city, alleging breach of promise and asking \$100,000 damages.

The Government of Victoria, Australia, has appropriated \$25,000 for the making of roads by prisoners through the "bush" in unsettled parts of the State.

Pethick Lawrence, husband of one of the "suffragists" imprisoned in time. There is no doubt that the London, promised to subscribe £10 a day to the woman's suffrage fund for every day his wife remains in

> Japanese children begin to go to school when six years old. During the first four years they learn Japanese and Chinese; in the next four years every child has to learn Eng-

"Still, until the aeroplane is kept William Pinckney Whyte, United States Senator from Maryland, who recently celebrated his eighty-second birthday, has never been inside a saloon, never smoked and never rode machine will not tilt. There are ocin a cab. casionally strong gusts of wind, and

Denmark, famous for her great exportation of butter, has 500 cows every 1000 of her inhabitants, and if five heads are counted a family there are two and one-half cows to every family.

Up in Vermont they killed a burglar who had \$118.20 on his person, and after paying his burial expenses and erecting a monument to him, turned \$63 and the twenty cents into the town treasury.

Major John S. Horlbeck, of

Charleston, S. C., is said to own the largest bearing pecan orchard in the world. He has more than sixty acres in bearing trees and his main grove consists of 550 acres. The neatest town in the world is

Brock, in Holland. So tidy are the inhabitants that they will not allow horses in the streets. It contains a population of 2700, and the chief industry is the making of Edam cheese. German firms are building very

large gas engines, one having just been built of 2000 horse power for a mining company, and a number of 1500 horse power tandem gas engines and 1200 horse power gas dynamos are reported.

In Turkey there are 1500 schools in which girls receive education. There are forty secondary schools having 3000 girls on their rolls. The learning of the Koran is compulsory, and arithmetic, geography and elementary science are taught

### DISTRIBUTING CENTRES.

Cities From Which the Great Volume of Printed Matter is Sent Out. A striking example of the great

volume of printed matter which the Postoffice Department is called upon to handle from month to month is found in a report recently issued by the department.

Of printed matter, designed for general distribution, 28,000,000 pounds were shipped in one month last year by publishers at the rate of a cent a pound at the 100 largest ishing that the offer had never been postoffices in the United States, the total amount of such shipments having increased from 296,000,000 M. Jacques Faure, hero of several pounds in 1896 to 450,000,000 in

These shipments of printed matter, collected and transmitted by the Postoffice Department, constitute a very fair guage of the distributing points of news and literature in the United States, and the relation which they bear to each other is peculiar and has little reference to population.

New York stands at the head with more than twenty-five per cent. of the whole shipments of the country. Chicago follows with about two-thirds of the shipments of New York. Then follow St. Louis. Philadelphia and Boston, in the order named, Boston's shipments seeming unduly low, and then Kansas City, Cincinnati and Augusta, Me., the shipments of Augusta seeming unduly high.

Minneapolis, San Francisco, Pittsburg, Detroit, St. Paul, Cleveland and Milwaukee follow-all of them minor but populous cities-and then come Springfield, Ohio, and Elgin, Ill., two small places, Springfield being notable on account of its output of agricultural machinery, and Elgin on account of its manufacture of watches and its shipments of condensed milk.

Baltimore comes next, then Denver, Omaha, Des Moines, Atlanta, Lincoln, Nashville, Louisville, Indianapolis and Washington. Bangor, Me., exceeds Buffalo; Dallas, Tex., exceeds New Orleans. Brooklyn has shipments little larger than those of Waterville, Me., and Rochester, N. Y.; Williamsport, Tex., and Mem-phis, Tenn., have about the same

Paris is going over to spend a month in New York for the purpose of shipments. studying the method of preparing American dishes. He will make a Albany, N. Y., and Providence, R. I., are far down on the list. Newark American disnes. He will make a special study of broiled lobster and cocktails. Henri, with his pink whis-kers—one of the sights of Paris—is known to all wealthy Americans who visit Paris.—Paris Dispatch to New N. J., is still further down, and Charleston, S. C., ranks below Ra-cine, Wis. It is estimated that it would take 25,000 postal cars to car-ry these second-class mail matter

CITY FOOD VS. COUNTRY.

The Girl Who Came Back to Manhattan For Her Health.

"I think I'll be getting we'll now that I have come to the city to live," said the girl who had been living in the country for her health, "and can have what I want to eat—good things. Look at these peaches I got for our breakfast-real peaches, red one side and creamy on the other. See, they are so fine you can take the peeling off with your fingers. And guess what I paid for them. Next to nothing. I haven't had any this season. You see they don't have peaches in the country till they grow on the trees. I love the kind that grow on the New York pushcarts.

'Now, don't think I'm extravagant, but I bought a canteloupe, too. We can eat that first, then make the peaches our dessert.

"Do canteloupes grow on trees or just come up out of the ground? I never saw any at all in the country. I think they must be a city fiult, you see so many of them around. Guess what I paid for this lovely little canteloupe big enough for us two. Three cents. I tell you we can live very cheaply here in the city, and have just what we want. We can both live on what you paid for my board in the country. I will count up exactly what I spend and you will see.

"Isn't this cream simply delicious? I am glad to have cream again. Yes, I know, I lived on a dairy farm, but do you suppose they let us have cream? It we got skimmed milk we were mighty lucky. I haven't tasted cream since I lived in the city. Maybe this is milk from our dairy farm we are drinking. I wouldn't be surprised. And still, it is awfully good milk. I don't know.

"These eggs, too. I am very fond of eggs for breakfast and I haven't had them for such an awful long time. Have them on the farm? Why, of course not. Dairy farm eggs bring too much money in the city for farm people to eat them.

"I have bought some corn on the ear for our dinner. Did you really think we had it out there? Why, it hasn't got ripe yet, and when it does they won't have it. They will sell We have been eating canned corn the year 'round. I suppose if it wasn't for the country people the canned corn people would peg out. There wouldn't be anybody to sell it to to amount to anything. The same with tomatoes. The same with nearly everything. And you wonder why I am

"Look here, I don't believe I'll ever in the world get back my liking for meat. You wonder why I want little, tiny, thin slices of cooked ham cut off at the delicatessen store by a long, thin, sharp knife till it almost looks like the shadow of slices of meat. This is why. I like to eat animals I am not acquainted with. I am tired to death of eating legs I've seen running gayly about the farm. pigs I've seen squealing, that I've heard in their death rattle, that I've seen chopped to mince meat and made sausage of, the odor of which I have had to endure. I'd rather eat cured ham that's been in the cold storage a century or two. Then you know the owner hasn't been a friend of yours and you haven't got to listen to him in his last agony.

"The chickens! My landlady used to wait till they were greatgrandmothers before she'd kill them. Then she'd have them in the frying pan before they'd quit wriggling. We were eating them when by rights they should have been cooling off and getting ready to be cooked and eaten. There was a cow they were all very fond of. They called her Rose. I rather liked that cow, too, if she did give skimmed milk and little enough of it at that. Well, the time came for her to die and they killed her. No cold storage for Rose. Like the chickens and pigs she must be eaten up at once while they were in the humor. They wouldn't have eaten her at all if she hadn't been tough as leather. They would have sold her.

"Do you know what they did? Sat up at the table and said, 'Will you have some of Rose? 'Wouldn't that take your appe-

tite? Wouldn't you have lost fiesh, too, and got to be skin and bones as I am? I just reckon you would.

"Oh, yes, I shall be getting well and fat and rosy now that I have come to the city again, where I can have all the fruit I want and eat strange animals."-New York Press.

Kentucky's Good Old Corn Bread. Land of the luscious, indescribable and ever conquering corn bread. Kensucky, we hall thee! Other States have their corn bread, but no corn bread on earth ever reaches the right spot in the hungry man's make-up like that of old Kentucky. Corn bread is the Kentucky house-wife's monument. See the genuine corn bread anywhere, or even the imitation, and the mind must instinctively go back to old Kentucky, with all its treasures and traditions of corn bread making. This, verily, is "a land of corn and wine; a land of bread and vineyards." See the Kentucky household gathered about hospitable tables to realize the truth of Victor Hugo:- "Oh, the love of a mother, love no one forgets; miraculous bread which God distributes and multiplies; board always spread by the paternal hearth, whereat each has his portion, and all have it entire,"-Louisville Heraid.

### Commas.

Mr. and Mrs. Comma celebrated the seventy-fifth anniversary of their marriage a few days ago, and the funny papers at once got busy with their name. The Washington Post remarked that it was "a pretty long sentence for two commas. Boston Transcript adds the happy reflection that it was no doubt "a blissful period." This is fairly good "pointing." These Commas have been bracketed together so long that we express the hope hy way of () that nothing will — their happiness or bring it suddenly to a full stop.

A Silesian court recently sentence