THE HERTFORD COUNTY HERALD







Gathering of Plant Sacred Rite in Druidical Religious Festivals.

Also Considered a Potent Remady for Ills, a Bellef Which Still Exists in Some of the Remote Places of Europe.

E decorate our homes with sprays of mistletoe at Christmas time, but few of us know the history of it as a Yuletide symbol. Pretty girls are kissed under it and a great deal of fun and nonsense is carried on apropos of it, but no one stops to think of how ancient a dec-oration it is or how sacred it was once thought to be. Almost everybody has a vague

knowledge that the Druids of old had something to do with the gathering of mistletoe, but just what that some thing was is not clear to the average mind The fact is that the ancient Celts in

their druidical religion had two great festivals, one in June and the other in December, the latter being equivalent to our Christmas. In both of these great festivals the gathering of the mistletoe was a sacred rite. Pliny in his "Natural History" de-

scribes the ceremony. Speaking of the Druids' worship of the oak, he says: "They believe that whatever grows or these trees is sent from heaven and is a sign that the tree has been chosen by the god himself. The mistletoe is very rarely to be met with, but when it is found they gather it with solemn ceremony. This they do especially or the sixth day of the moon, because by the sixth day the moon has plenty of vigor and has not run half its course.

"After the preparations have been made for a sacrifice and a feast under the tree they hail it as the universal healer and bring to the spot two white bulls whose horns have never been bound before. A priest clad in a white robe climbs the tree and with a golden sickle cuts the mistletoe, which is caught in a white cloth. Then they sacrifice the victims, praying that God may make his own gift to prosper with those upon whom he has bestowed It.

"They believe that a potion pre pared from mistletoe will increase their flocks and that the plant is a

stomach of the patient and give him a

solution of it to drink as well. The

which means all healer.

Gaelic word for mistletob is "an t'nil,

In the northeast of Scotland people

used to cut withes of mistletoe at the

pecially esteemed as a remedy for the

ailments of children, who sometimes

wear it hung around the neck as an

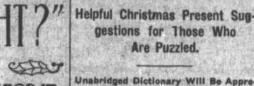
In Sweden on Midsummer eve mis

tletoe is diligently sought after, the

rope.

ioc."

amulet.



clated by Children of Kindergarten Age-Other Suitable Gifts for Young and Old.

ceive, s-tact that is lost sight of in an age of the commercial spirit. With children there, is a great edu-cative value in their present giving if it is encouraged to be really their NUMBER of correspondents who have requested sugges-tions of books suitable for own giving. If the mother, however, simply prepares some little remem-brance, and says "Mary, this is your Christmas gifts will find an-E) swers to their queries in Christmas present to Aunt Ellen," the following: gift has no meaning in the thoughts

Among the many attractive gift of the young giver. And not only books for very little boys might be has it no meaning, but it becomes has it no meaning, but it becomes actually harmful for the reason it pre-Professor Rausmissen's "Analogy Between the Monogamous Protoplasm and the Silurian Mole-cule." We can think of no book that sents the idea to the child that the gift without the giver is really a gift. And the child has put no thought or

would be a greater source of delight to the child that is not yet out of self sacrifice into the giving of that present. On the other hand, if the child be given pocket money which it may conshort dresses. It tells in easy words of eight and ten syllables of the sports and pastimes of the protoplassider its very own, or, better still, if nic family and draws beautiful moral it is enabled to earn pocket money and lessons from the corpuscles of the carboniferous era. It is handsomely is then encouraged to set aside a portion of its very own money for present making the idea of true giving is illustrated with representations of the agile animalcule and will be sure to acquired. thought, the love necessary to make a felight the heart of the little boy or girl who finds it in his or her stockgift a real gift are there. ing, as the case may be.

The home-made gifts of children have many valuable lessons to teach Another dainty idea for a child of three or four years is the Unabridged three or four years is the Unabridged Dictionary. The simplicity of style observed in this interesting narrative recommends it at once for children who have reached the kindergarten elder sister had never made gifts. recommends it at once for children who have reached the kindergarten age. The plot is not so complex and and really never learned to sew well until she was eighteen years of age, the characters are sufficiently varied to hold the unflagging interest of the little ones. We have in mind a gen-tleman who gave his little son a die-triend, wished to make birthday gifts for her family. Once she asked her mother to teach her how to crochet: tionary last Christmas, and he assures us that the lad simply devoured another time to scallop, and before the book.

she was twelve years old she had be-A pretty present for a child is the come as proficient a little seamstress clinical report of the county hospital. as one would want to see. This comes nicely printed on clean Thus practical lessons are learned, while the child is inspired with the white paper, with bizarre illustrations showing the rise and fall of the temidea that "Not what we give, but perature, amount of protoids eaten. official count of the germs, statistics what we share; the gift without the giver is bare. as to microbes and many other amusing and entertaining ideas. A rare source of pleasure with this book is to have the little fellows pronounce

the long words first the way they are spelled and then read them backward fference if any.



O. SELLERS, Acting Dia Sunday School Course.)

LESSON FOR DECEMBER 27

JESUS, THE WORLD'S SAVIOR AND

(Review.)

READING LEBBON-II Cor. 5:14-21. GOLDEN TEXT-Far be it from me it alory, save in the cross of our Lord Jean Christ.-Gal. 6:14 R. V.

With the exception of the temper-ance lesson, all the lessons of the quar-ter have to do with the death and resurrection of our Lord. In the first quarter we considered Jesus as the great Teacher; in the second, he is Presented chiefly as the seeking Savior; in the third, we observed him as he acted in judgment upon Israel and sin; in this last, he is seen in his supreme office as Savior and king. The king of love, he is also the world's Savior. Deny him his kingship, refuse to become a subject of that kingdom of which he is the head and we bring upon ourselves the condemnation of a righteous judgment. This past quarter particularly reveals him in that final ministry which resulted in the initiation of the new enterprise of proclaiming his gospel, to the end that his kingdom shall be established. We shall consider the lessons under four

Story of Love.

headings:

1. Thuse of Preparation for His Passion. These embrace the first three essons. (1) In the first, we have the beautiful story of the love which anointed him for burial, which he accepted and immortalized. This was not because of the greatness of the act, but because of the appreciation of himself and of his words. (2) Here we observe him presiding over and inthe stituting that lasting "memorial, -the symbolic feast, wherein the old passes away, and the new dispensation | is ushered in. (3) In the third lesson we view with awe the agony of the gar-den wherein he dedicated himself to the coming suffering, "Not as I will, but as thou wilt"-absolute surrender and delight in the Father's will.

II. Those That Preceded His Passion. These next five lessons lead us through those dark shadows, yea, through a darkness which is yet un-fathomable and which ended in the total darkness of Calvary. (4) In this lesson Judas is presented, the incarna-tion of evil, and the agent of Satan who betrayed his Lord and "Friend' by a kiss. Here we see the utter ruin of a soul which chose private ambition instead of fellowship with Jesus. (5) This is a presentation of the greatest and most appalling travesty of justice the world has ever seen. Humanity never descended to any lower depths, yet he is serene, caim, dignified and atrong. (6) The Temperance Lesson. (7) This lesson considers the heart-breaking rashness of Peter. (8) This is the story of the ignoble failure of a weak, vacillating, time-server. Pilate's conscience was keenly alive, yot at last, that he might save himself and retain his position of power, he gave Jesus over to the hatred and malice of his enemies by ordering him to be crucified.

Story of the Cross.

111. His Passion. (9) This brings us to the story of the cross itself, as considered in this sequence of lessons. Before that awe-inspiring, wondercreating event we stand with bared head. Here sin was unmasked and did its utmost. Her also we behold grace

unveiled and active. IV. The Post-Passion Lessons. We

now alive and "ever liveth" to be our

advocate and ever-present friend. This is a glorious fact, that of the literal,

bodily resurrection of Christ from among the dead. Hallelujah! (11) In

lesson eleven this same thought is

again emphasized and with the sugges

tion of its accompanying obligation, in

that "we are witnesses of these things." These first disciples re-ceived their great commission and

were told how in infinite grace the

Savior and king first of all calls his

followers into fellowship with him-

self before they are sent out to carry

on those enterprises which are the fruit of his death and resurrection.

(12) In this is found the blessed record

CAO

ter git. En I projick en plan; en I skimp en

nqueeze. En I hurries apas' all de winders I sees. 'Case de chilluns espèc's dat he'll bring 'em a lot --En dey think he's de same dat de White Folks got.

"Is 'e comin' ternight, mammy? Comin' ternight?" Lawd, I wisht in mah soul dat 'e would en he might? I wisht in mah soul dat 'e'd come down dat me de flue Lak I useter believe dat 'e sholy do. When de chilluns ondress en dey ju to baid, En I tuck up de quilt 'roun' each haid, Den I set down en wish, en I wish lak 1

pray, Dat 'e find out de place Chris'mas Day.

Although he owns no reindeer, and of playthings no great store It was believed to be a remedy for If Grandpapa were Santa Claus, we could not love him more ! many ills, and this belief is still to be

a

If Grandpapa were Santa Claus, how happy we would be !

He'd tell us all his secrets and he'd name the pretty toys

He'd made and kept in hiding for the other girls and boys.

We have a real, live Grandpapa ! He visits us each year,

And he is quite a bosom friend of Santa Claus, I hear.

When toyshop toil was finished he would take us on each knee.

GENE MORGAN.

Christmas Spirit Almost Universally Felt, But What It is Remains a Mystery to Many.

The emotional value of Christmas may be said to be universally felt. Something happens at Christmas that if only for a day or two, does the whole world good. What that something is remains for many a mystery, A number of persons who feel the renewing impulse are like Faust when the notes of the Easter song arrest his suicidal intent; they take and enjoy the moment's deliverance and continue to regard the source of the boon as nothing more than mythology made potent through human associations. Others are moved through supersti tious fears; they approach the great season with consciences crowded with uncomfortable memories; Marley's

> Don't and Do in Holiday Fire Caution

Do not decorate your Christman tree with paper, cotton or flimsy materials.

Do not use cotton to represent snow. Do not permit children to light

Do not leave matches within reach of the children.

Do not place Christmas tree near window curtains or gas fixtures.

Use metallic tinsel and non-inflammable decorations only.

Use asbestos fiber to represent snow. Set the tree upon a substantial stand.

Have in extinguisher or a few sckets full of water near the tree, ready for use in gency.

EMOTIONAL VALUE OF DAY | ghost is after them, but, unlike Scrooge, their new heart is only for Christmas week. Another group simply fall in with an ancient custom and are surprised, and indeed pleased when the dry bones of their unbeliev ing minds come together, take on fleeh, and begin to live. A vast multitude meet the great day with buoy ant expectation, take with thanks its new happiness, return to their work

March full moon; these they bent in in this exalted mood, and ask no quescircles and kept for a year to cure hec tions about cause and effect. A few tic fevers and other troubles. In some philosophize on the phenomenon and parts of Germany the mistletoe is es they are willing to stake their lives on the substantial truth of their in sight .-- George A. Gordon, in Atlantic Monthly.



people believing it to be possessed of many mystic qualities, and that if a sprig of it is attached to the ceiling of the dwelling house, the horse's stall or the cow's crib, the trolld will then be powerless to injure either man or beast. Branches of the plant are com

Can you suggest something for m

to get for my wife for Christmas?"

"You'd better get her a box of, cigars, I expect," said the shopkeeper, "She was in here this morning and

ie asked of the shopkeeper.

bought a lace parasol for you."

monly seen in farm houses hanging from the ceiling to protect the dwellings from all harm, but especially from fire, and persons afflicted with the falling sickness think they can ward, of all attacks of the malady by carrying about with them a knife which has a hands of mistletoe A Swedish remedy for other con

plaints is to hang a sprig of mistletoe round the sufferer's neck or to make him wear on his finger a ring made from the plant. Moreover they fashion divining rods of mistletoe or of four different kinds of wood, one of which must be mistletoe. The treasure seeker places the rod on the ground after sundown, and when it rests directly over the treasure the rod begins to move as if it were alive. Like their Swedish neighbors, many German peasants consider the mistle toe a powerful charm egainst evil spir its. A similar belief seems to have lingered among the Romans; whose re ligton at a very early date was some what similar to that of the Druids

When Aeneas descended into Hades' he gathered to protect himself from the infernal powers a branch of mistleton which Vergil calls the golden bough.

Why, de chilluns believes! Dey is sho' found in many remote places in Eudat hit so. En dey countin' on him lak a man dat dey know. In Holstein, for example, the mistletoe is regarded as a healing talk er de things dat he sutten En dey remedy for wounds, and in Lacaune ter bring, "Twell dey set up in baid en dess holler en sing. France, it is always administered by the native people as an antidote for en sing. En I tell 'em w'y sho' good ole Santy 'll poison. They apply the plant to the

Wid a doll en a sled en a railroad en En dey drif off ter sleep wid a smile on day face-En dey ain' not a cent I kin spaih in de place!

Hit's de las' thing I heah when I tun out

de light: "Is 'e comin' ternight, mammy? Comin' ternight?" ternight" En I laughs wid dem all w'en dey plan what dey do Wid de things dat be'll bring-en I say hit's all true! En de white csillun up whah I's wukin', dey.'low Dat ole Santy he'll come, en won't miss 'em nohow.

"Is 'e comin' ternight?" Lawd, I wisht hit 'ud be Dat he's com hyuh en fix up dis 'poblem



Except ye become as a

little child ye shall in no

wise enter into the joy

When and Why. "Do you go to Sunday school now,

eorgie?" inquired Georgie's uncle.

"Yep; Christmas is comin"!" "Don't you go except just before

"Yep: I go just before the summer picale, too."

of Christmas time.

is in the sound. Some boys would rather do this than go skating.

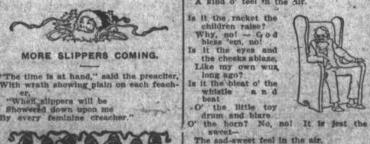
In the line of pure romance there is nothing more entertaining from Prof. T. L. Escopex's "How the Spectrum Caught On in Saturn." This highly original historical tale tells how the spectrum reyealed the secret of Saturn's rings, showing that the planet was warm and dry and that the two rings were for ice water. comes in four large volumes, with 22 pages of logarithmic calculations that are sure to delight young and old.

As a gift book for a member of a temperance family there is nothing pleasanter than "The Complete Bar keeper." This tells exactly what goes into the stuff that men put in their mouths to steal away their brains, and will be of valuable assistance to any person who wishes to apply satisfactory tests and determine whether or not he has been equipped with brains and would inspire larceny.

"One Thousand Ways to Cure Cold," by Burton Bales, is a beautiful-

ly written book, giving all the rem dies for cold that were suggested to Its author in one day. There are 89 variations of the quinine and whisky treatment, and the other 911 remedies consist of the same prescription without the bitter guinine. This is a good book to have in any house. The Servant Question and Its An swer" will deceive many people, but it might do for a gift to a young married couple. The answer is quaintly given: "Board."

WILBUR D. NESBIT.





The Christmas Robin. In many parts of Engined the robin is associated with Christmas-tide. There is a belief that on Christmas eve these birds will sing near a house where a person is dying, to cheer him.

"When slip Showered

A FEEL IN THE CHRISTMAS AIR. By JAMES WHITCOMB RILEY. Theory's a kind o' feel In the air to me When the Chris'. mas times sets in That's about as much of a mystery As ever I've run ag'in. Fer instance, now, whilst' I gain in weight weight And gineral health, I swear They's a goneness somers I can't 200 quite state A kind o' feel in the

Those Made With Their Own Hands Teach Good Lessons and

Give Inspiration.

If we stop to think about our

Christmas giving we realize that a

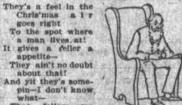
gift means more to the giver than it does to him who receives. If it is

given in the proper spirit the donor finds out to the full that it is really

"more blessed to give than to re-

ceive," a fact that is lost sight of in

The sacrifice, the fore-



That follers me here and there and ha'nts and worries

A kind o' feel in the air.

- Clar

R

all a

as day

They's a feel, as I say, in the air that's jest As blamed-on sad As blamed-on and as sweet, In the same-ra-sho as I feel the best on my feet They's allus a kind o' sort of a ache That I can't locate nowhere, "bris'mas, and no mis-But It comes with Chris' A kind o' feel in the air.

B

One Might.

"Would you call that Yule tied"

"They are to be married on Christ-

10

his name! In "Tarbell's Teachers' Guide" is a

good suggestion for review Sunday. viz., that a series of elliptical phrases be written upon a board or chart, that will fix the chief idea or serve to rewill fix the chief idea call the iessons, as follows: (1) Let her alone . . . (2) For (1) Let her alone . . . (3) Where

goeth (6) This is my blood

of those last words of him who "shewed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things concerning the kinkdom' (Acts 1:3). Here is not alone the unquestioned certainty of the resurrection of Christ from the dead, but the record of his present place "in the heavenlies," whither he ascended to be with the Father, and also the glo rious hope of his coming again "in like manner as ye saw him ascending." Bodily he left this earth, bodily and "in great glory" he is to return. Praise