

THE WILSON ADVANCE.

\$1 A YEAR, CASH IN ADVANCE.

"LET ALL THE ENDS THOU AIMST AT BE THY COUNTRY'S, THY GOD'S AND TRUTHS."

BEST ADVERTISING MEDIUM.

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The Cash-Racket Store.

NOW FOR CHRISTMAS!

If you are ready to look
We are ready to show!

If you are ready to buy
We are ready to sell!

YOU KNOW

For years we have always shown the largest line of Holiday Goods in this little city, but this year we propose to astonish the natives. We are crowded to the doors in each of our three stores with merchandise suitable for the season. We believe this will be the year for giving useful presents of which we have a Grand Stock for you to choose from. We mention a few things that will make useful presents, and to begin with the useful as well as the ornamental, we mention a

BEAUTIFUL LINE OF

STERLING SILVER NOVELTIES

and New Things in Jewelry.

OTHERS THAT ARE "PRESENTABLE"

PLAIN AND EMBROIDERED HANDKERCHIEFS.
FINE SILK MUFFLERS.
DOG SKIN GLOVES, FUR BACK.
FINE SILK SUSPENDERS.
GENTS NECK AND 4 IN HAND TIES.
SHOPPING BAGS.
STAMPED LINEN.
CHINILLE TABLE COVERS.
TURKISH RUGS.
CURTAIN POLES.
HOLL AND SHADES.
LACE CURTAINS.
DINNER NAPKINS AND DOYLIES.
FINE DAMASK TOWELS.
LUNCH BASKETS.
HAIR CURLERS.
FINE CHINA INDIVIDUAL CUP AND SAUCER.
" " BREAD AND BUTTER SETS.
" " CAKE PLATES.
" " ICE CREAM SETS.
" " BREAKFAST SET.
" " DINNER SET.
GLASS WARE OF EVERY DESCRIPTION.
TOYS OF ALL KINDS AND THOUSANDS OF OTHER THINGS WHICH WE CANNOT TAKE THE TIME TO MENTION HERE.

Cash Catches the Bargains,

and if you are wise you will spend your money where it will go the furthest.

J. M. LEATH, Manager,

THE CASH RACKET STORE,

Nash and Goldsboro Streets.

SANTA CLAUS IS REAL

THOUGH MANY PEOPLE SPEAK OF HIM AS A MYTH.

In England St. Nicholas Was Recognized as the Guardian of Youth—Legend of the Wicked Butcher—In Germany He Puts Good Things In Lucky Bags.

In spite of the fact that Dec. 6 was St. Nicholas' day thousands of people talk of Santa Claus as myth. St. Nicholas was a very real personage. He was archbishop of Myra in 342, and the name under which he enjoys an annual popularity in this country is the German form that came with the German custom of the Christmas tree and all the rest of it.

St. Nicholas is a great saint with all the Teutonic and Scandinavian peoples. It was his prerogative, says the New York Recorder, to manifest his piety when at his mother's breast, for even then he is said to have fasted Wednesdays and Fridays. As a matter of course he soon became famous in working miracles, and here again he appeared to seek favor with the young people.

An innkeeper having killed two young gentlemen and put them in the pickle tub, intending to sell them as pickled pork, the saint, who, in a vision, had seen the deed done, declared he would put a stop to the business, and thereupon he transformed himself from Lycia to Athens and stood before the astonished innkeeper and said, "What hast thou done?"

The man trembled, confessed and implored forgiveness. Having patted the man on the back and said, "Don't do it any more," the holy man turned to the pickle tub, when the imitation sides, legs and hands of pork began to stir, and in quick sticks there came forth not two boys merely, but three, as may be proved by reference to the Salisbury missal of 1534, wherein there is a picture of the event, and one of its peculiarities is that, as the three boys rise complete out of the pickle, the barbarous butcher is still busy in cutting one of them up.

St. Nicholas established yet another claim to be regarded as the friend of youth, for he was partial to boxing and employed his skill in the "manly art" upon the heads of bishops.

The guardianship of the young by Santa Claus was of old recognized in England by the custom of choir boys in cathedrals choosing a boy bishop on the day of St. Nicholas, Dec. 6. This was a very important event, as may be seen by Lone's "Every Day Book," I, 1559, where there is an effigy of a boy bishop from Salisbury cathedral. The custom was in full observance from early times until 1542, when it was abolished by a proclamation of Henry VIII.

According to the old north German custom, the happy time for the children is the vigil of St. Nicholas, the night of Dec. 5. Then it is that he glides about, putting good things into lucky bags and spying out the merits and demerits of boys and girls and sometimes unsparingly praising or rebuking them.

The north German fashion requires the saint to pay a visit to the house where the young are assembled in festivity on the night of his vigil. He speaks in kindly words to the juvenile throng, reproving some, encouraging others. On retiring to rest, each member of the party places an empty shoe on the table, and the door of the room is at once locked, and behold! when morning dawns and the doors are opened in the presence of all, the shoes are found to be filled with gifts for their owners and the table is covered with trinkets and sweetmeats.

We have simply incorporated St. Nicholas' day with Christmas day and made the night of Dec. 24 the time of the saint's visitation. But he is not a myth now any more than he ever was. He is a very real as well as a very good saint indeed, and for the children's sake, may his shadow never grow less!

The Bird of Dawning.

A popular superstition is that on the eve of Christmas the bird of dawning singeth all night long to frighten off any evil thing.

It was from this belief that Shakespeare wrote:

Some say that ever 'gainst that season comes
Wherein our Saviour's birth is celebrated,
The bird of dawning singeth all night long,
And then, they say, no spirit dares stir abroad,
The nights are wholesome. Then no planets
strike,
No fairy takes, nor witch hath power to charm,
So hallowed and so gracious is the time.

St. Nicholas in France.

St. Nicholas holds a prominent position in France as the dispenser of gifts, though in many places it is the Christ child who distributes them. The Christ child frequently appears to children as Santa Claus does with us. He is usually assisted by a company of angels. In Alsace he is represented by a maiden in white, with a silver bell in one hand and a basket of sweetmeats in the other.—Selected.

THE MISTLETOE BOUGH.

Origin of the Christmas Tree and Decoration With Evergreens.

Among the votaries of the early Druids there was a superstition that the houses should be decorated with evergreens in December in order that the sylvan spirits might enter them and thus be kept free from the blast of the cold north wind and the frost until a milder season renewed the foliage of their usual haunts.

The Christmas tree is really from Egypt, where the palm tree puts forth a branch every month, and where a spray of this tree, with 12 shoots on it, was used in Egypt at the time of the winter solstice as a symbol of the year completed.

Who does not know the poem beginning:

The mistletoe hung in the castle hall;
The holly branch shone on the oak wall?
Years ago over every man's door in England hung a sprig of mistletoe at this season. There still hovers a mystic charm about the mistletoe, and many a girl now, with a thrill of expectancy, places a branch of it under the chandelier or over the door. According to a former belief, when a girl is caught and kissed under the mistletoe a berry must be picked off with each kiss, and when the berries have all been plucked the privilege ceases.

Among the ancient Britons the mistletoe that grows on the oak tree was the kind held in favor. Because of its heathen origin it is not used often in church decorations, a fact which is referred to by Washington Irving in his "Bracebridge Hall," where he has the learned parson rebuke the unlearned clerk for this very thing.

In Germany and Scandinavia the holly or holy tree is called Christ's thorn, because it puts forth its berries at Christmas time, and therefore is especially fitted for church decorations. With its glossy, dark leaves and bright, red berries, it is an attractive decoration for the house.

The Jews used to decorate at their feast of tabernacles with evergreens and flowers.

The laurel was used at the earliest times of the Romans as a decoration for all joyful occasions and is significant of peace and victory.

In some places it is customary to throw branches of laurel on the Christmas fire and watch for omens while the leaves curl and crackle in the heat and flame.

The evergreen tree is a symbol used as the revival of nature, which, astronomically, signifies the return of the sun. Hung with lights and offerings, the tree has for centuries been one of the principal characteristics of Christmas.—New York Mercury.

THE UNIVERSAL HOLIDAY.

Christmas Bells Ring Joyful Tidings to All the Earth.

There is no holiday in all the long calendar of the months that is so universally and so enthusiastically celebrated as Christmas. All men everywhere take heart of grace and smile a cheerier smile as the music of the Christmas bells falls upon their ears. Whoever will look back to his young days cannot help remembering what a strange, mystic time Christmas was. There was something almost awe inspiring in the music of the Christmas carols sung at midnight in the open, frosty air. And these Christmas "waits" who sang, who were they? Unseen and unknown, we almost deemed them beings of a fairer world sent down to make Christmas delightful. If we had known in those days that these men who broke the silence of the starry night to tell us what "the herald angels" sang were mortals given to the smoking of tobacco and the drinking of porter, all our romantic dreams would have ended there and then. As we grow older we grow wiser, and therefore a little sadder. We know, of course, that there is no real Santa Claus; but, oh, how we wish there were!

How the Greek Celebrates Christmas.

It is more than likely that many of our Christmas customs were born in Greece, more particularly the decorations, lights and games. Here ghosts and hobgoblins are rampant between Christmas day and Epiphany, and children are often frightened into unwilling obedience by the tales. As the pious Greek fasts for a month before Christmas the feast of that day is very welcome to him, though it consists principally of macaroni and strong cheese.

On the island of Chios there is in use a strange sort of Christmas tree, which is sometimes simply a pole adorned with fruits and flowers, carried by a tenant farmer to his landlord as a present that typifies the good will and wishes for an abundant harvest.—Exchange.

Hall's Hair Renewer renders the hair lustrous and silken, gives it even color, and enables women to put up in a great variety of styles.



Are you taking SIMMONS LIVER REGULATOR, the "KING OF LIVER MEDICINES?" That is what our readers want, and nothing but that. It is the same old friend to which the old folks pinned their faith and were never disappointed. But another good recommendation for it is, that it is BETTER THAN PILLS, never gripes, never weakens, but works in such an easy and natural way, just like nature itself, that relief comes quick and sure, and one feels new all over. It never fails. Everybody needs take a liver remedy, and everyone should take only Simmons Liver Regulator.

Be sure you get it. The Red Z is on the wrapper. J. H. Zeilin & Co., Philadelphia.

Christmaside.

There's a little old man with silvery hair
An a long white beard 'at flies in the air,
With twinklin' black eyes an a rosy, red face,
An onct a year he comes to our place.

An our little maid
An our little man
Ez anxious to see 'im soon's they can.

In the dead o' night when all's asleep
An the cold frost snaps an the snow ez deep,
With a resounder to an a silver sled
He comes straight from fairylan', 'tis said
So our little man
An our little maid

Ez anxious to see 'im—they kin't a fraid!

But you better take heed, for some folks say
'At et yer naughty he'll fly away.
An quicker'n you kin whistle—piew—
Away he's gone up the chimney flue!

So our little maid
An our little man
Ez tryin' to be jest ez good's they can.

But ef yer good an 'boy yer pa
An don't never cry an vex yer ma
He'll fill yer stockin' with games an toys.
An nuts an sweets an all sorts o' joys.

So our little maid
An our little man
Wants Santy to come jes' as quick's he can.

—New York Sun.

Kissing Under the Mistletoe.

The mystic mistletoe bough then as now granted a kissing charter to the swains, and the maids were willing sufferers. The sacred mistletoe was regarded with religious veneration by the Druids, and its berries of pearl as symbols of purity and associated with the rites of marriage. From this the transition was but slight to the kiss beneath the tabalistic bough. This traditional sacredness, the genesis of which is unknown, has endured through the ages, and today for man and maid to meet beneath the mistletoe gives the right to a sacred kiss.—New York Herald.

Hosanna! Sing.

Awake, good Christians! Long ago
The shepherds waked at night
And saw the heavens with glory glow
And angels in the light.

Hosanna! Sing hosanna! Sing
Hosanna in the height!

New life they told to all on earth,
New life and blessing bright,
Forewarning of the Saviour's birth
In Bethlechem this night.

Hosanna! Sing hosanna! Sing
Hosanna in the height!

New life to all, new life to all,
The tidings good recite.

New life to all, which did befall
At Bethlechem this night.

Hosanna! Sing hosanna! Sing
Hosanna in the height!

—Old Carol.

Crouches a la Noel.

Line some patty pans with fine short
paste, fill them with mincemeat, cover
with a cardboard box lid and bake.
Then, instead of a pastry lid, cover
them with equal parts of fresh butter
and sugar beaten to a light white cream
and flavored with a squeeze of lemon
juice or rosewater or any good cordial.

Be Not Dismayed.

God bless you, merry gentlemen!
May nothing you dismay—
Not even your finances when
You find 'tis Christmas day.

—Washington Post.

You Can Believe

The testimonials published in behalf of Hood's Sarsaparilla. They are written by honest people, who have actually found in their own experience that Hood's Sarsaparilla purifies the blood, creates an appetite, strengthens the system and absolutely and permanently cures all diseases caused by impure and deficient blood.

Hood's Pills for the liver and bowels act promptly, easily and effectively.