THE CHATHAM RECORD
H. A. LONDON,
EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR
Terms of Subscription
$1.50 Per Year
Strictly in Advance

The Chatham Record

VOL. XXXIV. PITTSBORO, CHATHAM COUNTY, N. C., DECEMBER 20, 1911. NO. 19.

Christmas Superstitions and Customs

WHEN a great festival has been handed down to us from time immemorial, it is only natural that many superstitions and observances should cluster about its celebration. It would be interesting to trace them to their original sources. The following are well-known legends which abound throughout different countries.

Many flowers, it is said, have put forth their first blossoms on Christ's natal day. A pretty French legend tells us that rose-colored sanfoin lay among the grasses in the manger. Suddenly it put forth its blossoms and formed itself into a wreath to crown the sweet Babe's head.

When the "Star of Bethlehem" was first seen the people exclaimed upon its resemblance to the star that guided the Magi; and so it received its pretty name. The hellebore, or Christmas rose, also flowered at the time of the birth of Christ, and so it is also known as "Christ's herb." Many people believe in the miraculous properties of the "Glastonbury thorn," which is honored at Christmas time. The Sicilian children gather pennyroyal to put in their beds, believing that it blossomed at the hour in which Christ was born.

There is a superstition in some rural districts of England and Wales that if orchards are properly honored they will bear largely and be profitable through the coming year. So, in accordance with this, the village people meet at early dawn, and headed by their parson and other representative men, go from farm to farm, visiting every orchard in turn. They are met by the owner and together select the finest tree as being the most representative, and gather about it, sprinkle it with the contents of a bottle of cider, humming an old chant and invoking its aid.

Many of the animals are thought to possess human qualities on that sacred night.

Bees are said to sing, oxen to kneel in their stalls and sheep to file by in procession, to commemorate the visit of the angel to the shepherds. It is also believed in Germany that horses and cattle are given the power of speech. But whoever should, by chance or purpose, stop to listen, would surely die within seven days. The Indians, too, believe that on Christmas night all the deer of the forest kneel "and look up to the Great Spirit."

A legend is related that the Christchild wanders in disguise over the earth on Christmas eve, carrying fagots of evergreens upon his shoulder. From palaces to hovels, in sunshine and rain, he goes his rounds, asking alms at each door, thus testing the benevolence of the people. Few would dare to refuse him charity.

The Czecks think that those who keep the fasts best on Christmas eve will be rewarded by visions of the Holy Child in his dreams that night.

In rural Germany the people believe that between the hours of 11 and 12, on Christmas eve, water may be turned into wine. Also, that no live coal should be carried out of the house on that night.

In Germany, too, it is "Kris Kringle," who, coming down the chimney, places the gifts in stockings for those children "who are good." This tradition of the chimney is supposed to have come from the Norse mythology, when a festival was given in honor of one of their favorite goddesses. Huge piles of green fir twigs were burnt, in stone fire-places erected for this purpose, and from out the dense smoke the goddess appeared, granting the prayers of her worshippers.

The yule log occupies a conspicuous place in the huge, open fireplace, and is lighted with ceremony, thus sanctifying the hearth and protecting it from the evil spirits, from which the festival is free. Those upon whom fortune has smiled invite their humbler friends to partake of a huge meat pie, which is circled round with candles. The host lights these when all are seated, and should one go out, it is considered bad luck, especially for the one seated opposite. This was called the yule-tide feast and from this custom of lighting candles, the modern idea was developed of the Christmas tree candles.

In the Scottish Highlands these quaint superstitions flourish greatly. In the early morning a servant is sent out to draw water from a spring, to gather corn from the storehouse and herbs from the garden. This strict observance is supposed to bring good luck to all those who live in that particular house for the ensuing year. Here, they also consider it a lucky sign to be the first to open the door on Christmas morning, so some sit up all night to accomplish this feat.

Christmas Reunion Frolics

By Mary Dawson

A MERRY Christmas; By no means a small portion of it is the good old-fashioned Yule frolic with games and sports, in which all join together until the green garlanded ceilings ring with laughter and fun.

Formal luncheons, card parties, musicals and other modern pastimes are delightful and appropriate on other occasions, but for Christmas Eve or Christmas night—whenever the family reunion is celebrated the gathering must be as old-timey as the right sort of grandmother.

For one evening at least the older children will not scorn to associate with the blessed babies in their merrymakings. The young lady daughter will be home from boarding school and the young engineer from his mining camp to help the mirth along For once the most sedate elders will be young again, while the few guests far from home and invited in the true spirit of the season, forget their family-less condition in the general good time.

It is a splendid idea to have an impromptu masquerade, each reveler costuming himself with such rags and tags as can be picked up around the house at a fifteen-minutes notice—shawls, mother's long skirts, feathers, flowers, pillow slips and sheets, etc When the bell sounds all the revelers assemble in the hall, whence they marched into the parlor, the piano meanwhile reeling out some rollicking tune. Let someone who does not enter into competition for the prize decide which costume is cleverest and most laudable, and present the winner with a Christmas card or a cornucopia of candy.

Appoint some lively person as master of revels, or better still, using the old bedtime phrase, lord of misrule. Invest this person with a gilt wand to which a bunch of holly is tied with a bow of scarlet ribbon or tissue paper. As soon as the Lord of Misrule has been so invested all his followers are obliged to exactly copy all that he says and does. If he speaks, his phrases must be repeated verbatim; if he makes a gesture the rest of the company must make the same one, using the same hand or foot.

A clever leader will give his followers a merry dance around the room, climbing over sofas, crawling under tables, pirouetting, gesticulating, whatever he does, the others are obliged to keep up with until everyone is out of breath with exertion and laughter.

Very little people for whom the character game would be too difficult might enjoy a rhymed pastime called Ivy and Holly. Suggest the plan of it to them and they will amuse themselves with the adventures of the two heroines until the program changes.

Chairs are arranged in two rows and the children sit facing each other. One youngster begins with some adventure as "Holly and Ivy went out to a party." The child sitting opposite must complete the rhyme with another couplet, for instance, "Holly and Ivy came back hale and hearty." Indeed, there is no reason why the pastime should be entirely relegated to the kindergarten. On account of the rapidity with which the rhymes must be thought up the older boys and girls will find it amusing too.

Then there is the fun-provoking contest called Dramatic Adjectives. Here the company is divided up into two bands, one of which retires while the other remains in the parlor and decides upon some adjective to be acted out in gesture language, for instance, Gay or Doleful or Vivacious. When the word has been decided upon the absent members must be summoned and they are called upon to guess from the pantomime of the others what the adjective decided upon may be. If they can guess it in three minutes a point is won by their side, and the others withdraw. After three minutes the pantomime can be kept up if the opposition is determined to discover the right word, but a success point no longer represents a point won. As soon as a word is guessed players turn about and those who have guessed become actors

By all means try to keep from the supply of Christmas novelties one little figure of Santa Claus (it may be a candy box or simply a figure, but the former is better), in order to have the amusing game of silence form a part of the revels.

Someone is decided upon who will hide the Santa and the rest are asked to adjourn for a moment to the hall. The player instead of hiding the figure completely simply places it in some rather out-of-the-way position where it will be visible but will not immediately catch the eye of the player. For instance, it may be placed upon something approximately the same color or on one end of a tall shelf or bookcase. Players coming in scan the room for the figure and the first one to perceive it, without mentioning the fact to the others, quietly takes a seat. This is a general signal for the players to be seated, but in the excitement of the search many will fail to observe that one person is no longer standing. The last person to sit down is obliged to pay a forfeit.

BRIEF NEWS NOTES FOR THE BUSY MAN

MOST IMPORTANT EVENTS OF THE PAST WEEK TOLD IN CONDENSED FORM.

WORLD'S NEWS EPITOMIZED

Complete Review of Happenings of Greatest Interest From All Parts of World.

Southern.

Standing 25 feet apart, Ulrich Langford and Henry Driggers poured squirrel shot into each other at La bell City, Fla. Driggers expired and Langford died later. Both men had been drinking and following a quarrel decided to shoot it out. Both secured shot guns, stepped off the distance and at the word commenced firing. Driggers was completely disemboweled, firing the second shot which caused Langford's death while lying on the ground.

The jury sitting at Huntsville, Ala., trying John W. Knight, charged with fraudulent use of the mails in connection with forged cotton bills of lading reported a verdict of "not guilty." The jury was out seven hours and 40 minutes. The Federal court has adjourned and four other cases against Knight, making practically the same charges as the one of which he has just been acquitted, were continued to the April term.

The Democrats of Arizona will will place two members in the United States senate and one member in the house of representatives, a governor in the state capitol at Phoenix and, unless present indications are materially changed, will make a clean sweep of the state ticket as a result of the first state election. The legislature from present indications will be more than three-fourths Democratic, insuring the election of Henry A. Ashurst of Prescott and Mark A. Smith of Tucson to the United States senate. Carl Hayden of Phoenix was elected governor. Democratic Chairman J. B. Birdno issued a statement: "The people of Arizona simply refused to endorse Taft's dictation as to what kind of a constitution Arizona should have."

All professional men of Montgomery, Ala., have been cited by Tax Commissioner John Hardaway to appear before him at an early date to show cause why they should not respond at once to the mandates of the recently enacted revenue measure, which requires a tax of $5 per man on each professional man in the state. In Montgomery county, it is estimated, there are about 160 such lawyers, doctors and dentists and other professional men. Ministers are exempted.

General

Lillian Graham and Ethel Conrad were freed in New York City of criminal charges on which they had been held since last June for shooting the millionaire sportsman and hotel proprietor, W. E. D. Stokes. The jury reached its verdict in fifty-eight minutes. Stokes was shot when he called at the apartment of the show girls on the night of June 7. He said he had gone there at the invitation of Miss Conrad with the expectation of getting letters he had written to Miss Graham.

Rev. Charles M. Brewer, formerly a chaplain in the United States army, now a pastor of a Baptist church in Olustee, Okla., has been accused in a confession by Private Michael Quirk of implications in a mysterious series of explosions which have baffled military authorities at Ft. Riley, Kan., for six months. Mrs. Anna Jordan of Kansas City, also implicated in Quirk's confession, was arrested in Kansas City following a telegram to the police.

A mistrial of the second hearing of Dr. B. Clarke Hyde, on trial at Kansas City, Mo., charged with killing Col. Thomas H. Swope, appears probable. Made desperate by the sight of two of his children, from whom he had been separated for six weeks, in the court room, Harry Waldron, one of the jurors escaped from the jury's hotel quarters. If Waldron is not found, the eleven remaining jurors will be discharged, Judge Porterfield said. Or if the missing man is found and he cannot prove that he has not discussed the case during his absence, the same action will be taken.

The United States circuit court of the New York district overruled the demurrer interposed by the "sugar trust" to the government's dissolution suit and the defendants were directed to answer the complaints.

A proposal to adopt a general law of prohibition throughout New Zealand has been defeated.

Col. A. S. Horne of Durham, N. C., has given $10,000 for the erection of a monument to the women of the Confederacy at Raleigh, N. C., after the Kinney design, according to a telegram received from Gen. Julian Carr by Gen. C. Irvine Walker.

A Lincoln penny in the left pocket of Joseph Herman's vest saved him from a bullet through the heart in a row in a Bronx borough, New York City, resort. The coin diverted the bullet.

Col. James Henry Jones, 73, former lieutenant governor of Mississippi died at Woodville, Miss.

A decree by the pope, issued in July, eliminated St. Patrick's day from the list of Irish obligatory holy days, on which Catholics are called upon to hear mass and abstain from unnecessary work. On the request of the Irish aCtholic hierarchy, however, the holy see has just issued another decree. According to this the feast of St. Patrick will continue to be a holy day in Ireland, without, however, being preceded by a day of fasting or abstinence.

A royal party was held at the fort, King George and Queen Mary being given a great ovation by the 7,000 guests as they walked through the grounds at Delhi, India. Their majesties, wearing their crowns and coronation robes, appeared in a screen balcony on the wall of the fort formerly used by the mogul. The emperor and empress remained seated on golden thrones, while for an hour and a half a long train of religious and other native processions passed in rerview.

A riotous outbreak interrupted a large mass meeting held at Carnegie hall in New York City in support of the aribtration treaties which President Taft has proposed with England and France. The outbreak occurred after Nicholas Butler had read resolutions urging the senate to ratify the treaties, and Alfonso G. Koolble moved that the majority report of the senate committee on foreign relations be adopted as a substitute for the Butler resolution.

That one or more officials of the International Association of Bridge and Structural Workers are surrendering to the government information needed in the investigation of an alleged nation-wide conspiracy directed against structural iron contractors who maintain the "open shop" was stated by representatives of the National Erectors' association. Without resistance, letters and records have been conveyed by detectives engaged by the erectors' association.

A suit asking for the dissolution of the United Shoe Machinery company, a corporation of world-wide scope, was instituted by the government, which filed a bill in equity in the United States circuit court at Boston. The bill is brought against the United Shoe Machinery corporation, United Shoe Machinery company of New Jersey, eighteen subsidiary corporations and twenty-three individuals, to restrain the defendants from "maintaining and engaging in unlawful combinations."

Washington.

Portions of the wreck of the battleship Maine, now being cleared of mud and debris in Havana harbor, are to be donated to cities, patriotic societies and the survvors or heirs of the Maine under a plan presented to the house in the urgent deficiency bill. The entire bill carries $2,270,000. It authorizes an additional appropriation of $250,000 for raising the Maine, makng a total of $900,000 for that purpose.

The Sulzer joint resolution for the termination of the treaty of 1832 between the United States and Russia, because of the latter's discrimination against Jewish American citizens, passed the house, 300 to 1. A practically identical resolution by Senator Culberson of Texas is pending in the senate. Both the Sulzer and Culberson resolution would direct the president to give Russia immediately the year's notice necessary for the complete abrogation of the treaty that has been in force nearly eighty years.

With little trace of friction the Republican national committee met in Washington and formulated the preliminary plans for the campaign of 1912. The program agreed upon was carried out expeditiously in short sessions aggregating barely more than two hours. Chicago was chosen as the convention city and the call was issued for the assembling of delegates on Tuesday, June 18, to nominate the candidates for president and vice president. Acting Chairman John F. Hill, former governor of Maine, was unanimously elected chairman of the committee. The meeting was unique in two respects. There was a complete absence of bitterness and the proceedings were conducted with wide open doors. Politically the meeting was pro-Taft. The president's advisors controlled the situation.

The Sherwood service pension bill, which would add upward of $70,000,000 to the government's annual expenditures by granting increased pensions to civil and Mexican war veterans on the basis of length of service, was passed by the house, despite the determined opposition of many Democratic leaders. Secretary of the Interior Fisher has estimated that the bill would add $75,000,000 to the pension roll if the 400,000 veterans eligible to take advantage of it.

The annual report of Postmaster General Hitchcock states that the first time since 1883 the annual financial statement of the potsoffice department shows a surplus instead of a deficit.

The railroad securities commission has reported that it would be practically impossible at this time to place issues of railroad securities under Federal control. The commission recommends that enforced publicity for all railroads financing is the most effective weapon against stock watering which the government has at its command. The commission was created in 1910, when the senate refused to accept a house amendment to the pending railroad bill, providing that all future issues of securities be placed under the control of the interstate commerce commission.

STATE FISHERMEN MEET AT NEW BERN

ORGANIZATION EFFECTED, WITH A. W. GRAHAM, PRESIDENT OF CONVENTION.

A DECREASE IN INDUSTRY

Address of Welcome By Mr. R. A. Nunn, and Response by T. W. Markham, of Elizabeth City—Judge Graham's Speech of Acceptance.

Raleigh.—A special from New Bern states that the North Carolina Fisheries Convention met in this city with representatives from all over this states, and especially the eastern part of the state, present.

Mr. R. A. Nunn, in the absence of the Mayor, in a few words, made the address of welcome in behalf of the city of New Bern.

Representative T. W. Markham, of Elizabeth City, responded to the address of welcome and touched upon the importance of the convention.

Dr. Joseph Hyde Pratt then suggested that the convention organize and elect officers. Mr. Geo. N. Ives nominated Judge A. W. Graham, of Oxford, for chairman.

Judge Graham was unanimously elected. In a short speech he thanked the convention for the honor and stated that he felt a great interest in the importance of the industry for which the convention was called.

Dr. Prat made a talk and he told of how the fish and oyster industry had decreased in the last few years. He said that other states had remedied that trouble and that this state could do so if the men interested would get together and pull together.

Mr. W. C. McDonald Lee, Fish and Oyster Commissioner of the state of Virginia, made a most excellent talk and told of the progress his state had been making in this indutsry.

Location of McIver Statue.

It has been decided by the state board of public buildings and grounds to locate the statue of Dr. Charles D. McIver that is to be erected in Capital Square, Raleigh, on the triangle in the square between the Fayetteville street entrance and the well. It is to face Morgan and Fayetteville streets, being one of the most conspicuous locations that could be chosen, barring the site occupied by the statue of Washington in the Fayetteville street entrance. The statue is to be of bronze, heroic size and will be ready for the unveiling within the year. There is also to be a statue provided for the State Normal and Industrial school at Greensboro, which Dr. McIver made the crowning work of his life through its establishment.

From Goldsboro to The Atlantic.

Articles of incorporation were filed in the office of the secretary of state by the Goldsboro, Seven Springs and Swansboro Railroad Company, which is to offer the shortest route from Goldsboro to the coast, through a section of the country rich with natural resources. The authorized capital stock of the new railroad is $1,500,000 and the incorporators are: William A. Robertson, John D. Langston, M. H. Allen and N. P. Young, of Goldsboro; T. H. Pritchard and the T. H. Pritchard Transportation Co. of Swansboro; Frank Thompson, of Jacksonville, Fla. This new railroad will have its route through the county of Wayne, Lenoir, Onslow and Jones, to Swansboro.

To The Confederate Women.

The site for the monument to North Carolina women of the Confederacy to be erected at a cost of $12,000 by Hon. Ashley Horne, has been selected in Capital Square by the state board of buildings and grounds and is to be facing the main entrance to the state fireproof building now being erected, and will be on the plat half way between the Fayetteville street entrance to Capital Square and the Morgan and Salisbury street corner.

Better Farming Train at Newsom.

The Norfolk & Western better farming train arrived here and entertained a large crowd of farmers for two and one-half hours, during which time many interesting talks were addressed to all that could find seats in the car. The exhibit cars were filled with seeds and grains of all kinds. The exhibit from the Norfolk & Western experiment farm and also T. W. Wood & Sons were exceptionally fine. Everybody went away feeling a determination to do better farming.

Interest in Mouth Hygiene.

There is a continued interest in mouth hygiene in the schools of Wake county. Dr. Louis Pegram, of Raleigh, examined the mouths of seventy-six pupils of the Fuquay Springs School, and lectured to an appreciative audience. Those present manifested very much interest in what he had to say and were well pleased with his remarks. Dr. N. G. Carroll went to Cary High School for a similar purpose, and a number of other engagements have been made with other physicians.

DOUBLE MURDER COMMITTED

The Most Astrocious Crime In Annals of Cleveland County—A Farmer and Wife Victims.

Shelby.—A pretty little country home that was the scene of comfort and happiness and thrift and prosperity a few days ago was the scene of the most horrible crime in the annals of Cleveland county. Mr. and Mrs. John Dixon were brutally and horribly murdered before daylight in their new home, 10 miles above Shelby, just off the main road between Fallston and Lawndale, and Hack Ross and John Ross, two negro brothers, are held as suspects of the crime.

A thousand or more people stood about the desolate home as the coroner's inquest proceeded, hoping that evidence would place the guilt on some party, so that they may avenge the crime. The sentiment is strong against Hack Ross and if the coroner's jury fixes the blame on him, lynching may be expected. Sentiment is at fever heat, but the good citizens are determined to be sure of their move before they take the law in their hands. They know Hack Ross made a threat that there would be "somebody missing in the neighborhood" if they took his meat, and Mr. Dixon had a mortgage on Ross' hog. Ross could not pay for the hog and brought it back to Mr. Dixon, but the sentiment seems to be that this seemingly friendly feeling was feigned to cover up the awful crime he had planned. And, too, Ross lives about a quarter of a mile from Mr. Dixon's and tracks were found by Chief of Police Jetton and Deputy Nelson Lattimore that exactly correspond to the shoe Ross was wearing because of the heavy tacks in the heels.

Commissioner Makes Report.

Hon. M. L. Shipman, commissioner of labor and printing, has completed the "trades" chapter of his 1911 report. The act creating the department contemplated only the collection of information upon the subject of labor, its relation to capital, the hours of labor, the earnings of laboring men and women, their educational, moral and financial conditions, and the best means of promoting their mental, material, social and moral prosperity: But a slight departure from the general condition affecting wage-earners, in a broad sense of the term, is shown in the compilation of information obtained from the correspondents who are engaged in the various "trades" themselves.

Working In Cause Of Education.

Always interested in the cause of education the leading ministers and lay members of the Western North Carolina Methodist Conference have for the past two years been working on plans for the further development of the schools and colleges of the conference. Committees have been at work during this time on the problem and have held several meetings and the movement culminated at the last conference held in Statesville with the appointment of Rev. L. B. Abernathy, who, as educational secretary, has undertaken the enormous task of raising $200,000 for the better equipment and endowment of the educational institutions. This fund is to be divided among the schools according to the judgment of the committee having the matter in charge, and the people of this section will be interested to know that Weaverville College is to be greatly benefited by Mr. Abernathy's work.

A Question of Title To Land.

The question of the title to something like fifteen thousand acres of land in several sections of western North Carolina is involved in appeals argued before the Supreme Court in a combination of Fowler vs. Union Development Company and county of Clay and Richards vs. Ritter Lumber Company and Macon county against the same defendants. It is the old Cherokee reservation that is involved, or rather a multiplication of land grants involving portions of these lands following the opening of these lands to settlement early in the nineteenth century.

Statesville.—Mr. Aam C. Troutman died at his home some miles from Statesville from the effects of injuries sustained when he was caught beneath a bale of cotton as it fell from a wagon.

Resignation Has Brought No News.

The resignation of Judge George W. Ward, of Elizabeth City, as judge of the Frist Judicial District, was received by Governor Kitchin. In referring to this Governor Kitchin says he is glad to know that Judge Ward's resignation is largely prompted by his desire to engage in the active practice of law in Elizabeth City, that in the last two months he has done as much work on the bench as he ever did, and that for some years he has been a diligent, able and faithful judge.

North Carolina Roads As Example.

A party of citizens from Winchester, Va., composing a committee from the Valley Turnpike Company, an organization for building and promoting good roads, visited Concord and Cabarrus on their inspection tour of the good roads in this section. They were here for the purpose of familiarizing themselves with the system of good roads in this and adjoining counties with a view of employing the methods used in their construction in building good roads they contemplate building Virginia.