THE GOLD LEAF.

HENDERSON, N. C.

THURSDAY, DEC. 27, 1900.

ON THE WINGS OF FAITH.

A little maid, in white arrayed,
Knelt by the dainty trundle bed;
With lisping lip she softly prayed,
And this is what she said:

"Dear God, 'tis Christmas eve, you know,
And, oh, please do one thing for me!
I want to close my eyes and go,
In dreams, to papa o'er the sea!

"I hung his stocking by the side
Of mine and mamma's on the tree,
And mamma hugged me tight and cried
And cried, 'cause papa couldn't see.

"And when she went to sleep I thought,
Dear God, I'd kneel and pray to you
To send my papa what I bought,
And all my bestest kisses too."

A soldier watching in Luzon
Paced slow, a weary sentinel;
He saw the flush of coming dawn
And cried the watchword, "All is well!"

So, sudden, in the solemn hour
That brooded o'er his lonely line
He heard the wings of angels rush
And felt sweet kisses on his face!
—Cincinnati Enquirer.

THE YULETIDE LOG.

A RELIC OF THE FIRE WORSHIPERS.

ABOUT the only Christmas practice which these easterners seem to have in common with the peasants of western Europe and England is the cutting and burning of the Yule log, says the Chicago Tribune. They carry the thing much further, however, even today, than the Saxons, the famous lovers of good Christmas cheer, ever did. In the Black mountain there is a "great log for Christmas," and there are smaller logs for each member of the family.

The Yule log idea is traced to the fire worshipers. The wood must be cut before sunrise Christmas morning. The head of the house, followed by his family, goes to some standing stump and cuts it down. He then takes off his cap to the log, turns toward the east, crosses himself and offers up a prayer, "Give to me and to Christmas abundantly, O God."

If a log falls the wrong way, another must be cut, unless the family wishes to be unlucky for a year. Smaller logs are then cut for the members of the family. The wood is drawn to the house and leaned against the wall, with the cut ends uppermost. If one by mistake is reversed, the whole thing must be done over again or else misfortune will come.

When the fire is lighted, there is great joy in the household, but no one on any account must speak of witches after the great log is put on the fireplace, for they are supposed to be flying around on Christmas night as "plentiful as sparks."

There is a legend, and in fact a belief, in the Black mountain, of which research shows no trace elsewhere. Every fireplace has hanging in it, directly over the blaze, a great kettle chain. When a fire is started, it takes but a few moments for this chain to become highly heated. On Christmas night, however, no matter how briskly burn the great logs, the iron chain remains cool and pleasant to the touch. There is no Montenegro peasant but will tell you that this is a fact, and he knows it to be so, for he has made a test of it on many succeeding Christmas nights. The coolness of the chain is accounted for by the statement that a similar chain hung over the fire built on the floor of the stable in Bethlehem, and that at the birth of Christ the Virgin Mother grasped it for support. It became cool at her touch lest it burn the saintly hand, and from that day to this there is no fire hot enough to heat the fireplace chain on Christmas.

The fire is lighted by means of kindling, bits of which are placed under the log by each member of the family.

The Mexican Passion Play.

Long before the holy night the Mexican prepares for his Christmas season. First come the rehearsals for the "Pastores," sometimes called "The Mexican Passion Play." The "Pastores" follow, night after night, passing into the climax of the solemn midnight mass of the cathedral. The "Posadas" next claims the attention of the people—a home observance akin to the Christmas tree of the German people. And then comes the week of worldly enjoyment—the revelry in the saloons, the uneven contests over the gaming tables, and the brutal sports day and night in the bloody little arenas where valiant gamecocks are pitted against one another with gaffs and slashes.

Christmas Decorations.

Poets mention rosemary, bay, holly, laurel and mistletoe as the principal aids to Christmas decorations. Where there is a great deal of family plate and plenty of opportunity for the display of the same the high decoration can be entirely dispensed with. In its place arrange some daintily made garlands of moss in a well designed pattern on the cloth, tie it wherever it is necessary with a crimson bow of fairly wide ribbon and place various pieces of plate in the loops of the design. Anything fanciful in the way of dainty glass, Venetian or Bohemian, is welcome on such occasions, provided that its colors do not clash with the prevailing shade, and those who are fortunate enough to possess old china will no doubt be able to produce some fine specimens of dishes suitable for dessert.

Christmas Menu.

Oysters on the Half Shell.
Clear Consomme.
Broiled Bluefish. Cucumbers.
Chicken Livers with Mushrooms.
Roman Punch.
Roast Goose with Apple Sauce.
Cauliflower.
Chicory and Escarole.
French Dressing.
Plum Pudding. Neapolitan Ice Cream.
Fruit. Cheese. Coffee.

For the Stocking.

Us chillun needs mo' civil rights;
De white folks gotter make some laws.
'Case some of us on Christmas nights
Gits clean forget by Santa Claus.
—Washington Star.

Of Interest to Farmers.

It is desired to call the attention of the farmers, fruit-growers, truckers, and all others interested in agricultural pursuits, in North Carolina, to the fact that the Entomologist of the Department of Agriculture, at Raleigh, N. C., desires them to send him specimens of any injurious insects that may come to their notice. They are also invited to send specimens of any insects regarding which they desire information, and such information will be given so far as possible. It is desired to make the department of as great practical benefit to the people as possible, and no effort will be spared to attain this end.

During this winter the fruit-growers are especially urged to make a careful examination of their trees, and send any insect or suspicious twig to the department so that the matter may be investigated, if it is of importance. As this office is for the benefit of the people, we hope that they will use it to the best of their ability, by correspondence or otherwise.

An effort is being made to build up a collection of insects for the Agricultural Department and for exhibition in the State Museum. The aid of all is asked in getting specimens for this purpose.

Send any specimens or inquiries to,
FRANKLIN SHERMAN, Jr.,
Department of Agriculture,
Raleigh, N. C.

Corn Cultivation.

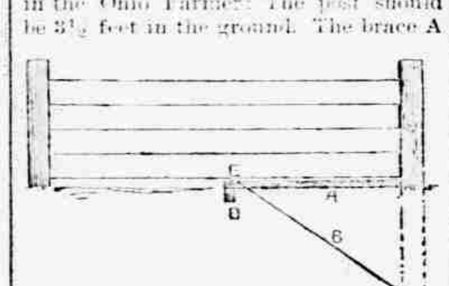
On large and fairly level fields some form of two-horse riding cultivator is often used, the disk cultivator being more popular than any other. With these implements it is not difficult to cultivate as much as eight acres in a day, and such rapid work makes cultivation very inexpensive. By planting in checks, so that cultivation can be given in both directions and by the use of the harrow for the earlier cultivation and a two horse cultivator for the later work the total expense for labor in preparing the land, planting and cultivating does not exceed $1.50 to $1.75 per acre. Professor Tracy of Mississippi says this plan is now being followed on many large plantations, but many who have tested the matter thoroughly have come to the conclusion that more thorough, though more expensive, cultivation is more profitable in the end.

Manure For Early Potatoes.

It is hardly possible to make land too rich when the early crop of potatoes is to be planted. The rich soil insures early growth of the plants and that they will come up with thick, vigorous stalks, which is the unfailing sign of a good crop. Too much manure will cause rot in potatoes late in the season, but with early potatoes the crop is generally harvested before it has time to either mature or rot. Generally the early potato crop may be got off in time to plant cabbage for a late crop, and there will be richer soil for the cabbage roots than there was while the potatoes were growing, says The American Cultivator.

An Everlasting Anchor.

For an everlasting anchor to the end post in a wire fence the following was originally presented by a correspondent in the Ohio Farmer: The post should be 3½ feet in the ground. The brace A



ANCHOR FOR AN END POST.

(4 by 4 will do) is 8 feet long. A rod of iron three-quarters thick (B) is put through the bottom of post (C), passing through brace (A) 8 feet from post. Put a stone (D) for brace (A) to rest on. Have a thread cut on end of rod (B) and a nut at E to tighten the brace. There is no cheaper brace, and it can't give. It looks nice and is the cheapest brace I know of.

Bred in the Bone.

Gran'pa Macpherson—How many does two and two make, Donald?

Donald—Six.

Gran'pa—What are ye talking about? Two and two make four.

Donald—Yes, I know, but I thought you'd "beat me down" a bit.—Punch.

Christmas Games.

"Heads, bodies and legs" is a most amusing drawing game. The first player draws a head at the top of his strip of paper, folds it down and the next player adds the body without having seen the head. The third player adds the legs, and the effect of the whole figure when opened out is very quaint, recalling the Egyptian hieroglyphics. She who commenced life as a serious woman has the body of a bird and the legs of a ballet dancer, while the soldier's head, with a helmet, ends in a bluecoat boy's coat and a lady's skirt.

Christmas Trees In England.

Christmas trees were unknown in England with the reign of Queen Victoria. The first one was ornamented by Prince Albert for the amusement of the princess royal and the Prince of Wales, who were children of 3 and 4 years old at that time.

The Saxon's Christmas Dinner.

For centuries the orthodox Saxon Christmas dish was a wild boar's head, garnished with holly. For years the emperor of Germany sent Queen Victoria a boar's head as a Christmas present.

An Indian Superstition.

Howison tells in his "Travels In Canada" how his Indian guide begged him to keep still on Christmas eve in the woods in order that they might see the deer kneel to the Great Spirit.

Merry Christmas.

So now is come our joyful'st feast;
Let every man be jolly.
Each room with ivy leaves is drest,
And every post with holly.
Though some churls at our mirth repine,
Round your foreheads garlands swing,
Drown sorrow in a cup of wine,
And let us all be merry.
—Old Carol.

CANCER

Sufferers from this horrible malady nearly always inherit it—not necessarily from the parents, but may be from some remote ancestor, for Cancer often runs through several generations. This deadly poison may lay dormant in the blood for years, or until you reach middle life, then the first little sore or ulcer makes its appearance—or a swollen gland in the breast, or some other part of the body, gives the first warning.

To cure Cancer thoroughly and permanently all the poisonous virus must be eliminated from the blood—every vestage of it driven out. This S. S. S. does, and is the only medicine that can reach deep-seated, obstinate blood troubles like this. When all the poison has been forced out of the system the Cancer heals, and the disease never returns.

Cancer begins often in a small way, as the following letter from Mrs. Shirer shows:

A small pimple came on my jaw about an inch below the ear on the left side of my face. It gave me no pain or inconvenience, and I should have forgotten about it had it not begun to inflame and itch; it would bleed a little, then scab over, but would not heal. This continued for some time, when my jaw began to swell, becoming very painful. The Cancer began to eat and spread, until it was as large as a half dollar, when I heard of S. S. S. and determined to give it a fair trial, and it was remarkable what a wonderful effect it had from the very beginning; the sore began to heal and after taking a few bottles disappeared entirely. This was two years ago; there are still no signs of the Cancer, and my general health continues good.—Mrs. R. Shirer, La Plata, Mo.

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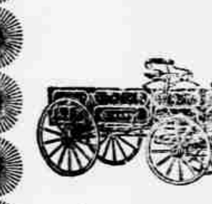

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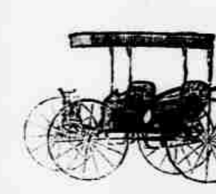

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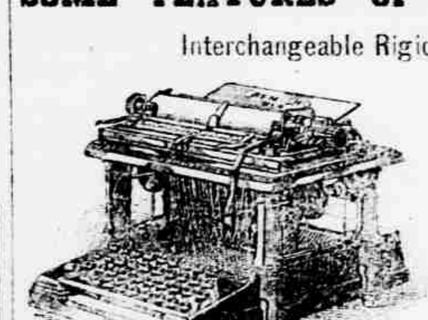

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Lv Washington "	7 00 p m	[illegible]
Lv Richmond S A L	10 40 p	2 40 p m
Lv Petersburg	11 3[illegible] p m	[illegible]
Lv Ridgeway Jct S A L	1 55 a m	5 [illegible] p m
Lv Henderson S A L	2 [illegible] a m	6 20 p m
Lv Raleigh	3 43 a m	[illegible]
Lv Southern Pines	5 30 a m	[illegible]
Lv Hamlet S A L	6 30 a m	[illegible]
Lv Columbia ‡ S A L	8 40 a m	[illegible]
Ar Savannah	12 10 p m	[illegible]
Ar Jacksonville	3 50 p m	[illegible]
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Lv New York N Y P & N	†8 00 a m	[illegible]
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Lv Ridgeway Jct	12 52 a m	1 20 p m
Lv Henderson	1 [illegible] a m	[illegible]
Lv Raleigh	3 02 a m	[illegible]
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Lv Montgomery A & W P	6 20 a m	11 20 a m
Lv Macon C of Ga	8 00 a m	4 20 p m
Lv Augusta C & W C	9 40 a m	
Lv Atlanta § S A L	1 00 p m	[illegible]
Ar Athens	2 52 p m	11 23 p m
Ar Greenwood	4 56 p m	2 05 a m
Ar Chester	6 53 p m	4 25 a m
Lv Charlotte S A L	6 50 p m	5 00 a m
Lv Wilmington S A L		12 0[illegible] p m
Lv Hamlet S A L	10 00 p m	[illegible]
Lv Southern Pines S A L	[illegible]	[illegible]
Lv Raleigh	[illegible]	11 30 a m
Ar Henderson	[illegible]	[illegible]
Lv Ridgeway Jct S A L	3 10 a m	2 05 p m
Lv Weldon	[illegible]	3 25 p m
Ar Portsmouth	7 00 a m	[illegible]
Ar Washington N & W S B		7 00 a m
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Ar Phila'phia N Y P & N	†5 46 p m	5 10 a m
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Lv Savannah	1 58 a m	11 59 p m
Lv Columbia §	6 40 p m	5 45 a m
Lv Hamlet	9 45 p m	9 20 a m
Lv Southern Pines	10 37 p m	10 12 a m
Lv Raleigh	12 24 a m	12 08 p m
Lv Henderson	1 46 a m	1 32 p m
Lv Ridgeway Jct	2 12 a m	2 05 p m
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