

# LOOK HERE -- It's Almost Christmas

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If it's shoes, we have them. We carry a big line of men's shoes from \$1 to \$4. It's the Chas. A. Eaton shoe, the best on the market for the money.

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## GASTONIA CLOTHING COMPANY

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NORTH CAROLINA

### WHITE HOUSE CHRISTMAS.

#### How the Day is Spent by the President and His Family.

Christmas in the home of the president is much the same as in any other American home, except perhaps there is more of it. Mr. Taft, following the custom of his predecessors, devoted the day to his family, little or no business being transacted. There were turkeys from many parts of the land, and, moreover, a turkey was given to each man of family on the White House staff. There was a multitude of presents for each member of the family. Of course the youngest of the Tafts, Master Charley, had the lion's share. In the Roosevelt days the White House became a museum of toys on Christmas day. The president was the biggest boy of all, and his whole day was given up to the children. The dinner was celebrated in the middle of the day, after the old Dutch custom, although, of course, there was the state banquet in the evening.

Since the days of James Buchanan Christmas, with but few exceptions, has been elaborately celebrated in the White House. Before that Pierce and Fillmore each had his days in the historic mansion saddened by sorrow. But with these two exceptions and a few minor ones the Christmas festival was duly celebrated by the presidents from Washington down. Even during the terrible days of the civil war President and Mrs. Lincoln always made it a point to gladden the hearts of the children at Yuletide. There was a large and happy family during the occupancy of the Grants, and the Christmas tree was always heavily laden.

#### How to Make Christmas Sweets.

The candy season is again with us. In most families home-made candies are an important feature of the Christmas festivities. The following tested recipes will be helpful to those who need instruction in the pleasurable task of candy making.

Here is a never failing fudge recipe: One-fourth cupful milk, one cupful sugar, butter the size of a walnut, two squares or two ounces of chocolate. Place on stove and melt all together and boil until they cling together in the water without being brittle. When stirring quickly, if the bottom of the pan shows any edges suggesting sugar, it is getting done. Before taking off the fire add one-half teaspoonful of vanilla, then beat thoroughly until creamy. Pour into a well buttered platter and when almost cool cut into squares. If preferred add chopped nuts just before removing from the fire or form the fudge into balls while warm and roll in ground nuts. You may use peanut butter instead of ordinary butter, especially if you do not use chopped nuts. Preserved figs are excellent when coated with fudge or when mashed and mixed in fudge while warm.

Two cupfuls of brown sugar boiled with milk and stirred continually until it forms a wax ball when teste-

ed in cold water makes an excellent candy if mixed with chopped raisins.

This is an inexpensive and delicious candy: Grind one cupful of blanched almonds and the same amount of peanuts in the food chopper. Make a rich fondant with light brown sugar and milk. Stir the fondant constantly until it forms a ball of wax when tested in cold water. Remove it from the fire and stir until it foams. A little cream of tartar will assist in making it creamy. Pour the ground nuts into the canny and place all on a buttered pan. While warm cut the candy into squares. Do not break the pieces apart until cool. When cold dip each piece into melted chocolate, unsweetened.

A firm, ripe banana cut into rather thin slices and dipped in melted sweet chocolate is delicious. Place on oiled paper and set in cool place to harden.

Dip marshmallows into melted chocolate, roll them in ground nuts and set aside to harden. Marshmallows hastily dipped into hard lemon taffy make a good confection.

Melt unsweetened chocolate in a double pan and dip loaf sugar into the melted chocolate and sprinkle the pieces with ground nuts. This is a good candy to give a child.

#### "GOD BLESS CHRISTMAS."

I have always thought of Christmas time as a good time; a kind, forgiving, generous, pleasant time; a time when men, women and little children seem by one consent to open their hearts freely; and so I say, "God bless Christmas!"

—CHARLES DICKENS.

#### The Reindeer.

Upon a starlight night,  
The best of horn and hoof,  
Eight noble reindeer stood  
And stabled upon a roof.

A sudden shot rang out,  
A shot that fatal sped,  
Hit in a mortal spot—  
Down fell the eight deer dead.

Beneath the snow spread roof  
A man in ruthless cause  
Had told a little boy  
There was no Santa Claus.

And after they were killed  
Throughout his life's long grind  
The little boy saw not  
Another of their kind.

Whereof the moral lies:  
In sport's fair playing name  
Pray let December be  
Closed season for the game.

—New York Times.

#### GIFTS FROM HICKORY NUTS.

Hickory nuts and horse chestnuts make quaint little inexpensive toys. Draw features in ink upon a wrinkled hickory nut to form the head of a grandmother doll, to which glue a roll of white cloth for the body. Two short rolls of cloth sewed to the body will make the arms. Dress in a checked gingham frock, white kerchief and apron and a wide ruffled cap, glued to the nut head.

With horse chestnuts, a sharp

jackknife, burnt matches and corn silk may be made ducks, chickens, horses and other animals for a roynaryard. A few cuts to loosen the shell of the nut make feathers and ears, the corn silk, pinned on, is used for tails and manes, and the matches make sturdy, realistic legs for the funny little creatures.

#### Recipes for Christmas.

Salmon Salad.—Garnish salmon with cucumbers, tomatoes and lettuce. Sprinkle with salt, pepper and paprika. Add a few drops of chili vinegar and slices of hard-boiled eggs. Cover with this sauce: Yolk of three eggs, juice of a lemon, salt and red pepper, a pinch of grated nutmeg, three tablespoonfuls of butter and half a cupful of water. Stir over the fire until thick.

Montreux Sandwiches.—Boil four eggs for a quarter of an hour, then pound them with two tablespoonfuls of butter, one tablespoonful of finely chopped parsley and sufficient anchovy essence to make all a good pink color. When well pounded add a little paprika and spread the mixture on slices of buttered bread. Serve garnished with parsley.

Fig Mince-meat Pies.—Weigh half a pound of flour, sift it, rub in three tablespoonfuls of butter or lard, add one teaspoonful of baking powder and a pinch of salt, then gradually add just enough cold water to form a stiff paste. Roll out at once. Line small moulds with the pastry and fill with mince-meat, adding a few chopped figs. Bake in a hot oven for fifteen minutes.

#### A Yuletide Tragedy.

When Josiah Gibbs found that his wife "had it in for him," as he called it, and had bought him a box of cigars for his Christmas present he grew wise and, with apparent sorrow, said to her:

"Now, isn't it too bad, my love? I discovered that cigar smoking was becoming so injurious to me that I have quit it and have to content myself with a few whiffs now and then on my pipe with mild tobacco. Now isn't it too bad?"

"I'm so sorry, dear!" said Josiah Gibbs' wife. "But your friends will enjoy them, and I am sure that will please you."

Gibbs smiled grimly and, as his wife departed, winked knowingly at himself in the looking glass. And when he saw his friend Joe Spicer he told him how he had escaped his wife's Christmas cigars—Joe Spicer, the best judge of a good cigar that ever bit off the end of a two-for-a-half. And Joe smiled grimly too.

"But every time Joe Spicer called at Gibbs', which was often—he was an old friend of Gibbs'—he smoked one or more of Josiah's wife's Christmas cigars.

"Gallant and diplomatic of you, old man!" Gibbs would say to Spicer on opportunity and smile his knowing smile. And Joe would smile his.

And by and by the cigars were all smoked by Spicer, and Gibbs' wife was led to say to Gibbs:

"It's just a perfect shame, Josiah, that you couldn't take any pleasure

in those cigars and that your friend Spicer should have had them all!"

At which Josiah smiled his knowing smile and said:

"Oh, well, my love, never mind. Joe seemed to enjoy them."

"Yes, indeed!" said Josiah's wife. "Why shouldn't he?"

Which made Josiah smile more and more and almost chuckle. But he said nothing.

"Yes, indeed," repeated Mrs. Gibbs, "why shouldn't he? You know Josiah, you told me that a woman should never choose cigars for a Christmas present to her husband, as a woman knows nothing about their quality, so I asked Joe Spicer, having heard you say often what an excellent judge of a cigar he was, to select a box for me—the best he could get—and he did, and—"

Josiah Gibbs had instant business down at the office, where he tore his hair and flung his pipe and tobacco out of the window. And he passed Joe Spicer without bowing and without his knowing smile. But Joe still wore his.—Browning's Magazine.

#### CHRISTMAS IN OTHER LANDS.

Many American children of foreign parentage know something of Christmas customs in at least one European country, having been told by their elders, but for the most part our boys and girls know little of the day except in their own land.

In Spain it is the custom to let out of prison many of the short time prisoners on Christmas eve, also to permit a few of the soldiers to go home on furlough. Only blood relations eat in the house on Christmas eve or Christmas day. It is a general belief that ere midnight on Christmas eve the Virgin comes, bearing a blessing. There is a midnight mass in the churches, and other masses follow.

A few years ago in England it was the custom after the Christmas dinner to pull bonbon crackers and to wear the grotesque caps and masks that came with them. In other ways the celebration is very much as with us.

Good cheer is the rule in Ireland, and holly and ivy are seen on every hand. A midnight mass is celebrated, and masses follow through the night and morning, all of which are largely attended. The religious elements predominate. Rich and poor alike have goose for their Christmas dinner. The day following Christmas is devoted to athletics, fun and frolic.

The celebration of Christmas is not general in Japan, yet the Nipponese have a Santa Claus of their own. He is the god Hotel, and he is supposed to give good things to the children not on one day alone, but the year around.

#### Christmas Fortune Telling.

Bachelors and spinsters in Rome are desirous of seeing the features of their future matrimonial mate cut a hole in the ice of a river or pond at midnight of Christmas eve and peer into the black water beneath. It is the belief that the face of the one the experimenter is

to marry will then become visible as in a mirror. A combination of faith and imagination is necessary to make the spell work successfully.

#### The Ever Luck Boy.

The Christmas tree all summer long is growin' in the wood,  
But only—so my teacher says—  
For children that are good.

Our groceryman he brings it round  
An' leaves it at th' edoor,  
My father carries it inside  
An' plants it in the floor.

An' I can help if I don't tease  
A stringin' it with stuff,  
But I can't eat the popcorn much  
Or there won't be enough.

Nor bite the candles yellow, red  
Or white or green or blue,  
(The wax all colored up that way  
Makes dandy gum to chew!)

An' when there ain't no trimmin's left  
They wait until I'm gone  
An' safe in bed, an' then they start  
An' tie the presents on.

Aw, what the teacher tells I know  
She only says to scarer,  
That trees are meant for goody kids  
Is mostly old hot air.

For you can bet that ev'ry time  
There's lots of things for me,  
No matter though I've often been  
As bad as I can be!

#### FIRST CHRISTMAS FEAST.

The first feast to be celebrated on Dec. 25 was established by Commodus, emperor of Rome, who reigned about 185 years after the birth of Christ. After that there are many references in history to meetings of the new sect called Christians, who gathered on this day to celebrate the birth of the Godman. It is not until a century after the time of Commodus that we find a particular reference to the persecutions that the Christians underwent at the hands of the pagan emperors, culminating in a Christmas day massacre.

When Rome was no longer a pagan state the feast began to be celebrated in Christian style, and those who observed the birth of Christ in those days did so in widely separated countries and frequently at widely different periods of time and according to no set program. The ancients agreed on one thing, however—that the festival commemorating the birth of Christ should be the most magnificent of the year. In some cases it was kept up for days.

#### Origin of the Yule Log.

The Yule log in England is a relic of druidism. Its name is believed to be a corruption of the wheel log, a wheel in druidical symbolism typifying the march of the sun. The lighting of the Yule fire is reminiscent of the sacred fires kindled by the druids at midwinter in the round towers which yet remain in many parts of Great Britain, Ireland, France and Spain.

#### Why She is Waiting.

Ethel—If you are not going to accept Mr. KKelly why don't you tell him to stop calling on you?

Clarice—I will, right after Christmas.

#### Constipation Poisons You.

If you are constipated, your entire system is poisoned by the waste matter kept in the body—serious results often follow. Use Dr. King's New Life Pills and you will soon get rid of constipation, headache and other troubles. 25c. at Druggists or by mail, H. E. Bucklen & Co. Phila. and St. Louis. —Adv.

#### Forgotten.

New York American.  
There are presents for all the girls and the boys,  
And even the baby has so many toys  
That she doesn't quite know what to do with them all,  
'Cause the toys are so big and her mouth is so small.

There are slippers for grandpa and other things too,  
And for grandma a shawl of the loveliest blue,  
While for father and mother and all of the rest  
There's exactly the present they say they like best.

And wherever I go I am certain to find  
Santa Claus has been there and left something behind,  
But, although it is Christmas, I'm sorry because  
No one has a present for Good Santa Claus.

#### Address Plainly.

Address the box plainly, so there can be no danger of its going astray. Printing is better than script. Unless some dreadful catastrophe happens, the gift is sure to reach its destination in perfect condition.

#### Mi-o-na Stops All Stomach Distress

Why suffer with that uncomfortable feeling of fullness, headaches, dizziness, sour, gassy, upset stomach, or heartburn? Get relief at once—delays are dangerous. Buy today—now—a fifty cent box of Mi-o-na Tablets. Their action is sure, safe and immediate.

There is no more effective stomach remedy than Mi-o-na. Besides quickly stopping the distress Mi-o-na soothes the irritated walls of the stomach, strengthens and builds up the digestive organs, thus assisting nature in the prompt digestion of the food—your entire system is benefited, you will enjoy good health.

Do not suffer another day—get a box of Mi-o-na Tablets from J. H. Kennedy & Co. Take them as directed and see how quickly you get relief.—Adv.