# Festal Day In Dixie A Carnival of Cheer

OMEHOW there is a charm about a Christmas down is Dixie pecollarly fascinating It savors more of the old English holiday when the wassail bowl was filled to the brim, when the Yule log glowed and the boar's head was borne into the banquet It was in the good old days before the war that the folks of the south observed this joyous season with prodiganty more tavish and he pitality more extensive than were die had of even in the annals of Bracebridge Hall

Then came the true carmy at of merriment 'The old manor was ablaze with life and beauty. From the surrounding country all the belles and the benus had gathered Morning brought a meet at daybreak for the fox hunt. and nighttime called for "Old Uncle Ephraim," the plantation fiddler, whose reels were famous throughout the whole country Feast followed feast. and the spirit of celebration extended from the master down to the field hands, each of whom received a lug filled with good was any when he called for his Christians rations.

But these are the days that have gone, and with their going departed many characteristis which made the Christmas time a non south so distincfive. While the tale of your and changed conditions have a send the prodigality of former days, most of the an cient customs remain and in many instances Christmas in the villages and the country is but a a.... repetition of antebellum observations

A few of the large country homes still have some of the old servicins who were with the family in slavery days If these old farmey darkies have been away during the year they always beappear with the approach of the Christmas bolidays and assume duties about the bousehold. The old farammy, at though her services have been end said ebewhere during the rest of the year. reports to make the fruit cake for Christmas dinner

She alone knows the cullnary traditions of the family kitchen. The ingredients of this wonderful cake have been handed down from generation to generation, and the spice and the to house sit and collecting money, brandy and the catan and all smb things are compounded according to the proportions laid down years and years andne

These fmit cakes bear the family interest and spare time, through the courtesy of the scason and the exchange of complements of the day, a since of Grant and cake is on the same plate with a slice of Dubignon cake Not infrequently these cakes are cooked a year in advance, by which time they are fully sensoued and settled, although the cracks in the icing and its yellow tint mar the beauty somewhat its cooking can be intrusted to no hands cook or her descendants.

Not alone this old cook, but all ing the days of slavery are usually represented about Christmas time. The son of your father's and your grandfather's coachman comes, and on rare days the old man himself hobbles to episcopal robes the bouse and spins out marvelous tales of the past.

with gifts, and for each of their children a present of some sort has been prepared. This feature generally comes in the southern home before the rest of the family has been attended to. In the meantime the children bave been keeping eager watch at the door of the room where Santa Claus has made his visit No one is allowed to enter this sacred precinct until the paterfamilias gives the signal, but before this signal is given every member of the household must-be dressed and

ready for breakfast and the morning

prayers must have been said. When everything is ready the children are allowed to rush in and examine the contents of their stockings Some of the largest children still have implicit faith in the wonderful person slity of old Santa Claus. Forged notes from the old fellow, admonishing them to make their behavior according to the precent of their mother, are eagerly read and compared. The interchange of presents among the older members of the family usually takes place at the breakfast table, but in most instances they are allowed to minute with the bounties of old Santa Claus and are pincked from the same hony tree from which his presents hang

The bunt for the holly and the mistietoe, while not us exciting as the chase for the boar's deed is just as much a feature as that old English custom and equally enforable. Sev. eral days before Christmas eve a big wagon, filled with straw at 1 beimming full of pretty girls and boys, too, is driven luto the woods, where the search for the bolly is carried on It requires a most agile you gater to scale to the beight where the mistic toe grows, and be is always sure if a generous reward of taxes from the ! girls below

Curistmas, day is strays quiet Sometimes the boys . I girls to rebeen taught circuis no in they street at bone or in the cl by Night brists advantage and the joility again when the mutates to the others more and other off which our rain ticipate in outdoor games

About it nit there has en a quaint, old time flavor Ever : ! ! introv. and yet there is a time a solipes now is but a fair; to or days

The Joys of Christmas. Total revealing the metro con-White bully drags the content of Private the root to the rest, the bull of

To Mak other matry ?

## The Boy Bishop

DERHAPS the most remarkable of all celebrations in honor of St Nicholas was the old one of the boy bishop. The boy bishop assumed his office on St Nicholas day, Dec. 6, and held it till Holy Innocents' day. Dec. 28. The custom originated on the continent of Europe and was adopted in England, where it reached what was probably its fullest development. A boy was chosen to represent a bishop and was clothed with all the robes and



THE BOY BUSINESS BULLED WITH HIGHEST THROUGH TA CAN S COL

invested view if the insignia per ain ling to the election. Other boys relies sented process, deacons and other suit able persons for the bishop's train The lov bear conducted a service in the church, and in some cases he and his computations went about from house which there a not ask as a gift, but demonded as a right

The boy 114, plattained his fullness of dignity at Suisbury cathedral. though he was known all over Eng land. There he was chosen from among the chall hars, the rest forming his referred and he ruled with the highest pemp and most absolute authority He is said to have conducted all the services of the church except the mass In some other places the boy bishop is said to have celebrated the mass itself. If any probend fell vacant in his term of only e he filled it, and if he died before his term expired he was except those of the antebellum family | buried with all the honors due to a genuine bishop. There is record of a boy bishop at Salisbury filling a vacant branches of the service in vogue dur- prebend by the appointment of his schoolmaster, and there is in the cathedral there the tomb of one who died while holding his office. On the top of it is an effigy of the child in full

Such mas merading plays as this were not then deemed offensive or These old darkles are all presented, derogatory to the dignity of the church In fact, much coarser and more unconth exhibitions were freely permitted on some occasions, even to the extent of burlesques of the services of the church within its own walls. Of course the evil and discreditable side was bound to be seen in time, and the functions of the boy hishop were at last forbidden by Henry VIII They were restered, however, for a time by Mary -St Nicholas

### St. Nicholas Eve.

A stranger visiting the German colonies of our great cities would think that his almanne needed resetting, for on the evening of Dec. 5 thousands of little stockings are bung up with the same careful clothespinning and heart of hope as on the authentic Christmas eve St. Nicholas eve it is that the "fathedand" exiles are celebrating Just as early as any children ever get up those that are paying bonor to the gift saint tumble out of hed and find their stockings well we abol with fruit and candles and mefolic when

The naughty child that has been a to its not his in previous weeks. is rather their to first his stockings. hoden with re-T It is a bint that a second wift see on is at hand and that | if would be well to fall into tine with the good children. And the good childoes are edimeraged to a renewed and severer virtue for the days between their present reward and the fuller; holiday that is coming - Country Life In America.

#### Christmas Song. C'ar i thebam town A star looked down When shepherds watched by night. beginner or a few seed

Tith." Reduice!" 1 to Lorenza Tidren, sirig.

To see the round our stickt.

Shall made or Children king. -Lydin Ayery Coonley.

A Cresting. God send a threshi thirlings . at the or the ball. med the attribu May for the reveal and article obeer, re last sed frames near

Make this a bloned Christia at

# A REAL PRESENT FOR CHRISTMAS



clear and spar kling as all such days should To be sure. in the sunny-southland there was no snow, and the children had to content them selves with a vis-

it from Santa Claus in a very up to date aeroplane, but this did not matter Even the humble cabin home of Thomas Jefferson had not been passed by. and the delighted faces of the little colored children testified that the dear saint's gifts had exceeded their wildest expectations Now came the most important ques-

tion of the day. Everybody knows that Christmas dinner is very different from any other meal and must be planned for accordingly. But it happened that these smail brothers and sisters of Thomas Jefferson, who was not very big himself, must be left to his care today, while his mammy went to the big house and helped get ready for the company Thomas Jefferson was allowed to go along with his mammy. for he was to bring back a basket fill ed with dianer for inmedf and the oth ers. So he walked with her very hap-

At the house pretty Miss Clariss; saw that the bush to ass tilled

Thomas Jefferson fairly starrered under the weight of his leasket wheel

he at last turned off to the woods. As he went he heard Mass Cla rissa s soct volucións del ma Chr situas and to rest back og ngdet sight of his sited at the price beneath as an it bundle of bally and median. These were the words he heard CHILDREN CAWDED

her sime "And pray a pladsome Christmas for all good Classica men!" It was all old carot, and a to also lefferson had never given much thought to the me ing of it before, but now as he widhed after a with so many good things the little fellow felt so grateful that he design is share his blessings with some one less fortunate. The woods seen al deserted however, and Thomas Jefferson newhed his cabin without meeting and one.

The children crowded about him eagerly, and all could hardly wa't until he had opened the basket, spread the cloth and dished the daner Thomas Jefferson was most particular as to how he did this Each plate must contain an exact share of the good thines. Just so much inckey. just so much sauce, just so many veg etables. A" were beginning with great enloyment when a knock came at the

"Fil see who 'tis." said Thomas Jef ferson "You chillen just go right along wid vo' dinner."

It was a very ragged boy that stood in the doorway of the kitchen. Miserably poor and hungry he looked, and Thomas Jefferson's heart went out to

"If you would please give me a bit to ent." he said. "I will be very grate ful. I have come a long way and have still a good way to go."

Thomas Jefferson besitated His mammy did not approve of giving to tramps. He had no right to give her food away. Then he thought of the dinner on his plate. That was his own without any doubt. He returned to the table, the words of the carol still ring ing in his head. The children were too



MISS CLARISTA SAW INAT THE BASEL WAS FILLED

husy to notice that he took the place from the table and assumed water empty. The bear to not be goed the probling. When one is very honery and has and agreed set for miner and ban withstiffed great thirty even the are plum probling do- not space - there But Thomas Jefferson, recombering the caret, tried to imprine that he last quire full. He did feel sure grad to he's a feelped some one on this glad d put an player with the man come a for man But the present of their bread should

District the six count of acrespo section

made infilment of assistant "Well, it its

dinner!"

best all. Themas left com, how and if

# To Many Odd Places

OOD old Santa Claus looks in tipen prefty nearly everybody in Christmas time and the festival of which he is patron is celebrated in some very odd ways and out of the way places in our country. At Ellis island, in the harbor of New York, on Christmas day several hun-

dred children, with their parents. usually await debarkation on the shores of America. There is a multitude of German "kinder," of Italian "bambinos" and of youngsters of every nationality, as much interested. all of them. In Christmas doings as any Yankee young fo'ks could possibly be. It is indeed an occasion of great excitement for them, thasmuch as the missionary societies have provided for these humble aliens a wealth of good cheer, and, with the help of denations made for the purpose, the day is rendered joyful for all, both young and old, toys being plentifully distributed among the little ones.

The lenellest places in the world are some of the lightleneses which our government maintains along the coast for the protection of mariners. Yet Santa Claus finds his way to them. and in his honor a feast, even though it be a fumble one, is held. It may be that the barren rack which the High bease merits affords room enough for the keeping of a dozen chickens. the fattest of which are suitably sacri-

But even this is not practicable in such a cost as Boon istant, of the cost of Miles, a dang rous lift of terre from v' sh is continuelly swept by the wayes. Drily a few veirs ago, so the ster, a res a little girl four years of the dayshior of the keeper of the a test was so distressed because has Soler had been prevented by your and a completion record to the more a tracky areas appropriately. come that she stole out of the lighthors our other and knott in a sheltered

"Dear to the she sold, "please send es a cos - for our Carlstmas dinner!" Hardly had be stoken the words when a page 1 wild come flow (as sometimes hap are in each places against the life I atom alone and fell dead at her feet to be promisily carried in and present-1 to the family as a fird literells seed from heaven.

The le Setti medical as about fifty Helicshikes along the season is and on the lakes to mark dangerous shoats Lovely indeed use the skippers and crews of these vesses, which, like the fabled phenoon ship pursue voyages



CHRISTMAS AT ELLIS ISLAND

that have no end, continually buffeted by storms. Yet Christimas is not forgotten. A brace of will ducks, perchance, may be secured for the feast, and the cook will surely provide a liberal dish of the much appreciated "plum duff" -a preparation of pastry shaped like half a wate ...clon, which, in order that all the raisers it contains nery not full late outs slice, requires: under the rules, to be cut "fore and aft."

In that for flung archipelago known as the Aleutian chain, which, reckoned geographically as a part of Alaska. stretches across the northern Pacific, Russian customs are still retained to a great extent, though the islands belong to the United States

But, speaking of Alacia, it is a fact curious enough that Santa Claus in real life is seen there at Christmastide as nowhere else in the world, with his reindeer The superintendents of the reindeer stations, established by the government for the benefit of the natives, harness the tamest of their animals and, hitching them to a sleigh filled with lags containing provisions. tolarco and other desirable things, drive through the Cakimo villages and leave it out h humble but one of the sacha a committee that the Christ Child " a war these poor people h. ce from the missionaras, is born - i.e norder times.\*

Morey Christmas." y he il the wish I send "A ristra militaria A life all the river in which me sorrow Or. if some a on fail to thy lot love more to a later Sound process; contain single out from all

tram's. boys can get after all that Christaly and

# Good O'd Santa Goes - What Christmas Day Brought the Convict

TT was late in the afternoon of the day before Christmas. To the woman who waited for news and yet dreaded its coming it was the closing of the longest, wretchedest, dreariest day that she had ever known She had been advised not to hope, yet she clung to hope, feeling that if she gave up entirely she must die if the worst came she must live for the sake of the children, who were too young to know of the shadow that clouded their lives

Often and often the woman went to the window and looked out at the dreary street. Once when a boy came down the walk with the blue uniform of a telegraph messenger she clutched at her throat and uttered a little moan of despair

"Wha's matter, mamma?" asked the little girl that clung to her skirts. The woman could not reply until after the messenger had passed her gate Then she caught the child in her arms and covered its face with kisses. Hope once more revived in her heart.

When she went to the window again the woman looked out and saw her husband coming. In the wave of joy that surged over her she did not no tice that he looked old and hopeless and broken and bent and that there



HE TORE OPEN THE TELEGRAM

was no eststicity in his step. She threw open the door and ran down the graveled walk to the gute

"John, th. John," she rried flinging her arms about his neck, "you are free! Heaven be praised for his mercles. You are free "

The man pressed her to his heart, un-

able to speak "I knew that they would not I'm you guilty they could be see the "My poor Grace," he mutualized. stroking her hair, "you also be brake I have been found guidy. Eive years in the peniterriery "

"Then how is it that you are here".

"The jude a be sentenced me has given me a r process is my own room nizance so that I can spend Christmas with you and the babbes. I am in touor bound to surrender myself to the sheriff on the first of the year. It was a technical violation of the law only They know I am nonest, but the sentiment of the public is set so strongly against bankers that I could not get justice. Even my political friends dare not support me. It is an unexpected favor that I am allowed to be with you for a few days"

John Anstruther spoke bitterly, and his wife listened with tearless eyes. She controlled herself with an effort.

"John, the children!" she waspered. "They must not know. Let them have one more happy Christmas. They have been praying for you to come home, Let us smile and be happy with them for a few days. Let us forget the dread future "

Once during the evening she spoke of a pardon which might be asked of the governor\*

"It is a vain hope, dear," her busband said. "We will not waste ourselves on it" And he relapsed into thoughtful stlence

But for all the shadow that bung over the home there was a Christmas tree, and the Austruther bables were happy Their convict father played the role of Santa Claus. Their mother laughed and sang, though now and then her ver a broke and her eyes were wet with tears. A few neighbors called full of sympathy and yet timid about showing it. All the little town felt that it was best to let the stricken family enjoy their Christmas cheer without incrusion even on the part of those who loved and respected them. ..

When the children, surfeited with sweets and their arms still filled with precious tors were asleep once more the mother was busy in her kitchenwith her preparations for the grand Christmas climer of the morrow-perhaps the best bountiful meal her childrea would have through all the dark years to come.

John Austruther went to his room to took over his papers. In the drawer he suddenly found something that made his heart lengt

It was a revolver. He took the shinguarder a business fee, It was a revolver the took the said by he was a revolver the took the said a sort of mariness came over him. Here was his optactmoty. Here was escape The charles of course the camping of from the stranger the dark cell, the ig-. bunday of prison life. Here was pro-Sing priors that were some at the mary priors for these and the bulbes. Hig Strate and the part of them forms were need the transmitted fill was needed. from the event in core of suicide. A

sudden sharp shock and it would be over. Even for her it would be better than the five years of living death.

He pressed the cold muzzle to his forehead. His finger was on the trigger. He could hear Grace singing sadly, with a pathetic attempt to be gay in the kitchen "Coward!"

The warning voice came out of the void, like the voice of the angel who spoke to Abraham on the mountain top Perhaps it was only the cry of his own consciousness, made audible by his imagination. But he heard it distinctly A revulsion of feeling swept over him,

"Oh, not that, not that, thank God," be murmured.

He put the weapon back in the drawer and went out into the kitchen, where Grace was dressing the Christmas turkey.

"Five years will soon pass," he said cheerfully, "and there will be a generous allowance for good conduct I will have some sort of bookkeeping to do, and the life will be bearable, no doubt. Let us meet the future bravely, dear heart. God will not fail to send us comfort. And you-you dear, brave little woman you will get along somehow We have friends yet, thank beaven

It was the first time be had ventured to speak of the life to prison, and she was comfored to know that he took so brave a view. That might they sieht. and the act day their Christmas dianer was up o cusion of joy to the children, and the parents, thanking to be together, simulated a cheerfulness that almost decented one another

It was a a m the afternoon that a arge manther of their neighbors came trooping to with words of love and sympathy and encouragement. They promised to look after Grace and the children, and when John got backthey spoke of it as if he were going only on a little journey-they declared that the village would be at the train with a band to receive him

"You will be a convict, but not 'a criminal, John," said the leading merchant warmly "You can step into the best job in my store the day after you get home I promise you that and call upon these neighbors to witness it."

John Anstruther rose to reply, but before he could speak the door was opened and a blue coated messenger boy appeared with a telegram. Anstruther tore it open with shaking fin-

"The governor has signed your unconditional pardon as a Christmas gift to your wife and babies. He did it as an act of justice and in response to telegrams from bandreds of men throughout the state who know you are an honest man Congratulations."

The name signed to the telegram was that of the secretary of state .-Chicago Tribune.

# Christmas Treasures

By EUGENE FIELD.

COUNT my treasures out with care A list e toy that baby knew A in the sock of faded hise, v. afeitarmen Sat to come or to up to now those

"Test from the constitution of such If South Chair a man come tonight, Vehicle shift be to ing my baby bright, What theasure for my boy?" I said.

And then to and the little toy Where the around and truthful eyes There can end look of glad surprise That spoke his trustful, childish joy.



And as he lisped his evening prayer He asked the boon with baby grace, And, toddling to the chimney place, He hung his little stocking there. That night as lengthening shadows crept

I saw the white wing I am all come

With music to our hteathle some

And kiss my darling as he at the He must have heard the last a protect, For in the moon wir - -He toddled to the And found the Ditles in They came again one the samualde. That angel host so fair and white,

And, singing all the Christmes night, They dured my darling from my side. A little sock, a little toy, The Christmas music on the nin A-watching for my baby boy. that sweet train

And golden head come back for me To bear me to eternity My watching will not be in vain

For This Christmas.

Ve old time stave that pealeth out To Christinas revelers all At rather top and wanted bout, Whites ye old burden runs anain, Add not as write, as due, "God rest you meany genflemen,"

And gentlevers Whiteamb Riley.