

THE CHRIST CHILD

Across the snow the home lights glow
From the myriad hearts alight,
And through the street with noiseless
feet
The Christ-child walks tonight.

At silent gates, outside He waits,
To find a fitting spot
To shine the shame, if through thy
blame
The Christ-child enters not.

Where joyous notes from children's
throats
The old glad song begin,
Where love impels and kindness dwells,
The Christ-child enters in.

Where hate has room, pride sits in
gloom,
And wrong invokes unrest,
Though green the walls and bright the
halls,
He cannot be a guest.

But where the thought that angels
brought
To earth's enraptured ears
Good will to men and peace, again
The Christ-child, listening, hears.

He turns His feet with welcome sweet,
Enters, and there abides.
Angels know best how such are blest
Through all the Christmastides.

A Christmas Wish

Whenever there is sickness
May Santa Claus bring health;
Whenever there is poverty
May Santa Clax bring wealth.
Whenever one is weeping
May tear to smiles give way,
Whenever sadness hovers
May joy come Christmas day.

To every heart that's aching
May peace and comfort come,
And may an outlook rosy
Supplant each outlook grim.
May friends now separated
Soon reunited be,
And every one find gladness
Upon his Christmas tree.

PRETTY LEGEND OF CHRIST

Old-Folk Tale Related That Stars
Danced and Birds Sang on Day
of His Birth.

When the child of Nazareth was
born the sun, according to the Bosnian
legend, "leaped in the heavens and
the stars around it danced. A peace
came over mountain and forest. Even
the rotten stump stood straight and
healthy on the green hillside. The
grass was befowered with open blossoms,
incense sweet as myrrh pervaded
upland and forest, birds sang on
the mountain top and all gave thanks
to the great God."

It is naught but an old-folk tale, but
it has truth hidden at its heart, for a
strange, subtle force, a spirit of gen-
eral good will, a new-born kindness,
seem to animate child and man alike
when the world pays its tribute to the
"heaven-sent youngling," as the poet,
Drummond, calls the infant Christ.

When the three wise men rode from
the east into the west on their sad-
dle-bows were three caskets filled with
gold and frankincense and myrrh, to
be laid at the feet of the manger-
cradled babe of Bethlehem. Begin-
ning with this old, old journey the
spirit of giving crept into the world's
heart. As the magi came bearing
gifts, so do we also; gifts that re-
lieve want, gifts that are sweet and
fragrant with friendship, gifts that
breathe love, gifts that mean service,
gifts inspired still by the star that
shone over the City of David 2,000
years ago.

Then hang the green coronet of the
Christmas tree with glittering baubles
and jewels of flames; hear offerings
on its emerald branches; bring Yule
logs to the firing; deck the house with
holly and mistletoe.

"And all the bells on earth shall ring
On Christmas day in the morning."
—Kate Douglas Wiggin.

"Moose Riders of Nipisiguit:" Few and Exclusive

NEW YORK.—Did you ever hear of the "Moose Riders of the Nipisiguit?" No; of course not. Well, here's all about it, as told by Dr. Thomas Travis of this city, who spent two weeks at the head of the Nipisiguit river (Bathurst lakes), New Brunswick, photographing deer and moose.

"The idea is to find a moose out in the lakes feeding. Then by canoe you steal up till you cut him off from shore.

"But do not make the mistake of jumping right on to a moose as soon as you have him handy. He will just about 'bust things wide open.' Paddle around him till he gets a little of the pep out of him. Then talk to him quietly and handle him a bit till he knows you are not going to hurt him. Herd him to where he can just touch hard bottom. If you jump on him in deep water he will sink—a moose cannot swim with a man on him; at least, none I tried could. But when he can just touch bottom get on him and you will have a thrilling ride to the edge of the lake.

"The one I rode left me. As a ride it wasn't much, for I stayed on him less than one minute by the watch. Then he rolled over and sent me sprawling in the lake. But I stayed by him long enough to get a photo.

"There is an association formed, called the Moose Riders of Nipisiguit. To qualify, a man must ride a moose in the presence of a guide in good standing. He must get a photo and have this placed in the book of records there, together with the signatures of witnesses and guide. He then receives a metal badge with the inscription of a man riding a moose and the words 'Moose Rider of Nipisiguit.' There are six members so far."



Camera Locates Sunken Vessels.
A powerful electric submarine camera that a New York man has invented is expected to get as much information about sunken vessels in a short time as it would take experienced divers days to gather.

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CHRISTMAS FACTS IN BRIEF

Day Celebrated as Christian Festival for Centuries—Holly Once a Sacred Plant.

Christmas day is the anniversary of the birth of Christ, and has been celebrated as a Christian festival for several centuries. The Christmas tide lasts from the 25th of December to the 6th of January, the twelfth day after Christ's nativity.

The origin of the Christmas tree is obscure; the thought of Christ as the Light of the World and the Tree of Life may have given rise to the light-bearing tree, or the popular old belief that every Christmas eve, trees blossomed and bore fruit, may have been the foundation of the custom.

Gift-giving is, of course, the echo of the Wise Men's gifts; and mince pie, turkey and plum puddings are modern relics of the pagan feasts. Santa Claus, known to every child in every land in this old world is the personification of the spirit of loving and giving.

The holly, synonymous of Christmas, was a sacred plant, and the mistletoe a mysterious plant, supposed by the ancient Druids to have some mystic power of healing and preventing misfortune. It was never allowed to touch the ground, hence the modern superstition that it is unlucky for a mistletoe bough to fall from its place. It was dedicated to the Goddess of Love, which explains the custom of kissing under the mistletoe.

Keep Christmas.
"There is a better thing than the observance of Christmas and that is keeping a Christmas." —Henry Van Dyke.

Let It Stop at That.
A white Christmas is well enough, but it need not embroder its benefactions by adding frostbitten toes.

UNDER THE MISTLETOE.



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TO TRIM A CHRISTMAS TREE

Pretty Trimmings and Decorations Can Be Made in Almost Any Home at Slight Expense.

As to trimming the Christmas tree, first of all, don't trim your tree with cotton batting and lighted candles, as there is always danger in this combination, and "safety first" should be the slogan in all Christmas festivities.

You can purchase a whole lot of pretty decorations for your tree at the shops, and these come very cheaply, too. But almost any home can furnish the decorations for a really lovely tree without very much expense, and there is no reason why every family where there are children should not have their Christmas tree.

Strings of popcorn and red cranberries looped from the branches make an effective decoration. And strings of yellow field corn gleam beautifully in the Christmas light. Crescents, stars and hearts cut from heavy cardboard and covered with silver and gilt, or even colored paper, and cornucopias of bright colors filled with candy and popcorn are very pretty.

Form cotton batting into balls the size of an orange and cover with orange-colored crepe paper, twist tightly and tie to the tree with a bit of narrow ribbon. These are pretty on the tree and look like oranges.

It is best to place all the larger packages under the tree, tying only the smaller gifts which are tied up in bright-colored paper to the branches. In this way the tree will not look frayed and denuded when the gifts are distributed, and it may be kept a long time for the children to enjoy.

USE OF EVERGREENS.

The use of evergreens at Christmas time is older than the Christmas tree, the Christians seeming to have copied it from their pagan ancestors. In a very old book we find this reference to the use of evergreens at Christmas time: "Against the feast of Christmas every man's house, as also their parish churches, were decked with holme, ivy, bayes, and whatsoever the season of the year afforded to be green. The conduits and standards of the streets were likewise garnished; among which I read that in the year 1414, by tempest of thunder and lightning, toward the morning of Candlemas day, at the Leadenhall, in Cornhill, a standard of tree, being set up in the midst of the pavement, fast in the ground, nailed full of holme and ivy, for disport of Christmas to the people, was torn up and cast down by the malignant spirit (as was thought), and the stones of the pavement all about were cast in the streets and into divers houses, so that the people were sore aghast at the great tempest."

HYMN FOR CHRISTMAS.

Oh! lovely voices of the sky
Which hymned the Savior's birth,
Are ye not singing still on high,
Ye that sang "Peace on earth?"
To us yet speak the strains
Wherewith in time gone by
Ye blessed the Syrian swains,
Oh! voices of the sky!

Oh! clear and shining light whose beams
That hour heaven's glory shone,
Around the palms and o'er the streams,
And on the shepherd's head,
Be near, through life and death,
As in that holiest night
Of hope and joy and faith—
Oh! clear and shining light!
—Felicia Hemans.

A Rather Vague Order.
A Wisconsin boy wrote to Santa Claus as follows: "I would like a air rifle, a pair of Indianapolis a mouth organ a christmas tree and some candy and nuts that is all a game of checkers for." It's a little vague, but we hope Santa will be able to fill the order.

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