

Carol Singing Is Dying Out

THE custom of carol singing out of doors at Christmas time seems to be dying out.

This is a great pity, for carols are a branch of folk music, the unconscious art of the peasant mind, a heritage of inestimable worth.

In many English villages there are carols peculiar to themselves, to be jealously guarded and retained for their use.

The Christmas carol dates from the birth of Christianity itself, the angels having sung their carols at the birth of Jesus Christ.

Among the early Christians carols were sacred hymns representing Christ's nativity.

Now the name is given to a variety of popular metrical compositions from the simple record of the birth of our Lord to rude wail songs and rymes of holiday revelry.

Probably no Christmas would seem complete without the well-known and popular hymn, "Hark! the Herald Angels Sing."

The word carol, which originally meant a dance, is thought to have come into our language either from the Norman French carole or from the Celtic carol.

In 1822 Davies Gilbert published "some ancient Christmas carols, with the tunes to which they were formerly sung in the west of England." In his preface he declared himself to be desirous "of preserving them in their actual forms, as specimens of times now passing away, and of religious feelings now superseded by others of a different caste."

Of late years some of the churches—chiefly in the larger cities—have held "Christmas carol services" during the Christmas season. This is an excellent movement, and might profitably be taken up by churches all over the country. Certainly if the churches can restore this old custom it will add to the enjoyment of the season.

France is exceptionally rich in carols, which are often drinking songs as in many European countries. We find many French carols translated into English, no doubt as a result of the intercourse which existed between dwellers on either side of the channel, in the days when English youths often pursued their studies in France.

There is a great deal of discussion as to which is the most popular carol.

While it is impossible to name the favorite, there can be little doubt of the universal appeal of "God rest ye, merry gentlemen," whose plaintive melody has touched a chord in the popular mind. Among modern compositions may be mentioned, "The Shepherds Left Their Sheep," by Alfred Hollins. Mr. Hollins is blind, but this affliction has not prevented him from becoming one of the finest organists and composers in Britain.

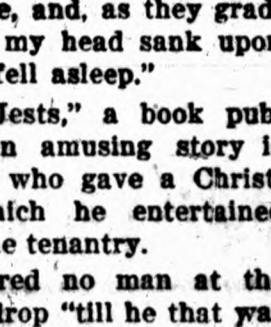
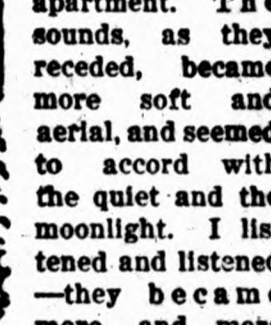
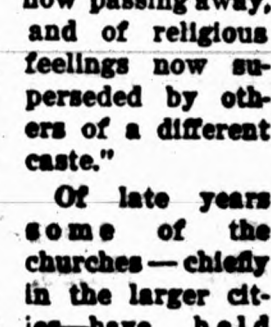
Washington Irving in his famous "Sketch Book" introduces us to most old English customs which have become immortal, attended the Christmas festival. Of his first night at the Hall he says:

"I scarcely got into bed when the music seemed to break through the air just below the window, and I listened, and found it proceeded from a band, which I concluded were the waits from some neighboring village. They went around the house playing under the windows. I pulled aside the curtains, to hear more distinctly. The moon shone through the upper part of the window, partially lighting up the antiquated apartment. The sounds, as they receded, became more soft and aerial, and seemed to accord with the quiet and the moonlight. I listened and listened—they became more and more tender and remote, and, as they gradually died away, my head sank upon the pillow and I fell asleep."

In Pasquill's "Jests," a book published in 1604, an amusing story is told of a knight who gave a Christmas feast at which he entertained his friends and the tenantry.

The host ordered no man at the table to drink a drop "till he that was master over his wife should sing a carol." A pause ensued and then one poor male, more daring than the others, timidly lifted his lonely voice.

The knight then turned to the ladies, who sat at a table apart, and "bade her who was master over her husband," sing a carol. The legend says that forthwith "the women fell all to singing, that there was never heard such a catter-walling piece of music."



SENATOR DIAL WARNS ELECTORS

Says They Should Watch Current Proposals for Reduction of Southern Representation.

Washington, Dec. 12.—Senator Dial of South Carolina, in a statement today, said that Southern people would do well to give more than their usual notice to current proposals for the reduction of Southern representation in congress, especially as the threat of such action is now complicated with other issues, among them the contest over the seating of Senator Newberry, of Michigan. Senator Dial said:

"Our people should strengthen their electorate and look generally to their election machinery, not take it for granted, as they have heretofore, that the recurrent demands for investigation will amount to nothing. The resolution of the senator from New Hampshire, Mr. Moses, which is now pending, provides for investigation, not only of the laws governing the elections, with a view to ascertaining whether in any state the right of citizens of the United States to vote is denied or abridged and that 'if it shall be found that representation in the electoral college and the national house of representatives is enlarged through such denial or abridgment,' the committee shall recommend to congress such legislation as will reduce the representation in such state or states." But the Moses resolution provides also that the joint committee of five senators and five representatives shall "take into consideration all conditions under which the suffrage is exercised, denied or abridged, no less than the law themselves under which it is done" and shall "report its conclusions to the congress not later than July 1, 1920."

"Partisan purpose and prejudice would seem to be inferable in the outset from the fact that the author of the resolution specifically requested, in presenting the measure, that it be referred to the committee on privileges and elections. Now it so happens and probably not by chance, that not one Southern senator has a seat in that committee. Vice President Marshall promptly and properly referred it to the committee on the judiciary. That committee includes senators from North Carolina, Georgia, Tennessee and Texas, although of course, it has a majority membership of Republicans. We also have ample assurance that if ordered the investigation, coming as it will in a presidential campaign, will be of a partisan character, for the resolution provides that the five members from the upper branch shall be appointed by the president of the senate and the five representatives by the speaker of the house, and in accordance with congressional practice the majority party will have majority representation in both groups.

"We may expect that if investigation of the Newberry election is pressed by the Democrats, the Moses resolution will be pressed by the Republicans and the more vigorously because the measure would be accounted a strong bid for negro support of the Republican party in the presidential campaign.

"Southern senators and congressmen have from time to time through many years endeavored to awaken our people to the importance of qualifying as electors and generally preparing to carry at the polls in general elections the nominations made in their primaries. All that they have said heretofore has special point and urgency now."

PRESIDENT WON'T COMPROMISE TREATY

Washington, Dec. 14.—President Wilson today intervened in the peace treaty dilemma with an announcement that he had "no compromise or concession of any kind in mind," would make no move toward the treaty's disposition and would continue to hold the Republican members of the senate responsible for results and conditions attending delay.

The President's position, regarded as peculiarly significant in view of the recent discussion in the senate of a compromise, was set forth in the following statement issued today from the White House:

"It was learned from the highest authority at the executive offices today that the hope of the Republican leaders of the senate that the President would presently make some move which will relieve the situation with regard to the treaty is entirely without foundation; he has no compromise or concession of any kind in mind, but intends so far as he is concerned that the Republican leaders of the senate shall continue to bear the undivided responsibility for the fate of the treaty and the present condition of the world in consequence of that

fate." The White House statement apparently had no effect in changing the treaty situation. Democratic leaders, endorsing the President's view, declared that it did not preclude a senate compromise and that compromise efforts would proceed. Republican leaders reiterated that the President was responsible for the present status and must make the first move toward a solution. Senators hoping to kill the treaty alone expressed satisfaction.

On one point only, apparently were all senate actions in harmony,—namely, that decisive action on the treaty probably would be deferred until next month, after the proposed holiday recess of congress, planned to end January 5. Senate debate probably centered about the White House statement is expected to be reopened tomorrow with fresh vigor. The Democratic compromise campaign also is to be passed, according to Senator Hitchcock, of Nebraska, administration leaders, but unless some unexpected development this week ensues, the leaders believe the final cannot be reached until next month.

Senator Hitchcock, commenting on the White House statement declared that the members would continue efforts for compromising the reservations and that the senate and not the President must act first.

"The President says the whole matter is in the hands of the senate and I agree with him," said Mr. Hitchcock. "The President says he has no compromise or concession to make. That is for the senate. We are ready to negotiate at any time and will continue to seek a compromise between the Lodge reservations and those offered last November."

Senator Hitchcock declared positively that the Democrats never would consent to ratification of the treaty without the league of nations and would not accept the plan offered yesterday by Senator Knox, Republican, Pennsylvania, to ratify the peace terms and leave the league questions for decision by the voters.

Senator Lodge of Massachusetts and other prominent Republicans reserved public comment on the White House statement, but the republican viewpoint indicated beyond doubt, was that the President must continue to be held responsible for the deadlock and until he acts the treaty must remain at a standstill, probably until January at least.

Senator Borah, of Idaho, Republican member of the foreign relations committee and prominent among the treaty's implacable foes, in a statement tonight charged that large financial interests were engaged in propaganda favoring a senate compromise and also propose to keep the treaty and the league from being passed on by the people during the ensuing presidential campaign.

To the President's contention that the senate majority is responsible for conditions resulting from delay, Republican leaders pointed to the objections of yesterday of Senator Hitchcock to the Knox resolution proposing ratification of the treaty so far as it would affect peace with Germany and postponement of action on the league of nations.

The Knox resolution, which may be pressed anew this week, is sure to receive Senator Hitchcock's most determined opposition.

"It is utterly out of the question, absolutely impossible," said the Nebraska senator, adding that the basis of compromise must be the Lodge reservations and the five he proposed as substitutes.

Questioned regarding the future course toward a compromise Senator Hitchcock said:

"The Lodge reservations are in the senate, ours are there also. We are willing to discuss a compromise at any time."

You are earnestly invited to attend church services of the William Plumer Jacobs Memorial Congregation Commercial Club Rooms at 11 a. m., Sunday Dec. 21st.

Rev. E. C. Bailey of Edgefield, S. C., a minister well known and much liked by many Clintonians, a graduate of the Presbyterian College, has been invited to preach.

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