Cat's Paw

Or, The Maid of the Mill

CHAPTER XII.

Norah, drawing a full breath of the pure, cool night air, that played and looking round in admiration on It seemed a different world from the ball-room, and would have been

soothing and reassuring in the kind- young friend's demeanour, and hav- his close-cropped head in an access

Norah feit the influence of these male Brown. and seated himself by her side.

in his intercourse with young ladies. without consequence and admiration found it answer. Perhaps, after all, bonhomie, and a frankness bordering same monotonous voiceon eccentricity. At any rate, he began in his usual strain-

"How kind of you, Miss Welby, to come and sit quietly with an old gentleman in an ice-house when you might be dancing forty miles an hour with a young one in an oven. Dandy Burton, or whatever his name is-the man with the shirt-frontmust hate me pretty cordially. That's another conquest, Miss Welby: and so is his friend, the fat one. You spare none of us. Old and young! No quarter. No forgiveness. Let me put your cup down!'

"I like the fat one best," she answered, smiling, while she gave him

He moved away to place it in safety, and she did not fail to notice with gratitude that he kept his back turned while he proceeded-

"The other's the flower of them all, Miss Welby, to my fancy, and I am very glad I was able to do him a turn. He got his commission. you know, the very day you left Marston. I should think he must have joined by now. I dare say he is hard at work at the goose-step al-

When he looked at her again, he had brightened that she heard this intelligence for the first time. He observed, with inward satisfaction, that there could have been no interchange of correspondence; and reflecting that young ladies seldom read the papers very diligently, or interest themselves in gazettes, was able to appreciate the value of the news What was the use of counting hours that is sometimes worth more than recipe is well worth trying. are usually interrupted by a knock at adhesive force of sacrifice. The famhe had just communicated.

Norah preserved her self-command, as, whatever may be their weakness under physical pressure, the youngest and simplest woman can in a moral emergency. It was unspeakable relief to learn there was a reason for his past neglect and present non-appearance; but she felt on thorns of anxiety to hear where he had gone, what he was doing, when there would be a chance of seeing him again; and therefore she answered in a calm, cold voice that by no means deceived her companion-

"I never heard a word of it! I am very glad for Mr. Ainslie's sake. I believe he was exceedingly anxious to get his commission. Oh! Mr. Vandeleur, how kind of you to in- | Few places could perhaps be less terest vourself about him!"

not have stood in the way of his studying his part by an individual success: no, not to have seen him whose exterior denoted he could beevery day, and all day long. And long to no other profession than that now, while she felt it might be years of an actor. As the man stood gesbefore they would meet again, there ticulating on the landing, he appearwas vet a pleasure in talking of ed unconscious of everything in the him, after the suspense and uncer- world but the character it was his tainty of the last three days, that purpose to assume. Fanny Draper, threw a reflected glow of interest dodging out of a small, humblyeven on the person to whom she furnished bedroom, was somewhat could unbosom herself. Next to startled by the energy with which Geward, though a long way off, and this enthusiast threw himself at her papa, of course, she felt she liked feet, and seizing her hand in both Mr. Vandeleur better than anybody, his own, exclaimed with alarming He read her like a book, and con- vehemence-

tinued to play the same game. to know about him," said he, keep- Rinaldo is your devoted slave? He ing his eyes, according to custom, loves ye; he worships ye; he lives in averted from her face. "The others your glances; he dies beneath are all very well, but Ainslie is real- your-" ly a promising lad, and some day, "Lor, Mr. Bruff," exclaimed Fan-Miss Welby, you and I will be proud ny, "why, how you go on! I declare of him. But he's only reached the love-making seems never to be out of foot of the ladder yet, and it takes your head." a long time to get to the top. Come, Mr. Bruff, thus adjured, rose, not Miss Welby, your tea has done you very nimbly, to his feet, and assumgood. You're more like yourself ing, with admirable versatility, what again; and do you know that is a he believed to be the air of a man very becoming dress you have got of consummate fashion, apologized on? I wish I was young enough to for the eccentricity of his demeanour. dance with you, but I'm not, so I'll "Madam," said he, "I feel that Then the last page was crossed high living don't hurt the turkey family.

watch you instead. It's no compli-"This is delightful!" exclaimed ment to you to say you're very good

"I am glad you think so," she answered, quitting his arm at the help." through the roomy conservatory, door of the dancing-room; and he the quaintly-twisted pillars, the in- ly fancy, that she had leaned heavlaid pavement, the glittering foun- ier on it while they returned. At tain, and the painted lanterns hang- any rate, Vandeleur betook himself ing amongst broad-leafed tropical to the society of his other guests, plants and gorgeous flowers. It by no means dissatisfied with the you," said he. "A little farther off, progress he had made.

essentially pleasing to women, and fided them to her neighbor, Mrs. while he wiped the dust from his

brought her the promised tea, dis- "I've found out something. Mr. infinitely more true, than nature itposed her chair out of the draught, Vandeleur will marry again; -you self." without impertinence. Perhaps he face fell when Lady Baker, whose im- stood."

> thinks it's time to reform. I hope joicing to the adjacent tavern. he will, I'm sure. She's giddy and Fanny must, indeed, have been a fitted a tiny trefoil cloth, sprinkled

though in a guarded whisper.

commenced on cold chicken and room dorr.

ure, the excitement was over, and noxious reptile. now, when years would intervene be- all the gold and silver in the counfore she should look on his frank try. How we thirst for them to aryoung face, hear his kind, melodious rive! How blank our faces, and

of sympathy and the force of asso- ted for a day.

CHAPTER XIII.

adapted for a private rehearsal than "We are all interested in him, I the staircase of a lodging-house in think. Miss Welby," he answered a provincial town. A provincial with a meaning smile. "I told you town enlivened only by a theatre long ago I thought he had the mak- open for six weeks of the year, and ings of a man about him. Well, he rejoicing in the occasional presence has got a fair start. We won't lose of the depot from which a marching sight of him, any of us; but you regiment on foreign service drew its know he must follow up his profes- supplies of men and officers. Nevertheless, this unpromising locality had She knew it too well, and would been selected for the purpose of

"Adorable being, has not your "I thought you would be pleased heart long since apprised ye that

comedy. My exterior will doubtless glad to get it all the same." suggest to you that I am-eh? what | Fanny's smile was not pleasant |

square figure, a tightly-buttoned while she placed the letter in an en- means all of Christian origin, in so coat, a close-chaved face, marked velope, sealed it carefully, and directian as the ceremonies and festivities with deep lines, and illumined by a ted it to John Vandeleur, Esq., are concerned. In fact, many of In England a very important sym- is very undesirable. When ready for

While she spoke she looked anxiousfancied, though it was probably on- ly along the passage, as though aafraid of observation. Mr. Bruff at once became Rinaldo

to the core.

"Stand there, madam, I beg of if you please. Head turned some- In a handsome set of linen the ing; while in the northern countries of Purchase and a softening glance. In the rural life slices of fat salt pork over the And North embarked on the intri- what away, and a softening glance. tablecloth was round and of pale its celebration has a more domestic of Russia, Christmas evening is an breast. Put in a very hot oven and its celebration has a more domestic of Russia, Christmas evening is an breast. Put in a very hot oven and its celebration has a more domestic of Russia, Christmas evening is an breast. At support wound the sputtering begins. A 10-pound

trousers, and the perspiration from qualities to their full extent while he "My dear." said her ladyship, his face, was "more touching, and

mark my words. And he's made his "You were born to be an actress," Then he led the conversation gra- choice in this very room to-night." said he; "and I shall take care that plers in their quaint form and colordually to the news she most desired Mrs. Brown, a lady of mature you have box-orders every night ing. The execution of this piece of to hear. It was Vandeleur's habit years, with rather a false smile, and while our company remains. It is a work was extraordinarily assured to affect a good-humored superiority very false teeth, showed the whole pleasure to know, even in such emp- and free. of them, well-pleased, for she owned ty houses as these, that there is one Wistaria figured on a set which as of a man who was so much their a marriagable daughter, at that person to whom a man can play and would make a most engaging presenior that he might profess interest moment flirting egregiously with feel that his efforts are appreciated, sent. Nightdress, tie, handkerchief Vandeleur, in the same room: but her and the niceties of his calling under- and glove cases, in palest linen with

> "He might do worse, and he might professed libertinism with the dig- the charming scheme. do better. He's done some foolish nity of a stage nobleman, siecle A little invalid tray, shamrock things in his life, and perhaps he Louis Quatorze, and went his way re- shaped had a woven shamrock-green

> flighty, no doubt; but I dare say it's good actress. No sooner was he with the leaf that brings luck. the best thing for him, after all!" gone than her whole face fell, and on and hardened round her mouth, too, its fresh rosy beauty came that anx- ions" in art linen, oblong in shape, have doubts about her daughter's lous look it is so painful to see in the countenances of the young-the "Who is it? and how d'ye know?" look that is never there unless the she demanded rather austerely, conscience be ill at ease-the look of a wounded, weary spirit dissatisfied a notebook or journal or engagement "It's Norah Welby, and I heard with itself. She waited on the landhim ask her," replied Lady Baker, ing for a minute or two, listening inrecklessly, and in an audible voice. tently, then stole downstairs, glided "Poor girl! I pity her!" said the along the passage on tip-toe and other, touching her forehead, as she with a pale cheek and beating heart passed into the supper-room and turned the handle of the sitting-

The apartment was empty, and from the brougham window on the few minutes by the post. She dinner or tea.

voice? Her eyes filled and ran over, how dull our hearts, when they fail there was but one spark of light, in able for a hundred possibilities of while hot over the sponge cake and Besides Scandinavia and Iceland, than hostile competition, the all the sorrow but one grain of con- accident! And with what a reaction nuts, etc. When cold, sprinkle a England has most faithfully preserv- flags will be firled and

her long, either for good or evil, and and spoil. there was a very resolute look about her eyes and mouth ere she was half way through the second perusal. Had it reached its rightful owner, I think it would have been covered with kisses and laid next to a warm, impulsive, wayward, but loving heart. It was a production, too, that might have been read aloud at Charing Cross without prejudice to the writer's modesty and fair fame. Here

"Dear Mr. Ainslie,-I have to thank you for your letter in papa's flame and my own. He was very much pleased to hear you had joined your regiment, and we all wish you every success and happiness in your new profession. We were disappointed not to see you before you left Mr. Archer, who always speaks of you as his favorite pupil; and, indeed. had no idea, when we went to London, that you were going to leave cur neighborhood so soon. We should certainly have put off our journey for a day or two had we thought we were not even to bid you good-bye. But you know you have our very best wishes for your welfare. I will give your message to papa, and shall be so glad to hear again if we can be of any service to you here. Even if you have nothing very particular to say, you may find time to send us a few lines. Your favorite roses are not yet faded, and I gathered some this morning, which are standing on my writing-table now. Goodbye, dear Mr. Ainslie, with kindest regards from us all, believe me ever,

"Yours very truly, "Leonora Welby. "Marston Rectory, Sept. -th."

on this, as on former occasions, (quite unnecessarily, for there was your penetration will distinguish be- plenty of space below the signature) tween the man and his professional with two lines,-"I think I have avocations. I am now engrossed written you a letter as correct and with the part of a lover in genteel proper as your own, but I was so

shall I say?—not exactly disqualified when she concluded this harmless effusion. It deepened and hardened "Fanny glanced at his exterior-a Mrs. Brown, assenting, began to from diverse sources and are by Oakover, shire; but it left her them antedate the religion of Christ. bol of decoration is the mistletoe. the operation singe the bird, remove She laughed and shook her head. face very grave and sad, under a In the countries of Romanic descent It is customary for every young man pin feathers and wash. The goose "Don't keep me long then, Mr. smart little bonnet and double black the Roman Saturnalia has left dis- to try to bring his beloved under the needs, literally, a bath in hot soap-Bruff, and don't make love to me in veil, while she walked stealthily to tinct traces. This great festival in mistletoe, where he is allowed to suds and a scrubbing, too, with a carnest, please, more than you can the post-office and dropped her mis- honor of the Roman God of Agricul- kiss her. For this custom we are vegetable brush. Then draw, which sive in the box.

(To be continued.) LINEN PRESENTS.

Linen.

here!

"I am glad you like it. Miss Wel
"I am gla by," said Vandeleur, with a flattering emphasis on the pronoun. "Now ing emphasis on the pronoun. "Now in the pronoun in the pronounce in the pronoun in the pronoun in the pronoun in the pronoun in the pronounce in the sit down, while I get you some tea, idly. After all, was she not young, once more to begin it all over again. Among a bewildering collection of were found in Iceland. The customs

dance again directly I see more col- fond of dancing? She put off reflective some very pretty table centres. A from northern myths were by and by follows in which the adults transor in your face. I take good care tien, misgivings, sorrow, memories, that she had thus served as a lay delightful one in pale coral lines partly amalgamated through the form themselves into cows, pigs, and pany roast goose. Then garnish the and regrets, till the ball was over figure, so to speak, for the prosecu- had applied poppies in a convention- mixture of peoples, but still every other animals in remembrance of the Christmas goose with stuffed apples "You do, indeed!" she answered at last. Lady Baker, dull as she tion of Mr. Bruff's studies in his art. al design, their dull green leaves on- country has its own peculiar ceregratefully, for the wounded, anxious might be, was yet sufficiently a wo- She sneered, she flouted, she bridled, framing the irregular edge as if they monies of Christmas, heart there was something both man to notice the change in her she languished, and finally bent over had been real flowers laid upon it. A cot cover was carried out in the

ly manner and frank, manly voice. ing seen her come from the conserva- of tenderness relieved by a flood of same materials and hues, but in a A certain latent energy, a suppress- tory on their host's arm, not only tears, with an air of passionate re- different pattern; here the pointed ed power. lurked about Vandeleur, drew her own conclusions, but con- ality that, as Mr. Bruff observed leaves met over the poppies' heads like cherub's wings. Another natural flower idea was a tablecloth strewn with multi-colored sweet peas. A pair of splendid portieres were

carried out on linen in flax thread in a beautiful bold design of oldfashioned flowers, suggestive of sam-

the beautiful creeper gracefully empartial obtuseness spared neither Then Mr. Bruff lifted his hat with broidered in the silk-like flax thread. it was but the result of an inherent friend nor foe, continued in the an air combining, as he was persu- A flax lace woven to combine tints aded, the roistering demeanour of of the various shades used completed

> border, and into the tray itself The little traveling "twin pincushwith a flap of linen, containing needles folded over the top, embroidered with hemstitched frills and fitted up, make dainty presents, and book is bound in red linen, embroid-

> > NUT DAINTIES.

ered gayly in green clover leaves.

CHRISTMAS **CUSTOMS**

Christmas celebrations are drawn ture, Saturn, was celebrated in old indebted to Scandinavian mythology. is removing the contents of the in-Rome every December. Children and The plant was dedicated to the god- side. What comes next? Wash slaves were overwhelmed with pre- dess Friga. It was the emblem of and rinse in clear, cold water, then sents, and merriment reigned in every love, and everyone who passed under wipe just as dry as possible. Now form for a whole week. Southern it received a kiss. Europe and Spanish and Portuguese Colored Embroidery on Colored America have retained Christmas a joyful one, a time of public rejoic- in Russia. The emperors mostly a dripping pan and lay six thin

Paradise, if only Gerard had been cacies of the "Lancers," under the Could you manage a softening blue linen, inserted with medallions character. It is a home and family and old assemble forming a process goose will take about one hour and and I'll give you leave to go and handsome, well-dressed, admired, and Fanny threw herself into the part. examples of fine stitchery are shown derived from Saturnalia and those

YULETIDE.

ined the sun to be like a wheel. the old symbol of plenty. of Europe. They are thrown into a the "Reveillon" into many courses, room and packed in a mysterious reaching home for the last cup erally accompany each bundle direct- is a common French custom. The

ing the presents from one person to children receive their presents hidden another. This peculiar usage is de- in these like the Roman children at rived from the mysterious manner in the time of the Saturnalia. The Prowhich the sun god gave his pre- vencals in the south of France venersents, i. e., the flowers, the green ate the Yulelog called there "Cacho grass and the leaves. Therefore, the flo." green decoration is still in use for Christmas. Also the Christmas tree is derived from early sources. It is of right a fir tree because this remains always green. It symbolizes Gift. It inspired the anthem of eternal spring. Christmas applied peace and good-will. Hatred and to it the worship of Christ , because strife are not provoked by giving. through Him eternal spring began They come from self-seeking. Alexanfor humanity. The candles signify der wept because he had no more

world with Christ. In Scandinavia there is, probably, men rather than to his own glory the greatest veneration for Yuletide he would have rejoiced at the opporof all countries. The courts are tunity for helpfulness that his posi-Salad : An equal quantity of celery closed, old quarrels forgotten, feuds tion afforded. cut into small pieces (or part apples adjusted. A pretty symbol of the The basis of happiness is giving if celery cannot be got), and English spirit that reigns is the practice of rather than receiving. The philosowalnuts broken into little pieces, placing in a row every pair of shoes phies, ancient and modern, more or She pitied herself, poor Norah, an Fanny drew breath. On the table mixed with a smooth mayonnaise in each household, so that during the less dimly recognize this fundamental hour afterwards, looking blankly out lay a letter that had arrived but a dressing, makes a delicious salad for year the family will live in peace truth. One of the last century's and harmony. Candles are left burn- philosophical novelists said the dismal grey of the summer's morn- pounced upon it, and fled upstairs Preserved Walnuts; To every 20 ing to show the way to Yule there could be no perfect happiness ing. Papa was fast asleep in his as noiselessly, but far more quickly green walnuts allow half lb. sugar. Trumpte (the Christmas Spirit), who without complete self-forgetfulness. corner, satisfied with his victory than she came down. Then she lock- Pierce nuts with a needle and put brings the gifts. One sets a cake The Nirvana of the Buddhist is such over the Greek particle, and thor- ed the door, and tore open the en- them into stone jar with the sugar. of meal in the snow as a Christmas complete absorption in things outhad enjoyed her dance. The pleas- who destroys some venomous or ob- boiling water and allow it to con- wheat is placed on a pole in front of thought of self. A certain rich man seemed so strange, so blank, so sad, later, had the post been delayed, had jar. The sugar when dissolved to take a regular meal on the 24, wealth to the needy. could see by the way her whole face to leave one of these festive gath- an accident happened to the mail- should cover the walnuts. When although baking and cooking begin All this is well known, if one only begin to leave one of these festive gath- an accident happened to the mail- should cover the walnuts. erings, and not to have danced with train, my story would never have done, tie down and in six months about four weeks before. On the stops to recall it. The secret of Gerard, not even to have seen him; been written. Ah! these little bits the preserve will be ready for use. day of the celebration, at noon, the happiness was disclosed when the worse than all, to have no meeting of paper, what destines they carry Considering the medicinal properties whole household will assemble in first mother gave birth to the first or the result will not be satisfactory. in anticipation at which she could about with them, under their trim of the walnuts when preserved, it is the kitchen and dip a piece of bread child. Her joy consisted not in the the hand, otherwise it is impossible tell him how she had missed him, envelopes and their demure, neatly- a wonder it is not more generally in the ham broth. Then everybody pleasure of possession, but in the to incorporate the ingredients thorfor which she could long and count written addresses! We stick a pen- prepared. For a young child one has to prepare again for the Yule- opportunity for devotion. The world the hours as she used to do when ny stamp on their outside, and that walnut is a sufficient purgative, and klapp and the great suppor following. is held together not by the cohesive pudding made a day or two in ad-

solation. Strangely enough, or ra- of tenderness returns the flow of an little cinnamon or pink confectioner's ed the custom of Yulelog. It is a earth shall slumber, lapt in univers ther, perhaps, according to the laws affection that has been thus obstruc- sugar over custard. When making massive piece of wood, usually the law." custard be sure to boil milk first; rugged root of an oak, which is kept | Giving is the impelling force of prociation, that light, that solace seem- Fanny read the letter over more then pour over well beaten eggs, re- burning at Christmas time for twelve gress. The man who sits in his ed to identify themselves with the than once. The first time her face turn to fire, stirring constantly un- days. A piece is kept for the fol- office reaching out after power and presence and companionship of Mr. took the leaden, ashy hue of the til it thickens like cream. Let fire lowing year. It was first lit in wealth for their own sake does not be til it thickens like cream. dead; but her courage seldom failed be slow, for if it boils it will curdle honor of the heathen sun god, then advance himself, but pulls wealth the custom was transferred to signi- power back to him. On the

THE HIGHER THE BETTER.

Mr. Meleagris Gallovapo-My dear, this is one month of the year when

fy the Eternal Light. The log is drawn in triumph from its resting place amid shouts of laughter, every wayfarer doffing his hat as it passes. Formerly the minstrels hauled, with song and music. This is an example of the old Yule song :-

> Part must be kept wherewith to tend The Christmas log next yeare, And where 'tis safety kept the fiend Can do no mischief there.

ST. NICHOLAS.

"Kolenda," which means begging for the pork, if you please, the last half money or presents. A masquerade hour of the cooking. Nativity in the manger. In the en surprise and a few bits of laurel. evening supper is served on a table | Chestnut Stuffing-To make the covered with straw. The feast be- dressing, cook one-half tablespoon gins by dividing the blessed water. finely chopped shallot with three The customs of Scandinavia and An old Christmas custom in Russia tablespoons butter five minutes; then Iceland rely most distinctly on the is to singe a boar. An old woman, add one-fourth pound sausage meat. old northern myths. The celebration a man and a boy execute that func- Sausage first freed from their outof the solstice was a great festival in tion. The gold bristled animal is side skin and cook two minutes; add olden times. For a long time it symbolic of light. Bringing in the 12 finely chopped mushrooms and was believed that the year stood still boar's head was formerly an elabor- one cup chestnut purce. Season with at the solstice. With it began again ate ceremony during the Christmas salt and pepper and add one-half the reign of Freyr, the sun god. The day repast at all mansions of the tablespoon finely chopped parsley. Yuletide, the Scandinavians call wealthy-Queen Victoria kept up this Heat to boiling point, add one-half Christmas, "Yul' means wheel. The always. The boar appears on Christ- cup fresh bread crumbs and 24 whole old inhabitants of Scandinavia imag- mas Day, with a lemon in his mouth cooked French chestnuts. This may

"Yuleklapp" signifies the clapping of In France we find a mixture of var- needs to be cold when it is put into the wheels and the expression is still jous customs. The up-to-date Pariin use for the manner in which the sian divides his Christmas dinner, ing, but one wants to have the best presents are distributed in the north taking each at a different place and manner, so that nobody can guess coffee at breakfast time. The hangwhat the contents are. Verses gen- ing up of stockings Christmas night

THE BASIS OF HAPPINESS.

Christmas is the anniversary of eternal light, which came into the worlds to conquer. Had he devoted himself to the happiness of his fellow

oughly persuaded that his darling velope with the cruel gesture of one Stand the jar in a deep saucepan of offering; for the birds a sheaf of side of self as to leave no room for tinue boiling steadily for three hours each house to provide them with once sought the recipe for happiness, en, and salt to taste. Turn into a now the reaction had begun. It Had she been but half an hour taking care water does not get into food. The family itself has no time and the Teacher told him to give his thickly floured cloth, tie securely and

every minute brought it nearer yet. modest insurance covers a freight a safer one than drugs. This simple After this games are played. They power of public plunder, but by the Pudding: Mince one lb. walnuts, the door. Four or five boys dressed ily persists because all nature con- Garnish the pudding with sprays one lb. blanched almera and one in white enter. One carries a star- spires for the protection of the young holly well laden with its bright. lb. seeded raisins. Mix thoroughi, shaped lantern and another an orna- through the devotion of the old. The berries and a hard sauce ornay together. Crumble a rich sponge menter or containing two dolls, the state continues because that mater- with candied cherries. cake and mix with above ingredients. Virgin and the Christ child. The nal instinct sometimes called patrio- third cup brandy, which r but papa was fast asleep, so what us! How bitter we are, how unkind Sweeten to taste. Then make a boys sing Christmas can is. After- tism impels to its defense. And good quality, did it signify? She was so lonely, and unjust towards the guiltless corplain boiled custard with 2 eggs, ward appear masked performer; who when the family of nations recognize ding and one pt. milk, sweetened, and pour do tricks and play pantomines.

hand the giver of that which is drawn forward by attraction of hi This is th It is

all creeds and of he at the basis of ethics as we

ing this bird for

wish to enjoy

without any afti,

THE XMAS GOOSE. Here is a very useful him

over-greasiness. cool place catch the

main thy cooking free from will be as turkey.

"Jagway election, didn't he-"No, he lost considera-"Why, he told me he had ten bets ! and he won them all."

"Yes, each bet was for a bottle of were emp whiskey, and so he lost two weeks' lage pay-and his job almost.".

Christmas Dinner...

£466666666666666666666666666666

Roast Goose.-A goose should be carefully dressed for roasting, or it is the goose is ready for the stuffing and trussing and sprinkling with salt St. Nicholas is especially venerated and pepper. Then put on a rack in

> be done a day in advance, for it the bird. This is an expensive stuffon Christmas day.

> Stuffed Apples en Surprise-Core and cut in eights eight apples, put in stewpan with one-half cup maple syrup, one cup sweet cider, two slices cut from a lemon, one-quarter teaspoon salt, one tablespoon butter and a few gratings of nutmeg; then cook until soft. Cool, and fill shells made by taking a thick slice from stem end of bright red apples and scooping out inside. Cover with meringue made of whites of two eggs beaten stiff, two tablespoons powdered sugar and one teaspoon lemon juice. Place under gas flame of gas range to brown meringue.

Mushroom Sauce.-Melt three tablespoons butter, add a few drops onion juice and cook until slightly browned; then edd three and one-half tablespoor dour, one cup cream the water drained from cooking onehalf pound mushroom stems with enough more cream to make one-hall cup liquid. Season with salt and paprika and add one tablespoon meat extract. Add mushroom caps cut in slices and sauted in butter five

English Plum Pudding.-For this genuine English plum pudding mix six ounces flour, six ounces stale bread crumbs, three-quarters of a pound each seeded raisins and currants, three-quarters of a pound finely chopped suct, 10 ounces sugar. one cup molasses, three ounces candied orange peel, one teaspoon each ter. Keep the water boiling around the pudding vigorously for five hours oughly. It is well to have the vance, as it can be readily heated in