

END OF THE MISTLETOE

Who's Bough Was Responsible for Death of Balder, Son of Odin, an Old Story.

THE mistletoe, bough, according to an old Scandinavian legend, was responsible for the death of Balder, the son of Odin, and the God of Eloquence and Poetry.

But Loke, his deadly enemy, was determined to discover the secret of his invulnerability, and by judiciously flattery Friga, and praising the progress of her son, obtained from her the reason. But, she foolishly told him, there was one feeble little shoot she had not thought it necessary to invoke—the mistletoe.

The treacherous Loke immediately procured a branch of the mistletoe, and entering the assembly of gods presented an arrow made from it to blind Heda, with the words—"Balder is before thee. Shoot!" He shot and Balder fell, pierced and slain.

And countless thousands have since been "slain" and will be slain for ages to come with "darts" from the "mistletoe bough."

MYTHS OF CHRISTMAS SEASON

Among Some of Peasantry of France Is Belief That Bread Remains Fresh Ten Years.

LEGENDS and myths without number have become associated with the celebration of Christmas. Among some of the peasantry of France is a strong belief that loaves of bread baked at Christmas will remain fresh for ten years. It is also believed by some of the simple folk that during the whole of the Christmas holidays a portion of bread should be left on the table day and night because the Holy Mother may come to share it.

There is a peasant belief of age long standing that if the cattle on the farm be given drink immediately after the midnight mass of Christmas their health will continue good throughout the year. Another belief is that if seed of wheat be wrapped in a tablecloth which has been used for Christmas dinner, a profitable harvest will be assured. Another strange belief is that a cold bath taken on Christmas day will protect the bather against fevers and toothache throughout the year.

CHRISTMAS RIBBONS

IF CHRISTMAS ribbons could express themselves they would say that people were thrifty. For some ribbons claim to have been doing business every Christmas for many, many years. They are often pressed and made to look their best, but they're the same ones used again and again. However, if they could philosophize they would rejoice that they were the means of adding gaiety, color and cheer to Christmas packages year after year!

THE WILD BOAR'S HEAD FEAST

Animal of Woods in Early Days Provided One of the Most Popular Christmas Dishes.

IN MEDIEVAL England it was customary to commence all grand Christmas feasts by the solemn ceremony of bringing in the boar's head as the initial dish. The master cook, preceded by trumpeters and other men with bear spears and drawn falchions and pages carrying mustard, bore the smoking head aloft on a silver platter, which he deposited at the head of the table. The head was garnished and garlanded with rosemary and laurel, and a lemon, symbol of plenty, was placed between its grinning chops.

To the end of her life, Queen Victoria retained the ancient custom; also in many of the public schools and universities the boar's head is still the great dish of the Christmas banquet. On such occasions every diner rises and joins in the "Boar's Song," which has been sung for centuries. The words are set to the common chant of the prose version in cathedrals.

IT'S DIFFERENT NOW.

Lady: I suppose you wish Christmas came several times a year.

Willie: I need to till I get engaged to Millie.

The Merry Christmas. Ted Jenkins says that 'wishin' a merry Christmas and takin' time to provide him with a merry Christmas are two different things.



RECORD BREAKING YEAR FOR BUILDING OF HOMES

Wm. Zelosky, of Chicago Real Estate Board, Says "Yes—1923 to be Big Year."

A record breaking year for home building is forecast for 1923 by William Zelosky, vice-president in charge of the "Own Your Home" division of the Chicago Real Estate Board.

While statistics from all parts of the country show that residential building has established an unprecedented mark for 1922, indications are that this record will be exceeded in 1923.

"The Own Your Home Movement which has been gathering momentum for the past five years is now in full swing," said Mr. Zelosky, "and the residential building boom of the past year is only the forerunner of the greater boom that should follow next year, as a result of more stable conditions in the building industry."

"In Chicago for instance, permits have been issued since January 1, 1922 for erection of buildings housing 22,569 families. The number of individual homes is higher than for many years; but it will take several years of building, even at this rate to remedy the shortage of homes that exists as a result of the cessation of building during the war."

Under direction of Mr. Zelosky, the Chicago Real Estate Board is preparing to stage Chicago's greatest "Own Your Home" exposition and building show at the Coliseum, March 24 to 31, 1923. This will be not merely a Chicago show, but will be presented in cooperation with Evanston, Oak Park, Harvey, the North Shore, and DuPage county, through their respective real estate boards. More than 100 trade organizations and many civic bodies will also participate to further the Own Your Home movement. Exhibitors, representing all branches of the building industry are preparing educational exhibits to be displayed at the exposition.

GWEN GRIFFITHS SINGS AT CONG'L CHURCH SUNDAY

Judge Andrew A. Bruce Addressed a Large Audience Last Sunday Evening.

Miss Gwen Griffiths is to be the special soloist at the popular Sunday evening service at the Congregational church next Sunday night. This announcement will be glad news to her many friends who always enjoy her charming programs.

Last Sunday night, Judge Andrew A. Bruce, former Justice of the Supreme Court of South Dakota, spoke to the usual large audience on the subject "The Faith of America." Judge Bruce was born in India and spent several years in that country, after which his family moved back to England, where he resided until he emigrated to America. He spoke from the standpoint of a naturalized foreigner who had attained success and distinction in our land, and his discourse was greatly appreciated by those who were fortunate enough to hear him.

When the power of lightning strikes the highest earthly joy is equal to the will of the human soul to return to the earth—shedding.

DATE OF BIRTH OF CHRIST

Nothing Certain is Known as to Actual Time of Arrival of Child of the Manger.

IT IS a remarkable fact that nothing certain is known as to the actual date of the birth of Christ, Dec. 25 being only a tradition, adopted by the church about the middle of the Fourth century. Lupi, a learned Jesuit of the Eighteenth century, says:

"There is not a single month in the year to which the Nativity has not been assigned by some writer or other." The earliest celebration of Christmas on Dec. 25 appears to have been held in Rome in the Fourth century, being first mentioned in a Roman document, the Philocalian calendar, dating from the year 354, but containing an older record, referring to the year 336. Christmas was brought to England by St. Augustine, and kept in 598, but it would appear that it was not established in Germany until 813, and in Norway about the middle of the Tenth century, by King Hakon the Good.

The Romans of the empire used to celebrate the birth of the Unconquered Sun on Dec. 25, according to the Julian calendar, the winter solstice, when the sun began to rise in new vigor, after his autumnal decline. Therefore, the reason for the choice of Dec. 25 for Christmas would seem to have been symbolical.

CHRISTMAS AND GHOST TALES

Festival is Naturally Associated With Stories of Haunted Halls and Things Supernatural.

CHRISTMAS being celebrated in the depth of winter, when "lang's the neet frae e'en to morn," the festival is naturally associated with tales of haunted halls and "things" that are supernatural. Thus Dickens to his "Christmas Carol," gave us the Spirits of the Past, the Present, and the Future, but Christmas in mind, clothed each of them in a fascinating mantle of kindness, and sent them out on a message of merriness that made itself felt over all the earth. Over many a stony Scrooge have they cast their mellowing shades, teaching them to say:

"I will honor Christmas in my heart and try to keep it all the year. I will live in the Past, the Present, and the Future. The spirits of all three shall strive within me; I will not shut out the lessons that they teach."

Scrooge, concluded Dickens, "had no further intercourse with Spirits, but he was always said of him that he knew how to keep Christmas well, if any man alive possessed the knowledge. May that be truly said of us, and all of us! And so, as Tiny Tim observed, 'God bless us, every one.'"

Smoking in Church.

Smoking is common in South American churches. A visitor to Peru records that at a church in Lima he noticed one of the congregation enjoying a cigar during a service, while through an open door he caught a glimpse of a bishop, in full episcopal robes, indulging in the same luxury.

As Kathleen Saw It.

Mother (quoting neighbor's clever daughter to small child who has failed lamentably in a school examination):—"I can't think how you can be so stupid, Kathleen. Why look at little Marjorie Daniels. She has passed with honors." Kathleen (weeping):—"Yes, mummy, but you seem to forget that Marjorie Daniels has—London TIT-BITS.

ROYAL NEIGHBORS ELECTED OFFICERS LAST THURSDAY

Mrs. Mary Collier Selected as Oracle—Xmas Party is Next Thursday.

Honor Camp No. 3079, Royal Neighbors of America, held their annual election of officers last Thursday. The new officers are:

- Mrs. Mary Collier Oracle
- Mrs. Alice Stoudt Vice Oracle
- Mrs. Anna Hoffert Chancellor
- Miss Ellen Thomas Recorder
- Mrs. Charlotte Thomas Receiver
- Mrs. E. Leibundguth Inner Sentinel
- Mrs. G. Dressler Outer Sentinel
- Miss Clara Steffen Marshal
- Mrs. Frieda Schultz Musician
- Mrs. Straka and Schultz Managers
- Miss Steffen Pres. Booster Club

A TREAT COMING

A real Christmas Vesper service is to be held at the First M. E. church Sunday, December 24 at 4:30 p. m. There will be a good musical program given by a choir of 35 voices under the leadership of Mr. Thomas A. Pape. A Christmas message will be given by the pastor, Rev. Gilbert A. Newland.

- Mrs. Schultz Treasurer
 - Mrs. Story Juvenile Director
 - Mrs. Thomas Asst. Director
 - Mrs. Stoudt Camp Correspondent
- The next meeting of the Neighbors will be held Thursday, December 21. Members are urged to come as this will be the night for the Christmas party. Bring any article not to exceed twenty-five cents in value for the gift bag.

NEW MUSICAL CLUB FORMED

Students of Miss Vance Gummer, violin teacher, have formed a musical club. They are all residents of Downers Grove and Westmont and their common appreciation of music brings them together.

At the first meeting of the club last week, Miss Vance was selected as president and Miss Henrietta Byrnes, of Highland avenue, as secretary.

At the next meeting a permanent name for the organization will be selected. The study of music, is of course, the primary object of the young people getting together.

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