Tricks For the Christmas Party

A Clever Match Trick

The performer of this trick takes a match in each hand and rests the hands palm upward, on the table. Then he closes the hands and asks someone to place a match upon the closed fists. The performer then announces that he is able to pass the match from one hand to the other without opening his hands. He makes a rapid up-and-down movement of both hands. This causes the two visible matches to fall on the table, and he asks for them to be replaced on top of his knuckles. This is done, and another quick movement is made so as to cause the two exposed matches to fall into the hands. The performer then opens his hands and one hand is found to contain three matches and the other only one match. The secret of this trick is that when he let the two matches fall on the table they were not the two from top of the knuckles of each hand, but one from the knuckles and one from the palm of the same hand. The next movement caused one knuckle match to fall into the palm of the hand, so that, unseen by the audience, one palm contained two matches and the other was empty.

* * *

To Make a Needle Float

This sounds impossible, but it is easily performed as follows: Lay a needle on a cigarette paper and place it in a glass bowl of water. Carefully cause the paper to sink and the needle will remain floating.

* * *

To Lift a Man

It is possible to lift a man from the ground with five fingers. Two persons put their index fingers under the insteps of the person to be lifted, two others place a finger under each elbow, and a fifth puts his forefinger under the man's chin. At a given signal each person lifts his hand and the subject is raised from the ground.

* * *

Naming a Chosen Object

Three cards, apples or other objects are placed in a row on the table. The spectators are asked to choose one of the three while the performer is out of the room. Upon his return no one appears to make a sign, but the performer instantly names the chosen article. The trick is accomplished with the aid of a confederate who is smoking a cigar or cigarette. The confederate places his cigar in his mouth so that it designates the chosen article, being either at the left side, right side or centre of his mouth.

* * *

Catch the Coins

Two coins are placed on the back of the performer's right hand. The trick is to toss the coins in the air and to catch one at a time as they come down. If the coins are tossed straight up it will be almost impossible to catch them singly. The coins are tossed with an upward tilt of the hand, This causes the coin at the finger-tips to travel much higher than the other, and it will prove quite easy to grab them one at a time as they fall. With more practice the trick can be done with three coins.

* * *

A Trick With Coins

Lay a dime between two quarters on a tablecloth, then place a tumbler on the two larger coins. Ask your friends if they can remove the dime without touching in any way either the glass or the coins. They will probably give up the attempt before long, but it is really very easy to do when you know how. All you need to do is to scratch the tablecloth with your forefinger, and the dime will move in the direction of the scratching.

* * *

Cut String Restored

A loop of string is held between the thumb and fingers, and a member of the audience is allowed to cut it with a knife. The performer chews the cut ends of the string and they are restored. The trick is done with a short bit of extra string. The extra piece is held protruding from the thumb and fingers while the actual loop itself reposes safely in the hand. When the false loop is cut the performer thrusts the loop and two loose ends into his mouth. He retains the two bits of string and brings out the loop completely restored.

* * *

The Button in the Bottle

For this trick you will require a clear glass bottle, a button, a piece of thread, and a cork. Tie the button securely to the thread, place it in the bottle so that it hangs half-way down, attach the other end of the thread to the cork, and cork the bottle tightly. Now how can you sever the thread so that the button falls to the bottom of the bottle? The bottle must not be uncorked or broken.

Nothing more is needed to accomplish this trick successfully than a lens to focus the rays of the sun, which pass through the glass without heating it and burn the thread.

If You Are Good

Santa Claus will come to-night
  If you're good
And do what you know is right,
  As you should.
Down the chimney he will creep,
Bring for you a woolly sheep,
And a doll that goes to sleep,
  If you're good.

Santa Claus will drive his sleigh,
  Through the wood,
But he'll come around this way
  If you're good,
With a wind-up bird that sings
And a puzzle made of rings,
He will bring you many things
  If you're good.

Chinese Lanterns

Chinese lanterns are very effective for illumination purposes, but they are liable to catch fire, especially if used where any current of air can sway them.

For safety's sake, a handful of sand or earth should be placed in them, around the little tin candle-socket at the bottom.

This not only keeps the lantern steady, but, in case of fire, causes the bottom to separate from the paper, and so make less blaze in the air.

Should the lantern be upset by a sudden blow, the sand will often put out the flame before any harm is done.

The first carols were religious but gradually became debased into drinking songs. The chorus of one of the most popular ran, "Hail, good wassail, hail to thee, honored ever shalt thou be."

"When all wise men have failed why not try an honest fool?"—Hendrik Van Loon.

Christmas Color Schemes

It is never too early to begin devising plans for the Yuletide decorations of our homes. Color and comfort are the first essentials for success. Holly and mistletoe, of course, are pre-eminent in the scheme.

One thing should be kept in our minds. Place these evergreens so that they will be well out of the way of naked lights. Such procedure mitigates any dangers of fire.

Hollyred is a fine provoker of excitement. Mistletoegreen is restful and adds to our stores of energy. Make sure of buying both holly and mistletoe during the early days of December. Never leave the buying later, as they certainly lose freshness.

Tinsel-twine adds a distinctive charm if it is lightly hung around holly.

Lamps are also suited to similar treatment, which results in the production of a lovely seasonable glitter.

Speaking of glitter, frosted messages on mirrors are extraordinarily effective. Whitening mixed with salts provides a reliable paint with which to work the oracle.

Candles are more decorative than lamps, although they cannot be said to produce the same excellence of illumination. But both lamps and candles have their different tasks to perform.

Christmas

Christmas bells are ringing everywhere to-night,
And the snow is falling, pure flakes of white.
Hang your stocking up, dear,
Christmas time is here,
Then drift away to sleep
Before St. Nicholas doth appear.
—(By Member No. 1 of the Boys' and Girls' League).

What New York Is Wearing

BY ANNEBELLE WORTHINGTON

Illustrated Dressmaking Lesson Furnished With Every Pattern

An interesting peplum jacket dress that may be developed as a skirt and blouse or as a complete dress, by choosing one material.

The crossover bodice closure minimizes breadth, which makes this charming model equally suited to miss or matron.

The original used black diagonal woolen for the skirt with vivid green plain woolen for the bodice. It's a combination especially popular for college wear.

Style No. 3203 may be had in sizes 14, 16, 18, 20 years, 36, 38, 40 and 42 inches bust. Size 16 requires 2¼ yards of 39-inch material for blouse and 2 yards of 39-inch material for skirt.

It's snappy developed in woolen with the skirt of plain brown and the jacket bodice of brown and red plaided woolen.

It's interesting in wine-red canton crepe or in black crepe satin.

HOW TO ORDER PATTERNS.

Write your name and address plainly, giving number and size of such patterns as you want. Enclose 20c in stamps or coin (coin preferred; wrap it carefully) for each number, and address your order to Wilson Pattern Service, 73 West Adelaide St., Toronto.

For Your Tree

You will like to make these trimmings for the tree and they will be very inexpensive, because practically none of the materials used need be new.

Begin some time before Christmas to collect all the white and silver paper possible, and cut it in fringes. These may be (in fact, should be) of varied lengths from a few inches to two feet, and they need not be very even. Gather these into small bunches with thread and tie them in the tree in great profusion.

Also string all the bright glass buttons and beads you can find, and decorate the tree with these fringes also.

When the electric bulbs on the tree are lighted, it will be a pretty sight. But when the two large electric fans which have been placed on each side of the tree are turned on full force, the effect will be magical, for the whole tree will be alive with flickering glint and fairy flutter.

"I'll accept jazz if it's honest, not a steal from a classic."—John Philip Sousa.

Sunday School Lesson

SUNDAY SCHool—Dec. 4.—Graham

December 20. Lesson XII—The Supreme Gift of Love (Christmas Lesson)—1 John 4: 7-19. Golden Text—Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another. —1 John 4: 11.

ANALYSIS.

I. THE PROOF OF SONSHIP, 1 John 4:7-8.
II. THE PROOF OF FATHERHOOD, John 4: 9-11.
III. THE PROOF OF THE SPIRIT'S PRESENCE, 1 John 4: 12-16.
IV. THE ULTIMATE SECURITY, 1 John 4: 17-19.

INTRODUCTION—This letter was probably written by the apostle John about A.D. 90. Its main object was to safeguard its readers against certain false teachers. It tells of the revelation of God which came in Jesus of Nazareth, and what it meant for those who follow him.

I. THE PROOF OF SONSHIP, 1 John 4:7-8.

What are the marks of a Christian? Among many others, one answer has usually been prominent—and frequently the first in importance, orthodoxy. Not so does the New Testament teach us. Love is the true orthodoxy. It is the central and determining quality in the character of God. Only the man with love in his heart is a child of God.

II. THE PROOF OF FATHERHOOD, John 4: 9-11.

Love as the mark of a child of God follows from the fact that God himself is love. That quality of God was demonstrated to us by the coming into this life of his son, Jesus of Nazareth.

Those who came in contact with Jesus found their lives immeasurably enriched and ennobled. So different were they from their old selves that the only way in which they could describe the change was to say that they were "born again." This new life which they saw in him, and some of the quality of which they gained themselves, they never thought of as a mere human achievement, but as something which they had received. The coming of Jesus "was not merely the gathering together in one personality of possibilities that had lain dormant in the history of his race, but "a direct enterprise of God" for the enlightenment and salvation of the world."—John Baillie. It gave rise to the sentiment in the hearts of Christians everywhere "not of pride and self-congratulation at something our race has produced, but rather gratitude at something it has received. We are moved, all of us, not to applaud, but to kneel; not to clap our hands in admiration, but to fold them in worship. Jesus was God's gift to men. "In this was manifested the love of God toward us," v. 9.

During his life on earth, Jesus taught men to think of himself and God as similar in kind. "He that hath seen me hath seen the Father," John 14: 9. Then, in his death he demonstrated that love was willing to forgive to the uttermost and was so determined to redeem that it persisted even to the ultimate sacrifice. That was the crowning proof of God's love for men.

"God proves his love for us by this," says Paul, "that Christ died for us while we were yet sinners," Rom. 5: 8. Jesus took on his own conscience the sins of countless others and offered himself in sacrifice, v. 10.

Why was this vicarious suffering necessary? Life is full of it, yet we do not understand it. This, however, we know, as Henry Sloane Coffin says, "Men of religious insight in various faiths had discovered this strange principle in life, that the innocent suffer with and for the guilty, and that the voluntary self-offering of the good for the evil reconciles the community with God and works righteousness." Calvary is the overwhelming proof that God is Father-love.

If that is his attitude toward us, then we must have a similar attitude toward his other children—who are our brethren, v. 11.

III. THE PROOF OF THE SPIRIT'S PRESENCE, 1 John 4: 12-16.

Spirit-filled people are the argument that proves God's existence.

What is it to be "spirit-filled"? It is to have a thorough-going belief in a holy and loving God who is alive and active in our every-day world, and who works out his purposes through us. Once a man discovers that he is a partner with God in an ultimately victorious enterprise, religion ceases to be just keeping from doing bad things. He throbs with an overflowing optimism and joy which we, in this day, call "enthusiasm." The Spirit-filled Christian is the "enthusiastic" Christian. "Enthusiastic" means simply "God in one."

Only as God's love is expressed through human lives does it come to its completion, v. 12. The Word must be made flesh in order to come to its finished work in the salvation of men.

IV. THE ULTIMATE SECURITY, 1 John 4: 17-19.

The experience of God's forgiving love kills within the sinner the desire for the old, bad way of living. He turns with enthusiasm to God's way of living. Instead of being against God and therefore afraid of judgment, he is now with God, and therefore looks to the future with glad expectation. Perfect love has cast out fear by swallowing up the cause of it.

Chas. Lindbergh declined John D. Rockefeller's invitation to go to church, when fog caused him to land at Flagler Beach, Florida. Instead he spent Sunday overhauling his plane.

Christmas Eve

The swinging bells have settled now
  to silence,
And from the byre there comes the
  muffled sound
Of restless beasts that, weary, shift
  their balance,
Knee-deep in rustling straw on trodden ground.

Riding above the hill's dark height,
  the moon
Touches the earth with her white
  wizardry,
And all the Milky Way is tinsel-strewn
With stars like candles on a Christmas
  tree.

Surely on such a night, when skies
  were clear,
The clarion trumpet called: Be not
  afraid!
And shepherds, crouching to the
  ground in fear,
Heard that their Lord was in a manger
  laid.

And hurrying from the fields and down
  the street,
A village street as rough and steep as
  this,
Came, with a star to guide their stumbling feet,
To where His Mother worshipped with
  a kiss.

The village sleeps to-night; no angels
  sing,
No wise men, bearing gifts, come from
  afar.
But, bright upon our darkness, heralding,
The eternal Incarnation, burns a star.

For not in time alone the mystery
Of heavenly blossom on an earthly
  stem,
But every cottage shall a manger be,
And every English village Bethlehem.
—Phyllis Hartnoll.

"My reputation, such as it is, is based on the fact that I never talk unless I have something to say."—George Bernard Shaw.

Santa Claus Calling!

Hallo! Hallo! all children dear
I'm Santa Claus; hark! can you hear!
I've not yet started from the Pole
To give each child my yearly dole,
And so my voice has far to go
O'er seas and lands of ice and snow;
Besides, I'm getting pretty old,
And, what with age and a nasty cold,
My voice has not that robust tone
Best suited for the microphone.
Yet, if you've paid your wireless dues
I'll try to state my candid views,
Of Christmas North Pole Vocal News!
Well, firstly, I must tell you that,
I know you all—Joan, Jane, and Pat,
Tom, Bob, Matilda, Betty, Dick,
Maria, Bertie, Mary, Mick—
And, secondly, your faults as well
Upon my fingers I can tell;
And so, for one short week at least,
No boy must be a little beast,
And pinch his sister's lollipops
And fail to share his acid-drops,
Or tell a cramme to papa,
Or say "I shan't" to dear mamma,
Or splash through puddles when it
  rains,
And make his clothes one mass of
  stains,
Or be a greedy little pig,
Or thump a schoolmate not so big,
Or stick a pin into the chair
Of Auntie Jane when she's not there,
Or fail to love his dog and cat,
And wipe his shoes upon the mat—
For if he does these things I'll not
Come down his silly chimney-pot!
And you, dear girls, take care you're
  good,
And do the things you ought and
  should,
And help your mothers all you can
To scrub the floor and frying-pan,
And stir the pudding good and hard,
And don't forget the spice and lard,
And see that you don't soil your
  clothes,
Or start too soon to dust your nose,
And don't tell tales or be a sneak,
Or I'll not call on you next week!
But, there! I'm only warning you
What to avoid and what to do,
But, if you rise to concert-pitch,
On Christmas Day there'll be no
  hitch.
For you can be quite sure that I
Will pass no decent kiddie by.
Now, off you go at once upstairs,
And don't forget to say your prayers.
And, when they're said, switch off the
  light
And sleep like top! Good night! Good
  night!
—A. B. Cooper in "Tit-Bits", London.

Christmas Fruits

When you buy your Christmas supplies of currants, raisins, figs, Brazils, or dates, do you ever wonder where they come from

Dates, from Arabia and Persia, grow on the date-palm. The name is derived from the Greek word "dactylos," meaning finger. Dates, before being pressed, look exactly like human fingers, and the resemblance still remains in those you buy.

"Brazils" are from Brazil. They are the produce of a tree called the "juvia." They grow in a hard shell about the size and shape of a child's head, and each shell contains about fifty nuts.

Currants are a variety of small grapes, dried. The name is our corruption of "Corinth"—where they grow most abundantly.—Tit-Bits (London).

Christmas Briefs

There are two Christmas Islands one in the Pacific and one in the Indian Ocean.

Christmas cards were first seen about one hundred years ago.

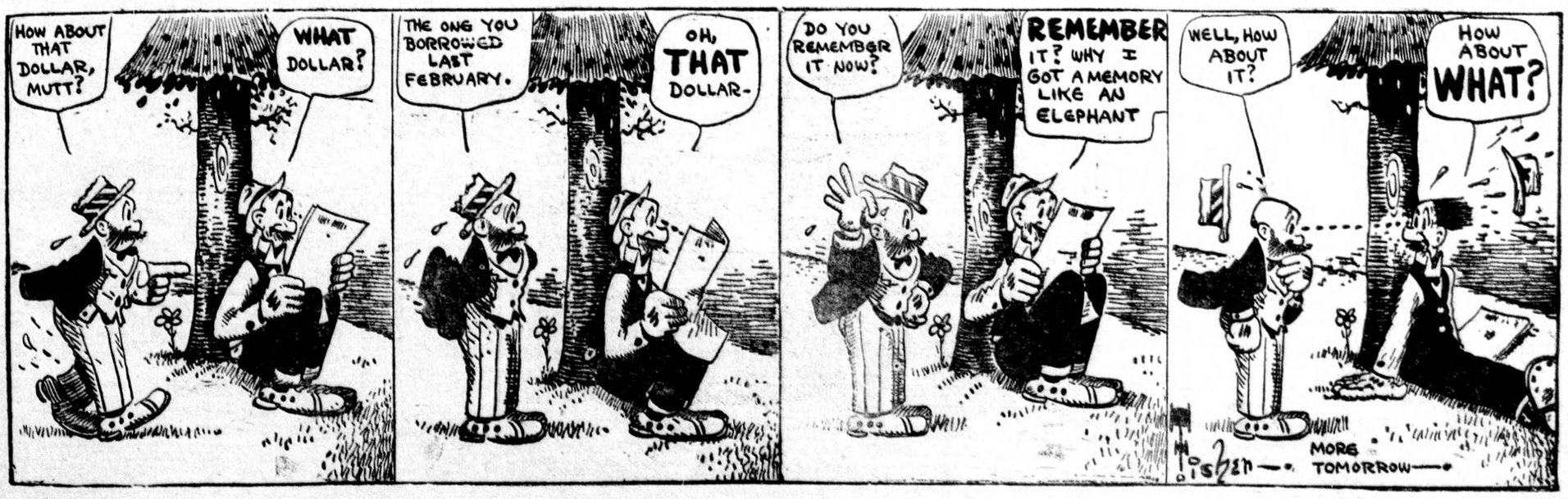
Instead of stockings, Belgian children put out their shoes for Santa Claus to fill.

The French Santa Claus is dressed like a Harlequin in the old pantomime.

Santa Claus is another name for Saint Nicholas, the patron saint of children. His day is December 6th. His association with Christmas began when Christmas present-giving came into fashion.

THOUGHTS FROM KINGSLEY

Old decays but foster new creations.
Those who can suffer, can dare.
Pain is no evil unless it conquers us.
God doth not own unwilling service.
Lift is too short for mean anxieties.
Have thy tools ready, God will find
  thee work.

MUTT AND JEFF— By BUD FISHER

Maybe It's a Bag of Peanuts.