Newspaper Laws.

We sall the special attention of Pos maste fond subscriberate the following sy nopsis of the newspaperiaws :

1. If any person orders his paper discon sinued, he must pay all arreages, or the publisher may continue to send it until pay. mentis made, and sollest the whole amount whether it be taken from the office or not There can be no legal discontinuance until paymentismade.

2. Any person who takes a paper from the post office, whether directed to his Bame or another, or whether he has subscribed or not is responsible for the pay.

8. If a subscriber orders his paper to be stopped at a certain time, and the published continues to send, the subscriber is bound pay for it if he takes it out of the pest office. This proceeds upon he ground hat a man must pay for what he uses.

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"YE MERRIE CHRISTMAS."

A HUMAN FESTIVAL THAT ANTE-DATES THE SAVIOUR'S BIRTH.

Rites and Observances in Pagan Times Santa Claus Many Centuries Old -Chris'. mas Celebrations 300 Years Ago -- Present Customs in Various Lands.

becomes a matter of interest to trace longs to a vary of thodox family there. Nor cakes so crisp and sweet longs to a vary of thodox family there. up the origin of some of the customs is usually at its foot which make Christmas what it is.

pletely. Perhaps it is just as well, come naturalized in America, France for if they had been retained, others and England. which were not of a delightful or elevating character, might also be in have always set their faces against

Few mothers and fathers who will crime of lese-nationality to exhibit holadorn a Christmas tree for their lit- ly and ivy on their walls. tle ones with many colored candles on had become an orgie, and the Christ- or shine, the following Friday after-Christmas Eve know that they will be mas carol of that day was almost undoing precisely what the Romans of fit for publication; but with the rea pagan feast which the Romans cele-back with renewed attraction and girls, who wondered if the Japanese

In the time of the Romans this day was sacred to Februa, the presiding of London have not yet penetrated to as pictured out on the bills. guish these heathen candles, reapplied way: them to the service of the Virgin, and instituted Candlemas, when the

LIGHT OF THE TORCHES was supposed to frighten the devil away from the houses or churches in two of these noels that are really which they were burned.

Here, then, is the origin of the tree of to-day.

tree, few of the old customs remain. whom carried lanterns, arranging of wild animals, the spangled bareback The toy-covered fir tree was first used themselves in a half-circle on the snow by the heathen Scandinavians of long outside. ago. Their religion was as fantastic spectacles, and a knitted woollen as that of the most depraved savages. But the use of the fir tree was one of its few beautiful features, and fact that it has survived and has given joy to millions of children for countless generations fully atones for their

objectionable customs. To decorate the festal halls everything that lived above the snow as represented by Orion Bel and Freya.

greens most easily obtained. long, tapering plumes of the palm that all who know the Rivieral have so of the viol and the ear-piercing discords of the viol and the ear-piercing discords of the clarionet, with the hilarious boys of the village joined vainly in the hunt. the Mediterranean were used in cries of a north wind in the old park

The season appointed by the Church in which to celebrate the birth of Christ without exactly being arbit-In the Town of Durham, County of rary-for there is little doubt that the the shepherds for open air watching of their flocks by night-was selected as many other feasts long before Christianity, was founded, on account of the winter solstice, when the year had completed a revolution, or, as was then supposed, the fiery wheels

PHOEBUS' CHARIOT

For the twelve nights, beginning December 25 and ending on January 6, been expected, and were invited into might be well to try it; so with the English Twelfth Night, and the baronial kitchen to a large bowl piece of string they tied the candy to French Fete des Rois, or Feast of the of 'frumenty,' another relic of the the spindle, Kings, the ancestors of the Sieg- Saxon Yule, a word derived from The boys were up bright and early frieds and the Lohengrins held their frumenta, or wheat-corn. This, a kind Yule festival in honor of the fiery of porridge made of screed wheat, in wheel of the sun-god. For the root Scotland of 'sowons,' or oatmeal, sweetof our word "wheel" and of the ened with honey and dried currants, Scandinavian "yule" are one and the is to be met with in all North of Eng-

Ages instituted dramatic representa- Hulda, the Scandinavian Ceres, to ob- together, and the doors opened. Then tions of divine legends, at a time when tain her promises for the harvests of Carl drummed on the back of the trap. reading and writing were monopolized the coming year, as the burning of the and instead of a rabbit, out rushed by religious orders and all impres- Yule-log was brought down from re- little brown monkey-the same that had sions on a people's fancy had to be mote ages when fire sacrifice was made through the eyes and ears, one made to the Sun-God" of the most popular mysteries, as was the Christmas story-the Lirth of

cradle, as they were called in France, of my door? We haven't ordered any. and Germany, are still exhibited in Driver-No, mum.-They comes wid churches, Catholic and Lutheran, all the compliments of the neighbors. You over Europe. From the early hymns see, folks thinks from the way your sung by the peasants as well as by boy acts that you can't afford to buy the monks at these mysteries came the any. Christmas carols, or noels, as they are

called in French. Some of these "mangers" are produced with care and elaboration, and though they do not give the dialogues and conversations of the old times they give the holy representation in places with movable figures, who nod and kneel, and on the entry of the three kings or wise men of the East,

In all these groups there has been from time immemoria' a tree. It may be seen outside the _raditional mangers in the missals and early paintings BIRDIE'S CHRISTMAS BREAKFAST. of the pre-Raphaesite-Italian school. In this tree or near of are seen angels in Birdies, birdies, birdies, flowing robes, suging out of a scroll

earth, and good-will towards men," or "Glor: glory, hallelujah." The correct German Christmas tree always has an angel or, a Christkind At this season of the year, when all on the topmost oranch, with a tinsel the world is bent on merrymaking, it star at the end of a staff like any

A SMALL, TOY GROUP Many pretty observances which de- representing the Saviour's birth in the lighted the children and grown folks stable of Bethlehem. The tree reof three hundred, four hundred or five presented, though grown from a heathbundred years ago have been lost com-baum which from Germany has be-

The extreme Puritans, originating use, to the destruction of the re- Christmas observances, and indeed the ligious character of the Christmas fes- Puritan Parliament, of the Praise-God Barebones period, abolished Christmas altogether, and made it a heinous

brated, however, the date being Feb- carols were sung by village choirs all over the continent of Europe.

deity, from whose name the word Feb- the rustics, the old-time custom is In the eager, excited group were Carl, ruary, or the fructifying month, was still continued of the parish choir Paul and Annie Bush, three children

ways at war with a benignant provi- the guest of a titled Englishman at family was left to destitute circum-

"The carols, still sung in the coun- to keep her little flock together. try in some parts of England by and profane, and I recall a verse or

With the exception of the Christmas I saw some dozen chaw-bacons, most of in front of the old Elizabethan house, ade,

as the mythology of ancient Greece, and nightcap, held a clarionet, and, seem-Rome, and as crude in some respects ed to be the precentor (He was pro-

THE PARISH CLERK. mous bass viol, while a small boy, who stead. was enveloped in a worsted comforter On the way home she told them, to and gloves, which together nearly con- their delight of the boy clown and his cealed him, held aloft a small fir tree, wonderful trained ponies; of Jocko, the

brought in to make the surroundings which period was employed by the choir that night during the performance their arms across them to keep up on the bills. Jocko, in performing

"Imagine them sung to a few notes In Rome, palmetto leaves and the of some monotonous old canticle, ac- Professor Costello and another emwinter festivities, and from trees joining in, and you will have a

THE CAROL.

Pomps and vanities a-scorning, Christians, pull the devil's tail!

Gentles all t Come, broach a bar-To the health of our Squire,

When you hear our Christmas Don't forget the Parish Choir!

had once more rolled round the the small boy waved the fir-tree' flag; the small boy waved the fir-tree' flag; of the woods, it halted and Carl placthe double bass put a tremolo into his awful scrape; the clerk with the clar of a tall tree. At this period, which the Romans awful scrape; the clerk with the clarfirst instituted as the beginning of ionet allowed himself to attempt sentithe year, the Celts and Germans cele- ment in his infernal blowing, and the brated, as do the Japanese at the pres- choir generally took care that 'no one ent day, the renewing of life in the who heard them ever could forget any. dead earth, the power of nature being them in the ewigkeit. Of course, they again on the move beneath the snow of got their beer. That is what they came

land houses at Christmas time. It is As the Church in the early Middle a memory of the offerings made to

A FREE GIFT.

Miss Bibbs-See here! Why are you These representations of the Christ- unloading all those shingles in front

NOT ENOUGH.

Kind Lady-I am sure you would learn to love my children. Nurse-What wages do you pay? Kind Lady-Fourteen dollars

Nurse-I am afraid, ma'am, I could offer their presents with uplifted only be affectionate with them at that

Have you had aught to eat? of illuminated paper the "Peace on I have had my breakfast, And cakes and candies sweet. You look so cold and hungry; Come down upon the ground. I'll see if in my pockets Some crumbs cannot be found

Perhaps you don't like candies, Nor cakes so crisp and sweet; Or corn, or oats or wheat. Here, sparrows, little rascals,

Go tell it all around. That in my yard at Christmas A breakfast shall be found. To-day when all the children Are happy and are giad, No chirping little birdie

Should be hungry, cold or sad. Let's lift this precious bundle Of plump and golden wheat, So that every bird at Christmas May have something good to eat.

HOW JOCKO WAS CAUGHT.

The little town of Merle was all excitement. Cook's great united circus bled hair. or shine, the following Friday afternoon and evening. All day long the old did hundreds of years ago. It was turn of Charles II. and the Restora- billboard was surrounded by an admirand girls, who wondered if the Japanese would really swallow sords and comical looking little monkeys truly to them, go quietly where they are.

derived. On this day the Romans burned candles in her honon to keep carols.

making the rounds of the homes of the gentry and singing Christmas whose prospects of seeing the show were not at all bright. Their father were not at all bright. Their father away the malign spirits who were al- A well-known society man who was had died three years before and the dence; and it is said that Pope Ser-christmas season, described the doings did anything else she could find to do; and, by being prudent, she managed

At last the long-looked-ahead-to day boys in smock-frocks, with ribbons arrived. The big white tents were up tied to their hats and shoulders, long before most people of the place were stirring.

Among the first to reach the grounds were the Bush boys. Carl, the elder of "Looking out of my window one night the two got a chance to carry water, candle-bearing Christmas greenery the 'north-countree'—to learn what was In the afternoon, the trio of children and whispering in the carriage drive, went down town to see the street par-

riders, and the gilded chariot with its big brass band, she could not keep back the tears, so badly did she want to see the performance. Carl had set his heart on seeing the show, but when he saw the tears in his little sister's eyes, he quickly abandoned the idea of Another was presiding over an enor-hand, and insisted that she go in his

on a pole with a lantern hanging from little monkey that performed all man-beneath the boughs. "The clerk was so impressed with the balls of fire; of the tall giraffe with its dignity of his position that he took long neck; of the beautiful birds; the some time to make his preparations, snakes; and the awful lion that reared which period was employed by the choir

something happened that was not down The holly, which grows largely in Swe-wintry wind, which carried all and was given a stinging cut from a their caloric. There was a keen, difficult trick, made a slight mistake den and the North of Germany, and sounds away, now and then, except the long whip in the hands of his cruel the mistletoe, which obtained a sac- few notes that the double-bass grunt- master. Like a flash, the little animal red character from its apparently spon- ed out; but I caught the most impor- made for the center pole. Up he went taneous and magical growth, defied tant stanzas and have never forgot- reached the top, made his exit through a small hole, and escaped.

That night the show left town, but

these the Christmas tree, or Christ faint idea of the beauty of this serentree as it was originally called, is ade.

who had been visiting its admit a ford, returned home, bringing with him a snow-white rabbit, which he appro-Later in the summer Fred Barnes. priately called Whitey. Greet another Christmas morning ! were chatting together, Paul exclaim-One evening when Carl and Paul Pass the mug of good brown ed: "Tell you what. Carl, I've got a scheme! What do you think of this

p'an-build a trap and catch a rabbit of our own?" "That is a great scheme!" cried Carl. "Why, I know where there's any amount of them!"

The following morning a soap box was found and qui kly transformed into a trap. After dinner Carl placed it on his shoulder and started for Hobert's woods, followed by Paul and Annie. "When they arrived at the last line When the procession reached the edge

> "What will you use for bait." asked The boys looked at each other; in their excitement they had forgotten to bring

"Ah, now I have it!" and Paul took a piece of candy from his pocket. "Rabbits like candy, don't they?" "Past midnight as it was, they had Carl did not know but thought

next day; and on visiting the trap were delighted to find it sprung. They took turns at carrying it and were soon at home. Another box was found, and by nailing on some pieces of lath, and

cutting out a door, they had a fair sort

escaped from the circus. "Oh, oh, oh!" cried little Annie, clapping her hands and capering around "Hurrah, hurrah-h-h!" shouted the

Out rushed their mother to see what all the noise was about; and long before night there was not a boy or girl ir town, but knew of the capture. Soon after leaving Merle the circu stranded, and Jocko was never claimed He soon became tame again, and would perform for the children even better than he did when under the control of his former master.

ELEPHANT LIFE

Without elephants, jungles would be virtually impassable. The great beasts are a mixture of strength and weakness, of craft and simplicity. The paths through the jungle from village to village are tracks from which the in-

terlacing foliage has been thrust aside, and the virgin soil trodden into a black mud. After a rain, this mud is many feet deep, and no living creature except an elephant, a buffalo or rhinoceros could labor through it. The elephant makes his way by lifting one foot at a time, and inserting it deep into the slough in front, withdrawing another with a sound like the popping of a huge cham-pagne cork. Nothing but a ride on an earthquake could be compared with the sensation of being run away with by an elephant. As for stopping him some one has well said that you might as well try to stop a runaway locomotive by pulling with your walking

RULES FOR YOUNG FOLK. Never shout, jump, or run in the

stick on the funnel as seek to check

an elephant at such a moment with a

Be prompt at every meal hour. Shut every door after you and without slamming it.

Never interrupt any conversation, wait patiently your turn to speak. Never sit down at table, or indeed anywhere, with soiled hands or tum-

Carefully clean the mud or snow from your boots before entering the Never reserve your good manners

for company, but be equally polite at home and abroad. Never call to persons upstairs or in the next room; if you wish to speak When told to do or not to do a thing by either father or mother never ask

why you should or should not do it. BE NOT DISMAYED. God bless you, merry gentlemen! May nothing you dismay-Not even your finances when You find 'tis Christmas day.

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Rich and Poor, and From All Corners of the Dominion. If it is the case that he who makes bottles of Nervine, and can truthfully wo blades of grass grow where only say that I am a new man. ne had grown before is a benefactor A shrewd observer of human neture of the race, what is the position to be cradle moves the world." How imedge of the laws of life and health strength should be made the lot of ives energy and strength where lan- the mothers of this country. The wouor, weakness and anticipation of an men of Canada are ready by scores to arly death had before prevailed? Is tell of the benefits that have come to ot he also a public benefactor? Let them through the use of South Amerihose who have been down and are can Nervine. Mrs. R. Armstrong. of :ow up through the use of South Am- Orillia, wife of the colporteur, of the rican Nervine give their opinious on Bible Society of that town, suffered his subject. John Boyer, banker, of for six years from nervous prostration. Kincardine, Ont., had made himself a Medical assistance did not help. "In nopeless invalid through years of over- all," she says, "I have taken six bottles work. At least he felt his case was of Nervine, and can truthfully say this hopeless, for the best physicians had is the one medicing that has effected failed to do him good. He tried Ner- a cure in my case." Mrs. John Dinvine, and these are his words : " I glad- woody has been for 40 years a resident y say it : Nervine cured me and I of Plesherton, and has reached the alim to-day as strong and well as ever." lotted three-score years and ten. Three damuel Elya, of Meaford, was cured of years ago her system sustained theyneuralgia of the stomach and bowels ere shock through the death of a by three bottles of this medicine. Jas. daughter. Nervine was recommended. Sherwood, of Windsor, at 70 years of She perseveringly took 12 bottles of ege, suffered from an attack of paraly- medicine, with the result that she is tosis. His life, at that age, was despair- day again strong and hearty. Huned of. But four bottles of Nervine dreds of women suffer from impoverishgave him back his natural strength. A ed blood and weakened nerves. "All victim of indigestion, W. F. Bolger, of vitality," says Mrs. J. Fallis, of Renfrew, says: "Nervine cured me Brampton, "seemed to have forsaken of my suffering, which seemed incur- my system. I was unable to get reable, and had buffled all forner me- lief from any source until I commerced thods and efforts." Peter Esson, of taking South American Nervine. The Paisley, lost flesh and rarely had a results are most satisfactory-greater good night's sleep, because of stomach far than I could have hoped for." It trouble. He says: "Nervine stopped came within the way of Mrs. Il. Stapthe agonizing pains in my stomach the leton, of Wingham, to treat under the first day I used it. I have now taken best physicians, both in Canada and two bottles and I feel entirely relieved England, for heart disease and nervand can sleep like a top." A repre- ous debility, but she falled to get any sentative farmer, of Western Ontario, relief. "I was advised," she says, "to is Mr. C. J. Curtis, residing near Wind- take South American Nervine, and sor. His health was seemingly com- must say I do believe that if I had

pletely destroyed through la grippe, not done so I would not be alive to-

No medicine did him any good. "To day,"

three bottles of Nervine," he says, 'I Newspaper space is too valuable to attribute my restoration to health and permit of further additions to these strength." Neither man or woman earnest words of testimony from those can enjoy life when troubled with liver who know just what they are talking complaint. This was the sentiment about. In the common language of and feeling of W. J. Hill, the well- the day, they have been there, and are known bailiff of Bracebridge, "I was speaking from the heart. The dozen so bad," says he, "that one of my or more witnesses that here speak have medical attendants said that I was their counterparts by the hundreds, dying, but, thank God, I am not dead not only in the province of Ontario, yet. From the first few doses I took but in every other section of the Dominof Nervine I commenced to feel but- ion. South American Nervine is based ter, and am to-day restored completely on a scentific principle that makes my usual health." A resident of a cure a certainty, no matter how desthe Maritime Provinces, in the person perate the case may be. It strikes S. Jones, of Sussex, N.B., says: "For at the nerve centers from which flows welve years I was a martyr to indi- the life blood of the whole system. It estion, constipation and headache, is not a medicine of patchwork, but he treatment of yeveral physicians is complete and comprehensive in its For sale by McFarlane & Co.

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