



The maxim "Environment is Everything" holds true at this season more than at any other time of the year. For nothing so thrilling as the real feeling of Christmas is in the hanging of greens and bells, stringing of popcorn and cranberries, and the making of many vari-colored bags of tinsel to put the goodies in. And the tinsel rope of tinsel, is there a soul, from top to bottom, who does not fascinate? We're all alike, all children, and it is very good that we can return, once in a hurried year, to these simple pleasures which soothe and cheer, and give us cause to remember many happy celebrations.

Very effective decorations may be attained by the use of cedar or pine branches, which can be cut from the lower part of the trees without damage to its life or to its graceful shape. These branches fastened to the plate-rail, the stair banisters, and the tops of windows, with an occasional bow or red ribbon or red paper, create a delightful effect. In the South, mistletoe is used almost exclusively, large graceful branches being hung over the front entrance, in the dining room and oft times in the windows, in place of holly wreaths.

Bells and ropes of colored paper are used also, but somehow nothing is quite so pretty as green things, nor so natural and refreshing. The dining table centralizes the decorative scheme, and the housewife exercises her nimblest thoughts, both in decoration and menu.

One very pretty conception is to have an oblong block of ice in a pan of white sand (to absorb the melting ice). Surround the base with irregular tufts of cotton sprinkled with diamond dust. Place a toy Santa with his sleigh and prancing reindeer atop the glistening ice, and use glass can-

dlesticks with red unshaded tapers. Small boxes filled with candy may be used as favors. The complete idea is charming.

Another table, more appropriate perhaps, for grown-ups, might have its damask cloth checked off with strips of scarlet ribbon two inches in width. The central motif is a horn-of-plenty resting, at an agreeable angle, on a mound of snow. Stationed at the mouth of the fig-filled cornucopia is Santa Claus. Vari-colored "puff-balls" made of fringed tissue paper are placed carelessly about on the cover, and the candle shades are of the same hues, of red, orange, green, lavender, and yellow. The combination is colorful and unique.

Two very good and carefully compiled Christmas dinners are given herewith, with recipes for those dishes which seem to call for elucidation.

Christmas Dinner No. 1.

- Cream of Asparagus Soup, Crackers
- Roast Turkey or Duck with Chestnut Stuffing.
- Green Peas in Timbales.
- Potato Balls (parsley)
- Candied Sweet Potatoes.
- Olives
- Waldorf Salad
- Yuletide Dressing
- Ambrosia
- Fruit Cake
- Coffee
- Salted Nuts
- Cheese and Toasted Crackers.

Christmas Dinner No. 2.

- (For Light Housekeepers)
- Oysters on Half Shell.
- Tomato Soup
- Bread Sticks
- Olives
- Celery
- Roast Duck
- Cranberries
- Mashed Potatoes
- Asparagus with Drawn Butter Sauce.
- Tomato Salad, Pumpkin Pie, Cheese
- Coffee

The oysters may be gotten at the last moment and served on chipped

ice. The soup is canned, and the other articles can be prepared beforehand, with the exception of the vegetables and the duck.

Chestnut Stuffing.
Boil and mash 1 quart of chestnuts. Add 1 teaspoonful of chopped parsley, ½ teaspoon each of chopped onion, salt and pepper, and 1 tablespoonful of butter. Mix with 1 egg.

Yuletide Dressing.
Chop fine 1 small onion, 2 tablespoon of red and green peppers and parsley. Mix one teaspoonful of salt, ½ teaspoonful of sugar, ½ cup of pure olive oil and 5 tablespoons of vinegar. Pour over vegetables and let stand for an hour, in a glass jar. Shake for 5 minutes and pour over salad or cold meat.

Old Fashioned Ambrosia.
Two fresh coconuts grated. One dozen oranges, finely cut. Scant cupful of sugar. Serve with whipped cream.

Southern Fruit Cake.
1 lb. flour 1 lb. butter
1 lb. sugar ½ lb. citron
½ lb. candied cherries
2 lbs. raisins
½ lb. candied pineapple
2 lbs. blanched almonds
1 tablespoon cinnamon
1 tablespoon spice
1 teaspoon baking powder
2 nutmegs, grated
½ glass wine
½ glass brandy
1 cup molasses

Cream butter and sugar together, add molasses, then eggs, which are beaten separately. Brown flour and add alternately with a cup of milk in which the baking powder has been dissolved. Dissolve spices in liquor. Chop fruits and nuts and dredge well with flour. Add to dough and turn into greased tins. Bake slowly for four hours. (Excellent).

Christmas Dinner In Abyssinia

Plenty of Good Food Greeted Traveler In African Country

A TRAVELER in Abyssinia thus describes the Christmas dinner of 1900 given by King Menelik at Addis Ababa: On Sunday, Jan. 7, being their Christmas day, the emperor most kindly asked us all to dine in the huge hall called Abderash, a building about 190 feet long, 90 feet wide and 35 feet high. All the ministers, ras and principal generals were present on the raised dais round the throne, while in the body of the hall about 30,000 soldiers were fed in two detachments. Our menu was as follows:

- Milk and Rice Soup.
- Kabobs of Meat and Potatoes.
- Omelet and Herbs.
- Mince and Artichokes.
- Filets of Beef and Radishes.
- Kabobs of Mutton and Cabbages.
- Fried Brains.
- Fried Mince and Macaroni.
- Smoked Beef and Lettuce.
- Brown Rolls and Flat Bread.
- Coffee.
- Honey Beer.
- French Claret.
- Arrack.
- Twelve-year-old Tea and Champagne.

After dinner we shook hands and, through an interpreter, thanked his majesty for so much kindness. He replied: "May the Lord keep you well and may you return safely to your own country. May you have good shooting and a pleasant journey through my country."

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