

# Tom Smith's Christmas Crackers AND Christmas Stockings

The London (Eng.) Daily News says: "Year after year the world goes to Tom Smith."

And this year it is going to him more than ever, to help entertain both children and grown-ups at parties and family gatherings, this happy holiday season. We have fully provided for the extra demand.

- Crackers, per box .....50c.
- Crackers, per box .....60c.
- Crackers, per box .....75c.
- Crackers, per box .....85c.
- Crackers, per box .....90c.
- Crackers, per box .....\$1.00
- Crackers, per box .....\$1.10
- Crackers, per box .....\$1.25
- Crackers, per box .....\$1.35
- Crackers, per box .....\$1.40
- Crackers, per box .....\$1.50
- Crackers, per box .....\$1.75
- Crackers, per box .....\$1.85
- Crackers, per box .....\$2.00
- Crackers, per box .....\$2.25
- Crackers, per box .....\$2.50
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- Crackers, per box .....\$3.00
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Are a never ending joy to the Little Folk

- Stockings, each .....40c.
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- Stockings, each .....\$1.25
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- Stockings, each .....\$1.75
- Stockings, each .....\$2.25
- Stockings, each .....\$3.25
- Stockings, each .....\$3.50
- Stockings, each .....\$5.00

### CADBURY'S FAMOUS CHOCOLATES

Are again with us after four years' absence. The supply is very limited and we urge quick buying to prevent disappointment.

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- Imperial Assortment, 1 lb. tins ..... \$1.25
- King George, 1-2 lb. box, 65c
- King George, 1 lb box, \$1.25
- Selected, 1-2 lb. tins . . . 65c.
- Selected, 1 lb. tins . . . \$1.25
- Bourneville Nut Cubes, 1-2 lb. tin ..... 65c.
- Bourneville Nut Cubes, 1 lb. tins ..... \$1.25
- Melcato Assortment, 1-2 lb. tins ..... 65c.
- Melcato Assortment, 1 lb. tins ..... \$1.25
- Mexican Chocolate, cake 25c
- Milk Chocolate, per cake 25c
- Bourneville Neapolitans, per package ..... 25c.
- Dairy Milk Neapolitans, per package ..... 25c.

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## CHRISTMAS GAMES FOR BOTH YOUNG AND OLD

There are new games more amusing or fun-giving than the old-fashioned ones, such as progressive conversation, pass the button, twisting a word to make as many other words as possible, guessing contests and forfeit games. Though there is "nothing new under the sun," one of these herewith suggested may aid a distracted holiday hostess.

### Gathering Snowballs.

For the latest toys, this game will prove very enjoyable. To each one give a fluffy cotton snowball, which should be attached to one ankle with a string, and a small tin can. The one who is first to get the snowball on the floor while the others join hands and dance around him. Without moving from his seat, the one in the center reaches for the snowball on the ankle that seems easiest to reach. The players must not let go of each other's hands in endeavoring to dance out of his reach. When one is caught he is deprived of his snowball, and must take the other's place in the ring. As the contest narrows down to the last two or three who still have their snowballs the game grows quite exciting. After everybody has served his turn in the center, they may have a lively "snowball fight" with the trophies.

### Novel Ways to Choose Partners.

To avoid the "twoomeness" which so apt to exist in the average town, the wise hostess plans to have her guests choose partners at least once during the evening. Two entertaining ways are given. Board dividing it with red ink into as many sectors as there will be girls present. Write a girl's name in each sector, and then have each boy choose by refusing to be chosen up to all her guests are accounted for. Another very pretty method is to have a large holly wreath suspended in the room, with the names of the girls, who are in one room, written on it. A long red ribbon, the ribbon being cut through the holly wreath and the boys in the next room each choose an end from the mass. The wreath is cut and the "drawing" their partners.

### Trimming the Tree.

Select a small cedar tree, or make a tree out of crepe paper, roughly cut to resemble branches. Each guest is given a tree ornament, either a string of tinsel, cranberries or popcorn, or a bauble. In turn they pin the ornaments on the tree while blind-folded. For the most artistic trial, a prize may be given.

### Charades.

Old-timers, but what is more fun than this game of guessing? The charades may be arranged for beforehand, or may be impromptu. A little girl with her arms outstretched, a man as a star on her forehead, and draped with popcorn and tinsel would make an easily-guessed tree.

### A Boy might place a can on a table in the room, and in leaving, say "Ta-ta" (Canta).

A boy wearing a Turkish fez, or an imitation one (cap with tassel) holding a key (Turkey).

### One person might take aim with a small missile at another's foot.

The answer is obvious—mistake.

### A word which has to do largely with the modern Christmas might be suggested by one person calling the roll, and others in the picture answering "Present" (presents).

This is not as easy to guess as it seems. Those who are guessing are looking for a catch-word.

### Any number of words appropriate to this season may be enacted, and many may be thought up in the excitement of the game, which will cause much merriment and much competition between the opposing sides, which are chosen at the outset of the game.

### Bargain Counter.

The Christmas Bargain Counter is a charming Christmas game for Christmas night that will amuse and delight at the same time instruct the nursery.

### Tracing its Origin Back to Ancient Egypt.

Who invented the Christmas Tree? Whence does it come? It is a curious fact that most of the old chroniclers have thrown a veil of mystery around the Christmas Tree and make no attempt to explain its origin.

### It has been stated that the Christmas Tree came to us from Egypt.

This legend is well propagated in old Irish and Welsh fairy tales. The idea is that in ancient Egypt they used a slip of the palm tree with twelve shoots on it for certain winter festivities. The tree symbolized the year with its twelve months. Consequently, any one who is equal to the effort may believe that the modern Christmas Tree represents that twelve-shooted slip of palm. Minds of less "warranted credulity" may prefer to trace the Christmas Tree back to Germany only, where they had Christmas Trees long before they were heard of in either England or France or in this country.

### The Christmas Tree was not introduced into England from Germany until after the marriage of Queen Victoria to her German consort, Prince Albert.

But where did the Germans get the Christmas Tree idea? This has been explained by saying that far away back in the ages the Teutons believed in a mystic ash tree, called Yggdrasil, which, with its roots and branches, united the world of the living with the world of the dead. An old saying was "at the foot of Yggdrasil sit the three Norris, who determine the destinies of men, and Yggdrasil's branches bear gifts for men to take."

### Is the origin of the Christmas Tree? Anyhow, the idea that Prince Albert introduced it into Great Britain is very prevalent. One of the prettiest and most eagerly looked-for events of the Christmastide—that of the setting up of the Christmas Tree—is associated with the late Empress Frederick of Germany.

### Queen Victoria, after the birth of the Princess Royal, had Christmas celebrated at Windsor in 1840, and on that occasion Prince Albert introduced the German custom of decorating a Christmas Tree.

Since that period it has become a welcome custom for both rich and poor, and affords a graceful means of distributing little presents. It was probably first introduced into Germany with the conquering legions of Drusus, and

### is alluded to by Virgil in the "Georgics."

Introduction into England. It will be seen by this that the generally accepted notion is that Prince Albert was responsible for the British adoption of the pleasing tree and all that it means, symbolic and practical, to the children. But on the threshold of this acceptance we are met with the story of the "Greville Memoirs," under the date of December 27th, 1829, when Queen Victoria was yet but ten years old.

### "On Christmas Day the Princess Lieven got up a little fete, such as is customary all over Germany. Three trees in great pots were put on a long table covered with three circular tiers of coloured wax candles, blue, green, red and white. Before each was displayed a quantity of toys, gloves, handkerchiefs, workboxes, books and various articles, presents made to the owner of the tree. This Princess was a Russian, and in later days lived mostly in Paris. Then, again, Professor Ditchfield, in his "Old English Customs," says that the Christmas Tree was first imported into England by some German merchants who lived at Manchester in the first years of the nineteenth century.

### Fruits of the earth to ensure good harvests.

### Other Customs.

Going abroad we get fuller knowledge of these things. The customs of carrying away branches and trees from the woods at Christmas time in various parts of Austria became so extensive on account of the superstitions of the peasants, that at Salzburg, in 1755, and at Nuremberg in 1768, severe by-laws were issued against persons purloining from the forests. In some parts of Hungary a solemn procession with a decorated tree takes place through each village before the Shepherd Play begins. It is adorned with ribbons and fruit, and is supposed to symbolize the tree of knowledge. Although most of the Christmas customs adhered to by the Austro-German peasant can be traced back to heathenish German rites, some people dispute the use of a tree at the festivities. Nevertheless, it is certain that in Sweden needle pines and firs were set up before the houses during the eighteenth century. An ancient authority on these subjects says: "The ancient heathens set before their houses between two crossed pine trees, and drank at the turn of the year for nineteen days."

### The Christmas Tree was introduced into Austria some ninety years ago by a Duchess of Wurttemberg and spread through Germany. About 1840 it is supposed to have taken fresh root in England, and became highly popular. Both Thackeray and Dickens seized hold of the happiness begot of Christmas gatherings and the Christmas tree, and in 1850 Charles Dickens used "The Christmas Tree" as a title for one of his annual stories.

### Although Christmas was not celebrated in the first centuries of the Christian era, there are indications in the records of early Roman history of the setting up of a decorated tree at Christmas time and the presentation of gifts of fruit and toys.

Romans are supposed to have taken the idea from the early Egyptians, as stated at the beginning of this article.

### Miss Alice L. Secker, of New York, an examiner of metal pieces in a factory and a factory worker since her public school days, won the \$10,000 prize offered by a New York newspaper for the most beautiful girl in greater New York. She was selected from hundreds of contestants by Harrison Fisher, George M. Colman and D. W. Griffith.

### TOMMY ATKIN'S CHRISTMAS DAY

No matter where he may be or in what circumstances he may be placed, Tommy Atkins never fails to make a special effort to celebrate Christmas day in a befitting manner. It is Christmas in barracks, however, which Tommy enjoys best of all, next, of course, to spending it with those who are dear to him. Comrades unite with comrades, and each contributes his share of help toward making the occasion one of joyous festivity.

### Early Christmas morning sees the soldiers busily engaged in turning their respective barrack rooms into dining places. Bed cots, which at ordinary times would be standing at right angles to the walls, are ranged lengthwise, and with the aid of spare mattresses and pay buttons, borrowed from the stores for the occasion, are transformed into luxurious looking divans. The companies vie with one another to make their rooms as attractive as possible.

### The homely custom of spreading festoons of pink, blue and green paper from wall to wall is duly carried out, while mottoes, usually of a military character abound. These mottoes, by the way, are often dedicated to popular officers, the following being examples of the favorite forms: "Long live Colonel and Mrs. ———," "God bless the general," "Good luck to Lieutenant ———," etc.

### In some regiments it is the custom to usher in Christmas morning with fifes and drums immediately after the sounding of reveille, and after breakfast Tommy has to prepare for church parade. This duty finished, he is at liberty to make a grand attack on the Christmas dinner. The soldiers are first of all marshaled and arranged in their places at the table in the company's dining room, which the captain then visits in order to make a brief inspection and see that "all's well" with the boys.

### After that there is still another matter which Thomas has to attend to before he can start feeding, but it is a matter which is very agreeable to him. A few minutes after the solitary drier has made his inspection the captain of the company is again called to their feet and to order by the sergeant major's "Stun!" and immediately afterward the colonel, followed by the adjutant and other officers, enters. Needless to say, they are received with cheers. The colonel will drink the health of—company, a

## THEY DIE IN FRANCE, WHERE LILIES BLOOM

They lie in France Where lilies bloom; These flowers pale That guard each tomb Are as faintly seen That smiling stand Close by them in That martyred land.

And mutely there the long night shadows creep From quiet hills to mourn for them who sleep, While through the dusk go silently The grieving clouds that slowly drift to sea. And lately round them moaned the Winter wind Whose voice, lamenting, sounds so coldly kind. Yet in their faith those waiting hearts abide The time when turns forever that false tide.

In France they lie Where lilies bloom, These flowers fair For them made room. Not vainly placed Within that brave And stricken land; Their honor lives Their love endures, Their noble death The right assures.

For they shall have their hearts' desire They who, unflinching, braved the fire, Across the fields their eyes at last shall see Through clouds and mist the hosts of victory. —Perceval Allen, in the New York Times

least answered with wild cheering and the time-honored refrain. "He's a jolly good fellow."

When the officers have gone it is not long before Tommy proceeds to sample the good things which have been provided for his enjoyment. Roast beef and mutton, turkey, goose and duck are usually included in the company's menu, not to mention such things as potatoes, greens, puddings and pies.

After dinner Tommy indulges in his favorite free and easy, enlivened with songs of all descriptions. Patriotism, of course, enters into the greater part of the music, although the comic song is also a great favorite. Tommy cares little what the song may be, however, so long as it has a good swinging chorus in which he can join. Thus the hours pass by, the day's enjoyment generally ending in the veterans of the company being called

upon to relate stirring incidents which have won glory and renown for the regiment.—Pearson's Weekly.

Left-over cereals can be used in griddle cakes.

Excellent croquettes are made of cold boiled fish.

Filoseils is the best silk for darning silk stockings.

When buying stair carpet or oil-cloth for the stairs always buy about two feet more than is actually necessary. Then from time to time you can move the carpet up and down to equalize the wear. The length that is over can be turned in at the top and bottom of the stairs. The carpet will last much longer.

The number of women anxious to take up a medical career is increasing rapidly.



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