The Lore of Christmas

HRISTMAS comes but once a we get nearest to the real meaning of the day. The first Christmas hymns that we know were in Latin; and like brings a great many things all else at Christmas they blended with it—things old and new. Some several strains-popular rhythm, Latin of them Christian, some of them pagan, and most of them of very mixed they were too heavily theological. St. origin as one might expect. It is Ambrose was a great man indeed but characteristic of the human mind to he is not always for family singing. member and to forget and to com-Veni Redemptor Gentium begins bine the processes and then to tidy up well; but it is only too soon we reach and piece together what it recalls in detail physiological rather than spiristrange medley. Here, for instance, tual. is a quotation from an old account Of course there were Latin poets in the Middle Ages who had more than book, a frequent source of knowledge of human ways:

Item payd to the preacher, vi ij payd to the ministrell, xil o tem payd to the coke xv o

"He has more to do than the ovens in England at Christmas" is said to be an Italian provero. The early Christians kept no Christ- long as I live.") mas it would appear; and it was only

in the fourth century that Christmas in the fourth century that Christmas episodes come into homely song that began to be held. Its date had to be reaches the heart. Here are the sheprecovered by conjecture; but practical herds-from a Spanish carol, but alas, sense helped the conjecture, and fixed here in prose now:—
the Christmas day for 'the birthday I am a poor gypsy, t of the Unconquered Sun," the Persian from Egypt, and bring to God's Child sun-god Mithras; at the time of the man Saturnalla, the festival of the slaves. Not a bad choice! After all Galicia and bring to God's child linen light and life and freedom are asso- for a shirt. ated with Christ and His birth. To the new-born child all bring Gradually the festival drew all sorts gift; I am little and have nothing; I of things about it—theology, froilc, bring him my heart, song, mumming, folklore, boar's This is like the carol Luther made St. Nicholas, Christmas pres- for his little son Hans:-

It is surprising to find how recently some of these have come to adhere Ah' Lord who has created all, to Christmas. It is reported that the How hast thou made thee weak and first allusion to Christmas trees was at Strasburg in 1605. A German That thou must choose Thy infant bed princess took the Christmas tree to Where ass and ox but lately fed! France in 1840. Holly and Ivy, the Ah' dearest Jesu Holy Child man's tree and the woman's, were the Make thee a bed soft undefiled older English trees for Christmas.

The mediaeval Christmas had A quiet chamber kept for thee. banquet, a boy-bishop, jousts and Magi grew have figured bravely in the medaeval plays and they have had anocent III in 1207 felt it negessary a theological meaning put into their to forbid masks and ludi theatrales in churches and the clergy were told gifts. to abstain from festa follorum. All Kynges comyer from dyvers lande the complaints made against the Purt. With grete giftes in here honde the complaints made against the Puri- In Bedlem the childe they fonde merriment equally against the pre-re-Syellae ducti luminae.

It may be supposed that Father right tender and delicate; I touched him carefully. Then he gave me a Nicholas, patron of children and giver of gifts by night, himself a baptised god of the North, Odin, who loved to wander in the dark. Santa Claus is I'd comfortably house you; out here the same by a different pedigree—a in the stable the cold wind comes in Dutch St. Nicholas who went to New at every corner." Amsterdam and entered England from It is to be feared that most or

dogma to sing, thoughts more congenial to simple lovers of the Child of ("Make me truly to rejoice with In one land and another the familar I am a poor gypsy, who come hither

Fac me vere congaudero

("From heaven above to earth

Jesulino cohaerere

donec ego vixero.

ents and Christmas trees. Within my heart that it may be

formation church. Readers of L'Al- child in the manger: "Coal black as not please the serious. cherries are his eyes, the rest of him white as chalk. His pretty hands are

the United States. In Italy it is the fairy Befana (i.e. Epiphany) who brings the gift and she was once Diana.

The United States in Italy it is the many of the familiar English carols are modern—King Wencesias with his double rhymes is surely Victorian. In the 20 years before the war new ones

Perhaps after all it is in the carols were made in great humbers.

An Old English Christmas Dinner

too, is a legacy from a more restful of a wild boar if he can get one!)"

have nedded approvingly at the simple holly decorations. This is what I consider the ideal

Christmas menu:-Ye Olde Christmas Tyme Bill I am a poor Galician who come from Hare Soup Boiled Turbot and Lobster Sauce

Boiled potatoes Roast baron of beef and horseradish and tongue and the forcement making Roast potatoes. Brussels sprouts Roast Turkey and tongue Sausage stuffing Browned mashed potatoes Plum pudding and brandy sauce

Mince Pies Stilton cheese The cold side table:

Fan.

By A Chef.

LMOST every other person has, and to give a medaeval touch to your out a piece of the skin in the shape of is so welcome as the guest who NGBBRGHT. a different idea as to how festive board there is nothing better a shield between the eyes three inches Christmas should be regarded. than a boar's head to lend a brave from the snout. This should be fillcity where the ritual is not a little dif- At a famous restaurant in England flowers made of fat- 'and the boar ferent from the ceremonies which go six boar's heads are eaten annually is served with all honors."

on next door. Some of us-not very at Christmas and their black shining many-try to bring Christmas up-to- faces are as much a part of the de- the Yorkshire pudding which comes date and make each year's festival a corations as the holly itself. The in hissing with the baron of beef. little more impressive than its prede- recipe and ceremony by which they True Yorkshire pudding should cessor. But most of us, for what rea- are cooked is hundreds of years old half-an-inch thick and made of an son no one can quite say, like to make and there is a certain humor in the equal number of eggs and tablespoonit an opportunity to slide back a cen- first instructions-"that the cook fuls of sifted flour, new milk being tury or two. Christmas in old English shall synge carefully and clean thor- added to make a batter the consisthouses lasted a week or more. That, oughly a boar's head (which should be ency of cream.

time when men were allowed to cele- The quaint instructions continue:-"Remove the ears which should be Mr. Pickwick would have taken off boiled separately and not overdone so his spectacles and beamed at the that they may not lose their fine Christmas described here. He would shape. Bone the head, sprinkle with have tried the hare soup and per- sait, and put in a basin of pickle for haps the turbot. He would have four of five hours. Cut the flesh of asked for some of the great Baron four rabbits into large dice and mix of beef, though he might have chang- with two pounds of peeled truffled, ed his mind when he spied the great two pounds of tongue, two pounds of boar's head on the side. He would boiled fat bacon, all cut into one-inch

> Take the boar's he pickle, drain it, and wipe it and fill the inside with the mixture of rabbit

alternate layers of them. The head boiled for five hours in a well sea-soned broth with a bottle of madeira. Then there is the fascinating question as to its color the real way is to a pound of lard and rub it all over the citing? head, thus giving it a shiny black | So, there you are; and a very

ed with white lard and decorated with

One need hardly speak of the plum brandy sauce—the brandy sauce is worth taking some trouble with: brown some sugar in a pan, add a little water bring to a boil and thicken with arrowroot, flavoring with

something appropriate in the way of liquid fare. If you want something really potent this is what His Graciof brandy, a port-glassful of rum, a sherry-glassful of maraschino, half a pint of pineapple juice, one pint of upon an inverted glass so that it may be clearly seen and with the concealed as if some invisible person were interpreted in it. The arm will rise until it is level with the shoulder and then slowly sink back again.

An ordinary feather will provide

Or a posset? This is one way they had of making this comforting drink should be wrapped in a cloth and in the days of good Queen Bess: "Posset ale is made with hote mylke and colde ale; it is a temperate drynke and is good for a hote lyver and for hote feuers specyally yf cold mix some clean soot with a quarter of herbes be soden in it." Sounds ex-

Boar's head, braised game pie, York surface. As the skin is removed by Merry Christmas to you all; in the ham, glazed Ox tongue Trifle. Fruit the carver in slicing the sooty cover words of the old time toast: "May jellies, Nesselrode, Ice pudding. ing is not objectionable; it is very ef. you never have a pain that champagne will not cure."

Puzzles and Magic for Parties

has the ability to perform a ittle sleight-of hand and there are a number of simple feats of conjuring well within the powers of the voungest amateur. The amateur conjurer should however bear in mind

because there is a possibility that the secret may be discovered if it is shown a second time. The performer should try over his tricks in private before presenting them as a little practice will ensure a neat performance.

Mysterious Dessert. The conjurer picks up an apple, places it on an inverted wineglass and The apple is prepared beforehand by reel uppermost. The cone is made from fairly stiff paper and placed over the apple. When the cone is lifted dren. Select one that will float in dren. Select one that will float in the cone is lifted dren.

the conjuror allows the apple to slide out of the paper into his lap, and immediately opens the cone to show that the apple has disappeared. A large walnut may be substituted for the reel of cotton if desired.

Clever Thought Reading.

This trick is certain to produce a great deal of amusement if well work.

Shuffle the pieces face downwards on the table and allow your friends to take up three pieces. that the apple has disappeared. A large walnut may be substituted for the reel of cotton if desired.

Have Them On String. a foot long in such a way that he cannot get free even with the use of a
knife or a pair of scissors. To prove
your ability to do this you invite your
victim to kneel down, and while he is
in that position you to him while he is in that position you tie his right wrist to his right foot and his left wrist to his left foot. You can then put a pair of selssors in front of him and thought-reader is called in and gives ask him to cut himself free. He his answer after holding the paper cannot move either hands or feet; in and pencil to his head. fact the only movement he can make The secret lies in the fact that the is the one that he will make if he thought reader and his assistant have tries to get hold of the scissors he previously divided the table into nine will fall over and in that position be divisions each of which is numbered

WHLSTBRDSNWLDSWFTTVG L C divisions must be carried in the mem-RCLNGSKM.

NGHTSVRGNPLGRMSWMSNV V D It only needs the addition the right places and the lines

Night's virgin pilgrim swims in vivid

to a reel of cotton and the paper is shown to be empty. This trick should be performed while seated at the table. The apple is brown to be seated at the table. cutting a piece out of the end op- as possible with the back of his hand posite to the stalk; the cavity so for half a minute. Now tell him to formed should be large enough to con-ceal a reel of cotton. This prepared apple with the reel inside can be plac-rising without any effort on his part ous Majesty King George the Fourth apple with the reel inside can be plactually a bottle of champagne, a pint ed among other fruit on a dish. The as if some invisible person were lift-

the sides are slightly pinched and the apple is brought away inside the cone leaving the reel of cotton in view. While attention is drawn to the reel the conjuror allows the apple to slide the conjuror allows the apple to slide feather in the air by blowing. If the feather touches anyone that person must pay a forfeit.

ded. Commence by offering to read the thoughts of any one present. Having decided on the victim, a lady for choice, take a sheet of paper and tear it into small pieces and hand one of the pieces to everyone in turn leaving the lady whose thoughts are to be read until the last. She naturally holds out her hand when you come to her. Offer her a piece of paper and then withdraw it saying "You thought I was going to give you a piece but I wasn't." Thus will you have read her thoughts!

the table and allow your friends to take up three pieces each. The dominoes can be interpreted as follows:

One blank means that the person drawing it will have to be more careful with his money and goods or he will experience difficulties. A double-blank means bad luck in love and a double ace great good fortune. Two-blank signifies hard times ahead; a double two indicates a legacy and so on. You can attach a meaning to each piece and cause great fun with your answers.

Thought reading is also quite easy

Thought reading is also quite easy but it is necessary in this case to have Announce that you can tie a man up an accomplice in the room. Required with two pieces of string each only apparatus include a small penetl, a

will fall over and in that position be helpless.

No Christmas party is complete without a few puzzles and here are a few suggestion designed to keep the company amused for hours.

Can you make any sense out of these four lines?

DLNGSTNTHSMLDTWLGHTDM.

WILL STREDSNWLDSWETTVG I. C. divisions must be carried in the mage.

Spectres of The Feast

OR many centuries tales have tide by the "Cauld Lad"—an old time been told of spectres who haunt scullion who amused himself by breaklook on no doubt with envious dishes in all directions. eyes at the revels of their successors

Strange and terrifying tales are of pale faces that peer through the wa and vanish to an accompaniment of shrieks; of sounds of ham-mering as if someone was putting up a scaffold. And these are by no means the greatest of the Castle's terrors. It is said that a lady guest at the Castle awoke one Christmas night promenades the terrace arrayed in to hear the moving of a soft body over the floor of her bedroom, and the crack of a bony joint, and then to see the outline of something luminous and leading from the royal bedchamber to horrid. Slowly she says, the thing whatever it was, took shape. A body tawny and hunched; arms long, and spidery, a large and terrible head covered with a tangled mass of grey hate a feet white and starting of the supposed of Lady Wintour wife of one of the supposed of

"As I stared at it aghast it reared itself on its haunches and leered hideously at me. Then, shuffling forward, it rolled over and lay sprawled out like some ungainly turtle. At this juncture the handle of the door turned, someone entered, there was a loud cry, and the whole tower, walls and rafters rang with the most appailing screams I have ever heard,"

Newstead House the ancient home of the Byrons is credited with a galaxy of ghosts who appear at Christmas time. Among them are the sister or the late Lord Byron, who has been seen again and again taking spectral rides with her brother on dark and stormy nights, vainly imploring him to forgive her, and the "Goblin Friar" who takes his nightly walks in the cloisters and halls.

For many a century Hiiton Castle had been during her lifetime that she heard the news of her husband's capture.

For three centuries the spirit of Lady Bothwell has visited Woodhouse-lea the home from which she was driven on Christmas night in 1668, half-clad, with her infant in her arms until death brought release. And the band to drive round the grounds of Bradgate House in Lelcester every Yuletide, in a phantom carriage drawn by four "Radiant Boy" filts along the corridors of Corby Castle in Cumberland and stands by the bedsides of the sleepers. The ghostly drum is heard in the silence of the night at Cortachie Castle. And the bad Lord Longdale's ahade may be seen furiously driving the statement of the spirit of Lady Bothwell has visited Woodhouselea the home from which she was driven on Christmas night in 1668, half-clad, with her infant in her arms until death brought release. And the bounch of Lady Bothwell has visited Woodhouselea the home from which she was driven on Christmas night in 1668, half-clad, with her infant in her arms until death brought release. And the spound of Lady Bothwell has visited Woodhouselea the home from which she was driven on Christmas night in 1668, half-clad, with her infant in her arms until death brought release of Lady Bothwell has vis

CHRISTMAS SPELLS. HRISTMAS in the old days

The burning of the Yule log was a great event if was dragged in with scapies the same special policy and it has often been accounted at an always specken of as the real holly, and it has often been accounted at the produce berries, but the initiated know and anger, and brought peace and the produce berries, but the initiated know that the mystery is one of sex, for each great the first of fear of breaking its bearing the size of the s

"Ye taste and ye taste" it oried "but ye never g'ie the Cauld Lad a

Tamworth Castle is the possessor of

THE HOLLY TREE AND ITS seemed with spells and omens tery and plant personality. Always one feels that it is something more bbserved them all they certainiy deserved to have the best of luck
during the ensuing year. Here are a
few of their most cherished superstitions for the coming season:—

Draw water from a clear well on
Christmas morning and you draw good
luck to all those who drink it.

Eat mince plea in as many different
houses as possible during the Christman season; for according to the number of the season in the great winter festival—the Romans gave it an honored place in their
Saturnalia—and when Christianity
superseded the old Gods and the festival became Christmas, still the holly
and its association with the winter rejoicing continued, though into both
festival and tree new meaning was
to season; for according to the number of the sead.

Eat mince pies in as many different houses as possible during the Christmas season; for according to the number of houses so will you have good luck during the coming year.

Embrace as many friends as possible beneath the mistietoe for those who hise beneath the Christmas mistletoe will never quarrel. A flat footed woman about the house during Christmas time will always bring bad huck.

The burning of the Yule low was also clation with the winter rejoicing continued, though into both festival and tree new meaning was read.

The holly though openly a part of the rejoicing of the Nativity yet held within it the secret mystic foreshadowing of a crown of thorns in its shadowing of a crown of thorns in its prickly leaves, of drops of Passion blood in its red berries and a reminder of immortality in the ever greenness of its leaves. And so it became the "Holy Tree," as well as the "Holy Tree

ancient homes at Christmas to ing crockery and flinging pewter

One Christmas Eve a scullery mald stayed up late in order to taste clan-destinely the plum puddings in the strange and terrifying tales are told of the ghosts that gather at Giamis castle, that grim Forfarshire home of the Earls of Strathmore—of a bearded man who flits about at night midnight hour and a little figure in midnight hour and a little figure in scarlet cloak and green hood appeared.

hair, a face white and staring-pig the gunpowder plot conspirators is like in formation, malevolent in ex- said to promenade. It was while ression.

"As I stared at it aghast it reared lifetime that she heard the news of

cloisters and halls.

For many a century Hilton Castle his six-horsed coach in the grounds was supposed to be haunted at Yule- of Lowther Castle.

THE SHEPHERDS AND THE HOLY CHILD Making Useful Christmas Presents

bowls, trays, etc., from paper and these make fine Christmas presents for your friends. In the first place a few old newspapers should be have seven or eight in place.

with the paste. Then put on another lot of the surface you can secure in this way. Next trim the edges round with someons and the actual making of the bowl is at an end. To make it look smart it is well to give the article a coat of enamel. Two coats will have seven or eight in place. have seven or eight in place.

The paper bowl you are making must now be dried and it is a good plan to put basin and all in a moderately hot oven. Watch closely to see that the article does not scorch and when it seems fairly dry, give it a sood put and out off. If the edges are a little uneven so much the better. As assion inder the paper is torn place the pleces in about of cold water so that they may be saturated. Some good paste will also be required. This can be made bowl you are making must now be dried and it is a good painted on the surface. The bowl is then ready for use and it will be found light and strong, and will of course hold water.

In fact it is just like the papier mache ware that can be bought at a store. Trays and other articles can be made bowl you have made until it is quite smooth. You will be surprised at little uneven so must the paper and rub down the bowl you have made until it is quite smooth. You will be surprised at little unit it becomes milky. Then add boiling water until the paste thickens. The adhesive is improved hy the addition of about a teaspoonliu of powdered alum.

If you wish to make a bowl, select.

Carols---Old and New

was written 1600 years ago Yule- 1521. tide has always been heralded French. The word 'carole' is unit God Rest You, Merry Gentlemen."
doubtedly old French and it is still Even in Dickens classic, "The Christ-

There are many references to the word carol in old English literature, as for instance, the following from Chaucer's the last mentioned day in St. Paul's Cathedral.

"I saw her dance so comely, Carol and sing so swetchy.' And this from Shakespeare: "This carol they began that hour, With a hey and a ho and a hey

As to the association with the word Christmas, Bishop Jeremy Taylor says: 'The oldest carol was that sung by the heavenly host when the birth of the Saviour was announced to the shepherds on the plains of Bethie-

INCE the first . Christmas - carol | was published by Wynken de Worde in

tide has always been heralded Proof of the antiquity of many with song and at this season of English carols is to be found in the the year we are made familiar with is simply given as 'traditional.' This Yet, the word was not always asso-clated with Christmas. Authorities differ as to its derivation, opinions has been and attribute the first named varying between Latin, Celtic and torted by a misplaced comma, making used on the Marne to signify dance, fete etc. In olden days a carol was a ring dance with song accompaniment—a ring of men and women holding hands and moving round in dancing step singing as they went.

There are many references to the word. Another famous "traditional" is "The Lord At First Did Adam Make,"

No account of carols however brief would be complete without mention of "Good King Wenceslas." Another

very ancient carol very popular among children is "I saw three ships come sailing in." The youngsters are also fond of "The First Nowell." And a very fine old carol "Cradled in Bethlehem," composed by Orlando Gibbons was unearthed by Sir Frederick Bridge a few years ago from the archives of Westminister Abbey.

of the Saviour was announced to the shepherds on the plains of Bethiehem."

The earliest Christmas carol was written in the fourth century by Aurelius Prudentius. The oldest English carol is the "Angelus ad Virginem," contained in a church manuscript of the thirteenth or fourteenth century. The first English collection of carols

Some very beautiful carols are of French origin, such as "The Holly and the Ivy," "Now sing we all full sweetly," and "The Carol of the Flowers." Many modern English composers have written carols, especially J. B. Dykes, Sir J. Barnby. Sir J. Stainer and Sir F. Bridge. Typical specimens of their work are: "I was in the Winter cold" and "Sleep Holy Babe."

Lost Magic of Christmas Toys

the wonderful stores and the family reunion to attend which sons and daughters travel long distances. In the stores there are marvels to be hought. Yet looking round at the toyshops one wonders.

There seems everything that chil. dren could imagine or desire in the stores today except magic! Magic and mystery are not there. Toys, many of them costing many dollars, have taken the place of the things that we of the older generation had, costing

RRISTMAS looms up once quite big and connected those knobby again. With it come visions of parcels and mother's work basket with the beautiful wax doll dressed