

**THE MEDICINAL MISTLETOE.**

An "All-healer" of the Ancients—Myth Concerning the Parasite.

"A monster in botany, a dryad in mythology, a panacea in therapeutics and a perennial Yuletide symbol" is the traditional character assigned to the viscum album, "all-healer," or mistletoe, by Dr. John Knott in the New York Medical Journal. The mistletoe at Christmastide is hailed by doctors as an old acquaintance, the legend of whose healing virtues is still potent in the practice of some of that respectable profession. For at least twenty centuries its air lodged rootlets have penetrated with the mystery of their origin the pages alike of folklore and of botanical and medical literature. Suspended green in wintry branches, the parasite was by its strange contrast of environment invested with awe and religious dignity by the Celtic Druids and outlived in fame among the western nations the lotus of the Egyptians. Vergil compared its mysterious leafage and fruitage to the Sibyl's "golden bough." The Sibyl of Scandinavia was wakened from Loki's iron sleep to prophesy the death by the mistletoe of the bright sun god Balder. Its flourishing amid the dead starkness of winter may account for the fatal qualities assigned to the evergreen by the northern nations, but also its wondrous vitality made it a symbol of resurrection, peace and healing. Pliny in Philemon Holland's quaint translation thus describes the herb in the quaint and ancient ceremony of the Druids:

"They call it in their language All-Heale (for they have an opinion of it that it cureth all maladies whatsoever), and when they are about to gather it, after they have well & duly prepared their sacrifices and festive cheer vnder the said tree, they bring thither two young bullocks milk white, such as neuer drew in yoke at plow or wain, and whose heads were then and not before bound by the horn, which done, the priest, araied in a surplesse or white vesture, climbeth vp into the tree and with a golden hooke or bill cutteth it off, and they beneath recude it in a white soldiers cassock or coat of arms. Then they fall to kill the beasts aforesaid for sacrifice, mumbling many oraisons & praying devoutly; that it would please God to bless this gift of his to the good and benefit of all those to whom he had vouchsafed to give it. Now this persuasion they have of Misseleo thus gathered, That what thing creatures soeuer (otherwise barren) do drink of it, will presently become fruitful thereupon; also, that it is a soveraign countrepoyson or singular remedie against all venome. So vain and superstitious are many nations in the world and oftentimes in such frivolous and foolish things as these."

Sir Thomas Browne was a bit skeptical of its qualities as a panacea, and modern medical authorities almost universally scout its therapeutical pretensions. Strangely enough, the survival of its medicinal use in England is "as a popular remedy in cases of cardiac trouble." Affections of the heart, we doubt not, have been successfully treated by means of the mistletoe. But we venture a lay opinion that the patients were young, the plant was suspended above their heads and was efficacious only in the joyous Christmas season.

**A TINY CHRISTMAS TREE.**

One Mother Made Her Little Girl Very Happy With Miniature Plant.

A tiny fir tree, not over two and a half feet high, and of symmetrical shape, was chosen for my little girl's doll's Christmas tree, says a writer in the Woman's Home Companion. This was easily planted in a flowerpot and established upon a large table in the living room. Tiny candies were fastened upon the branches, a ten cent bunch of tinsel was sufficient for draping and a further outlay for the small colored glass ornaments added to the gorgeousness.

The main idea is to keep everything on a miniature scale while duplicating for the beloved doll children the gifts that usually fall to the small mother. So it was that tiny dolls were dressed; tiny fancy boxes were filled with tiny candies, others contained wee handkerchiefs embroidered with smallest of initials; here hung a hand mirror, there a nursing bottle, tiny fans, a lovely set of cups for the tea table, a small bird in a gilt cage, a new pet kitty, and so on. Ten cent stores yielded most of the treasures.

On the morning of Christmas my eight-year-old was shown her old dolls, each radiantly dressed, and was told that their tree was ready below stairs. The joy and delight at the sight were charming to behold and the blissful appointment of gifts began. As each arriving playmate rolled in her new dolly "to show what I've got," envy and pride reflected upon the faces of the visitor and visited, only to be dispelled by "there is something on the tree for your dolly."

**The First Christmas Tree.**

St. Winfred, who was in the eighth century a missionary to the Scandinavians, is said to have set up the first Christmas tree in the home. He tried to show the people that the Druid priests had made them worshippers of trees only and not of a living God, and on Christmas eve he cut down the great oak tree around which they had gathered to offer a human sacrifice. As it fell a young fir tree seemed to appear miraculously beyond it, and Winfred said to the people: "Here is a living tree with no stain of blood upon it that shall be the sign of your new worship. See how it points to the sky. Call it the tree of the Christ Child. Take it up and carry it to the chieftain's hall. You shall go no more into the shadow of the forest to keep your feasts with secret rites. You shall keep them at home, with laughter and song and rites of love. The thunder oak has fallen, and I think the day is coming when there shall not be a home where the children are not gathered around a green fir tree to rejoice in the birth of Christ."

**Right in Line.**

"My ancestors," haughty little Heloise Aldine told her nine-year-old playmate Hermions McGuire, "came over before yours did. They came over in the first boat, the Mayflower. Well mine came over." Hermione said stoutly, her blue Irish eyes flashing with spirit, "in the very next boat, the Juneflower."—Judge

**ASHTON HAPPENINGS**

Mrs. Ambrose Swentek visited over Sunday here.

A. B. Outhouse was here on business Friday.

Rev. Father Jarka spent Tuesday here visiting.

Mrs. Stan. Ksionzek spent Saturday in St. Paul.

C. F. Boushausen was here Saturday on business.

Miss Eve Sperling returned from the east Saturday.

Miss Bertha Cortas was a west bound passenger Friday.

Ed. Haedler was in Grand Island Thursday on business.

Mrs. M. Vincent received a fine new piano last Wednesday.

Leo Johns was down from Loup City Tuesday on business.

Miss Pokorski went up to Schaupp Tuesday to visit her brother.

Mr. and Mrs. John Papernick left Monday morning for the east.

Frank Jezenski went to Loup City on the passenger Tuesday morning.

Clifford Rein was here last week Wednesday visiting with friends.

Albert Kartas transacted business at Farwell Thursday of last week.

Miss Kalkowski returned Saturday after spending a few days in Farwell.

Mr. and Mrs. John Grella spent Sunday visiting Thos. Grella and wife.

Dr. Longacre of Loup City was here on professional business on last Friday.

J. R. Gardner and Louis Jankowski autoed to Dannebrog and St. Liberty Sunday.

Miss Clara Polski, who has been visiting in Loup City, returned home Thursday.

Herbert Mortz and Stanley Wroblewski and wife, spent Sunday at Ashton.

Miss Dora Glinesman and sister, were in St. Paul between trains last Thursday.

John Skibinski returned Thursday from St. Liberty where he had been on business.

Lincoln White was an eastbound passenger Tuesday for a visit in the eastern states.

Mrs. August Zochol and Mrs. Krzewicki spent Monday in St. Paul, returning in the evening.

Rev. Father Mlynarski went to Loup City on the passenger, returning the next morning.

Frank Dzingle of Loup City spent Wednesday here.

Col. Jack Pageler came down from Loup City Tuesday to cry the sale of Bennet Mashka.

Thomas Kosmicki, and family, left Tuesday for their homestead in Sioux City, Iowa.

Lawrence Krolkowski is at the present time visiting his son, Martin, north of Ashton.

Chas. Alexander, representing the International Harvester Co. was here on business Friday.

Clyde Wilson was in Grand Island Thursday via auto route, returning the same evening.

William Odendahl was a business visitor to Archer, returning Monday on the passenger.

Mr. and Mrs. Crapkowski and daughter, attended church and visited here over Sunday.

Ed. Rosmarek returned to school Monday morning after spending Sunday with his parents.

Mr. Stickney, who traded farms recently with Steve Dymek, was here Tuesday on business.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Foss and daughter, spent several days' visiting in St. Paul last week.

Miss Anastia Zochol spent Sunday here with her parents, returning to school at St. Paul Monday.

Emery Bly, a former resident of this place but now of St. Paul, was here on business Thursday.

Dad Gilbert returned Tuesday after spending a few days in Loup City, Comstock and Arcadia.

Ed Janulewicz and Louis Jamrog were taking in the sights at the electric power site at Boelus Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Janulewicz, and family, of Loup City spent Saturday here visiting friends and relatives.

Mrs. Frank Wardyn spent Tuesday visiting her daughter, Mrs. John Jeszewski and family at Loup City.

Mr. and Mrs. Simon Wroblewski went to Loup City Tuesday evening to visit their daughter, Mrs. Mike Kaminski.

Oscar Lousay and his carpenters of St. Paul, returned to that city Saturday evening to spend Sunday at home.

Mrs. Frank Ambrose came up from St. Paul and spent a few days with her husband who is working here at the present.

Miss Emma Chalupski, popular clerk at Held's store, returned Thursday from a visit at St. Paul and Grand Island.

The Farhat & Webber store have bills out advertising a clearing out sale of their entire stock of general merchandise.

William Dunker came in on the passenger Tuesday evening, greeting his old friends, then continuing his journey to Loup.

Miss Frances Corning spent Sunday with her parents at Loup City, returning Monday morning to her school duties here.

Walter Desh, the monument man of Ord, was in town Thursday having delivered a small but neat stone for a child of John Pruss.

The German church here is being treated to a coat of paint also being repaired generally. A committee of the parishioners doing the work.

George Polski and the Misses Clara Polski and Wanda and Nellie Jamrog, autoed to Wolbach Sunday to visit Mr. and Mrs. Walter Sawicki.

Christmas is drawing near. We notice some of the display windows are very beautifully decorated. The little ones are interesting spectators.

The Starmer Reed players played to a packed house here on the 7th.

Everybody was well pleased with the play. The company went from here to Arcadia.

Adam Kosmicki, who is working near St. Paul, dropped in Saturday evening to visit his many friends and relatives. He returned to his duties Monday morning.

A light snow fell here Friday but did not remain with us long as old "Sol's" smiling face put a stop to it, and at this writing we are having splendid weather.

Steve Dymek has traded his farm to a Mr. Stickney northeast of Loup City. We understand that Steve got a one-half section for his quarter paying the difference.

The people of the St. Francis Catholic church contributed very liberally at the collection on last Wednesday for Polish war sufferers. The sum collected being \$153.85.

Quite a volume of poultry was raised in this vicinity the past year considering the amount that has been shipped the past month, the farmers getting a handsome price for same.

On Saturday, Mr. Gardiner moved his printing office to his new location under the Ashton State Bank, which certainly is a fine location and makes a dandy room for his business.

Born, to Mr. and Mrs. Henry Ojendyk, a son, on the 11th. Heinie is wearing the smile that wont come off. Here is hoping the youngster lives and follows in the foot steps of his dad.

Mr. Mayo, deputy food inspector, was in town Thursday and Friday inspecting cream stations, stores, in fact, all business houses. We understand that he found everything in tip top shape.

The feast of "Annunciation" was celebrated at St. Francis church here on December 8. A large number he present, the weather being very nice that day gave the country people all a chance to attend.

On Sunday afternoon, December 12 a number of the ladies here held a roller skating party at the rink, for ladies only. Judging from a few of the earthquakes we felt, there certainly must of been some hard falls.

Mr. and Mrs. Garret Lorenz and family, visited Mrs. Lorenz's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Stobbe over Sunday. This being Stobbe's last Sunday on the farm as they are going to move into Ashton this week, they having bought the Charles Gawrick place.

Quite a number of friends of Mr. and Mrs. Joe Hruby, spent Sunday with them at a card party. Delicious refreshments were served and all enjoyed themselves until a late hour when they returned home happy Mr. and Mrs. Hruby many happy returns.

Rev. Father Radka held services at St. Francis Catholic church Sunday, his first sermon since returning from the hospital at Omaha. Although very weak yet, his many friends and parishioners were glad to see him in the pulpit again and all hope to hear of his speedy and complete recovery.

**The good old custom of hanging the mistletoe from the ceiling at the Christmas festivities is said to have its origin in the idea that since the plant did not have its roots in the ground no part of it should ever be permitted to touch the earth.**

**Why We Hang Up Stockings.**

The custom of hanging up the stocking on Christmas eve arose from an incident in the life of the good St. Nicholas. One day when he was overtaken by a severe storm he took refuge in a convent, and the next day being Christmas he preached a sermon to the nuns which they liked so much that they asked him to come the next year and preach to them again. On his second visit, which was also on a Christmas eve, before going to bed he asked each of the nuns to lend him a stocking, and he filled the stockings with sugar plums.

In the making of mince pies, which form a part of a regular Christmas feast, mutton was the only meat formerly used, as a commemoration of the flocks that were watched on the holy night by the shepherds of Bethlehem. The spices were supposed to be suggestive of the wise men from the east, the land of spices.

**Christmas of the Shetland Islands.**

A scene less populous but not less striking is old Christmas eve, the 4th of January, when the children and young men of Lerwick, in the Shetland Islands, go a-guizing. The children disguise themselves in strange dresses, parade the streets and invade the houses and shops begging for offerings. At 1 o'clock the young men, coarsely clad, drag blazing tar barrels through the town, blowing horns and cheering. At 6 o'clock in the morning they put off their grimy clothes and dressed in fantastic costumes go in groups to wish their friends the season's compliments.—Harper's Magazine.

**Santa Claus was born ages ago, and he has been so busy ever since that he never has taken the time to study his family tree. American children call him Santa Claus; the little Dutch folk, St. Nicholas; the French, Pere Noel; and the Germans, Prince Rupprecht or Kris Kringle. But they all mean the same thing.**

**Proof of Wisdom.**

If a man be gracious and courteous to strangers it shows he is a citizen of the world, and that his heart is no island cut off from other lands, but a continent that joins to them.

**Not Yet.**

A bard who makes "fine" rhyme with "mind" has won a prize in a "poetical" contest. Nevertheless, we are not yet convinced that "poetical" contests are the most ridiculous things in the world.

**In Holland—but always on Dec. 6 instead of the 25th—the little boys and girls put their wooden shoes in front of the hearths instead of hanging up their stockings, and the good old patron of children comes and fills them, and there is general gift giving.**

**The Cruller Lambs.**

Our kitchen's nice round Christmas time! I can't see in th' great big pot; It's where th' crullers—they cum fum—An' what's inside is drettle hot! I musn't stand too near th' stove 'Cause "spatters" might get on my dress. My mother thinks that things round there Would burn her little girl, I guess.

An' so I stay real close to her When she puts aprons round her waist And rolls th' rings out on a board, Sometimes she lets me have a "taste." An' then, you see, I'm helpin' too. I help her 'member she mus' make A lot of little cruller lambs— I like that kind of Christmas cake!

Th' lamb when he goes in th' pot He's yellow, an' he looks all flat, But when they lift him out of it, Why, he's all brown an' round an' fat! I have to wait till he's "cooled off." 'Fore I can have my lamb to eat; An' mother, she puts "wool" on him 'Til sugar—that's what makes him sweet.

An' after when my father comes, I get a lamb for him to see, My mother laughs at how he does; She says he's "big a child as me." She don't like lambs in bed, I guess, But father says to let me keep It squeezed all tight up in my hands— An' that's th' way I went to sleep! —Marie Louise Tompkins in Harper's Weekly.

**Fasting at Christmas.**

When Cromwell ruled England he issued an edict against all festivities at Christmas. The festival was altogether abolished, and the display of holly and mistletoe and other emblems of the happy time held to be seditious.

In 1644 the Long parliament commanded that Christmas day should be observed as a strict fast, when all people should think over and deplore the great sin of which they and their forefathers had been guilty in making merry at that season.

This act so provoked the people that on the following natal day the law was violently resisted in many places. Though these scenes were disgraceful, they served their purpose and put an end to an unjust order.

When Charles II. regained the throne the populace once more made Christmas a time of rejoicing.

**Quaint Yuletide Belief.**

A quaint and strange superstition holds in the Alps to this day regarding Christmas. It is believed that cattle have the power of speech given them on that holy occasion, but that it is a sin for any one to eavesdrop upon them.

**His Abysmal Meanness.**

"I cannot understand," confessed J. Fuller Gloom, the well-known pessimist, "why every young mother in town should hate me so bitterly, merely because I hinted to one of them that I did not care to kiss her infant until it had its face washed!"—Kansas City Star.

**Gift Buying SATISFACTION**

MAKE that gift something that will be kept and treasured in the years to come. A watch, a ring, a brooch, a lavalierre, a locket, a piece of China, cut glass or dozens of other articles we would be glad to suggest and show you at our store.



**Our Stock is Larger Than Ever Before**  
**Our Prices Are Lower Than Ever Before**

**LOU SCHWANER**  
JEWELER

PERFECT SATISFACTION is enjoyed at all THANKSGIVING DINNERS when the TURKEY is baked in a GREAT MAJESTIC RANGE. Call and we will show you why all who use a Majestic range are perfectly satisfied.

**This Majestic Range Will Make a Splendid Christmas Gift**

**Heating Stoves**

Complete line of heating stoves, all sizes. Come in and look this line over before you buy.

**Blankets and Robes**

We have the 5-A Horse Blankets and Plush Robes; also complete line of heavy harness.

**Hayhurst-Gallaway Hardware Co.**