

the birth of Jesus Christ are carried on for a week or more. The Christmas tree in Germany is allowed to remain decorated far into the next year, extending over a period of several months. Unique ceremonies grace the Danish, French, Swiss and Scotch Christmas celebrations and that which the Teutons foster have been handed down from ages. In Mexico one of the treasured customs is the breaking of the

Pinata, a tradition being connected with the little ceremony which ushers in Christmas day. A queerly constructed effigy of a woman is hung up in a corner of a room and a child blindfolded, armed with a stick, proceeds to dislodge the old woman from her position close to the ceiling. When the feat is accomplished the presents contained under the covering of the dress of the figure are distributed. The beauty of that little game is

woman being dislodged and second, the uncertainty as to whether the less favored of the family circle will draw any presents from the treasure store beneath the skirts of the woman.

Christmas, of course, is observed only in Christian countries, but some heathen, in fact, nearly all of them, have one day or another on which to receive and send presents to their friends and others who are not friends. In countries ruled by absolute monarchies, the rulers are sometimes afraid to open their gift receptacles for the reason that oftentimes treasonable persons inclose fancy little bombs not marked in the invoice. Of course such undesirable persons do not have any more Christmases to celebrate, affairs being arranged in that manner if they are caught.

While the Christmas idea is practically the same in most countries of the globe which observe the day, there is a great variety of presents and a certain nation's desire for gifts made in wide variance to that which the next door neighbor believes in. Germans as a rule give the children presents, most of which are made in this country, while Americans are always particular about buying the bables toys marked "made in

A Frenchman told a clever little story at a Christmas banquet in Paris a year ago, which ran along on that line. He was enamoured with a beautiful young lady whose home was on Rue de Boulevarde. She was of artistic taste, so he studied her desire in painting creations for three weeks before Christmas. At last he came to the conclusion that probably an oil painting by a noted French artist might please her. He took special pains to hunt out a store where he might procure one. He did and put several weeks' salary into the gift.

He had it delivered Christmas morning and received a cordial note of thanks from the young lady, who unfortunately had not thought to purchase anything for him. This, of course, was embarrassing to both parties, but that evening while fondling the creation in his presence she happened to scan the back of the portrait. It said: "Made in Hoboken, N. J." She was in the midst of thanks and an embarrassing explanation of why she hadn't sent him a present, when she noticed the birthmark of the oil painting. She stopped, and they haven't spoken to each other since, according to the story.

gift more than the spirit which the giver exhibits in mercantile circles that the United States in

young man, probably, was sorry for the abrupt termination of his friendship with the young lady, but perhaps it was for the best. That was his version of it, anyhow.

Most English speaking nations celebrate Christdressed for gala affairs parade the streets in order that their parents may look at them and compare them with the "kids next door."

who have been able to persuade themselves that the present century is all wrong as to the date of the birth of Christ, are skeptical as to whether we should observe the sacred day when we do. Estimates as to when Christ was born extend clear from June to January 26.

that December 25 is the correct day of feast.

One person who is not skeptical declared that perhaps they didn't have sense enough to come in out of the rain in those days. But of course that is no argument. The chances are the calendars have been changed so much that the original December 25, if hunted down, would be found flirting with May 1. Of course the correct day upon which to worship has much to do with the feeling of Christians in the matter, but at the same time, if the event is properly observed the time of observance is but a detail.

Many good churchmen who seldom attend church on Sundays find Christmas an excellent day to attend church because it only falls on Sunday once in seven years and it doesn't break in on their weekly holiday morning nap.

Millions of dollars are spent every year in every All of which goes to show that the value of a country of the globe for presents. It is declared

the uncertainty attending the possibility of the is taken into consideration by some persons. The

mastide just as we Americans do, but each has its little self-made variation. In Italy they celebrate with a grand dance, as a rule, and they take great pains to be attired in gaudy raiment. The Danish are very deliberate about their Christmas festivities and great fetes and gifts are the order of the day. The Swiss are fervent in their worship of the Saviour on that day and the little children

Many persons who have read much history and

Prior to the fourth century Christmas was not observed on December 25, for there was no period of uniformity in observing the day among the early churches. The skeptical persons who have studied the thing from end to end say that on December 25 it rained in Judea and then attention is called to the Biblical statement that shepherds were watching their flocks when Christ was born. Now how could they watch their flocks when it was raining? is the argument of the unbelievers

big source of profit.

In other countries, as in America, there are many small Christmas tragedies enacted because of the dislike which some folks take to gifts and because of the thoughtlessness of others in omitting some of their friends. Some make it a rule, and advertise it well, that they have decided to confine gifts to the immediate family circle, so that none will take offense if they receive no gifts from their hitherto cherished friends. Of course the ones who are notified of the change in the routine are careful to scratch off the names of the friends who have eliminated them so that when Christmas comes there is no needless embarrassment.

TREE FOR CHILD MODELS IN PARIS The poets once sang: "It is not the gift, but the spirit of the giver," and also "Don't look a gift horse in the mouth." There are dozens of little Christmastide axioms of that kind which are used

and misused toward the end of the year. That first saying has been cleverly shifted about in this manner: "It is not the gift, but the price which the giver putteth into the gift."

The proper Christmas spirit as told from the pulpit is far from that which many follow out in selecting presents. Mother countries exhibit less interest in costly gifts than does America. Travelers in countries of the old world have been surprised at the great number of Christmas presents which are home-manufactured. Several weeks before the glad event, the families sit themselves down in their rooms and start, secretly, work upon the Christmas gifts. In the country districts of certain parts of America this custom is still retained.

### Long a Temperance Worker.

"Mother" Stewart, who died recently, was 92 years old. She devoted her life to the temperance canse. Mrs. Stewart established the first W. C. T. U. in Ohio at Osborn in 1873. In 1876 she visited England and organized the first W. C. T. U. in that country. Following the civil war she lectured extensively in the southern states on behalf of the

Five years ago "Mother" Stewart became interested in the teaching of Alexander Dowle and visited Zion City where she remained one year, since which time she lived with friends at Hicksville. Until five years ago she resided in Springfield. O., where she led in many temperance crusades. Scarcely a woman in America could boast of the praise from pulpit and press like "Mother"

### Sees Great Future For Siberia.

More than 500,000 persons emigrated from European Russia to Siberia in 1907. Vice-Consul Chanler of Dalny reports, and of this record-breaking number fewer than ever before returned to their homes. Every colonist arriving in Siberia receives 37 acres of land free, paying no taxes the first three years and only half the regular taxes the next

Siberia imports \$10,000,000 worth of goods by caravan from China annually, almost entirely tea, while Siberia exports to China only \$750,000 worth of articles annually, and many of these originate in European Russia.

# THE RULE OF THREE.

Are a Generous Lot.

covered Meanest Woman.

The meanest woman in the world

has been discovered. She lives at

Penatanguish, on the Maine coast.

Willie Boggs, a little orphan who

works like a man and saves all he

clams. She did. Willie took the Prudenca."

These airy crews are a generous

dimes jingle merrily into their little

"How much do I owe ye?" the mean-

"Why-er"-little Willie hesitated.

with a bushel of quahogs.

est woman inquired.

"But that's only ten cents," Willie modestly objected. "That's right," Miss Prudence reas-

"All right," said she, and handed

down to the beach at low tide, and, sured him. "I'm charging ye five after two hours' hard work, returned cents for the use o' the clam-digger." And the clam-digger was one she

him a dime.

Globe-Democrat.

had borrowed from a neighbor that morning.-Harper's Weekly. knowing that she wouldn't pay the If one is sufficiently curious about earns in the hope of going to college, regular market price, 20 cents—"why what is going to happen to-morrow he asked her if she didn't want a mess of -er-I guess about fifteen cents, Miss will never commit suicide.-St. Louis

The Men Who Work on Skyscrapers

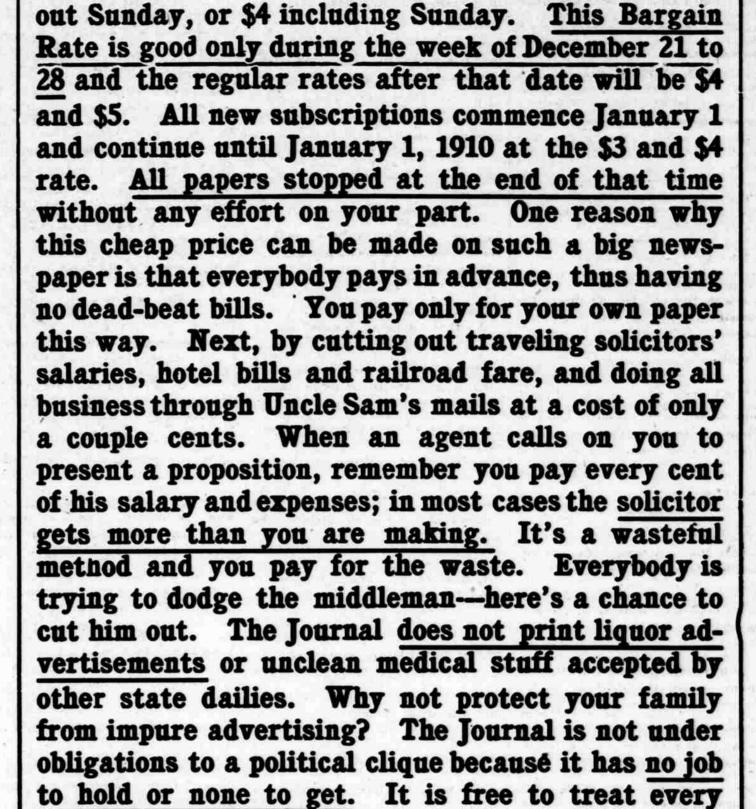
tin boxes. Behind this generous giving is a sucrowd. They earn high pay. When perstitious belief that amid risks like working full time they make \$27 a these it is well to propitiate Fate all week, and, like their rough brothers you can. For Fate is a relentless old because of the way the whole crew is out on the plains, they are quick to machine, and when once its wheels expecting it. But anyhow, when two give of their earnings. On Saturday begin grinding, no power on earth can accidents come close together, you afternoons when they line up at the stop them. The "Rule of Three" is can be sure that the third isn't very pay window, the Sisters of Charity centuries old. You may hear of it out far off."-Ernest Poole, in Everyare always there, and quarters and on the ocean, in the steel mills, in the body's.

railroad camps, and down in the mines And you find it up here on the jobs in the skies.

"Believe it?" said an old foreman "You bet, they believe it."

"Do you?"I asked.

"Well," he said, "all I can say is this: It may be a spell or it may be



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## Santa's Biography

low price. Send your money to

nor who his parents were, but they more to give away. At the same time kin with him. He is the only untitled person whom nobody calls "Mister," and he is a bachelor of excellent reis not classed with the millionaires. Still he shows a preference for that class and he puts more in their stock-

Santa Claus, the most widely known | any event, the fact remains that the and popular individual on earth, was rich get more out of him than the poor born so long ago that it would not be do. Maybe he is not altogether to ladylike for him to acknowledge it, so blame for that. Anyway he doesn't nobody knows his exact age. Neither ride around in an automobile. This is it known just where he was born, may be because he wants to save

must have been eminently respectable he doesn't ride in the street cars. So people, for everybody nowadays claims | there you are. pute. Although he gives away more at taking up his stocking to fill it. Christmas than Mr. Carnegie and Mr. Neither does he care a continental Rockefeller ever thought of giving, he about politics, and he never votes He is ings than he puts in the stockings of day in the year. Their parents, how- are all gone Santa Claus will go too, the poor. Perhaps he has a taste for ever, don't feel so much that way for what's the use of his monkeying fine hosiery. Some bachelors do. In about it, and Santa Claus kindly con- with grown-ups?

RECORD HARD TO BEAT.

Harper's Weekly Confident It Has Dis- | basket and the clam-digger, hastened

Santa Claus is the only truly religious person, for he never asks anybody what church he belongs to before especially fond of children, and the

siders their feelings in the matter. He knows enough not to be anxious to work a good thing to a frazzle.

Nobody knows where Santa Claus lives in the summer, also the spring and fall and most of the winter, but wherever it is it must be a healthy place, because he always shows up at Christmas looking so fat and jolly that really he ought to advertise the location and take in boarders. There is one thing certain, if he did there wouldn't be any "No-Children-Taken" signs around the establishment.

Santa Claus confines his attention almost exclusively to mankind, the lower animals, except the reindeer. having no pull with him whatever. This is a well-known fact in natural history, which may be proved by pietures of Santa Claus and his holiday turn-out coming over the snowy roofs.

When Santa Claus dies there will be the biggest funeral ever heard of, but there is not much likelihood of that children are so dead stuck on him that event ever happening as long as there they want him to come around every are any children alive. When they

## KIAMIL PASHA AND THE JEWS

New Turkish Vizier.

People Feel They Have Friend in bassador at St. Petersburg and also as grand vizier. He is a great traveler ic. He told me that the sultan was and a wonderful linguist, speaking entirely willing to have the Jews mi-Kiamil Pasha, the leader of the English, Hebrew, Greek, German, grate to Palestine, for they made good Young Turks, and the present grand French, and, of course, Arabic and subjects. It was undesirable for vizier, is by birth a Jew, but became Turkish. He is the most accom- many to come at one time, because a Mohammedan when a boy through plished statesman in Turkey to-day. the country was not in condition to his father's conversion. Although He has always been favorable to Jew- absorb considerable numbers rapidly. about 75 years old, he is a man with ish migrations into the Ottoman em- He suggested that Syria and Mesovery modern ideas, having served his pire. In 1890 and 1891, when I visit- potamia, being less settled than Pal-

vizier, and I spent some time in his populations, might be more favorable company, talking to him about the regions for settlement. The only real Jews and their troubles in Russia and objection he had to the migration of elsewhere. He was very sympathetcountry as governor of Syria, as am- ed Turkey, he was then the grand estine and better able to absorb large production of barley.

ing citizenship in the countries from which they came. Thus they did not assume any obligations to the Ottoman empire, and might, on the other hand, involve it in dispute with other nations.—American Hebrew. United States' Barley Production.

Jews or other foreigners to the Otto-

man empire was their habit of retain-

The United States ranks third in the