

# CHRISTMAS MILESTONES in AMERICA

**E**VEN the poor child of today has more in his Christmas stocking than the prosperous child dreamed of in the first century of white occupation of this country. Blase boys and girls who can hardly think of anything new for which to ask the generous saint can hardly conceive of the bareness of those early Christmas holidays.

In Massachusetts it was the worst of all, for keeping Christmas was denounced as a pernicious custom, and any child daring to think of as much as a plum pudding on that day would make himself liable to reproof by the authorities. All along the stern and rockbound coast the only Christmas trees in the days of the Puritan domination were those that nature had planted there and had adorned in December with fleecy snow. The fires burned brightly on the open hearths, but there was no invitation to the good saint to descend the chimney when the embers had burned low. As far as the children knew, Christmas was just like any other day in the calendar. Even after the Puritan reaction against the forms and customs of the old church had spent itself to some extent the children of the seventeenth century still expected no gifts in honor of the birthday of Christ.

In New Amsterdam the outlook was a little better for the children. The Hollanders had brought with them their St. Nicholas, and his birthday was celebrated joyously by young and old just before Christmas, but this day was kept, too, by the Protestant Dutch as heartily as by any Catholics. Of course, they had not many real toys as we know them today, but in the shoes that the little Hollanders set by the fireplace in the shining kitchen, which was also the living room, were home-made sweets and cakes and home-made gifts. Many of these were of a useful character, such as hand-knit caps and mittens, but now and then a skillful Hollander would carve a model of a boat such as that which had brought them to New Amsterdam or a miniature chest of drawers, and one can fancy the recipients showing these with pride to the wondering little Indian boys and girls when they came to be on terms of suf-



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an automobile until the aeroplane, which he expects to have ready soon, is perfected. In any case, he carries automobiles of varying sizes for boys who long to run their own cars. How he ever gets them into the house is a mystery, for some of the delivery wagons and other machines are large enough to accommodate a good-sized boy.

There are so many things for girls nowadays that dolls do not occupy quite as important a place in the

Christmas stocking as at one time, yet there is nothing that quite takes their place in the affections of a real girl. And what stunning dolls they are today! Dolls that represent every phase of life, from baby dolls with their complete layettes to perfectly grown-up dolls with elaborate wardrobes and trunks to pack them away in. The handsomest and newest dolls come from a German studio. No two are alike, and they are real portrait dolls of North of Europe children in quaint costume. These lovely dolls cost \$14, but Santa Claus never counts the cost when he is going some place. An alluring

French doll says, "Take me by the hand and I will walk with you," and she does.

For the little children a woolly sheep used to be a delightful toy in the latter part of the last century, and when dogs and bears that would actually walk were found on Christmas morning there was a howl of delighted admiration. Now there are lambs and dogs of life size and ponies as big as the real ones, and all sorts of large animals with the coats like the natural animal. They all walk and move about and act their parts perfectly.

Whatever father and mother have is duplicated for the children besides the thousand and one things that are devised especially for their amusement. All through the year the ingenious folk are working overtime in all the toy shops of the world to turn out the load for Santa Claus to carry to the fortunate children who look for him on Christmas eve, 1914.

## CHRISTMAS REVELRY

A figure everywhere dominant in the celebration of Christmas in the middle ages was that of the Lord of Misrule, also called the Master of Merry Disports. In Scotland this same master of the revels was known as the Abbot of Unreason, while in France his title was very much the same—"Abbas Stultorum"—or Abbot of Fools. The king, the great lords of his realm and other important personages must needs appoint such a leader and organizer of their Christmas festivities. In Scotland, previous to the Reformation the monasteries used to elect such a functionary, but in 1555 a law was passed for the suppression of the Abbot of Unreason, along with all the other burlesque and fantastic features of the Christmas celebration.

The barons and knights kept open house at Christmas time for a fortnight. Revelry reigned throughout this period, and on Christmas day the grand feast, given by the feudal chieftain to his friends and retainers, took place with great pomp and magnificence. The boar's head was first and foremost on the board, and its entrance to the banqueting room was heralded by a great blare of joyful trumpets. Borne on a gold or silver platter by the server at the head of a procession of nobles, knights and ladies, the foremost dish of the feast made the round of the hall to merry minstrelsy. When it was finally given its place rosemary and bay were spread around it, a pipkin was placed on its tusk and a mammoth pot of mustard close at hand.

The boar's head was put down by act of parliament in the time of the commonwealth, and after that, although it was officially freed of the ban, it never quite recovered its former place as a part of the Christmas feast.

The peacock dish was next in importance to the boar's head. This bird sometimes appeared at the board with all its feathers on and its beak gilded, its skin having been removed before cooking and carefully readjusted after it was ready for the table.

### A FAMILY JAR.

"Providence intended me for a leader of fashion."  
"Providence intended you for a fool."  
"Well, whether Providence did or not you got me."

### ONE.

"There never was a woman who didn't gab about her neighbors," growled Mr. Gabb.  
"Oh, yea there was," replied Mrs. Gabb.  
"That's right," commented Mr. Gabb, "I forgot about Eve."

### LINGUISTIC DIFFICULTY.

Frenchman—This impertinent Yankee slapped my face.  
Wife—Well, why don't you do something?  
Frenchman—How can I? I don't know how to talk English.—Le Ritte.



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privations that were undergone by all the families living in the colonies at that time. When soldiers were starving at Valley Forge there was little thought in their homes for Christmas merrymaking and little to do with it.

After the war there were still lean years, but by the opening of the nineteenth century peace and plenty smiled upon

the land and Santa Claus found it safe to resume his visits and make the distributions. He still met with a few frowns in New England, but for the most part he was welcomed in homes of varying degrees everywhere. There were no steam pipes or hot-air registers in those days and the chimneys were still hospitable. The saint had to increase the size of his pack and get a new sleigh to accommodate the increased variety and number of gifts for distribution, and whereas two reindeer had been entirely adequate for drawing his load in the eighteenth century he now had to add two at a time every few years.

Another war came along, but this time Santa Claus decided that he did not need to go out of business; but he found a new kind of toy appropriate to the time which proved wonderfully acceptable to the patriotic young Americans. Enter the wooden soldier in his painted uniform. Happy the boy who found a company of these on Christmas morning. Sometimes he might even get a toy cannon or a warship something like those that were used in the stirring engagements of the war. The little girls of the period were so expert with the needle that they could make flags and even little uniforms for the toy soldiers.

In the hundred years since that time there has been a mighty development in the toy armaments, and all sorts of figures and implements have been evolved until at the present time a fortunate boy of the twentieth century may have a sufficient military and naval equipment to carry on a real war with another boy whose fighting force is equally impressive. The warships and torpedo boats are exact models of real ones, and some of them can float upon the water in all the majesty of fighting vessels. Their equipment is perfect, too, even to the wireless apparatus and devices for saving as well as for destroying life. Ashore there are forts of the latest construction and fighting men of all nationalities.

One of the latest achievements in the Christmas toys is in the aerial apparatus. From box kites to real aeroplanes that will whiz through the air there is everything that the boy who has watched real airships and longed to fly one himself can desire to possess. Some of them are almost large enough to accommodate St. Nicholas himself. Even the railways accommodate themselves to the exigencies of warfare. The railways and their equipment are the last word in the up-to-date toys for fortunate children. With the training they furnish there should be developed a race of engineers, managers and presidents of railroads in the future. The most complete sets that Santa Claus brings in 1914 have tracks that can be laid straight away and in curves, going through tunnels, having improved signals and up-to-date stations. There are electric and steam trains, coaches for several classes, baggage and freight cars—indeed everything required for the demands of travel and traffic.

If a boy has no taste for the details of railroading he may be interested in moving pictures, and Santa Claus has a fine assortment of apparatus of that kind, some of it simple enough for almost anyone to operate and splendid for utilizing picture post cards or the photographs made with the camera, which is one of the favorite articles in the Christmas pack.

Some persons say that Santa Claus has discarded his reindeer and pack and taken to using



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cient amity with them for such conferences.

In Virginia, where the Church of England was strong and its adherents steadfastly observed the holidays as in the home country, there was always more of the Christmas spirit and abundant cheer and merrymaking than elsewhere at this season. Here the Yule log held its place and here were the games and the feasting that made it indeed the merry season of the year. Later when New Amsterdam became New York and the English came into power the character of the Christmas holiday was changed again somewhat, although the Dutch influence continued dominant for many years.

Owing to the large number of Germans in Pennsylvania Christmas there partook largely of the nature of the festival in the fatherland. It was largely a family affair. The children for months before the day of the Nativity saved their pennies and bought material from which they fashioned their gifts for their parents and for one another. These were presented on Christmas eve, and the next day the parents in turn spread out their presents for the children on a large table in the best room. Stockings were hung, too, and the good children had them filled with sweetmeats, pepper cakes and other goodies, but those who had been bad sometimes found a birch rod as a Christmas gift. There was one custom that was fraught with great terror to children. One Knecht Rupert went from house to house inquiring about the children on Christmas eve and recommending rewards or punishments according to the reports that he received of their conduct during the year. The Pennsylvania Santa Claus was popularly known as Kris Kringle, a corruption of Christ-kindlein, the little Christ.

Throughout the colonies in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries toys were an almost unknown factor, but wherever Christmas observances were not frowned upon by religion feasting and good cheer were abundant, and bond and free, rich and poor, old and young shared in the games, abundant food and genial atmosphere. Not only did the munificence of those who were well supplied with worldly goods extend to their dependents and to all within reach of their charity, but in some places even the animals had an extra allowance of food to let them know that Christmas had come again.

In the eighteenth century toys began to make their appearance in the colonies. Some of them were brought from overseas and had the enchanting quality of novelty. Little girls who had helped to mother their younger brothers and sisters were delighted with dolls that were all their own to dress and undress, to fondle and cuddle, punish and reward. Simple and quaint were those early dolls, like the children they belonged to. One can fancy the surprise and terror of the timid when they first beheld a Jack Jump into the air when an innocent looking box was opened. A toy was a thing to be cherished in those days. It was indeed a wondrous saint who could bring such things in his pack. Some of the gifts were of real intrinsic value, for the shipping and trading were growing to be important factors in the colonies, and men brought treasures of all kinds from the Far East to the seaports, whence they were distributed to other parts of the colonies. The war for independence interrupted this and the children shared in the self-sacrifices and de-

## The Remodeled Dress



**T**HERE is a lot of comfort to be had out of a remodeled dress. It seems, and is, wasteful to discard a perfectly good garment, that has nothing the matter with it, except that some new idea in outline has come in and displaced that on which it was built. The sense of being economical is so strong, and when a remodeled gown has all the earmarks of a spick-and-span, up-to-the-hour new model, the joy of the average woman is complete. She has achieved economy and style at the same time.

This season the incoming of the tunic, the vogue for thin sleeves, the wide girle and the girle made of the fabric of the dress have all played into the hands of her who is determined to remodel her gowns instead of discarding them. Skirts set on the yokes have helped out, too, for the skirts too narrow at the bottom has been cut off where it began to narrow, and the missing length provided for by a smoothly fitting yoke. Thanks to the fickle, but not always unkind goddess of fashion, short skirts are the proper thing for the street, and some of the bottom edge may be trimmed away from those that show signs of wear.

Then there is the skirt with the battlement edge at the bottom, that is, skirts slashed into shallow, straight-edged scallops about the bottom edge, sometimes bound with braid. This one alteration gives an up-to-date touch to last year's gown.

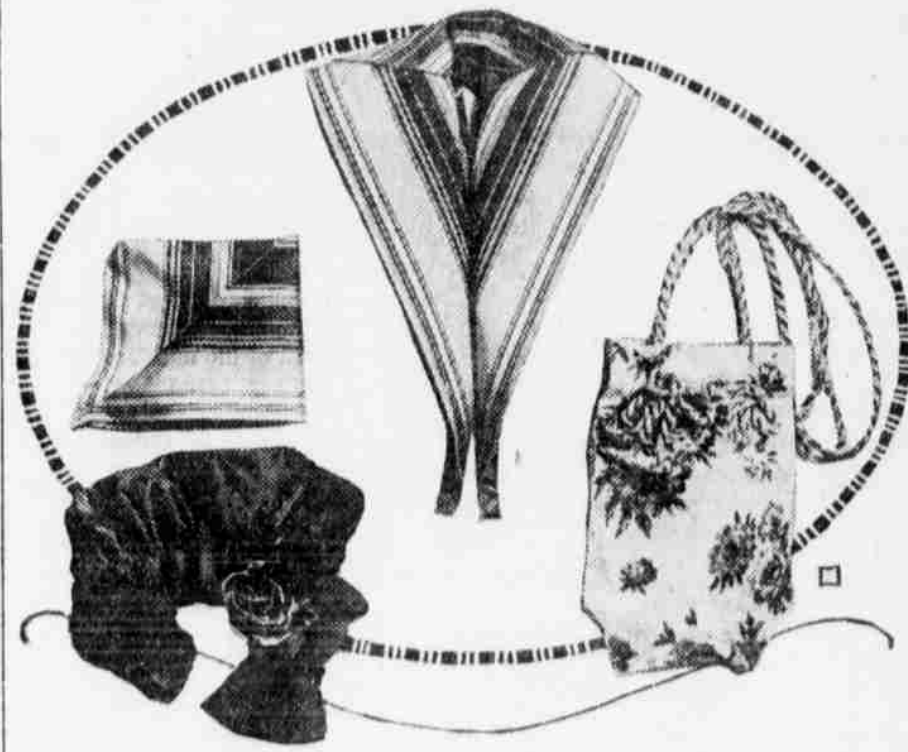
A straight, plain underskirt of satin, worn under a cloth tunic, has solved the problem of changing many cloth and velvet dresses of last winter into styles introduced for the present season. The tunic of plaited chiffon worn over the skirt of last year's silk gown and the introduction of a wide girle about the waist have helped out immensely in altering afternoon dresses.

Nothing has been more helpful to the economically inclined than the very fashionable band trimmings of fur and fur cloths. By means of these tunics have been lengthened, the fashionable collars and cuffs introduced on jackets, pretty turbans to match suits made possible. All the pattern books abound in suggestions for clever remodeling.

An attractive dress shown in the picture may be copied, using a last year's dress as a foundation if the owner had the forethought to buy a little extra length of goods with a view to remodeling her gown. Where a provision of this kind has not been made, it is best to make an underskirt of satin and convert the cloth skirt into a tunic. Or if the cloth skirt is very narrow the underskirt may be finished with a panel of satin up the front and the cloth tunic set in at each side of this.

Very wide silk braids are fashionable for trimming, and, like the bands of fur and fur cloth, have been most useful in the remodeling of gowns.

## At the Ribbon Counter



**I**T is hard to pass the gay ribbon counters and the show cases full of this year's offerings for the holidays. The very first thing to catch the eye is the heaps of half-opened roses, made of satin ribbon set in small millinery foliage. They are mostly in American Beauty colors, but there are some pink and a few rich yellow ones. The stems are wound with narrow green ribbon and a stream of silver half-dollars flows inward as a stream of roses flows outward as they change hands. The single rose pinned close up to the neck or on the shoulder is being worn by smart women and many of them bought as gifts for friends.

Next one notices the neckbands of velvet ribbon which have a ruff of lace or mullin at the back and fasten under a rose or two small buds, at one side. Sometimes the ruff is in black and sometimes in white.

Below in the show cases are the new bags made of the richest brocaded ribbons. Among them that one shown in the picture is of white satin figured with splendid American Beauties in the natural colorings. It is moderate in size and plain and the roses could hardly be more lifelike on a painted canvas. This is one of many beautiful bags brought out for holiday gifts.

Roman striped ribbons have been used to make the handsome collar and cuff sets with which women brighten up their dark cloth tailored suits. The collar and one cuff of a set is shown in the picture. Pretty standing collars of these striped ribbons are made by folding the ribbons lengthwise so that one edge is about an inch higher than the other and laying the folded edge into box plaits. The plaits are stitched down near the bottom and in another line of stitching an inch or more higher. The plaits do not extend across the front but form a ruff at the sides and back. The ribbon is laid in folds across the front and fastens at the left side under a row of little, flat silk-covered buttons. The buttons are repeated on the right side.

Many pretty ornaments for the dressing table in the form of pincushions grace the holiday ribbon counter, and there are the usual beautiful girldes and sashes in greater numbers than ever.

JULIA BOTTOMLEY.

Lace is a very important factor in the costume of the day. Not only does it form flounces and frills entirely covering the bodice and skirt, but it makes modern or ancient lappets and tunics