

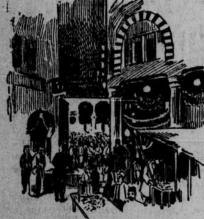
+8000000000000000000000000+ AN ORIENTAL NEW YEARS. ************

New Year's day in part of the Turkish Orient is the gayest holiday of the year, for it is also the day of St. Basil's festival. The celebration of the two feasts has become inseparable, so to speak, in the minds of the Greeks, and the first of January is now known throughout the Levant as St. Basil's

But it is the Greek Church only which honors the saint on that date; the Latin Church observes simply his ordination day, some time in June, while the other Christian denomina-tions have for him merely the same reverence as for the principal Greek Fathers, such as St. Chrysostom, St. Gregory Nazianzen, etc.

The Russians, though following the same ritual as the Greeks, hold no particular celebration on New Year's day in honor of St. Basil; and the true Hellenes, those who live on Greek territory, seldom give importance to a feast on January first. So St. Basil's birthday is distinctly celebrated only by the Greeks who dwell on Turkish territory and are subjects of the sultan.

They are known as Greek Rayahs. Of their fatherland they have preserved nothing, save the religion and an impure dialect, which varies more or less in every vilayet, or province, and



SCENES ON THE STREET.

little resembles the harmonious and le mother tongue. This dialect in its varieties is by no means the modern Greek, which is a beautiful and very expressive language, rich in conons, possessing a grammar, and also vocabulary, almost as extensive as that of the ancient Greek. The Rayah dialects on the other hand are corrupt patols formed with words borrowd from Turkish, Hebrew, Armenian, Italian and French.

Nor does the costume of the Rayahs resemble the true Hellenic dress, but rather that of the Mohammedans.

The ignorance, debasement and slugshness of the Rayahs are extreme, twittestanding the efforts of the ek government to supply them with acational institutions, in the hope that they may rise against their opors and succeed in shaking off their yoke. But it is likely to be long before these descendants of a noble race shall appreciate the philanthropic efforts of their freed brethren.

At present they have adopted near-ly all the Turkish fashions, and lack to improve their condition fond of their ease, love drinking and smoking, and care for nothing d their material welfare.

Still they have remained faithful to eir meligion nevertheless; and follow all its rites with a respectful and blind-ly superstitions obedience. They ob-serve all the holidays of the church, but er above all St. Basil's day.

oular tradition represents St. Ba at as a venerable man, clad in bishop's ts, carrying incense, myrrh and other Oriental perfumes. He is posed to come on the eve of his January 12th according to the gorian calendar and distribute tents to children. He is the patron at of the home and of the young. Armenia to the Archipelago, and the Black Sea to Syria, there is

its New Year's presents as positive

ring out the

ring out the

THE NEW

THE TRUE.

it is baked.

heard, saying:

give us their song!"

panion.

OLD. RING IN

FALSE, RING IN

sugar, and its flavoring is of certain

spices. It is usually made very rich.

so that it may keep soft for days after

Housekeepers dread the task, for a

large quantity of St. Basil's cake is

made in each family. A large part of

it is destined for the hospitals, the

children's and orphan's asylums, the

prisons and the poor; another part is

given away to callers, to servants and

to the boys who come round in the ear-

New Year's eve is a great time for

the Rayah boys. As soon as they ring

the bell of a house the door is thrown

open and the voice of the master is

"Let the boys in at once! Give them

money, fruit, and all that they can

carry of St. Basil's cake. Come on,

servants, fill their pockets while they

Then the poor children, delighted by

the warm welcome of the host and the

profusion of dainty things given them,

sing with frenzy the romantic little tale

of St. Basil, which ends with the call-

ing down of numerous blessings on the

generous family during the new year.

neither St. Basil's song nor St. Ba-

sil's cake; it is a curious mistake as to

date which has prevailed among the

Greek Rayahs for many generations.

For history declares that the 1st day

of January is not the anniversary of

St. Basil's birth, but that of his death!

-Alcide de Andria, in Youth's Com-

is for New

Year's day, my

Two for St. Val-

entine's day;

day, chilly and

-Jane Gray.

Three for the birth-

dear.

When Washington came

drear.

Four is for April first, my dear,

And we call it Arbor day.

On the soldiers' graves to lay;

Eight is for Labor day.

Turkeys and nuts beside;

trees.

this way.

When we fool each other in play;

Five is the time when we plant thi

Six is the day when we take the flowers

Seven's the glorious Fourth of July,

Nine's for Thanksgiving day, puddings

And ten is the last and the dearest and

Ancient and Modern New Year's Festival

The first day (calends) of January,

as marking the beginning of the year,

was observed as a public holiday in

Rome from at least the time of the

Julian reformation of the calendar.

Ovid alludes to the abstinence from

litigation and strife, the smoking al-

tars, the white-robed processions to

the capitol; and later writers describe

the exchanges of visits, the giving and

receiving of presents (strenae), the

masquerading, and the feasting with

which the day was in their time cele-

brated throughout the empire. Liba-

nius (c. 346 A. D.) speaks of it as being

in his day the one great holiday com-

mon to all under the Roman rule.

When, about the fifth century, the 25th

of December had gradually become a

fixed festival commemorative of the

nativity, the 1st of January ultimately

acter as the octave of Christmas day

and as the anniversary of the circum-

cision of our Lord, and as such it still

figures in the calendars of the various

branches of the eastern and of the

western church, though only as a ferst

of subordinete importance.

The beautiful Christmas-tide.

But the strangest thing of all is

ly evening to sing St. Basil's song.

Among the young he ranks as high as St. Nicholas in Russia, Germany and other countries; but among the old he is held in great veneration as one of the most eminent Greek Fathers, and also as the most eloquent promoter of monasticism throughout the East. Besides, he was a great philanthropist,

Caesarea, the capital of the former province of Cappadocia, was St. Basil's native place. At the age of thirtythree he was made a presbyter, and a few years later bishop of the same city, a position which he held until his death, A. D. 379.

Elaborate preparations are made for his festival, which begins at an early hour on the evening of December 31st. The shopkeepers adorn their windows with an attractive medley of toys and holiday gifts. Oranges, dried and fresh fruit, imported and domestic table delicacies, candies, cakes, are either displayed in the show-cases or piled up in front of the stores, which are extravagantly lighted up for the occasion, and decorated with garlands of colored paper skilfully cut out in the shape of natural flowers. From the ceilings, from the top of the windows, they fall in the chandeliers, from the pictures.from grouped festoons.

The mild climate permits a large and variegated crowd to circulate through the streets and gather in the stores, and no sight is more picturesque than a street in the East on St. Basil's eve.

There are to be seen people of communities and races having nothing in common but the land and the surrounding atmosphere; there are curious contrasts of complexion and wearing apparel; there the genuine attire of five races is on constant exhibition.

You see, for instance, the long, loose robes of the Jews, and the bright red or yellow silk garments worn by their wives. There are the short, wide breeches of the Turks, contrasting with the long ones of the Rayahs. The small red fez and the large vermillion one, designed to hang down on one side of the face like the Phrygian cap, are intermingled with the plain Derby and black silk hats of the European gentlemen, whose simple attire is made obtrusively plain by the bright-colored goods used by the natives.

Conceive, too, the variety of garments worn by the women. Imagine, for instance, the Parisian dress and bonnet of a European merchant's daughter, side by side with the loose yellow breeches, the lilac doublet and the long green veil of a wealthy Armenian lady! Every day one sees embroidered bosoms, long garments sometimes trimmed with fur, robes, cashmere shawls and bright red silk slippers, on the women.

Among men it is not uncommon to behold bare legs and gorgeous holiday turbans; often a gallant Mohammedan, covered with rags and filth, carries in his belt an assortment of Damascus blades, yataghans and jewel-encrusted firearms, worth a small fortune.

Two singular customs contribute to this holiday's particular character; one is the making of "St. Basil's caks." the other the singing of a song through the streets on the eve of the saint's alleged birthday.

Elaborate preparations for the kneading of the cake begin in every house two days, at least, before the festival, for much labor is involved in its confection. All the women of the family squat on a rug, in the Turkish fash-



THE NEW YEAR DINNER.

ion, around a low, circular pastrytable, and amidet gay stories and laughter the rolling-pin runs over the rich paste, while the housewives vie in decorating and forming the cakes.

The commonest decorations are Oriental arabesques representing palms, flowers, shells, or grotesque figures with which to amuse the children, while the most skilful workers make dolls whose faces are red eggs firmly embedded in the paste.

These would seem simple to an American housekeeper; but in a country where cooking utensils and baking ovens are very rude, the undertaking requires much patience.

a Rayab child who does not regard | The cake consists of butter, eggs and

THE INTELLIGENT JURY. Even the Court Himself Got Up and

"I don't believe everything I hear about the ignorance of the average jury," said an old lawyer in reminiscent mood, relates the Detroit Free Press, "but once, when I visited a backwoods court in the mountains of North Carolina, I did happen on an incident that shook my faith for a time. The case was before a squire and the I ever got into and I should not have been surprised at anything, but I was. After a couple of jack-leg lawyers had got in what they had to say the court. got in what they had to say the court turned the case over to a jury and it adjourned to a barn to decide the innocence or guilt of the prisoner. And such a jury! I can never forget what a motley gang that jury was. In half an hour it came back and resumed its place in court.

"'Have you found a verdict?' asked the squire. "'What's that?' responded the fore-

man. "'Have you found a verdict? That's what,' replied the squire.

'Why, squire,' hesitated the foreman, with a foolish grin, 'we didn't know thar wuz one lost; did we, boys?" And even that court couldn't stand it, but got up and swore."

He Stopped the Car.

He was young and neatly dressed, but he retained the biggest half of a last night's jag. Making his way up the Bowery as steadily as he could, he suddenly decided to take a cable car. Unfortunately, he was in the middle of the block, and cable cars stop only at corners, but the gentleman was too much absorbed in whisky and thought to realize the fact. The first car refused to stop, of course. So the gentleman retired to the sidewalk, and entered the car's number with great care and deliberation in a memorandum book. Then he essayed a second car (about four cars had passed while he had been putting down the number), but the second and equally a third car likewise did not stop. In each case he entered the number of the sinning car in his book. Finally, with an expression that said, "I'll make this car stop," he clutched the hand rail on the rear platform of a fourth car and pulled back as if stopping a team of horses.

The car went on.

So did the gentleman with the jag, a sort of human pennant to the car. A passenger on the rear platform rang the bell wildly to stop the car. After the car came to a standstill the pennant climbed aboard and calmly put down in his notebook the number of the conductor, gripman and car, then he dropped asleep triumphantly.

The man next to him saw the number of the car, as he had written it down. This was it: "Carnumber 321,147776,811."-New York Sun.

Fun at the White House.

The humors of the White House, it is the testimony of everyone who has resided there, would fill many volumes. Many of them are found in the daily mail bag. At a dinner the other day Mrs. McKee told of a letter Mrs. Harrison received while first lady of the

"Dear Maddam-I would like a present from Washington City, and so I will locate on you for it. Please send me a dress pattern and (here followed list of several other things please pay the express, as I have made a vow never to pay anything on an express package, as I never know what it is until I have opened it." Mrs. Harrison, according to the relator, was much amused at this missive, and "I'll locate on you for that" became a standing phrase in the family ever after when some object was coveted. Another letter received by Mrs. Har-

"Dear Madam-Please send me soms sheet music, as I have a daughter that has some tallents."-Ohio State Journal.

rison ran:

Ever Popular. Shaded chrysanthemums, yellow and brown, have been used at one or two autumn weddings as bridal bouquets.

JOSH 'BILLINGS' PHILOSOPHY

A gentleman iz the party who iz allwuss honest, and allwuss polite, and keeps his boots shined up, and his finger nails clean.

Mi dear fellow, yu kan't git ennything out ov this world unless you ask for it, and yu ain't a going to git mutch ennyhow unless you insist upon it.

When yu settle with yurself, insist uyon 100 cents on the dollar; when yu sestle with the world, take haff price if yu kant git enny more. Mi dear boy, don't let enny man git

the drop on yu. This iz a vulgar saying, but if yu have got branes enuff, yu will use it for a moral purpose. There are no doubt plenty ov people in the world who are abuv sus-

pishun, but I never hav known enny one (not miself) whom it wasn't safe to watch. Thare iz a mighty sight ov odds between knowing everyboddy, and having everyboddy kno yu; but thare iz lots ov folks who never diskover the

difference. There iz sumthing funny about this, but I have notissed that yu could sell a man a kake ov sweet scented sope, at the same price, with less talk, than

also assumed a specially sacred char- yu could a koppy of the nu testament. The odds izz just what makes the difference-to wit: Wnat yu learn b' yure own experience allwuss kosts al. it iz worth, and sometimes a grate deal more; but what yu learn bi the experience ov others don't kost nothing, and worth just as mutch.

The Success of Henry G. Thorell. Henry G. Thorell, whose postoffice address is Holdrege, Neb., was at one time a carriage maker in Chicago. He removed to Nebraska in 1877. That he

has reason to be satisfied is proven by the fact that he is today worth \$30,000, every cent of it made on his farm. Itast year (1896) he had 250 acres in corn, 250 acres in small grain, 26 horses, 50 head of cattle and 150 hogs.

In our "NEBRASKA BOOK" (40 pages with maps and illustrations) are down.

with maps and illustrations), are doz-The case was before a squire and the prisoner was up for hog stealing. It have made a success of farming. They was the rudest court and surroundings show that Nebraska is as good a state

It is interesting, practical and truthful. In a straightforward, simple fashion, it tells you everything you need to know about Nebraska—its climate. people, schools, churches, railroads, markets, soil and crops. It explains why the Nebraska farmer makes money in spite of low prices and hard times. Why land is cheap. And how it is as easy for an intelligent and in-dustrious man to BUY a Nebraska farm as it is to rent one in any state east of the Missouri river.

Every farm renter who wants to become a farm owner; every farm owner who is tired of trying to make money off high-priced land; every father who wants to give his sons a start on the high road to independence, should write for a copy. Free.

J. FRANCIS, Gen'l Pass'r Agt., Burlington Route,

A woman can pick out a bride as far a

Lions and tigers are too weak lunged to run more than half a mile.

Piso's Cure for Consumption has saved me large doctor bills.—C. L. Baker, 4228 Re-gent Sq., Phi adelphia, Pa., Dec. 8, 1895.

The fatter a woman is the less hair she

The best time for exercise is about two hours after a meal.



Gladness Comes

With a better understanding of the transient nature of the many physical ills, which vanish before proper efforts—gentle efforts—pleasant efforts—rightly directed. There is comfort in the knowledge, that so many forms of sickness are not due to any actual disease, but simply to a constipated condition of the system, which the pleasant family laxative, Syrup of Figs. promptly removes. That is why it is the only remedy with millions of families, and is everywhere esteemed so highly by all who value good health. Its beneficial effects are due to the fact, that it is the one remedy which promotes internal cleanliness without debilitating the organs on which it acts. It is therefore all important, in order to get its beneficial effects, to note when you purchase, that you have the genuine article, which is manufactured by the California Fig Syrup Co. only and sold by all reputable druggists.

If in the enjoyment of good health in the enjoyment of good health,

and the system is regular, laxatives or other remedies are then not needed. If afflicted with any actual disease, one may be commended to the most skillful physicians, but if in need of a laxative, one should have the best, and with the well-informed everywhere, Syrup of Figs stands highest and is most largely used and gives most general satisfaction.



BI AKES BUSINESS AND SHORTHAND COLLEGE BI AALS ACTUAL BUSINESS FROM THE START Teaches business by doing business. Also thorough instruction in all branches by mail. Life—cholarship \$4. six months course \$30. Geomer 16th and Capitol Avenue, Omaha, Nebraska.

LADY Manager and Agents wanted for Dr. Kay's Uterine Tenie, no movey required until soods are sold "Woman-hood" a valuable book et on female diseases free. Pr. B.J. Kay Medica Co. (m. h. No.)

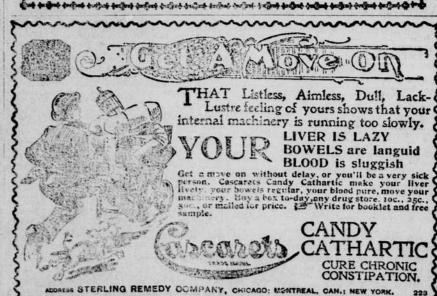
OMAKA STOVE REPAIR WORKS

Store Reputes for any kind of ctore made.

1207 BOUGLAS ST., OMAHA, NEB. OPILITATE DRUNKENNESS

If afficted with Thompson's Eye Water.

A Thumbscrew Torture to the BIGGEST NERVE is ATICA. St. Jacobs Oil It turns back the screw. —It unwinds the twist.—IT SOOTHES.—IT CURES.
NO FURTHER PAIN.



Life

Hoods

Sarsaparilla
The Best—in fact the One True Blood Parifier.

Hood's Pills cure Liver Ills; easy to perate. 250.

Sharing a Log With a Bear. Incidental to the recent great storm, many stories will undoubtedly get into circulation that will exhibit heroism, romance and ludicrous incidents dovetailed with the accounts of loss of prop-erty and the wreckings of fortunes. John Baker came down Miller river on a big fir tree. Mr. Baker seated him-self at the butt end of the tree, and after going down about a half a mile he had company. A huge black bear, swimming for his life in the seething water, climbed on the tree and stationed himself about thirty feet from the man. In addition to his already precarious situation, that bear nearly fright-

alacrity as Baker. - Seattle Post. A 50-Cent Calendar Free

bear took to his heels with

ened Mr. Baker to death. But Mr.

Bear was about as badly frightened as

the other fellow, and when the current finally drifted the tree to dry land, the

A 50-Cent Calendar Free.

Perhaps the most beautiful calendar Issued for the year '97 is Tur You're's Companion Art Callendar, which is given to each subscriber to the paper for the year '97. It is made up of four charming pictures, beautifully reproduced in tweive harmonious colors. It is in form a four-page folder, which, when extended, is 10x24 inches in size. The subjects are delightrully attractive. This calendar makes a desirable ornament for a mantic, centretable or writing desk. It is offered for sale only by the publishers of The You'ri's Companion at 50 cents per copy. Only because of the enormous number published is it possible for the publishers of The Companion to send it free to all Companion subscribers.

A Gneat Risk.

Two impecunious Scotsmen came upon a saloon. They had only "sax-pence" between them, so they ordered "one nip o' whucky." They were hesi-tating who should have the first drink, when an acquaintance joined them. Pretending that they had just drank, one of them handed the whishy, requesting him to join them in a drink He drank, and after a few minutes of painful and silent suspence, said: "Now, boys, you'll have one with

"Wasna that weel managed, mon?" said one to his pal afterward.
"Ay, it was," said the other solemn-

ly, "but it was a dreadfu' risk. - Argonaut.

YOU WANT A FARM and we have, you want a far m and we have, 50 miles west of Houston, at CHESTERVILLE, the best tract in Texas. High prairie, well drained, abundant rainfall, good soil, low prices and easy terms. Don't fail to post yourself. Write and receive our book "Fertile Farm Lands" free and information as to cheap excursion and free fare. Address Southern Texas Colonization Co., John Linderholm, Mgr., 110 Rialte Bldg., Chicago

A Slippery Spot.

A short time ago an old lady went on board Nelson's flagship, the Victory. The afferent objects of interest were duly shown her, and, on reaching the spot where the great naval hero was wounded (which was marked by a raised brass plate), the officer remarked "Here Nelson fell!"

"And no wonder!" exclaimed the old lady, "I nearly fell there myself!"-London Answers

Merchants Hotel, Omaha. CORNER FIFTEENTH AND FARNAM STS.

Street cars pass the door to and from ooth depots; in business center of city. Headquarters for state and local trade. Rates \$2 and \$3 per day.
PAXTON & DAVENPORT, Prop's.

To Keep Violets Fresh. To keep violets fresh when wearing them on the person, wrap the stems first in cotton dipped in salted water, the tops sprinkled and the whole covered closely with confectioner's paper, and put in a cool place. In this way the blossoms may be preserved for saveral days.—New York Tribune.

Cheap Lands and Homes

Are to be had on the Frisco Line in Missouri, Arkansas and Kansas. The best route from St. Louis to Texas and all points west and southwest. For maps, time tables, pamphlets, etc., call upon or address any agent of the company, or, D. Wishart, Gen'l Passenger Agent, St. Louis, Mo. Dr. Kay's Lung Ba'm is the safest, surest

and pleasantest cure for all coughs. Naturalists say that a healthy swallow

will consume at out 6,000 swallows a day.

F'7S stopped free and permanently cured. No fits after first day's use of Dr. Kline's Great Nerve Restorer. Free S2 trial bottle and treatise.
Send to Da. KLINE, 331 Arch St., Philadelphia, Pa. It is youth, not learning, that makes

oung reople smart. He original and only genuine. Cures Chapped Hands and Face, Cold Sores, &c. C.G.Clark & Co., N. Haven, Ct.

No one can fool a man as easily as he fcol- himse f.