

CHRISTMAS AT BRACEBRIDGE HALL



HERE IS A DELIGHTFUL DESCRIPTION OF AN OLD ENGLISH CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION, TAKEN FROM THE "SKETCH BOOK," WRITTEN NEARLY A HUNDRED YEARS AGO BY WASHINGTON IRVING.



It was a brilliant moonlight night, but extremely cold; our chaise whirled rapidly over the frozen ground; the post-boy smacked his whip incessantly and a part of the time his horses were on a gallop. "He knows where he is going," said my companion, laughing, "and is eager to arrive in time for some of the merriment and good cheer of the servants' hall. My father, you must know, is a bigoted devotee of the old school, and prides himself upon keeping up something of old English hospitality. He is a tolerable specimen of what you will rarely meet with nowadays in its purity, the old English country gentleman; for our men of fortune spend so much of their time in town, and fashion is carried so much into the country, that the strong rich peculiarities of ancient rural life are almost polished away.

"My father was always scrupulous in exacting our holidays, and having us around him on family festivals. He used to direct and superintend our games with the strictness that some parents do the studies of their children. He was very particular that we should play the old English games according to their original form; and consulted old books for precedent and authority for every 'merrie sport.' Yet I assure you there never was pedantry so delightful. It was the policy of the good old gentleman to make his children feel that home was the happiest place in the world, and I value this delicious home-feeling as one of the choicest gifts a parent could bestow."

Queer Dinner Bell.
I had finished my toilet and was loitering with Frank Bracebridge in the library, when we heard a distinct thumping sound, which he informed me was a signal for the serving up of the dinner. The squire kept up old customs in kitchen as well as hall; and the rolling-pin, struck upon the dresser by the cook, summoned the servants to carry in the meats and fixings.

The dinner was served up in the great hall, where the squire always held this Christmas banquet. A blazing, crackling fire of logs had been heaped on, to warm the spacious apartment, and the flame went sparkling and wreathing up the wide-mouthed chimney. On the sideboard was a display of plate that might have vied (at least in variety) with Belshazzar's parade of the vessels of the temple: "Flacons, cans, cups, beakers, goblets, basins, and ewers," the gorgeous utensils of good companionship that had gradually accumulated through many generations of jovial housekeepers. Before these stood the two Yule candles, beaming like two stars of the first magnitude; other lights were distributed in branches, and the whole array glistened like a firmament of silver.

We were ushered into this banquet scene with the sound of minstrelsy, the old harper being seated on a stool beside the fireplace, and twanging his instrument with a vast deal more power than melody. Never did Christmas board display a more goodly and gracious assemblage of countenances; those who were not handsome were, at least, happy; and happiness is a rare improver of your hard-favored visage.

The table was literally loaded with good cheer, and presented an epitome of country abundance, in this season of overflowing larders. A distinguished post was allotted to "ancient sturgeon," as mine host termed it; being, as he added, "the standard of old English hospitality, and a joint of goodly presence, and full of expectation." There were several dishes quaintly decorated and which had evidently something traditional in their embellishments; but about which as I did not like to appear over-curious, I asked no questions.

Enormous Pig's Head.
The parson said grace, which was not a short, familiar one, such as is commonly addressed to the Deity in these unceremonious days; but a long, courtly, well-worded one of the ancient school. There was now a pause, as if something was expected; when

suddenly the butler entered the hall with some degree of bustle; he was attended by a servant on each side with a large wax-light, and bore a silver dish, on which was an enormous pig's head, decorated with rosemary, with a lemon in its mouth, which was placed with great formality at the head of the table. The moment this pageant made its appearance the harper struck up a flourish; at the conclusion of which the young Oxonian, on receiving a hint from the squire, gave, with an air of the most comic gravity, an old carol.

Profitable Business.
Young Lady (in drug store)—Five twos, please.
(Clerk hands them out.)
Young Lady—Have them delivered, please. They're for mother and I'm going downtown for the day.

At many a rehearsal, I was amused, too, at the air of profound gravity with which the butler and other servants executed the duties assigned them, however eccentric.

Good Literature.
"It must be glorious to be put into a novel. Wouldn't you like that?"
"Yes; I guess it would be pretty nice. But I'm satisfied. I'm mentioned in Bradstreet."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

After the dinner table was removed, the hall was given up to the younger members of the family, who, prompted to all kinds of noisy mirth by the Oxonian and Master Simon, made its old walls ring with their merriment, as they played at romping games. I delight in witnessing the gambols of children, and particularly at this happy holiday season, and could not help stealing out of the drawing room.

Condensations.
Osmium is one of the most valuable metals. It is worth \$50 a pound.
A human being cannot breathe at a height of seven miles from the earth.
Fountain pens are most popular in Bohemia and are carried by practically all business men, students and clerks.

The parson, however, whose mind was not haunted by such associations, and who was always more taken up with the text than the sentiment, objected to the Oxonian's version of the carol, which he affirmed, was different from that sung at college. He went on, with the dry perseverance of a commentator, to give the college reading, accompanied by sundry annotations; addressing himself at first to the company at large; but finally their attention gradually diverted to other talk and other objects, he lowered his tone as his number of auditors diminished, until he concluded his remarks in an undertone to a fat-headed old gentleman next him, who was silently engaged in the discussion of a huge plateful of turkey.

Horse on the Speaker.
Temperance Orator—Remember the old adage: "You can lead a horse to water, but you cannot make him drink."
Voice from Gallery—Whizzer matter (hic) wizer horse? He zall right—hooray!

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No Use for Him.
Visitor—We are getting up a raffle for an old soldier. Won't you buy a ticket?
Miss Innocence—Mercy, no! What would I do with him?—Jester.

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Date Fixed for Rate Hearing.
Judge Munger has set January 24 as the time for hearing the case brought by the Rock Island Railroad company covering a raise in passenger rates from 2 to 3 cents per mile. The case will probably be heard in the Omaha court.

Grow More Vegetables.
Nebraskans are urged to grow and cut more vegetables to cut the cost of living and obtain proper diet variety, in a statement issued by J. R. Duncan, secretary of the State Horticultural society.

Total Appropriations.
According to figures prepared by State Accountant George DeFrance, the state university exceeds all other institutions in the amount of money collected and used. Appropriations made and used totaled \$2,200,000. In addition to this there was a revenue of \$260,000 from the sale of serum, cream, milk, etc., at the state farm. Matriculation and other fees included in the above amounted to about \$700,000, while fees collected at the medical college at Omaha amounted to \$5,839.

Uncovered Ancient Records.
State Auditor Smith has unearthed an old record kept by the state auditor in the early days of the state's history, which has some interesting entries in it which shows how things have changed in this state. One entry under date of 1869 shows that the legislature made an appropriation of \$1,500 for wood to keep the legislature warm. All but \$77.75 was spent in an effort to warm up the members.

Lincoln—After the absence of a Thanksgiving day game from the Nebraska football schedule for the last five years, Guy E. Reed, Husker athletic manager, announced that the strong Notre Dame squad will be the university's opponent next Turkey day.

TO PLAY TURKEY DAY

HUSKERS ARRANGE GAME FOR THANKSGIVING NEXT YEAR.

NOTRE DAME TEAM ENGAGED

Complete Football Schedule Announced for Coming Season, Except One Open Date.

Nebraska dairy products totaled \$40,000,000 this year instead of \$39,000,000, as reported by the State Agricultural board, according to emphatic statements by Food Commissioner Harman. Here is the way the latter figures it out: Each person in the state averaged twenty-five pounds of butter used per year and that butter averaged 25 cents a pound a year-round price. That would make a total of \$8,000,000. Then added to this, according to Mr. Harman, was a \$15,000,000 total of other butter shipped out of the state, butter that was over and above that needed here.

And then in addition to that was \$2,000,000 of country butter sent to big stations for work-over and from there sent outside the state for storage and ultimate usage. On top of all this, says Mr. Harman, there is a \$15,000,000 total of cream and milk that is used in the homes of the state day by day and which goes into ice cream and so forth. Figures in Mr. Harman's office show that the creameries of the state have a total yearly production of \$15,000,000 a year—and what they work with constitutes about 40 per cent of the total production of the state. His figures, he therefore believes, are more nearly right than the agricultural board's, and yet he considers them conservative.

When one hears of individual wheat yields of thirty-five to forty bushels per acre, there is considerable incredulity, but when yields, in whole townships extending into districts covering three and four and five hundred square miles in area, of upwards of fifty and some as high as sixty-five bushels per acre are reported, one is led to put his ear to the ground to listen for further rumblings. The writer having heard of these wonderful yields made a trip through the provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta, to ascertain first hand their truthfulness. It was remarkable to discover that Dame Rumor was no rumorer after all, that modesty was her mantle, that all that had been said of these yields was true, and that yields of over seventy bushels per acre were told of. These were so high that the truthfulness of the story was doubtful and very little was said of them. But such there were, and not in one instance, but in several, not in one locality but scattered in places hundreds of miles apart. Leaving these out altogether, there were large areas in which the average was over fifty bushels per acre, which in all common sense ought to satisfy most people. One hundred and thirty threshers in Alberta have made their returns to the local government as required by an act of the Legislature, and the average of the wheat threshed was fifty-three bushels to the acre. So immense was the yield that official verification was required before giving it out to the public. Sitting in the smoking compartment of a day coach, when on passing through a farming community, there may be gathered the gossip yarns of the neighborhood, one hears also a lot of news. Just now, the sole topic is that of the crops. A man with more or less of a hirsute appendage, smock, clothes and hands giving the appearance of one working in the field, was asked as to the crops. He had got on at Warner, Alberta. Taking out his pipe, lighting it and then crossing his knees, holding his chin in his hands, possessing an air of supreme contentment, and with an intelligent face, he looked the man who could give some information. And he was just the man. He was a thrasher and on his way to Milk River to secure some more help. He was requisitioned for information. "Yes, a good season. I've made a lot of money. As for yields, let's see," and then he began to string them off. "Peterson had 63 bushels of wheat per acre on his five hundred acre farm; from 380 acres Roland got 65 bushels per acre; Bugler had one hundred and ten acres that went 63 bushels; Carr had 65 bushels per acre off an eight hundred acre field."

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I found them at the game of blind-man's bluff. Master Simon, who was the leader of their revels, and seemed on all occasions to fulfill the office of that ancient potentate, the Lord of Misrule, was blinded in the midst of the hall. The little beings were as busy about him as the mock fairies do of Falstaff, pinching him, plucking at the skirts of his coat, and tickling him with straws. One fine blue-eyed girl of about thirteen, with her flaxen hair all in beautiful confusion, her frolic face in a glow, her frock half torn off her shoulders, a complete picture of a romp, was the chief tormentor; and, from the slyness with which Master Simon avoided the smaller game, and hemmed this wild little nymph in corners, and obliged her to jump shrieking over chairs, I suspected the rogue of being not a whit more blinded than was convenient.

For my part I was in a continual excitement, from the varied scenes of whims and innocent gaiety passing before me. It was inspiring to me to see wild-eyed frolic and warm-hearted hospitality breaking out from among the chills and gloom of winter, and old age throwing off his apathy, and catching once more the freshness of youthful enjoyment. I felt also an interest in the scene, from the consideration that these fleeting customs were passing fast into oblivion, and that this was, perhaps, the only family in England in which the whole of them were still punctiliously observed. There was a quaintness, too, mingled with all this revelry, that gave it a peculiar rest; it was suited to the time and place; and as the old manor house almost reeled with mirth and wassail, it seemed echoing back the joviality of long-departed years.

Below the Average.
"Wouldn't you classify Berton as an average man?"
"I certainly would not. Why, I can double discount him at Kelly pool. He isn't up to the average by thirty points."

Cause of Financial Dystyppia.
She—Do you think the food in this restaurant is healthful?
He—Maybe; but the prices are sickening.

Not Gray Hairs but Tired Eyes.
make us look older than we are. Keep your eyes young and you will look young. After the movies "Maurine Your Eyes," Don't tell your age. Maurine Eye Remedy Co., Chicago, Sends Eye Book on request.

Condensations.
Osmium is one of the most valuable metals. It is worth \$50 a pound.
A human being cannot breathe at a height of seven miles from the earth.
Fountain pens are most popular in Bohemia and are carried by practically all business men, students and clerks.

The use of zinc plates in a boiler is said to prevent the formation of the scale which interferes with the boiler's efficiency.

In 1913, the last year for which the official record is in, more than 1,000 changes in names were allowed and decreed by the probate judges of Massachusetts.

Young men and women of the Azores are looking toward the United States for their university training and are anxious to know costs and possibilities of earning their living here.

WESTERN CANADA'S WONDERFUL YIELD

Wheat Yields Reports Extraordinarily Heavy.

Some time ago a local corps was reviewed by Sir Ian Hamilton, and there is a story told that one of the officers was mounted on a horse that had previously distinguished itself in a bakery business.

For a really fine coffee at a moderate price, drink Denison's Seminoles Brand, 35c the lb., in sealed cans. Only one merchant in each town sells Seminoles. If your grocer isn't the one, write the Denison Coffee Co., Chicago, for a souvenir and the name of your Seminoles dealer.

Buy the 3 lb. Canister Can for \$1.00.—Adv.

"Aw," said the Englishman, "it must be most unpleasant for you Americans to be governed by persons whom you wouldn't ask to dinner."
"No more so," said the American girl, "than for you to be governed by persons who wouldn't ask you to dinner."

Joy Rider (stopped by rural constable)—Haven't we got any right left in this country? Doesn't the constitution guarantee us life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness?
Constable—It don't guarantee no man the pursuit of happiness at 90 miles an hour.

Ungrateful Wretch.
"I'm writing a letter to Aunt Sarah," said wife, "thanking her for the visit she paid us. Do you wish to add anything to it?"
"You might thank her on my behalf," replied hubby, "for not staying any longer than she did."

Important to Mothers.
Examine carefully every bottle of CASTORIA, a safe and sure remedy for infants and children, and see that it bears the Signature of **J. C. Fletcher** In Use For Over 30 Years. Children Cry for Fletcher's Castoria



Write Us At Once--We Will Keep You Posted. We are successors to the NATIONAL AT SOUTH OMAHA, AND ONE OF THE LEADERS IN EVERY BRANCH OF THE BUSINESS.

WE HAVE THE BIG FORCE, SO WE CAN HANDLE THE SMALLEST SHIPMENT RIGHT
Great Western Commission Company
OMAHA and DENVER

Housework Is a Burden

It's hard enough to keep house if in perfect health, but a woman who is weak, tired and suffering from an aching back has a heavy burden. Any woman in this condition has good cause to suspect kidney trouble, especially if the kidney action seems disordered.

A Nebraska Case

Mrs. Harriet Stump, 414 Fourth St., Omaha, Neb., says: "For years my kidneys were disordered and the pain affected my back and sides. The trouble kept getting worse and my limbs ached badly. Dr. Doan's Kidney Pills cured me and I have never since had any signs of kidney complaint since."

Get Doan's at Any Store, 50c a Box
DOAN'S KIDNEY PILLS
FOSTER-MILBURN CO., BUFFALO, N. Y.

The Wretchedness of Constipation

Can quickly be overcome by **CARTER'S LITTLE LIVER PILLS**. Purely vegetable—act surely and gently on the liver. Cure Bilioisness, Head-ache, Dizziness, Nervousness, and Indigestion. They do their duty. SMALL PILL, SMALL DOSE, SMALL PRICE. Genuine must bear Signature

NEAL OF COUNCIL BLUFFS

3-DAY TREATMENT

Always Successful. Write for Booklet. Address NEAL INSTITUTE, 21 Benton Street, COUNCIL BLUFFS, IA. Or address J. H. MARY, Manager.

BLACK LEG

LOSSES SUPLY PREVENTED by Cutler's Blacking Pills. Love, Blood, Fresh, Relieved, Proved by Western physicians, because they prevent where other remedies fail. Write for Booklet, and Satisfaction. 10-20c per package. Blacking Pills \$1.00 per box. Order at once. The Cutter Laboratory, Berkeley, Cal., or Chicago, Ill.

PARKER'S HAIR BALSAM

A hair preparation of merit. Keeps the hair clean, cool, moist, and free from itching humors. For Restoring Color and Beauty to Gray Hair. 50c. and \$1.00 at Druggists.

W. N. U., OMAHA, NO. 51-1915.

Nebraska Directory

Dry Cleaning, Dyeing

Send your work by P. P. We pay return charges. Write for complete price list. The Pantorium, Largest cleaning establishment in the middle west. 1513 Jones Street, Omaha.

THE PAXTON HOTEL

Omaha, Nebraska. EUROPEAN PLAN. Rooms from \$1.00 up. Single, 75c. up. Double, \$1.25. CAFE PRICES REASONABLE.

Joliet Corn Shellers

"Standard of the Corn Belt!" Full line of 2-4-6 hole spring shellers including famous Burcka Sixcleevs and Shreffler Shoe shellers. Also 3 sizes of Joliet Dustless Cylinder shellers. WRITE FOR CATALOG LININGER IMPLEMENT CO., OMAHA, NEB.

NEAL LIQUOR AND DRUG CURE

SATISFACTION GUARANTEED. Address 1502 S. 10th St., Omaha, Neb. or W. L. Beavers, Mgr. ALL CORRESPONDENCE CONFIDENTIAL.

REDUCE YOUR TIRE EXPENSE

2,000 to 5,000 miles out of your worn-out tires at a cost of \$2.00 to \$5.00.

Consign Your Live Stock to **JACKSON-SIGNALL CO.** We guarantee the best of service and satisfaction. Phone Office, South 6th. Cattle Yards, South 6th.

The Keeley Treatment For the Liquor and Drug Addictions. The only genuine institute of its kind in the West. Call or write The Keeley Institute, OMAHA NEB. AND CASE, OMAHA

Nebr. Hide & Leather Co. NEBR. CITY, NEBR. Write us for a price list. HIGHEST PRICES PAID FOR Hides and Furs

Our Hog Gang.

NEAL OF COUNCIL BLUFFS 3-DAY TREATMENT

12,000 SATISFIED SHIPPERS testify to our "square policy. Prudent cash prices. Write for Part Price List and Price Agent wanted in every town. If you have hides to sell, write for Hide Price List.

We Will Tan and make you a hide. Use our hair, make, and hair into robes, coats, and fur suits. Guaranteed. Write for tanning prices. OMAHA HIDE & FUR CO. For You 907 So. 13th St. Omaha, Neb.

Ryan Jewelry Co.

ESTABLISHED 1884. move to 16th and Farnam Streets January 1st. Removal Sale Now in Progress. Write for sale prices. Present address, 15th & Douglas, Omaha.

SPECIAL 30 DAY CASH OFFER—No. 5 Oliver \$29.75, regular \$100 model. Order at once. The Oliver Agency, 1905 Farnam St., Omaha

RECORD LIVE STOCK COMMISSION CO. South Omaha, Neb. A few of our sales for 1912: Sold for Jay Harrington of Washington, D.C., July 1912, 100 head of Angus, of 100 lbs., of 100 lbs. heavy brand, Detroit, open range steers, at \$100. REFERENCE: ANY BANK.

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