

McMillan's Mammoth LINE HOLIDAY GOODS

A visit to McMillan's Pharmacy will solve the Christmas Purchasing Problem. With our mammoth stock we have many new things to suggest

<p>Christmas Novelties Combs, Brushes, Mirrors, in sets or separate; Manicuring sets at various prices, Military Sets, Traveling Bags and Cases, Collar and Cuff Boxes, Jewel Boxes, Mirrors, Cigar Jars, Smokers' Stands. New designs and unique patterns.</p>	<p>Post Cards and Calendars Post Cards in great quantity and variety. Xmas Calendars, swell, new designs, Xmas Lottoes and Letters, Xmas Tags, Seals and Empty Boxes in great variety and elegance. All the ideas here ready for your inspection. Try us first.</p>	<p>Fine Stationery Crane's Linen Lawn or Quartered Oak Box Stationery from 25c to \$2.50. You should see our line of bargains in Stationery. Fine Box Stationery makes an appropriate present. Fine Stationery is Our Big Feature.</p>
<p>Great Variety of Books A complete series of copyrighted Juvenile Books, from the 5-cent liner to the most classic publication, Alger and Henty Books for boys, Books for Girls. A large assortment of small Gift Books, Teachers' Gift Books for pupils. See our line of Books</p>	<p>For the Smoker If you want a box of Cigars or a Pipe in a fancy case, visit our store. Our line of smoker's requisites will suit the most particular smoker. Box of cigars makes a nice present. We have just what you want. McMillan's Big New Cigar Case</p>	<p>Toys of Every Description We have 400 extra feet of shelving on which we display our mammoth line of Toys. We have the largest assortment of Toys and the right prices. We are showing all that is new and unique in the Toy line. It's a rare treat to look them over. A Fairyland of Toys.</p>
<p>Ladies' Hand Bags Be sure to see our line of stylish Hand Bags and Purses, both for ladies and gentlemen. We buy direct from the factory WE BUY ONLY THE BEST GOODS.</p>	<p>Post Card Albums We have a large line of new Post Card Albums. New designs; any price from 5c to \$3.50 Visit our Post Card and Album Counter. We solve the problem for you.</p>	<p>The Dolly Family Kid Body Dolls from 25c to \$4.00; Doll Wigs, Doll Heads, Doll Hats, Doll Beds and Cradles, Doll Furniture. What would little sister do on Christmas without her doll. Our dolls guaranteed.</p>

Have your selections laid aside until Christmas. Remember that all during the Holiday Week, between Christmas and New Years our fine Candies and Cigars will be on great display, making fine New Years gifts. We sincerely hope to have a good share of YOUR patronage, and assure you we will be only too glad to show you our goods and convince you of our exceedingly low prices. Come in and inspect our line of goods.

McMillan's Pharmacy

Opposite Postoffice.

SANTA CLAUS' HEADQUARTERS

Falls City Nebraska.

Origin of Christmas Customs

There are a few things in existence today which have not been changed or molded in the hands of progress. One by one legends and customs have been disproved and overthrown, yet none has dared attack the legends and the customs sacred to Christmas-tide. Here and there a servant has tried to prove that December 25th, does not mark the birthday of Christ. Men and women read, smile and pass on.

The time of year corresponding to our Christmas has always been a period of rejoicing. It marks the winter solstice. The days begin to lengthen, and the sun no longer journeys away from earth, but enters upon his return. It is a promise of renewed strength and warmth, of the approach of the summer days and men hailed these signs with every expression of gladness.

In Rome, the Saturnalia or feast of Saturn, fell at about the same time as our Christmas, and it marked the greatest festival of the Roman year. The city abandoned itself to gaiety. Universal mirth was the order of the day; friends feasted friends, and foes were reconciled. There were no slaves, no masters; all social distinctions were laid aside. Work was stopped throughout the city, and no war was ever entered upon at this time.

The tree, as the emblem of life, also figured conspicuously in the earlier religions. In Egypt, the palm tree put forth a new shoot each month, and at the time of the winter solstice it was the custom among the Egyptians to decorate the house with a branch of palm bearing twelve shoots. In Rome the fir tree was regarded with veneration, and during the Saturnalian festivities the halls and houses were hung with evergreen boughs.

In England, in the days of the Druids, the houses were decked with evergreens in order that the sylvan spirits might appear to appropriate their grateful shelter and remain protected from the nipping frost and the icy winter winds.

Farther to the North, the wild Teuton tribes worshipped their god in wooded places, and looked upon the fir tree as his sacred emblem. The period corresponding to the Ro-

man Saturnalia was the festival of Thor. Among these people the festivities were known as Yuletide.

When Christianity spread abroad, men knew that in the story of Christ's nativity was realized what they in their blindness had striven to typify. So they adapted the old customs of their ancestors to the new order of things.

Among Northern European tribes a great fir tree was set up in each household at Christmas-tide. At its base were placed representations of Adam and Eve, in the branches coiled the serpent, and on the topmost bough gleamed a candle, symbolizing that "Light of the World" through Whom alone was victory over the serpent possible.

The Christmas tree was introduced into England by Prince Albert of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha, consort of Queen Victoria. From the palace the custom spread, until now the Christmas tree is a necessary feature of an English Christmas.

In Germany and other European countries it was believed by the children that the tree glittering with candles and bright baubles was the work of jolly old Saint Nicholas. This kindly saint was no legendary character. He lived about 300 A. D. and was a noted Bishop of Asia Minor. He was looked upon as the patron saint of generosity, because of his liberality.

In certain parts of Germany it was commonly held that on Christmas Eve the Christ Child—or Kris Kringel—visited earth, and as he passed over the houses, dropped gifts through the roof for the deserving and the good.

But aside from the customs which relate to gifts and the spirit of giving at Christmas-tide, there are several observances which are indissolubly linked with this time.

Christmas is never Christmas without the holy wreath and the mistletoe. Christmas venerated the holly, or "Holy Tree," because to them the little thorny leaves and red berries made in a wreath typified the crown of thorns and the bloody drops. Doubtless they introduced this solemn reminder of the joyous festival in order not to forget the sacredness of the occasion in the general festivities.

Almost as important as the gift-giving and gift-receiving on Christmas Day is the feast of dainties

spread on that festal occasion. But even the Christmas dinner has its origin in the dim distant past. Feasts were always the accompaniment of any festival. In Egypt every family killed and ate a goose as a religious observance.

In the hieroglyphic language of the Egyptian, the figure of a goose was the word "child." The people had noticed that the goose was remarkable for the way in which it protected its young, hence it was looked upon as the symbol of great love—that love which is willing to sacrifice itself for the object of its affection.

We preserve the custom of eating fowl on this day, but the toothsome turkey has more generally supplanted the goose. Even the plum pudding in the Christmas feast has its meaning. The number and richness of its ingredients represented the rich gifts which the Kings laid at the feet of the Child Jesus.

The celebration of Christmas-tide is as old as the human race, and many of the customs have lost their origin in the hazy past. We preserve and hand down these customs because we respect their age. But pagan customs have survived in our Christian festival, not so much because of their age, as because it was necessary to preserve them.

When Christianity was in its infancy, men who embraced it refused to give up the old festivals, so in view of the great end to be obtained the leaders of the early church allowed these customs and festivities to stand, but sought to put into them some Christian significance and meaning.

The Dutch colonists were enthusiastic in their observance of Christmas-tide, and, though far from home, they celebrated the happy time in the good, old-fashioned way. From the Dutch colonists in America spread the Christmas cheer, and the frowns and resolutions of the staid Puritan and Quaker colonists availed nothing against the infectious spirit of Christmas cheer and good will which the Dutch brought into the new country. They seemed to take the keynote of their lives from that beautiful admonition in the Bible, which reads: "Rejoice, and again I say unto you, Rejoice!"

Croup is most prevalent during the dry cold weather of the early winter months. Parents of young children should be prepared for it. All that is needed is a bottle of Chamberlain's Cough Remedy. Many mothers are never without it in their homes and it has never disappointed them. Sold by all druggists.

POOR NAME, BUT GOOD JOKE

Editor-to-Be Could Not Accept the One, Although He Appreciated the Other.

The hero of this sketch was about starting a paper in a long-felt-want neighborhood. He was a real hero, too, for only those of heroic mold ever undertake a thing like that. He had everything in pretty fair shape, except the name, and that he took home with him to his wife. They had had experience in naming several lapfuls of babies, and he thought she might render valuable assistance on this occasion. After supper was over and the things cleared away, they got at it, and in a very few minutes she came up with what she thought was just the thing in newspaper nomenclature. "I've got it," she exclaimed, enthusiastically.

"What is it?" he inquired.

"The Item," she told him, with conscious pride in her effort. "That's the very thing."

"Pshaw," said he, "that isn't any kind of a name."

"What's the matter with it?" she pouted.

"Well, to begin with, it is not general enough. It is too narrow, in other words."

She resented the criticism.

"Oh, she sniffed at him, "you are so stuck on editorial traditions that 'The Item' strikes you as narrow, does it? What you want to call it is 'The We-tem,' I suppose?"

But he didn't, and not only complimented her upon her brilliance in repartee, but offered to give her a quarter for it as a joke for his funny column.

A Girl and Her Money.

The fact that a young woman, five feet and one inch in height, was able to frustrate and almost knock out a six-foot robber, by hitting him over the head with a purse containing her week's salary, is an interesting illustration of the large improvement that has taken place in recent years, both in the force of woman's muscle and in the size of woman's salary.

It may also, to the wary, seem a warning that some good things may be carried too far. A woman with money has been one of the legitimate pursuits of aspiring but impecunious youth since the beginning of time, and it will be sad evidence of the passing of some of the customs of good old days, should the combination, once so attractive, become in the new civilization a thing to be avoided like the hind leg of a mile.

Fellow-Feeling.

Le Sagit: A bond of union is soon formed between brethren in misfortune.

A Lavender Town.

One of the minor harvests that promise well is that of the lavender fields. I have seen some flourishing crops in the Hitchin neighborhood recently, says a writer in the London Mail. Comparatively few know of this quaint Hertfordshire town as an important lavender-growing center, yet it has grown the sweet old herb (which the Romans called lavendula when they used it to scent their baths), has distilled the flowers and sent their extract into all parts of the world for more than a century. At cutting time people come in from miles around to inhale the sweetness of the fields, and when the distilling begins the fragrance of lavender is borne on the wind two miles or more from the town. The flowers are put into the still with the fresh bloom of their maturity on them, and from six pounds of such flowers about half an ounce of oil is extracted.

How Could He Do It?

"Dear me," gasped Mrs. Hollonutt, "here's a terrible item in the paper My word, how the poor man must have suffered!"

"Well, what is it?" asked the husband.

"Why, one of those unfortunate Marathon runners over in New York swallowed a sponge."

"What? Let me see." After carefully reading the paragraph Mr. Hollonutt flung the paper down. "There never was a woman yet who could grasp a simple fact in print. This doesn't say the fellow swallowed a sponge."

"I know it doesn't in those exact words," assented his wife; "but, then, now on earth could the poor man throw up the sponge if he didn't swallow it?"

No Assistance Needed.

Lucinda stood in the presence of two famous surgeons who had just assured her that her present condition demanded an operation and that unless it was performed within a short time she would in all probability die.

Lucinda listened respectfully.

"I'm jes as much obliged to you gentlemen as I can be," she assured them, "but ef de deah Lord has done made up his min' to call me home, I thinks he kin translate me widout no assistance."—Life.

Don't Snub "Good Times."

Give Good Times a clear road, but don't let him pass you by. Tell him he's been owing you a visit for the longest—that all the folks have been expecting him, and are mighty anxious to get good acquainted, and if he hangs his hat up grab it when he is not looking and hide it! And when he says: "It's a fine country you have here," whirl right in and sell him ten miles of real estate!

CHEESE AT THE WHITE HOUSE

Many of Immense Size Have Been Sent as Presents to Chief Executives.

Every president receives numberless presents during the course of a term, notwithstanding it is given out that gifts are not acceptable. In the old days some of the presents sent were of a very odd nature. President Jackson once got a cheese four feet in diameter and two feet thick, weighing 1,400 pounds, from a New York cheesemaker, who wanted to show what he could do. This cheese gift was an elephant on the president's hands, and in order to dispose of it he held a special reception, to which the public was invited, and every guest not only had all the cheese he wanted to eat on the spot, but received a hunk to carry home. In two hours there was nothing but the rind left to tell the story.

President Jefferson was also the recipient of an historic cheese, brought to him all the way from Massachusetts by a six-horse team. On the wagon was the legend: "The Greatest Cheese in America, for the Greatest Man in America." Jefferson, however, was noted for his "simplicity" and he thought it was opposed to good government for a president to receive gifts from anyone, so he insisted on paying the cost of the cheese, which was about \$200, and this cheese lasted all winter.

President Van Buren, too, had a monster cheese given to him. He distributed it at a reception and the guests in their excitement spilt a lot of crumbs on the carpet and then trampled them in, causing so much damage that unlimited cheese at the White House functions was tabooed from that time forth. The rule now is that nothing in the eating line especially will be received by the president from those unknown.—The Pathfinder.

For the Mother.

If a child be taught nothing else about the use of its body it should at least be taught poise in standing, walking and sitting, and correct poise is merely a matter of getting the weight on the balls of the feet and raising the chest. Even young children throw their weight on the heels, and that this eventually becomes a habit may be seen by observing men and women upon the streets.

Nature is Truest Guide.

When Cicero consulted the oracle at Delphos concerning what course of studies he should pursue the answer was, "Follow nature." A French writer truly said: "We are never rendered so ridiculous by qualities which we have as by those which we aim at or affect to have."