

BADEAU AND HIS BROTHERS.

Christmas Feasts in Martial Camps and Guarded Palace Halls.

CLUB AND COUNTRY CUSTOMS.

Pump Pudding in England and Creole Smiles in Cuba—Grant's Last Christmas on Earth—Yule-Loz Fun.

New York, Dec. 23.—[Correspondence of the Bee.]—Christmas ties together years and characters and seems and seems that often have no other bond; for memory is a thread on which a man may string his many experiences at his will. I have spent Christmas in camp and Christmas in English country houses, Christmas in a captured town, Christmas in a palace at Havana, Christmas at the white house at Washington, Christmas in London, dining with ambassadors; Christmas at the Century Club in New York, Christmas in hospital, wounded, Christmas at Delmonico's, Christmas at Grant's house when he knew he was doomed to die. I hardly know which ghost or picture to summon from the past.

FAMOUS HOLIDAY TIMES

I can recall at the Century club in New York in my earlier days the error of my way and promising men that gathered there when Richard Hunt and Latent Thompson and Church and Bierstadt and Booth and Stoddard were roasting young fellows, for it was in my earlier days that I met the men who were to be my friends more brilliant than any I have known on the same spot in later years. I remember, more than once, that thirty or forty of us determined to meet every year out, and the long board was stretched across the double room, and very good punch was brewed and very good songs were sung, and stories told and speeches made. The error of my way arose and sang, "And Lang Syne," and "here's a hand and there's a hand," were given and exchanged. The handsome women glowed at the festive and were full of spirit and strength, as the artists and poets and orators pledged each other in all the pride and gaiety of youth and genius and Christmas-time—nearly thirty years ago. How many of those forms are bent, or mayhap, crumbling now; how many of those smiles have faded, how many faces are wrinkled at the forehead, how many of your songs? your flashes of merriment that were wont to set the table in a roar? How many, now, to mock your own grinning?

WHEN THE WAR BROKE OUT

I became a soldier, and there was an end to clubs and club dinners for a while. My next Christmas was passed in South Carolina. I was a sergeant on Sherman's expedition to Port Royal, and in December went with a reconnoitering party to the interior. Returning to our camp at Hilton Head, I found one of my messmates, a young man from the country. His other comrades on Sherman's staff were absent on other duties, but I was only a volunteer aid-de-camp. I thought that I would stay in the camp and nurse my own time. I remained with my new friend and nursed him until he recovered, and that was the beginning of an intimacy of more than twenty years. That man was General Porter, with whom I passed many a night on Tybee Island, under the same blanket, during the siege of Fort Pulaski, who shared my tent, or my quarters, at the Wilderness campaign, and the long year at City Point, with whom under Grant, I marched to Appomattox, with whom I messed for four years after the war, in Washington, and who, in 1862, invited me to become his groomsmen. I was wounded at the time and unable to travel to Albany, where the marriage took place. My friend was a young man, and when I made my excuses, Porter, with a flash of the wit that is known at a hundred dinner tables—declared he could hardly expect a man to stand up with him, and he would rather have me as a guest.

The first Christmas that Grant spent at the white house I dined there with him; I passed, while he was general-in-chief, at his residence, and I remember Christmas dinner I remember with him, at the house of General Gallatin Lawrence, and once, I think we went to a children's party given by Mr. Cerruti, the French minister, and I remember the night I spent with the American minister in London, sometimes Mr. Welsh, and once I have Mr. P. M. Grant.

PLUM PUDDING IN ENGLAND

with Thomas Hughes, the author of "Tom Brown's School Days." He and I were among my earliest and latest English friends. I was in England only four or five years old when I first went to London, types of English children: one with long golden hair, the other with curly hair, the third with a fat, and beautiful as a vision of fairy land. They were dressed always in blue, with the shortest of skirts and sleeves, so as to show their legs and necks, and they were called Pip and Plum. They had other names, I suppose, but I never heard them; and Pip and Plum and I were devoted friends. They were at the plum pudding dinner for me at Christmas, and a frolic afterwards, and I was always welcome to both. There were more children, older—a whole brood of them, boys and girls, and we were very merry. My mother, Sir William Harcourt was my only rival. He was Mr. Vernon Harcourt then, and he came, too, at Christmas, and brought presents and got up with a great deal of care and splendor. "Fragrant, and even opera, give way to this entertainment, ostensibly provided for the children, but which the elders find it necessary to suppress in very few instances. I confess that I invited half the children of my acquaintance in turn, and thus went the round of the pantomime. I thought Pip and Plum were very good, their stockings for the delightful legend of St. Nicholas is unknown to English children. To many a little friend have I recited the exquisite lines: "The night before Christmas, when all through the house," and always to rapt and attentive listeners. In return they explained to me the mysteries of snappers, and then went to the room after lunch and came in with sheets and watered faces to testify me, while the blue flames of the brandy were blazing.

AT ONE OF THESE FROLICS I HAD

Mrs. Nellie Grant Sartoris and her eldest child, then a chubby boy of three years old, to meet my English friends. The grandson of Grant was dressed in white, with white fur and white shoes, his hair was long and flaxen, and we christened him "Father Christmas," as he stood under my green tree and picked off the bon-bons and oranges, and blew out the candles. When I first saw Christmas in a month of eight or nine playing in front of her father's tent at City Point, I little thought I should ever

welcome her an English matron with an English son in my own house in England. But the old-fashioned Christmas, that Washington Irving tells of in the Sketch Book is no longer celebrated in England, though in the country some traces of the delightful festival still linger here and there. I have been asked to Christmas parties at great houses where a hunt breakfast and a hunt ball and a meet of the hounds formed part of the entertainment; but usually there are only family reunions and children's merry-making on these occasions now.

I lived, however, for several years in a box near London, a dower house in an ancient park, where I had my own little establishment and pleased myself with keeping up on a reduced scale the Christmas customs that I had learned in my house always hung with holly and genuine mistletoe, the servants and I prepared a piece all around; the children of the garden, and there was a host of them, were all brought in to see the Christmas tree. Always to my extreme delight I heard the wailing after midnight, and in the morning I was awakened by the children singing Christmas carols.

Once I had a servants' party at Christmas, and my coachman married the housemaid, and I went to the ceremony. They were married in the parish church, just like Lord Thomas and Lady Jane. I remember that the groom had forgot the ring, but they got along without it. I think the bride slipped off one of her own and handed it to the minister. The wedding breakfast was laid in the housekeeper's parlour, but my relations were not grand enough to boast a servant's hall, and as I had furnished the cake and the wedding gown, I went to the room the whole party rose, and I felt for a moment quite like an aristocrat among my retainers. There must have been half a dozen of them, but I do not remember any of them. The match was not a happy one for all this splendor. I used to hear that the bridegroom beat the bride, though she never complained to me.

CHRISTMAS IN CUBA

One Christmas eve I passed with an American lady married to a Spanish merchant and went through the economies of a Cuban dinner, with its wretched attendance, its coarse but not altogether uninviting menu, its high-flavored fish and high-seasoned soup, its messes of garlic and minced meats, its lucious fruits and heavy red wine, its genuine hospitality spicing all the unfamiliar and sometimes distasteful viands. Seated at Christmas in a long saloon, crowded with guests, with doors and windows all thrown open to let in a breath of fresh air; the palms in the veranda helping to cool the atmosphere; the black servants all in white costumes for their comfort as well as your satisfaction; the powdered Spanish beauties helping one if he stumbled in the Castilian; the men all in frock coats and cravats; the champagne and the ceremonious—could hardly realize that I was keeping the holiday of my childhood, or of more temperate, that is, more frigid zones.

DANCING IN THE STREETS

There was at least a hundred different groups, each a band of men in each forming a crowd around two or three young fellows. Some wild instrument, tambourine or castanets or other with which I was entirely unfamiliar, and which the negroes danced with the white men—huge barbarians who looked like African chiefs with petticoats of feathers and variegated clothes, and head dresses of the most fantastic kind. It seemed to be a match which should outlast the other. The performers were the object of intense interest, and were loudly applauded at their finest feat, a higher jump, a longer leap, a more adroit or athletic twist or turn.

From these at midnight we turned to the cathedral, for the crowing of the cock, or the early mass. The great building was crowded, mostly with inferior worshippers, though there were many women of the better sort, all with protection of fathers and husbands, all without bonnets, only the mantilla, and often not even that, for head gear. There are no chairs, except those the worshippers take with them, in the cathedral, and all the benches were filled with people. They made up the mass of the congregation at the centre and were devoutly attentive; but a still greater throng in the outer aisles was incessantly moving, talking, laughing, with no show of regard for the service, only gazing at the lights or the people, or once in a while at the ceremonies or the restants when the procession or the movement around the altar was more attractive than usual. The priests and acolytes were very numerous, and the celebration very long, and the boys bearing the huge candles got very tired. They played with each other and made faces at the nearest worshippers when the priests' backs were turned, and some of them once or twice came near setting the ornaments on fire. The negroes were the most devout of all. Some of them crawled very close to the railing of the altar, and as they knelt or lay on their steps seemed to gaze in a sort of religious trance; but for the rest the celebration was more of a feast than a solemnity. Not a few were eating and drinking, and I saw more than one man on the outskirts of the crowd with a lighted cigar. The music did not seem to me any better than usual; and at last some one in the orchestra began playing a waltz. The music was a state building with large marble walls, all opening on the street or the inner courts, and palms and huge shrubs placed around; the rooms were rather bare in furniture, but not unattractive in effect; the windows wide open for coolness; the lights blazing; the people stiff and ill at ease, except the host and hostess and one or two of their inmates. But the company was interesting, and I spent many a pleasant hour with the Governor General of Cuba and the Marquesa de Victoria de las Torres.

MY LAST IMPORTANT CHRISTMAS

was a sad one indeed. In 1884 I was staying at General Grant's house to help him in the preparation of his memoirs. I went to him in October, but before Christmas he was certainly beyond recovery from the cancer which had developed itself. Still the family hardly

spoke to each other of the certainty of the calamity, and the truth was never admitted in conversation. Christmas, that Washington Irving tells of in the Sketch Book is no longer celebrated in England, though in the country some traces of the delightful festival still linger here and there. I have been asked to Christmas parties at great houses where a hunt breakfast and a hunt ball and a meet of the hounds formed part of the entertainment; but usually there are only family reunions and children's merry-making on these occasions now.

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BEAUTIES OF ONE-MAN POWER

Responsibilities Centered in the Mayor—The Appointing Power—City Elections—Facts for Charter Builders.

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5. With respect to a city's official, a broad distinction must be made between those who are to be held responsible to the public and those who are to be held responsible to the city. The former are: mayor, councilmen, judges, clerks, etc. The latter are: police, fire, health, etc.

6. The mayor and councilmen should be held responsible to the public, and should be elected by the people. The police, fire, health, etc., should be held responsible to the city, and should be appointed by the mayor and councilmen.

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