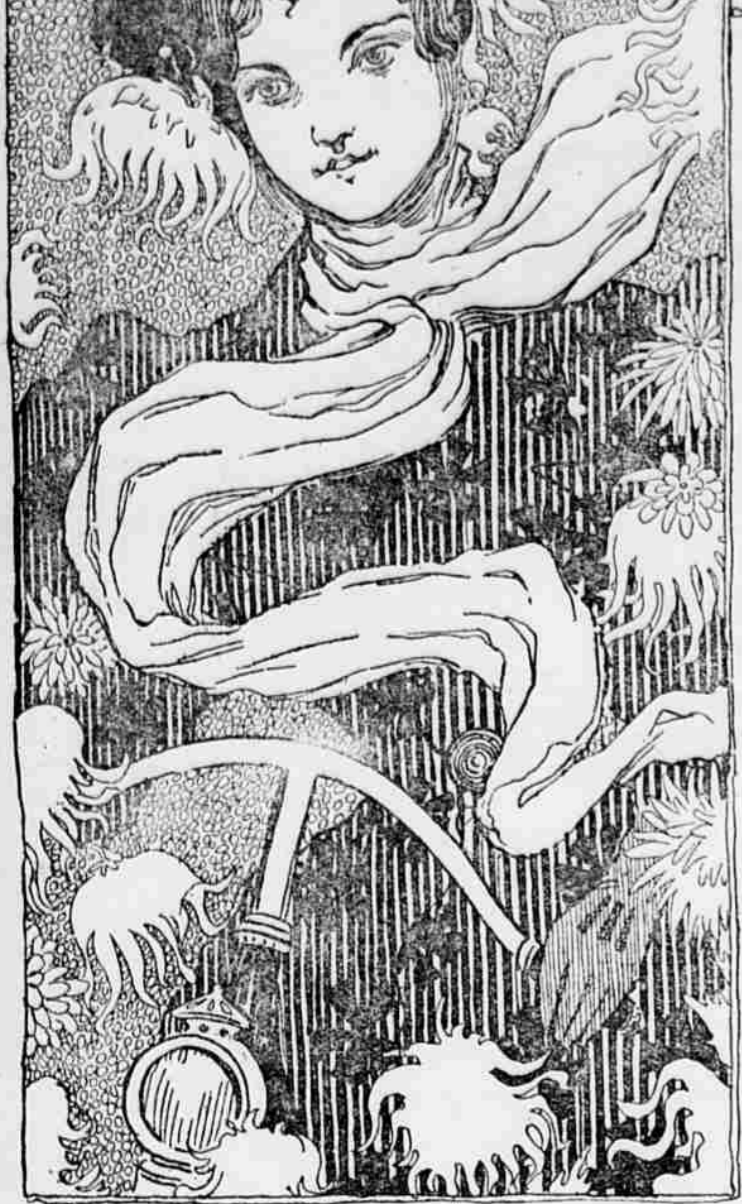




THANKSGIVING



A THANKSGIVING HARVEST

Gathering the Annual Turkey Crop Off the Rhode Island Coast.

SCENES IN A FAMOUS TURKEY MART

Cultivating the Finest Thanksgiving Bird in the World—Good Care and Plenty of Grasshoppers the Whole Secret.

Among all the queer features of queer industries carried on in queer out-of-the-way places it would be hard to find anything more picturesque than the Thanksgiving harvest on Block Island.

Though Block Island is only thirty miles off the Rhode Island coast, and lies almost midway between Montauk point and Point Judith, the impression that it makes upon the visitor is that of being far removed from every other part of the country. It is the home of fog and wind and dashing spray. Down to recent years it was seldom visited by strangers, but it has been "discovered" by the summer visitor, and from contact with this invader its people are less guileless



PICTURESQUE SCENE ON BLOCK ISLAND, WHERE THE TURKEYS ARE DRIVEN LIKE CATTLE TO MARKET.

than they used to be. They are quaint sea folk still, most of them fishermen, and on land they carry on the industry which has brought the island much renown, and which, at this season, especially, gives it a strong claim on the affections of the American people.

This unique business is the rearing of the festive and succulent Thanksgiving turkey. Rhode Island turkey has a fame as far-spreading as that of Philadelphia chickens or Maryland terrapin. The turkey experts tell us, too, that the particular brand of the noble American bird produced in this quaint ocean oasis stands in the same relation to the ordinary Rhode Islander as that aristocratic bird does to his less blue-blooded fellows in York state, Jersey and the west.

JOY OF THE BLOCK ISLANDER.

To the Block Islander turkeys are what his cattle are to the native of Holstein or the tale of Jersey—the objects of his chief concern and attention. When one has been long enough on the island to be familiar with the care and attention that is lavished on its turkeys there is no longer any wonder that the Block Island gobbler is the most arrogant bird on earth or that when turkey is quoted at 25 cents the Block Island brand brings 35 cents. Most of the birds, it may be re-

marked, go to Boston and New York, where their reputation is known and their fine qualities appreciated.

Since every little farm or plot on the island has its flock of turkeys, and the growing of the birds is the principal land occupation of the place, the harvest is now on. Some of the scenes that are to be met with are worthy the brush of a Millet. On days when the steamer visits the place a stroll of a couple of miles from the town will bring one across a dozen great flocks of turkeys traveling in droves, like cattle, toward the harbor. They are driven by women in short skirts, heavy shoes, woolen stockings and with queer little sunbonnets on their heads, or by boys in nondescript trousers, cowhide boots and sou'westers, the prevailing male attire. The drivers stroll along silently except for the "cluck, cluck" with which they stir up a straggler or hasten their flock. The birds march along as sedately as their masters and give the latter little trouble, for they are well fed and lazy, and one can almost see the roll of their fat sides beneath the glossy feathers.

At the landing the scene is one that for picturesqueness outdoes even a Bavarian goose market. The birds stand together in compact patches of glistening color, scattered from neighboring flocks by their guarding drivers. The buyers move about from one group to another examining the turkeys or haggling with their owners over the price to be paid. The hum of voices is now and then drowned by the resonant "gobble, gobble, gobble" of some red-wattled major domo or punctured by the sharp "quit, quit, quit" of a frightened hen turkey. There is a pleasant stir of life and chatter about it all that



THE FIRST PROCLAMATION.

A Bit of History Appropriate to the Season.

The first proclamation of Thanksgiving day that is to be found in printed form, according to the laudable usage of the country, is that of Francis Bernard, captain general and governor-in-chief in and over his majesty's province of the Massachusetts bay in New England, and vice admiral of the same, in 1757. It reads as follows: "As the business of the year is now drawing toward a conclusion, we are reminded, according to the laudable usage of the province, to join together in a grateful acknowledgment of the manifold mercies of the divine Providence conferred upon us in this happy year. Whereas, by the right fit to appoint and I do, with the advice of his majesty's council, appoint Thursday, the third day of December next, to be a day of public thanksgiving, and we may be comforted with one heart and voice return our most humble thanks to Almighty God for the gracious dispensations of His Providence since the last religious anniversary of this kind, and especially for that He has been pleased to preserve and maintain our most gracious sovereign, King George, in health and wealth in peace and honor, and to extend the blessings of his government to the remotest part of his dominions; that He hath been pleased to bless and preserve our gracious Queen Charlotte, their royal highnesses the prince of Wales, the princess dowager of Wales, and all the royal family, and by the frequent increase of the royal issue to assure us the continuation of the blessings which we derive from that illustrious house; that He hath been pleased to prosper the whole British empire by the preservation of peace, the increase of trade and the opening of new sources of national wealth; and now particularly that He hath been pleased to favor the people of this province with health and kindly seasons, and to bless the labor of their hands with a sufficiency of the produce of the earth and of the sea.

"And I do exhort all ministers of the gospel with their several congregations, within this province, that they assemble on the said day in a solemn manner to return their most humble thanks to Almighty God for these and all other of His mercies vouchsafed unto us, and to beseech Him, notwithstanding our unworthiness, to continue his gracious Providence over us. And I command and enjoin all magistrates and civil officers to see that the said day be observed as a day set apart for religious worship, and that no servile labor be performed thereon.

REMARKABLE CELEBRATIONS

The Great American Feast Observed at a Strange Times and Places.

ORIGIN AND GROWTH OF THE HOLIDAY

How New England Took It Up, How Virginia Opposed It and How the War Affected It—Genius Home Day.

When, in the year of grace 1630, sturdy Governor John Winthrop and the Puritan colonists of Massachusetts proclaimed and duly observed a "Public Thanksgiving," they probably had little idea of the importance which that festival was destined to obtain in the history of America.

The first Thanksgiving differed very materially from its successors, in that it was proclaimed as a fast and not as a feast. Supplies had run short, the ships expected from England were delayed, and extinction threatened the "governor and company of Massachusetts bay in New England." Winthrop and his council decided to hold a day of prayer and abstinence, "so that ye Lords be reconciled and look upon his servants with favor, in that they have humbled themselves before Him." Accordingly a crier was sent about the primitive settlement of Charlestown, and the colonists were each and all invited to take part in the fast. Their sacrifice met with speedy reward.

Scarcely had the noon hour of the allotted day arrived when the long-hoped-for ship made its welcome appearance in Massachusetts bay, the cargo was landed, and the fast was succeeded by a banquet of a sort which must have seemed sumptuous indeed to the exiles so recently plunged in hunger and hardship. On the threshold of dreaded winter Winthrop and his followers found what had been a prospect of fear and peril changed into one of happiness and hope. Such was America's first Thanksgiving, as celebrated 267 years ago. Thereafter each succeeding November was marked in the annals of the colony as a day of thanksgiving.

HOLIDAY WITH THE EARLY DUTCH.

But Thanksgiving in the early days of our history was not confined to the New England pioneers alone. Just fifteen years after Winthrop's proclamation, I. e., in 1645, Governor Kieft of the Dutch colony, then known as New Amsterdam, but now as New York, ordered the observance of a day of rejoicing and thanksgiving, the occasion being that God had been pleased to bestow upon his servants. Thus we see that the feast of Thanksgiving is not, as generally supposed, a purely American institution, but is equally derived from the sturdiest burglers of Manhattan Island.

The next notable Thanksgiving day in his- tory occurred at the junction of the British and colonial army, numbering 89,950 men, and commanded by General Forbes, attacked and captured from the French, after a fierce struggle, Fort Duquesne, at the junction of the Allegheny and Monongahela rivers. The name of the place was changed to Fort Pitt, and was the nucleus of the city of Pittsburgh, and view which we may see to-day, a great capital of the coal and iron industries is connected with the celebration of Thanksgiving.

At the same time as the British were conquering Fort Duquesne, Whitefield, the famous Methodist preacher, called upon all his adherents in London to join a "service of thanksgiving" in honor of the English arms on land and sea. This British Thanksgiving was, we are told, widely observed, and awakened intense enthusiasm.

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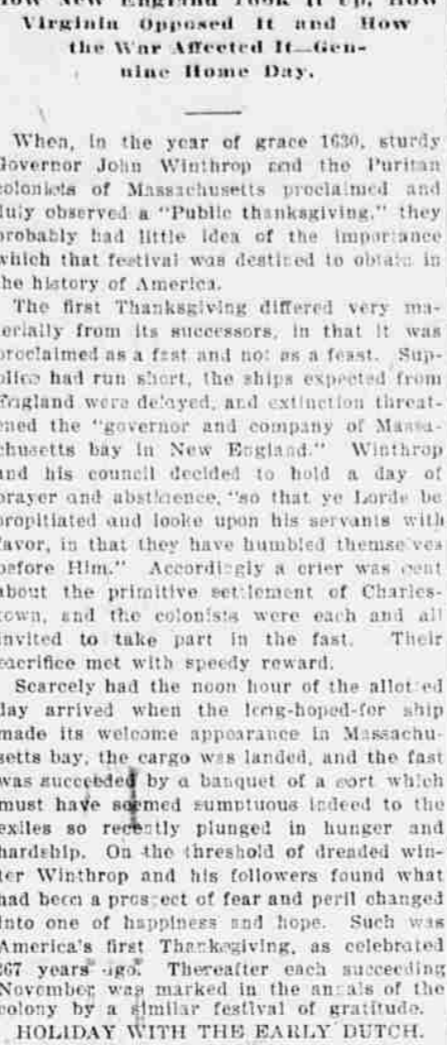
But meanwhile, in New England, what had begun as an occasional day of public rejoicing, and a general thanksgiving of a fixed national holiday, in Massachusetts and New Hampshire it was especially popular. There was at first great latitude in regard to the day selected for the feast; Governor proclaimed the chosen date arbitrarily and no effort was made to keep the anniversary of Winthrop's proclamation. Sometimes celebrating occurred in July, sometimes in midwinter. At length, through the efforts of the president and professors of Harvard college, it was practically fixed upon the last Thursday in November.

The college faculty were moved to interest themselves in the question by the fact that the uncertainty regarding the date caused considerable disorder among their pupils. Boys from different states celebrated on different days, many of them returning home to eat the Thanksgiving meal under their own roof-trees. This very undesirable state of affairs could only be put a stop to, said the grave Harvard dons, by the formal establishment of a uniform date for the feast. The last Thursday of the eleventh month suited the colleges, and influence being brought to bear upon the colonial governors of New England, proclamations were issued making that day the regular Thanksgiving.

GOOD THINGS FOR THANKSGIVING

A Tempting Dinner for Family Parties—How Prepared.

It is not only Thanksgiving dinner that Lady Bountiful is expected to provide for, but she has the men of the family home for at least the day and in many cases a house full of company to look after. With all of this in view a few suggestions are offered for



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An extensive and highly interesting volume might be compiled on the subject of Thanksgivings and the events which have signified them. For instance, on Thanksgiving day, 1782, the British army evacuated New York, while Washington and Clinton marched into the city at the head of the continental army and took formal possession in the name of the young republic. Festivities and a grand display of fireworks closed that memorable day. Thanksgiving had fallen that year on December 25, and the combination of evacuation day and that festival were long jointly honored in New York.

The Thanksgiving day of 1816 is memorable as the occasion upon which an American theater was first illuminated with gas. This event happened in Philadelphia. The experiment was a complete success, and the manager of the affair was Dr. Kugler. During the war, of the battles and skirmishes fought on Thanksgiving, the most notable was that of Lookout mountain (1863).

A few odd and distinctive methods of celebrating the great holiday still survive in different parts of the United States, although the tendency is toward a uniform manner of rejoicing. In sections of Connecticut, for instance, the "Thanksgiving barrel burning" is a time-honored institution. For a month before the day Connecticut boys diligently collect and store in a place of security all the barrels, old or new, which they can find. All barrels are regarded as the property of whomever can carry them away. On Thanksgiving night the barrels are piled in a huge heap and ignited. Boys and girls then dance around the bonfire until the very last barrel has gone up in smoke.

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look clear like arrowroot; add chopped capers and some of the esoper vinegar. Serve hot.

ROAST TURKEY.

For the piece de resistance it is well to go to market prepared to buy the best, which is always a young, medium-sized hen turkey. Mind that your purchase is a thorough "black leg," for if the legs incline to paleness Father Time has been at work. The breast must be broad and fat, the skin very white and the neck short. If the legs are red and adorned with long spurs, these are sure signs of an old gobbler. Nothing will so improve a turkey and give it the desired holiday flavor as a stuffing of mushrooms, and as these are raised in such quantities for the market nowadays they are no longer an extravagance. The stuffing is made in this way: A pound of nice tender ham cut in dice when hot, add two pounds of mushrooms, a little grated nutmeg, white pepper to taste and a bay leaf (the ham supplies enough salt), blend all together in the saucepan over a moderate fire until the ham is cooked, then put aside to cool. Stuff the crop out well and if any fat is left, put it in the body of the turkey, then sew both neatly. The mushroom sauce is made by adding to the usual giblet gravy a few chopped mushrooms. Just a word here as to this familiar grave, and that is, after the good is stewed out of the gizzard, reject it and chop up only the liver and heart.

There seems little to learn about mashed potatoes but an American woman visiting in Chantilly at the Baroness de St. Didier's noticed that they were particularly good and was fortunate enough to get her hands into the kitchen to interview the chef. His method of preparing the potatoes so exactly coincides with the writer's views on the subject that it is herewith given. When the potatoes are tender, but not overdone, they are drained, sprinkled with a little salt, and then put in a pan in the oven for a few minutes, to be completely dried, and just here comes the secret of the feathery lightness that follows. They are now to be strained through a hot colander (as for "riced" potatoes), into the hot saucepan, a large piece of butter and



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