THE PUDDING, THE PIG AND THE PORTER

Ceremonies in Which Every Soldier Participates. The Only Time He is Allowed to Overstep All Bounds.

Christman day to the soldier in the United States army means little more than an annually recurring holiday, with its customary plum pudding and freedom from drill, bringing also to the more fortunate, perhaps, a
day's leave on which to visit old friends and
relations. There are practically no regitime at the same time to benceforth consider mental or service traditions connected with the regiment his mother. the great feast, and, though discipline is slightly relaxed for the day, yet there is but little of distinguish Christmas from the other great American holidays.

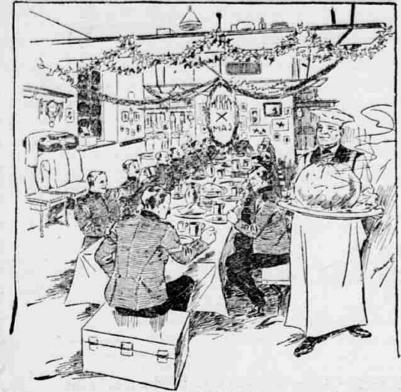
But to the British soldier Christmas is the "day of days," a brief, flitting term durlog which the military obstacter is relegated to a back seat and "Tommy" enjoys a short return to civilian life and liberties. The menreturn to civilian life and liberties. The men terious source, no monther what the visible left in barracks who, whether from choice and outward restrictions may be. But today of necessity have not yet taken their month's | that unmistakable look passes seemingly un "furlough," begin to look forward to the noticed by the lospecting officers and immediately after service every man has his annual merrymaking for weeks beforehand

TOMMY ATKINS' CREAT DAY disners to the cook house, and orderly men are detailed to take turns at watching the culinary operations during the lonely hours of the night. And wakeful must the watchers be, for an improperly cooked or burnt plum pudding means condign punishment well laid on for the offender.

Reveille! How alert everyone seems this cold Christmas morning—no turning over for just another five minutes, spoone—all is life. cold Christians morning—no turning over for just another five minutes' snooze—all is life and bustle in the barrack rooms, for the great day has dawned at last. Rat-tat! "Good morning! A merry Xmss to all of you!" mys a strong, cheery voice as pres-ently the "woman" of the room, who washes the mea's things for them and is herself a

the nieu a trings for them and is herself a soldier's wife, eking out a scant competence by the work, appears, according to tridi-tional usage, and from the innermost re-cesses of her mysterious apparel produces a bottle and a glass-the latter, of course, empty, but the former filled with some queer but potent spirits. A measure to every the mate of the room, starting with the oldest, is

LAYING OUT THE TABLES. This interesting inauguration ceremony over, attention is devoted to breakfast and preparing for church parade. Wiready one begins to observe a flushed look among some of the more reckless characters, for, though and speak of it for days afterward with or affectionate remembrance. That is, one old hands, or veterans; to the younger generation, unacquainted with the traditions of the service and dazzled by modern cricket juncheous, regimental races and the annual ing hot disces are brought to by the cook's "sports meeting," Christmas is to longer mater, both the nostrils and the eyes are



About a month before the great day the steady, prudent men begin to save from their "pocket money" whatever small sums they can, laying these by in hoarding receptacles, or "dimmocking bags," as they are called, with a view to enhancing the festivities by a contribution on Christmas eve. Some there are who, doubting their ability to refrain from consuming their regular quantity of beer and tobacco at the canteen, so long as the jingling coppers seem to burn holes in their pockets, request the sergeant major to will generally find the last-joined subaltern the jingling coppers seem to burn holes in the pockets, request the sergeant major to deduct so much from their weekly pay and deduct so much from their weekly pay and put it down to the regimental Christmas dinner fund; in the vernacular, they are said to be "on the peg," or under "stoppages."

As a consequence of this abstinence, the morning "defaulter's list" begins to diminish and the guard room to show a corresponding lack of inmates, for punishment at this season means a probable loss of privileges, and cart map, who has lain in a loss of provided to hear his name cheered and rejoice in his popularity!

And now they fall to, those hungry deviis, for many a one ate little or no breakfast in order to have the more room for dinner, and the roast meat is washed down with the officers' quarts of beer, followed by the glorious plum-pudding and more beer. Then the tuck-

son means a probable loss of privileges, and incurring penalties, such as being detailed fruit, sweets and other delicacles, provides for guard duty on the day itself. for guard duty on the day itself.

Soon the barrack rooms begin to assume an unwonted aspect, and the orderly officer conveniently winks at the disordered state of the same and tables are crowded round the roar-ing fire; the barrel of porter so wistfully walls and roof during the days devoted to eyed all the morning is broached at last and decoration. The ever-present handy man is a large tin pale filled from it is handed round detailed to superintend the work of ornamen-tation, and under his directions, and with his mugs. assistants, the occupants of each room de-vote their leisure time to adorning the walls, roofs, fireplace and even doors, with unique reproductions of the regimental motio and crest, while seasonable illustrations from the current papers and periodicals are pinned up

ourrent papers and periodicals are pinned up in every vacant spot, and elaborate festoons of colored or glided paper endow the hanging lamps or gas jets with an extraordinary ap-pearance of gayety. At the dullest of times pearance of gayoty. At the dulies of the bare look of the barrack room is relieved by some pretty and attractive decorations, but at Christmastide "gorgeous" is the only word that conveys an idea of the effect profitued. Adjacent shrubberies even are despoiled under the cover of darkness to supply the "green stuff" necessary, and holly mistletoe and evergreens endeavor to conceal the objectionable white-washed walls. CONTEST OF THE GOOSE AND THE PIG.

stantial sum in money to aid in obtaining the all-important dinner. A most amusing feature is the inevitable debate among the members of each barrack room as to the control of the majority. Among the officers the celebration of the day is conducted on a quieter scale. A supper, of which the exhibition of the regimental plate is quite a feature, speechmaking and discuss quieter and the celebration of the day is gondened to the day is conducted on a quieter scale. members of each barrack room as to what around are the order of the day.

R. SCALLIN. shall be obtained as the piece de resistance for the feast. It must be remembered that in the British army the men sleep and eat the same apartment, twelve or four-een beds being allotted to each barrack room Hence, each company contains several small "messes" which are distinct. Generally the occupants of two rooms form a mess of about twenty-four or twenty-five in one of the rooms; this is especially the case on great occasions such as the present. Now ancient custom and time-honored traditions have decreed that there are but two dishes fit for a Christmas dinner-roast gooss and roast pork. Rarely, if ever, is this rule de-parted from, and naturally the adherents of either delicacy are very stubborn and ir-reconcilable. It is a curious fact that the old soldier inclines to the homely but satisfying "bird," while the "cruity" and young soldier seems equally prejudiced in favor of years. It serves only for important occasions, the more succulent pig. In deciding this and is kept in an ivory case. knotty question the majority, of course, is bound to rule, and the disappointed "gour-mands" take to their defeat very kindly, to judge by results at the table. The usual scale of provition is one goose or a leg of

pork to every three men.

Early on the eagerly awaited "eve" the corporal in charge of each room collects the "dimmocked" hoards and obtains the "stoppages" money from the sergeant major. The latter official undertakes the necessary market's, while the corporals are commissioned to expend the maney they have obtained in purchasing a keg of beer and some bottles of wine or spirits. Two gallons of porter allowance, so that a fair-sized keg must be had, and in order that no undue expense be

the canteen will not open till noon, and the barrel in the corner will not be tapped till after dinner, yet the soldier that wants a drink can always procure at from some mys-



such an object of veneration, and has been | pleasantly assailed. Before the brave felsomewhat shorn of its pristine glory and splender. Yet enough of the old-time practices remain to make an account of them prove nighly interesting and diverting to an "outsider."

THE PREPARATIONS BEGIN.

About a month before the great day the cers. After the usual inquiry as to complaints,

plum-pudding and more beer. Then the tuck cart man, who has lain in a large supply o

HAPPY PERIOD OF HIS LIFE Tobacco and pipes are put in requisition, and Tommy Atkins enjoys for a brief, happy period the delight of his life—an unlimited quantity of beer, openly consumed in bar-racks. By and by the married men and their wives drop in-a "little something hot" is al-ways ready for the womenkind. Songs are the order of the day, always sentimental be for Tommy despises your comic song, and has only a passing fancy for those of a bacchanalian type. Beer and songs-songs and beer—that is his summum bonum. Speeches are the exception, for those that would cannot, and the few that could will not waste their time in mere words. And when at last the keg is emptied—another "dead marine," says Tommy, and turns his attention to levying sufficient funds to jay in a supply of the necessarily inferior canteen The major, captain and subaltern officers brand. And so it goes on till "lights out also contribute liberally to the fund, pro-

> Lieutenant Royal Artillery. GOSSIP ABOUT NOTED PEOPLE.

David Hume, the historian, once made as offer of marriage to a lady who refused him. but whose friends shortly afterward conveyed to him the intelligence that she had changed her mind. "So have I," replied David, isconically, "so have I," and he lived and died in single blessedness.

The pope does his private writing with always given with a white-feathered quill, which is believed to come from the wing of a dove, though persons who have seen it say

John H. Reagan, the last survivor of Jef ferson Davis' cabinet, is a candidate to succeed Roger Q. Mills as senator from Texas





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process the

old way must

have been for

boiling water

-but now-a-

days we put

hot water at-

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himself and secured his escape by strategy.

Rubber Cats-

It seems to be generally believed in Germany that Prof. Theodor Mommson was the author of the recent incendiary appeal to Austrian Teutonism which appeared in the Neue Freie Presse. Dr. Mommson, who is 50 years of age, is a familiar object on the streets of Berlin. He may be seen almost It seems to be generally believed in Gerstreets of Berlin. He may be seen almost Cally in the public libraries, among the ordi-nary crowd of students. His interest in contemporary politics makes him, at times, a very fire-eater. In 1870 he was known as the "Franzosenfresser," or devourer of French-men, and this in spite of a batted of Bismarck which once led the little man to challenge his gigantic foe to mortal combat.

"Henry George," says the Westminster Gazette, "had a quaint humor of his own, and could tell a good story against himself. During his Australian tour one of his friends in Sydney suggested to the secretary of a local racing club that it would be a graceful thing to send Mr. George a complimentery ticket for the race meeting then at hand. The papers were at the time devot-ing many columns to reports of George's meetings and discussions on his doctrines. but the sportsmen had evidently not read them. 'Who is Mr. George?' he saked. 'I never heard of him before. 'Why, he's a man of worldwide celebrity.' 'Does he own any horse?' queried the eccretary. 'Yes, two on a table and began to argue. A few min-very fast trotters, "Progress" and "Pov-erty."' 'Oh, all right, said the now satis-the but and rao with it into the corridor.

William Blake, who was the first white The carried time. The present time of spirits. Two gailons of porter (always porter) to a must ask occurrence to a spirits. Two gailons of spirits. Two gailons of porter (always porter) to a must ask occurrence to a spirits. Two gailons of porter (always porter) to a must ask occurrence to a spirits. Two gailons of porter (always porter) to a must ask occurrence to a spirits. Two gailons of porter (always porter) to a must ask occurrence to a spirits. Two gailons of porter (always porter) to a must ask occurrence to a spirits. Two gailons of porter (always porter) to a must ask occurrence to a spirits. Two gailons of porter (always porter) to a must ask occurrence to a spirits. Two gailons of porter (always porter) to a must ask occurrence to a spirits. Two gailons of porter (always porter) to a must ask occurrence to a spirits. Two gailons of porter (always porter) to a must ask occurrence to a spirits. Two gailons of porter (always porter) to a must ask occurrence to a spirits. Two gailons of porter (always porter) to a must ask occurrence to a spirits. Two gailons of porter (always porter) to a must ask occurrence to a spirits. Two gailons of porter (always porter) to a must ask occurrence to the spirits in the occurrence to the spirits in the occurrence to the spirits in the work of sp recently, was a lieutenant in the United States army in his early days and accom-

apy, and on one occasion was captured and tenant, at the age of 27, petitioned the king passed his examination as counsellor at law. The shepherd reassured him. "Why, sah, apy, and on one occasion was calcured and a rope was around his neck when he saved for three years' leave to proceed to the con- and obtained his license: 'I had my-papers himself and secured his escape by strategy.' tinent to study the military art, as he says filled out and walked over to Judge Joe C.

> For your summer outing don't forget to order a case of Cook's Imperial Champagne.

TOLD OUT OF COURT.

A witness in a North Carolina state court was asked on cross-examination if he did not testify in a former trial directly contrary to what he had just sworn to. He replied, with evident unconcern, "I did, air."

Lawyer—You did. Well, which was the truth and which was the lie?

Witness—What I told the first time was a lie, and what I say now is the truth. Lawyer-And ain't you ashamed to confess

that you perjured yourself, in a court of justice?
Witness-Why, no, sir; that first time was only the federal court. Lawyer Walter Bahan of New York walked into Judge McMahon's court in general sessions, to argue a motion. He laid his hat

utes later Court Officer Pete Seaman grabbed "liey!" shouted Bahan, "you've got my hat."
"I know it," replied Scamda, "but it is on fire. I just saw smoke coming out of it."
"I know it," replied Scamda, "but it is on fire. I just saw smoke coming out of it."

Mercfants stakes!

"The horse is good now, and he has nothing to heat over there. Land him in St. Louis all right, and it's as good as a walk-over." "That's right," said Bahan, laughing, "the smoke came from my cigar. The lawyer thought I was forgetting something; we for-showed Seaman a lighted cigar held by a got all about the examination; hand me your

in his petition, "to be able on his return to gill to pass my examination and have my employ his acquirements for the good of papers signed. It was in the forenoon, and his country." This petition was granted, but Judge Gill, who, as everybody who knew him was aware, was an ardent and stocessful turfman, at that time had Orphan Girl in training for the Maxwell House stakes. be run at Nashville, and Brakeman, who was thought to have a pretty good chance of winning the Merchants' stakes at St. Louis, both races being set down for the same day. "I walked into his office with my papers in my hand, and looking up pleasantly, the

judge greeted me as follows: 'Good morning, William. I understand you want to pass your examination and be a 'Yes, sir; that's what I'm here for this morning. "'Were you out at the track this morning to see the horses taking their work?'

'Yes, sir.' " Did you see that Kentucky crack, Lelox, and my mare Orphan Girl work? "Yes, sir; they both went a mile and you know the track was a bit slow. Orphan Girl finished up strong and swinging all through the last furlong in 0:47, and Lelox was all out and had the boy kicking him in 0:471/2.

"'I reckon my mare has a pretty good chance for the Maxwell?" "It looks like a certainty. Lelox is all she has to beat, and he's as good as done al-What kind of a plan would it be to send Alcock to St. Louis with Brakeman for the

Merchants' stakes?'
"'The horse is good now, and he has noth-

"I think I'll send him. Let me see-ah! I

he exclaimed, "dere's so many white folks in dat church some Sundays man congregashun looks like a han'ful of blueberries in a bowl

A pompous bishop, relates a London paper was having his portrait painted and, after sitting for an hour in silence, he thought he would break the monotocy. "How are you getting along?" he inquired.

To his astorishment the artist, absorbed in his work, replied: "Move your head a little Not being accustomed to such a form of address his lordship asked: "May I ask why you address me in that manner?" The Artist (still absorbed in his work-"I want to take off a little of your cheek.

Mr. Bryce relates in the London News at amusing anecdote which he got from a missionary. A Basuto had returned to his ua-tive country from the diamond mines. He described to the missionary his experiences there. On one occasion his eye had fallen on a valuable diamond in the clay he was breaking into fragments. While he was co-deavoring to pick it up he perceived the overseer approaching, and daving it by this time in his hand, was for a moment terribly frightened, the punishment for the theft being very severe. The overseer, however, passed on. "And then," said the Basuto. I knew that there was indeed a God, for he had preserved me.'

The debt of the struggling little church in the suburbs had all been paid off but \$600, relates the Chicago Tribune.

A clergyman noted for his skill and suc-

cess in raising church debts had been sent for and was conducting the morning service.

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the breefs, over 7,000 honest terimonials. the bowels, over 7,000 honest terlimonials. DR. ARCHAMBAULT'S PARIS VITAL SPARKS act at once, and their continued use for a new days builds a man or woman up wonderfully. PRICE: \$5.00 PER PACKAGE-A PULL MONTH'S TRATMENT-100 DOSES.

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