

## Holiday Books

**O**NE of the most unique of holiday books is announced by the Crafton Press of New York under the title of "The Yuletide Edition of Waes Hael: A Collection of Toasts, Crisp and Well-Buttered," by Edith Lea Chase and Captain W. E. P. French, U. S. A. The edition will be limited to 510 numbered copies. The book contains from 1,500 to 2,000 toasts and sentiments, suitable for almost every conceivable occasion. The volume will be 5 1/4 by 6 1/4 inches in size and will contain about 300 pages. The printing will be of the best, on the famous old Stratford paper, which has most of the qualities of a hand-made paper, and the binding will be full white vellum, handsomely decorated with an appropriate design in gold. The first ten numbers are reserved for binding in full crushed Levant, in accordance with the individual tastes of the subscribers. In preparing the material for "Waes Hael" innumerable books, both ancient and modern, have been searched for their best contributions. Beside these, the authors have produced considerable original matter, so that it is probably true that nowhere else can be found gathered together such a large number of sentiments, poetical, or in prose, suitable for use as toasts as in this book.

"Poems You Ought to Know," selected by Ella W. Peattie, literary editor of the Chicago Tribune. The pages are beautifully decorated with marginal sketches and drawings by Ellsworth Young. The book is a collection of the great poems, the poems which have heretofore and will continue to lift the reader above the

"petty round of irritating concerns and duties," and "help them to a consciousness of that abounding beauty in the world of thought, which is the common property of all men." Fleming H. Revell Company, Publishers.

Among the attractive holiday books offered at this time is a new edition of "The Cardinal's Snuffbox," by Henry Harland. It is a dainty little love story which is read and re-read with interest and delight. The binding is a very attractive one, being of bright holly red, with decorations of gold snuffboxes and tassels galore. There are twenty pleasing illustrations by G. C. Wilmhurst. The scene of the story lies in sunny Italy, and the story itself is very human and possible. It is safe to say that this will be one of the most popular holiday books. John Lane is the publisher.

"An Old-Fashioned Sugar Camp and Other Dreams of the Woods," by Paul Griswold Huston. This work is a series of eight sketches which may well be styled "a book of the seasons." The author not only loves nature with a passionate love, but also with an articulate love. He has the seeing eye and the hearing ear and the happy faculty of making his readers see and hear with him.

"Up in the woods we're boillin' sap,  
With its snow knee-deep outside;  
Our old slab shack is a cheery place  
With its fire-arch yawnin' wide."  
The book is a genuine piece of work, with no mimicry, no false sentiment and no make-believe. Fleming H. Revell Company, Publishers.

## The Trapping of Eels

**A** SMALL but very interesting New York industry which is threatened with total extinction is the catching of eels in eel traps in the Oneida river at Caughdenhoy. For many years the residents of this pretty little village have built their eel traps, or weirs, year after year without any fear of molestation, but now they are face to face with a threatened lawsuit, which, if successful, will totally destroy their livelihood. The fight against them is being made by farmers living along the river bank between Caughdenhoy and Oneida lake and along the western end of the lake, who claim that the building of the traps causes a rise in the river sufficient in many instances to flood their low-lying lands along the water front. The suit, if brought, will doubtless be against the state, as the fishermen are permitted by law to build these traps; but the ultimate result would be, should the suit be successful, that the state would forbid their use. This phase of the question is troubling the fishermen very much, and this can be easily appreciated when it is stated that Caughdenhoy has been built up practically on eels, there being no other business in the village, except farming on a limited scale. The fishermen claim, and with apparent truth, that as their traps are never over fifteen inches in height, it is impossible for them to cause a rise in the river sufficient to flood lands lying two and three miles further up the river, let alone the western shore of the lake. It is probable that the excessively high waters of the last two years in that region have had most to do with the flooding of the low lying lands.

There are fourteen of these eel traps, valued at about \$1,400, owned at Caughdenhoy, and the manner of building them is as follows: Heavy stakes are driven into the bed of the river until they are just about even with the surface during a medium height of water. They are driven in such a way that when completed they extend from shore to shore in the shape of an immense "W," with the open portion facing up stream. When in this shape it makes two traps. When only one is to be built the shape is a "V," with the open portion up stream. A framework of planks is then built around these stakes. At the lower tips of the "W" a small opening is left, which is later occupied by the trap itself. This is usually made of lattice work, built either rectangular or rounded, and with the lower end of a larger diameter than the upper. From the sides of the mouth long laths run back into the trap, until they almost meet in the center, leaving only a narrow opening about four or five inches in diameter between the ends of the laths. During certain seasons of the year the eels migrate down stream to Lake Ontario and thence to the ocean, and it is then that the fishermen reap their harvest. When the eel reaches the side wall it follows slowly along this until it finds a narrow opening which seems to present a way of escape; but upon wriggling along it a few feet, it finds itself in the large end of the trap, with no means of escape.

For many years each fisherman did all his own work, from the making of the trap to the marketing of the product, but a few years ago the trust fever seized even them, and they held a meeting and decided that they would combine; hence there is

now only one smokehouse among them all, while the finished product is sold and the money equally divided, whether the fisherman catches one eel or one thousand. In this way the losses and profits are divided in the same proportion.

All the eels caught are smoked, none being sold fresh.—New York Tribune.

### A Very Fat One

We interrupted Harrison at this point. "How fat did you say this man was, Harrison?" we inquired. "Oh, awful fat," replied Harrison. "He was"— "No, but how many pounds?" we insisted. "Oh, he was monstrosously fat; he"— "But how —" "Well, now," said Harrison, shortly, "he was so fat he made believe he was spy on his feet." "Gosh! What a big one he must have been," we murmured in awed accents. And, enrapt in contemplation at the size of the hero, we allowed Harrison to go on with his story.—New York Sun.

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