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SCRIP OF

CUSTOMS WITH THE BEARD ON

Down the Road of Time.

ORIGIN OF CHRISTMAS CUSTOMS

Features of the Great Festival Traced Back to the Time When Christianity Assimilated Heathen and His Whims,

"There is nothing new under the sun," is an assertion peculiarly applicable to long, and reprehending the common joility Christmas customs. It is curious that not of the court for the true joy that shall and one of the customs of the great festival is ought to be on those days. Particularly Christian in its origin. Christianity had | concerning their excess in plays and gam-"to stoop to conquer" the heathen by the ing, saying that he whose office it is to assimilation of their rites and ceremonies. keep gamesters in order and within bounds Thomas Power O'Connor-"Tay Pay" for serves but for a second rather in a duelshort-having been exploring the tomes of meaning the groom porter. Upon which antiquity, has this to say on the subject: "According to Pliny, the sancity of the

posed to be God sent, and as the mistletoe-which, by the way, seldom now is ound on the oak-was then its most frequent parasite, it was honored by the sacrifice of a couple of white oxen, and sometimes even by human sacrifices. In Scandinavian mythology the mistletoe-so far from being what it is with us, one of the Christmas weapons of Cupid-furnished the wood for the arrow by which the otherwise invulnerable Balder was slain. Balder, the god of poetry, son of Odin and Friga, terrifled his mother by narrating to her a dream of his own death. In her terror Friga summoned all the powers of Nature-earth, air, fire, water and all animals, trees and plants-and exacted from them an outh that they should do Balder no hurt. Thus secured, Balder took courage to join combat with the gods, and his invulnera bility in battle set his archenemy, Loake, to ferret out its cause. Loake, in the disnerability. "Nothing in Nature will injure hint Loake suggested to the blind Heda an put arrow made out of mistletoe as the only effective weapon for Balder's destruction; and with such an insignificant weapon even done by machinery. the blind Heda succeeded in slaying the son of Odin.

Yule Log and Christmas Tree.

at the winter solstice in honor of Thor. day. By the way, you can cheaply insure your In another department the rockers to the consumed fragment of the Yule log in and using it to light the log of next year, workers. ns Herrick suggests:

"With the last year's brand Light the new block, and For good success in his spending _ On your psalteries play That sweet luck may Come while the log is teending."

Teending-I. e., burning. Heathen and Scandinavian, again, are ymbolic of the Scandinavian Ash, Yggdrasii, the tree of time, whose roots Nidhogg, and under whose root is Helheim, the home of the dead. The Christbut the following passage from "The the accession of Queen Victoria: "De-Princess Lieven got up a little fete such rock, Comet, Sharpshooter, Pointer and a trees in great pots were put upon a long rallway trains. work boxes, books and various articles,

An Abandoned Custom. many of our Christmas customs and entirely of what is called eik skin, but is among them that of masquerading. In the year 1400 Henry IV was entertained at Christmas at Eitham by twelve aldermen and their sons as mummers. Shortly afterwards, however, according to Fabyan, a conspiracy to murder that king was organized under the guise of a Twelfth Night Mumming. The plot was discovered only a few hours before the time arranged for the assassination. Indeed, it was the numberless murders and other felonies general shape of the feet. Three or more which were committed by mummers that pairs of stockings are expected to be used provoked Henry VIII's ordinance against mumming or guising, commanding that ail foot a protection against the clumsy fit of persons who went about thus disguised the moccasin.-Boston Herald. great houses should be committed to

presents made to the owner of the tree.'

abonds and fined at the king's pleasure. "The Lord of Misrule" is also of Saturnalian origin. "If," writes Prypne in his "Histriomastix," "we compare our Bacchanglian Christmases and New Year's tides with the Roman Saturnalia and feasts suith he, is chiefly observed in England) under them and were furnished with an im-

apo- resolene (Established 1870.) ** Cures While You Sleep.** Whooping-Cough, Croup, Bronchitis, Coughs, Diphtheria, Catarris. Confidence can be placed in a rem dy, which for a quarter of a century has earned unqualified praise. Restful nights are assured at once Cresolene is a Boon to Asthmatics All Druggists The Vapo-Gresokne Co.,

Knock on Long Sermons Apropos of irreverence in church, I can-Pagan Rites and Ceremonies Roll not resist quoting the ever delightful "Had a pleasant walk to Whitehall, where I intended to have received the communion with the family; but I came a little too late. So I walked up into the house and spent my time looking over pictures, particularly the ships in Henry VIII's voyage Bullaen-marking the great difference between those built then and now. By and by, down to the chapel again, where Bisbop Morley preached on the song of the angels, 'Glory to God on high, on earth peace and good will towards men.' Methought he made but a poor sermon, but it was worth observing how far they are come from taking the reprehensions of a mistletce in the worship of the Druids was | bishop seriously, that they all laugh in the an accident due to its being the most com- chapel when he reflected on their ill actions mon parasite of the oak. Any parasite and courses. He did much press us to growing upon that sacred tree was sup- joy in these public days of joy and t hospitality. But one that stood by whispered in my ear that 'the bishop do not rmon done, a good anthem followed."

spend one groat to the poor himself.' The Here is another characteristic Christmus day entry of that sly diarist: "Christmas day, 1665-To church in the morning, and there saw a wedding in the church, which I have not seen many a day; and the young people as merry one with another, and strange to see what delight we married people have to see these poor fools decoyed into our condition, every man and woman gazing and smiling at them."

BUSY TIMES IN TOY FACTORIES Eight Hundred Varieties Turned Out by the Toy Foundries

of Maine.

Gally painted sleds, doll furniture and guise of an old woman, praised to Priga miniature housekeeping sets for the little her son's valor, dwelling so much on his folk of every civilized country in the world miraculous escapes from death that Friga are turned out by an army of workmen in disclosed to him the secret of his invul- the great toy factories of South Paris, Me. There used to be a saying that all the toys him, since I have bound all things by an are made in Nuremburg. At one time posoath to abstain from hurting a hair of his sibly that may have been true; nowadays, head; except," she added, as though by an it certainly is not. The United States is afterthought, "the mistletoe, which I had the greatest toy producing country in the forgotien, but of course nothing so insig- world, and New England leads every other nificant could possibly harm him." On this section of the land in originality and out-

Eight hundred different kinds of toys are made in one shop. Much of the work is

Buzz, and a chair seat is sawed out and thrown to the next operator, and in a twinkling he has the seat ovalled and sand-The burning of the Yule log is, like the papered. All these things are done so hanging of the mistletoe, of Scandinavian quickly that one can hardly see how, yet origin, since our ancestors of this race the finished product is even and perfect, used to kindle bonfires at their feast Juul. One man can saw out 25,000 chair seats in a

house against fire by preserving an unchairs and the rounds and braces are sawed out. Then the various parts are sent upyour cellar till the following Christmas stairs, where there is a hive of busy

There are huge machines with a man seated before each, where the holes are bored in the scats for the legs. Then another operator takes a drop of glue and places the parts together.

In another department the rockers are finished, the backs of the chairs are prepared and an endless belt delivers the varboth the Christmas tree and the Maypole, lous parts to a long line of girls seated be-

mas tree is usually supposed to have been far as the woodwork is concerned—they friend after she had been delivered for a introduced into England by Prince Albert, are rushed to the varnishing and paint Greville Memoirs" shows that it was try- hundred or more gallons of varnish, into that blessed share of fat! It has made a ing to take root there eight years before which the workmen dip sled after sled. They come out beautiful and shining. cember 27, 1829-On Christmas day the There are the Dash, Speed, Flyer, Sham-

table covered with linen; each tree was Near by are the great moccasin factories, illuminated with three circular tiers of and the way the white man makes moccacolored wax candles-blue, green, red and sins is another interesting feature of the white. Before each was displayed a quantity of toys, gloves, pocket handkerchiefs; skin that is used is about the size of a ducts of an overworked brain. These mor-The custom was imported into America.

is thick and heavy, but as soft as velvet. It wears much longer than common leather and is very soft and pliable to the From the Roman Saturnalia are derived foot. Low cut moccasins are made, almost not imported.

The skins are very small, containing only enough stock to cut about two pairs, and skin. The moccasins are made almost entirely by hand.

Straight lasts are used. They are bulky, clumsy looking things, rounded up at the heel like a follower, and with merely the when wearing moccasins. These afford the

gail for three months as rogues and vag- HOME-MADE XMAS PRESENTS Variety of Little Things for Practical Use, Ensily and Quickly

There are a thousand and one pretty and of Janus, we shall find such near affinity useful little things that can be made with between them both in regard of time and very little trouble and expense. For the in their manner of solumnizing that we saunts and sisters, veil rolls are very pretty must needs conclude the one to be but the and most useful. Get some ordinary mallape or issue of the other. Hence Polydore ing tubes at any post office and cover these Virgit affirms in express terms that our with cotton on which some suchet powder Christmas lords of misrule (which custom, has been sprinkled. Next buy some pretty portant papers and the fact that the inflowered silk and cut it in the length of the mate of the hermitage was a most pecutogether with dancing, masques, mummer- mailing tube, allowing about an inch and a llar woman... les, stage plays, and such other Christman half over at each end; then sew it together disorders now in use with Christians, were down the center and at each end tie a bow fused to let even her closest friends enter. derived from these Roman Saturnalian and of baby ribbon corresponding in color to It was filled with the queerest collec-Blacchanalian festivals; which, concludes the slik, then fray the edges beyond the tion of useful and good-for-nothing prophe, should cause all plous Christians eter- baby ribbon and you will have an extremely erty imaginable. The money was in silnally to abominate them." Stubbs tells pretty gift, which has taken, at most, half ver, gold and bills of an issue which was us that these lords of misrule, whose reign an hour to make. Another attractive little placed in circulation during the civil war extended from All Hallows eve to Candle- gift that can be easily made consists of and is today a curiosity. There was \$42 mas day, had from twenty to sixty officers two round pieces of cardboard, which can in silver, \$670 in sold and \$1,340 in bilis be covered with any old pieces of silk from of large denominations. the scrap box. Join the cardboard with baby ribbon to which there has been strung a spool of black and white silk and a and during that time had been a confirmed spool of black and white thread, or any recluse, was found dead by a neighbor. She color or colors that are desired. Add a bit had been a great sufferer from dropsy, and of ribbon by which to hang it up, and the previous to her sudden death had been in gift is complete. To make it still more such a serious condition that an effort was attractive a little pair of silver scissors and made to take her to the county hospital. a needle book may be added. With some but she would not budge from her little odd pieces of ribbon about a quarter of a house, and, looking the doors, refused to yard long and an inch or so wide a nice holder for safety pins can be fashioned. Buy some very small brase rings and butaround with pink or blue silk. Attach all the ribbons to this ring; then at the end of each piece of ribbon at-

> buttonholed, and on these hang the safety gifts are always a more difficult proposi- filled with balls of neatly rolled string tion, as a man is always harder to please and small tobacco sacks of buttons, which and there is not nearly so much choice. were put away with the greatest of care A scarfpin, a pipe or a bok seem at first There was also a room completely filled to be about the only things to give, but with empty boxes of every description, after all there are a number of small gifts while a closet and several baskets were that will appeal to the masculine mind. filled to overflowing with the best of cloth Any girl that can knit or crochet has an ing .- Denver Post. unfailing source of supply in ties, as they are all the rage now and can be made

posing array of hobby horses, dragons, and aginable. But for the girl who finds crochet or knitting work difficult a useful as well as ornamental gift can be made with a compans. Make a good sized circle on cardboard and then cut out Pepys' account of Christmas day in 1662; around the line and cover the circular piece with silk. Next draw with a soft pencil two eyes, a nose and a mouth, and there results a good picture of the man in the moon. Then attach two pieces of ribbon to hang it up with, and on the black place some shaving paper. For a cousin who wears glasses cut out different animals in chamois for him to polish his glasses on. Another present that is easy to make and will be much appreciated is made from a plain hoople stick and some ribbon. Attach the ribbon at each end with brass headed tacks. The ribbon is used to hang over the gas jet and the man hangs his ties over the stick.

Money is always nice to have around the holiday time and it would be a good plan for every girl to commence early to lay aside five or ten cents each day, and when Christmas comes she will have quite a little pin money to spend on gifts for all her friends and relatives.

THE CURSE OF OUR TIME

Stendy Increase of Nervous Disorders While Other Diseases Are Conquered.

The progress of medical science has brought us face to face with a curious and suggestive fact. There can be little doubt that "fifth" diseases, as they are called, are being slowly but surely vanquished. The brilliant discoveries of Jenner and Koch and Pasteur and others have raised the great hope that at no distant day all the toxic scourges of humanity will be brought under scientific control. But there can be as little doubt that functional disorders of the nervous system are spreading with alarming rapidity, and that in their presence the average physician stands baffled and bewildered. Alienlats are agreed that in sanity is increasing; the sanatoriums for nervous troubles are crowded, and in some instances overcrowded; everywhere the thoughful observer marks the signs of a neurotic and disordered temperament. The rise in our own time of various healing cults, such as Christian science, faith healing, divine healing, Esoterio vibrationism. etc., points in the same direction, else systems would have no raison

The field in which the various "irregular" healers win their therapeutic triumphs is very extensive. It includes such miseries as neurasthenia, hysteria, hypochondria, insomnia, mania - depression, melancholia, nervous irritability, fixed ideas, obsessions of one kind and another, alcoholism, morphinism and cocalnism, loss of control, perversions of feeling, and other abnormalities too numerous to recount. Doubtless behind these troubles lies the dark shadow of heredity, yet the most recent science assures us that the greater portion of problems lies within our own control, that education, environment, selfdiscipline, mental hygiene, and the influences of strong personalities over weaker ones are still more potent than the dead hand of our ancestry.

Perhaps the most prevalent cause of worry is overwork. The vaulting ambition that overreaches itself and falls on the other side is far too common, especially in this country and among business and professional men. The overworked man is liable to become nervous, is easily put out, is impatient with his friends, and

A distinguished nerve specialist recommends that the nervous man should try fore tables. A drop of glue here, a few well, in every way through suitable food and penetrate to heaven, to Ginnungagap—
where the frost glants dwell—and to
many thousand chairs together in a single where the trost glants dwell—and to many thousand chairs together in a single are fat, sleek headed men, and such as Nithogg, and under whose root is Help day. sleep o' nights" are panoplied for the bat-When the toys are finished—that is, as the of life. As Mrs. Carlyle wrote to a rooms. Here are large vats holding one burdens of housekeeping: "Thank God for month from the speech of Thomas and the

new woma nof me." We all know what are the results of overexertion. One of the commonplaces of modern psychology is the profound unity as is customary all over Germany. Three host of others. There are horses, too, and of mind and brain. Loss of memory and of will power, dulling of the power of attention with concomitant liability to mistakes, blunting of the powers of observation-such are the consequences of a sort common cowhide; it has a creamy tint and bid states grow to a certain point, and we have then neurasthenic and psycasthenic misery, and life seems utterly impossible. Modern medicine emphasizes the value

of a hygienic mode of living. Rest at intervals, a sojourn in the woods or in the mountain tops, an occasional ten minutes spent in silence, so that we may have our own souls speak to us; attention to the are much lighter in color than the real clk laws of health, moral and physiologicalsuch form the true prophylactic against the curse of our time.-Boston Transcript.

DIED IN RAGS BUT HAD CASH

Home-Made "Safety Deposit" of Colorado Miser Well Filled with Coin.

Hidden in a goods box four feet square, which was filled with chinaware and old cooking ustensils that appeared to have rested there for at least a quarter of a century, was discovered \$2,062 placed in the bottom of a ten-pound lard can. The money was the hoarded wealth of Mrs. Georgiana Horton of Denver, who was found dead in her kitchen.

The discovery was made by Mrs. Frank Hackenberger, who was assisting Public Administrator John Morley to follow up the cursory search which a few days ago resulted in the finding of a few unim-

The room was the one Mrs. Horton re-

Mrs. Horton, who had been in ill health for eight years since her husband's death, stir outside for fear she would be taken unawares. She labored under the delusion that everyone was attempting to take her property, and so allowed but few to see her. and those few had to remain in the kitchen. Upon searching the house for the first tach a smaller ring that has also been time nothing of any value was uncarthed except two old watches and some jewelry of old-fashioned make. The boxes and To the men cousins and uncles Christmas cans and also the cooking utensits were

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