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YULETIDE FESTIVITIES  
IN OTHER LANDS

**I**N ENGLAND, Christmas celebrations of three or four hundred years ago charm us with their quaint and simple jollity. The English always remembered everyone from their neighbors down to their servants. "In the country, an English gentleman always invited his neighbors and tenants to his great hall at daybreak on Christmas morning. There they were regaled upon toast, sugar, nutmeg and good old Cheshire cheese." The house was decked with ivy and other greens.

Under the title of a "Christmas box," the general English custom.

one throws a handful of wheat has been brought for the purpose on it, another chops it down very carefully as the tree must fall toward the east just as the sun god rises. It is then cut into two or three pieces. The first chip that falls is brought home as particularly precious.

Then the logs are taken home, one to each side of the door. The mother breaks on the longer log a small wheat cake of unleavened flour, called pogachka.

The day passes in preparation for the feast the following day. At sunset one of the men, fitted out with new woolen gloves, brings in the log.



England 2-2

which still prevails to some extent, a small gift of money was given to postmen and other delivery men the day after Christmas, which was called "Boxing Day."

In 1100 Henry I granted a charter to London, making it a city and the Christmas celebration, it is recorded, consisted of a feast for rich and poor. The people gathered in the streets around blazing bonfires singing and dancing, after feasting upon oxen, deer, ale and mead. The wassail bowl, spoken of so often in many books describing England at the time of the crusades, was another evidence

As he passes the threshold the mother throws at him a handful of wheat from a bowl in which also the chip has been kept all day.

Then the log is lighted and immediately the young folks run out and "celebrate" noisily by firing off guns and pistols. It is important to keep the log burning all night.

There are no holidays in Scandinavia to which both young and old look forward with so much pleasure as the days of Yule. These days, in yuletide times, were also celebrated by the followers of Thor and Odin.

Christmas and the days following



Russia 2-2

of the ever-ready hospitality that the English offered to all comers.

In Russia on Christmas Eve everyone dresses—or at least they used to, it is hard to say anything definite about bolshevist Russia—for a gay masquerade. Each one was supposed to represent some animal, the idea being to commemorate the fact that Christ was born in a stable among the humblest of the animals.

Peasants among the Bulgarians, Germans and others have a legend that animals are conscious on Christmas Eve. Some people believe that "at midnight the sheep awake and march in a procession, that the cattle

are legal holidays in the city and there is much merrymaking, but it is not to be compared to what one witnesses in the country. In many districts of Sweden and Norway, among the peasants and farmers, these continue for thirteen days and are called the "tretten Yule days" (thirteen days of Yule).

The day before Christmas, in the afternoon, everything is ready for the big feast. The house has been thoroughly cleaned, and leaves of juniper and fir are strewn on the floor. When the work is finished the family generally go into the bakehouse, which has been made warm, and each member



Serbia 2-2

kneel in their stalls while by a holy miracle all the beasts are able to converse together. But it is a mortal sin for a man to attempt to overhear them; a sin punishable with sudden death."

Holland has many festivities, prominent among them, a skating or ice carnival. In Switzerland the ski and toboggan hold sway.

An interesting practice takes place in Serbia on Christmas Eve. The younger men and boys of the family early in the morning go to the forest. After crossing themselves three times as is the custom of the Greek church, or saying a prayer, they select a tree, then known as the Badnyl. They greet it, "Happy Badnyl to you." Then

takes a thorough wash from head to foot, or a bath in a large tub. This is the only bath many take during the whole year.

In some places old-fashioned ways still exist. Young men often paint or blacken their faces, put queer crowns on their heads or hats, wear large stars on their breasts, and generally carry long wooden swords. One man is furnished with a large pouch, and the men then visit each farm and solicit contributions for a frolic. Now and then they indulge in great mischief and fun. If they find out that a young fellow loves a girl of the village they visit her house and sing to her the old Herode's song.

SPECIAL FOR  
XMAS

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and  
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Chocolate  
and  
Strawberry  
Ice Cream

## Wright Bros.

The Home of Better Things

PLACE A CANDLE IN YOUR WINDOW THIS EVENING

Once more we begin to hear the tinkle of Christmas bells as Old Father Time prepares to turn over another page of his book of Life. The air is heavily laden with whispered messages from Santa Claus. Festive decorations in red and green—Christmas bells, holy wreaths, mistletoe, all the usual symbols of the holiday season appear.

And in all the hurrying and scurrying of good cheer, most of us forget the real message of Christmas. In fact, a great many of us do not even know the meaning of some of our old traditions. For instance, probably not half of our citizens know the significance of the candles that we see burning in so many windows on Christmas eve. The Literary Digest for December 4 gives the following explanation:

"An old tradition has it that a lighted candle set in the window on Christmas eve will guide the Babe of Bethlehem to your home that he may bring you happiness. In some countries it has long been the custom to mark the coming of Christmas, and John H. Stedman, of Rochester, New York, has originated a movement to spread it in this country. In a pamphlet urging all to light the 'Christ candle' on Christmas eve he says:

"The Irish will tell you that the Christ-candle was always lighted in their home in the Emerald Isle as it has been for years and years in Norway and Sweden. Boston has had it for a decade. In Rochester, 1916, was our third celebration—the first year a few houses shone—the second over a thousand—the third nearly every one, and it has spread to town, village and country over a forty-mile radius. Many far-away homes, Wisconsin, Maine, California and Florida, kindled their candles from ours and when you have lighted yours, you will appreciate why."

—The Invisible Guest—  
O'BRIEN HAD FORTUNE;  
NOW WHERE IS IT?

Los Angeles, Cal., Dec. 23.—While completing arrangements to start for Momence, Ill., with the body of Lieut. Pat O'Brien, noted aviator, who committed suicide Friday night, Merwin O'Brien, a brother, today began an investigation into the affairs of the late war hero.

According to the brother, Lieut. O'Brien possessed more than \$15,000 in cash, stocks and Liberty bonds a year ago before he went to Cuba on a trip. When he shot himself O'Brien was said to have been practically penniless.

Mrs. Sarah Otis, companion of Mrs. O'Brien, was quoted today as saying that before his death O'Brien had pawned his wife's rings and furs.

The brother appeared to be astounded when he learned that no estate was left by the aviator.

"Before I leave I expect to know all the details and circumstances that prompted my brother to take his life," he was quoted as declaring. "The truth will come out about how his money got away from him. I cannot believe that he spent it in wild living for up until the time he went to Cuba he was living a model life."

—The Invisible Guest—  
QUAIL HUNTING SEASON  
NOW CLOSED

Monday, December 20th, was the last day of the year for quail hunting in the state of Indiana, the state department announces. The closed season begins December 21st and extends until November 10th, 1921.

Quail hunters are warned that it is unlawful to have quail in their possession after Dec. 20th.

Hunting of wild ducks and geese closes on December 31, but rabbits may be hunted until January 10th.

—The Invisible Guest—  
Lafayette, Ind., Dec. 23.—A committee of lawyers in the superior court today recommended that I. A. E. DeMers be disbarred from practice here. Proceedings will now be instituted against him. DeMers, conduct was investigated by the committee which found that he had been guilty of unprofessional practice, barter and other offenses. He has been practicing about a year and was formerly a cook.

—The Invisible Guest—

SPECIAL ATTRACTION AT  
NEW ELLIS XMAS DAY

As a special attraction for the holiday week, the Gordon Players will offer one of the greatest of present day stage productions, "Tess of the Storm Country," a dramatization of the famous novel by Grace Miller White, at the New Ellis theatre Christmas afternoon and evening, a real Christmas present from the Gordons to their followers here.

"Tess of the Storm Country" is one of the greatest of Gordon plays, a four-act drama filled with pathos and heart throbs, but at the same time carrying just a sufficient amount of comedy to relieve the tenseness of the situations. It is a tale of the storm country, of the woods and of the plain, wholesome folk that dwell therein, with its setting near the waters of Lake Chautauqua in upper New York. It is a play far removed from the general run of plays, something different, something refreshing, a play containing lessons which will long linger in the minds of those who witness its production, a play that has been lauded by the critics, and a play that has been heartily endorsed by Managers Hill and Crooks as well as Mr. Gordon himself.

Especially stage scenery, which will enhance the beauty of the production and intensify the interest of the audience, has been secured for the play. Mr. Hill reports a splendid advance sale for both the afternoon and evening performances and all are urged to get their tickets early. The matinee is scheduled for 2:30 o'clock, with prices of 39c and 17c. The evening performance will commence at 8:30 o'clock, with the regular prices of 55c and 28c prevailing. Tickets now on sale at Long's.

The acts follow:  
Act 1.—The woods on the beach of Lake Chautauqua. Late afternoon.

Act 2.—Orn Skinner's shack, 3 months later.

Act 3.—Home of Elias Graves, 2 week later.

Act 4.—The Squatters' Mission, the same evening.

Mrs. William Hamilton and Mrs. Vernon Ballcolm of Gary came Thursday to visit their mother, Mrs. B. Minn, at Remington.

## LOCAL PERSONAL NEWS.

Bert Courtwright, who had been in St. Luke's hospital in Chicago, returned to his home Thursday. He is somewhat improved.

Mrs. Laura Harris, Mrs. Brit Marion and Mrs. Lula Keister went to Chicago Thursday to spend the holidays with J. W. Lister and family.

Lillian Nagel of Boston, Mass., who had been visiting her sister, Mrs. James Overton, left Thursday for Winnebago, Minn., for a visit with another sister, Mrs. F. N. Simmons.

Lawrence and Albert Shumaker went to Manchester Thursday to visit relatives.

Mrs. A. S. Lowman and children of Parr left Wednesday evening for Draught, Calif., for a visit with relatives.

Father M. Ehringer went to Lafayette Wednesday evening to assist at the Christmas service at the St. Mary's church.

Mrs. Anna Edge and daughter went to Monon Wednesday. The latter continued to Michigan City to spend the holidays with her grandmother, Mrs. O. M. Peek.

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THE BUICK

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Please, Please, Dear Santa Claus

Wishing For You

A  
Merry Christmas  
AND  
Happy New Year

WRIGHT BROS.

"The Home of  
Better Things"