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Miss Ruth Durant Evans is the author of the manual for magistrates which has been adopted by the legislature of South Carolina as the official guide. Miss Evans is deputy county clerk of Hamilton county, Tenn.

Mme. Catherine Breshkovskaya, who is known as the "grandmother of the Russian revolution" and who was recently banished to Yakoustsk for trying to escape from a prison in Siberia, where she had been sent for life, is seventy-one years old.

Miss Edythe L. M. Tate, who recently made the highest grade in an examination with ten contestants participating, thereby winning the position of director of the tuberculosis bureau of the state board of health of California, was at one time special investigator of the Russell Sage foundation and also special agent of the United States immigration commission.

**A Wish For the Holiday Season**

IHLNE own wish wish I thee in every place.  
The Christmas joy, the song, the feast, the cheer;  
Thine be the light of love in every face.

That looks on thee, to bless thy coming year,  
My own wish wish I thee—what dost thou crave?  
All thy dear hopes be thine, whatever they be.  
A wish fulfilled may make thee king of slaves.  
I wish thee wisdom's eyes wherewith to behold, she stands and waits, the youthful year.  
A breeze of morning breathes about her brows,  
She holds the storm and sunshine, bliss and fear.  
Blossoms and fruit upon the bending boughs,  
She brings thee gifts What blessing will thy things bring?  
Lips unawares of good—be ever of thee even above!

The one immortal joy thou cannot lose  
is love. Leave all the rest and choose  
thou love.

—Celia Thaxter

**THE DANGER FREE TREE.**

How Electricity Provides the Sparkling Cheer Without Risk of Fire.

Nearly every 20th day of December we read in the morning papers the pathetic stories of Christmas play that ends in tragedy. It is the annual toll of the Christmas tree candle. Every city has dozens of such cases each year. The candle flame sets fire to the trimmings, a curtain blazes up, and the day of festivity ends in sorrow or some member of the family is badly burned.

The little electric tree lights are decorative and pleasing to children, and they are safe and convenient. Tiny lamps, fruits, roses, birds, snowmen and grotesque little figures are all strung together on fine, silk covered wire and may be readily connected to any lamp socket behind the tree.

The little lamps sparkle and glow. They are the most effective Christmas tree ornaments ever devised, and there is far more fun for the kiddies because the lamps can burn as long as they are wanted. They do not have to be watched, and the little lamps can be used year after year. They are suitable for any festivity and add gaiety to every gathering of children.

An Austrian Christmas Delicacy.  
The Austrian affects at Christmas time a delicacy known as fruchtbrod, made of raisins, currants, figs and chopped dates. This constitutes a sort of cake, baked hot.

**Holiday Greetings**

ALTHOUGH we live in Gungy An', though our town hex settl' down  
To take its winter nap.  
Our thoughts go out to friends afar,  
Friends north, south, east an' west,  
We hope an' pray this Christmas day,  
Will be their bar piest

We live here quiet, on the farm,  
Irene an' me an' me;  
We have two pens uv noisy hens  
An' cats, no less'n three!  
We raise our garden sass an' sich,  
Make cider ev'ry fall;  
Wish we could git a cask uv it  
Out to you, one an' all

We ain't no hands fur style an' sich,  
But we jest wanfer say  
We'll use you white by day or night  
Ef you s'ould come our way,  
'cept this greetin', which is full  
Uv good ol' Gungy cheer,  
An' peace, good will an' joy until  
We see you all next year!

—Joe Conn.

**DAMES AND DAUGHTERS.**

EVERY year the little green bayberry candles are sent as luck bringing gifts to an even greater extent than during the past few holiday seasons. The reason for this is that the people who received them the past year or two—who did not?—thought that they really had seen to bring them good fortune; hence this increasingly rapid growth of the candle's popularity as a substitute for the conventional Christmas card or as constituting in itself an unpretentious little gift symbolizing every good wish.

But, while a great many people both send and receive bayberry candles as gifts, there are but few who know whence they come or why the luck superstition is inseparable from them.

The candles, or "dips," as they were first called, are the product of a revived industry started a few years ago in the old Massachusetts towns of Deerfield and Hingham and in the kitchen of the Cape Cod people, all of them using the old wicks or the wicks that have descended in the families from colonial times. Old southern villages have not as yet realized the opportunity offered by this revived industry, although the bayberry candles were made by the early settlers in all the coast colonies where the berries grew, never being found inland.

As to the origin of the good luck idea, we seek it in vain among colonial chronicles as applied to the candle itself. Yet from times far earlier the bay tree and the laurel were considered sacred to good fortune, and it is

**Pert Personal.**

And Jack Johnson—oh, where is he?—Macon Telegraph.

George Bernard Shaw must be rejecting these days over the threats on his life. To be neglected is worse than death to G. B. S.—Philadelphia Ledger.

Sarah—the divine Sarah—Bernhardt has twenty-six artificial legs. But as she wears only one at a time she has not been accused of ostentatiousness.—Springfield Union.

De Wolf Hopper has given up the stage for the movies. Not the least advantage is that we won't have to listen to "Casey at the Bat" any more.—Philadelphia North American.

"I love you," said May Irwin to the president, "and I have always loved you, even before you were president." Is that the way to talk to an engaged man, May?—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

**PITH AND POINT.**

If praise spoils a man he never deserves it.

The taxation experts will have busy days in Europe after the war.

Philosophers are men who imagine they are in the fool proof class.

Somebody asserts that snails are preferable to hysterics. They are—in a speed contest.

The chap who can find nothing to laugh at in this old world is having a dull time.

Somehow it always seems as though the other fellow got that silver lining to the cloud.

Under international law, it seems all neutrals have rights, but it is always up to the neutrals to preserve them.

Don't overlook the fact that the moon American tourists have spent at home this year has helped to make prosperity.

If all incomes, no matter of what amount, are to be taxed the man who has no income whatever will be in a privileged class.

An American diplomat abroad is not bothering much just now about the style of residence he maintains or his social equipment.

A noted artist says that the war will do much toward establishing a "fixed style of architecture." It has surely fixed a lot of existing architecture.

**Sleet, Hail, Snow.**

Sleet is snow which has passed through air above the freezing point, and thus falls half melted.

Fog is rain which in its descent has passed through a cold layer of air and been frozen. Two things are essential to half-two strata of clouds with opposing electrical forces and two currents of wind.

Snow is the condensed vapor of the air frozen and precipitated to the earth. Snow falls in winter because the sun's rays are oblique and warm the earth less, thus making the air colder and producing rain in the form of snow.

**Political Pointers.**

The latest from the political trenches is that Justice Hughes is still dug in.—Washington Post.

Nebraska is having a hard time trying to score as a mother of presidents.—Washington Star.

The presidential candidate who throws his hat into the ring too early is in danger of having it smashed.—Philadelphia Press.

Every time a campaign booklet tells how much he spent on a candidate the fear arises that he did not get his money's worth.—Washington Star.

**Fashion Frills.**

While the craze for war fashions is on let us be thankful that nobody offers to introduce the Greek military skirt.—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

The resourcefulness of America is shown by the fact that this country is now able to get up most of its own fashion news.—Washington Star.

The way fashions work around to the beginning serves as a reminder that the famous "cocked hat" will soon be up to date again.—Washington Post.

**VOLETTE'S CANDLES**  
By MARIAN V. BOSSEY

**Lighting the Bayberry Candle.**

from this immemorial belief that we must trace the present day faith in the virtues of the bayberry candle.

The bay is a species of laurel, and as poets and victors were crowned with the laurel or the bay, wishing them long life and happiness, so is the same wish conveyed in the bestowal of a candle made of the waxen berries borne by the sacred tree.

Bayberry dips are also made as well as the molded candles. These dips are smaller and less even in shape and show us how candles were made by repeatedly dipping the wicks in the melted wax of the bayberries and drying each layer till the dip was of proper size. That was before molds were introduced, early in the eighteenth century.

To accompany a bayberry candle one should send in the little box in which it is daintily wrapped and on which is printed, in red and green lettering the legend:

**ON CHRISTMAS EVE**  
A bayberry candle burnt to the socket  
Brings luck to the house.  
Food to the hungry  
And gold to the pocket.

When those cards are not to be found the luck rhyme may be written on the back of one's visiting card and wrapped with a candle, but in that case it must not be forgotten that the inclosure of writing necessitates extra postage.

Their color, a soft olive green, blends beautifully with other Christmas decorations, and they burn with a steady flame, emitting a delightfully pungent fragrance; and they are consumed evenly all around without making unsightly gutters or ridges of wax down the sides as ordinary candles do.

From New England comes the tradition that if lovers separated by distance each lights a bayberry candle in honor of the other at the same hour the aroma or incense drifting from the burning wick will drift in the direction of the absent one; hence the candles make a strong appeal to young people of romantic temperament.

A candle must be presented to you, not bought by yourself, in order to insure good luck, and you must not light your own; that must be done for you by some other person, not necessarily the donor.


Christmas eve is the time for burning, either at dinner or later, and to follow out the old idea of the laurels and the bay, the victor a candle should surely be bestowed on the relative or friend who has recently achieved some success or won a distinction.—Philadelphia Press.

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