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**CHRISTMAS IN 1621**

**Rebuke Administered to New England Observers of Day.**

Young Men Who Had Arrived on Little Ship Fortune Reprimanded for Festivities.

IT WAS IN 1621 that Governor Bradford was called upon to administer a rebuke to some of the young men of the New England colony who had just come over on the little ship Fortune, and who wanted to celebrate the holiday, the Detroit News recalls. Puritanism brought over with it in the May flower the anti-Christmas feeling, and when the group of lusty youngsters attempted to observe the day they were sharply criticized by the colony.

The men were called out to work that day as on other days, but the newcomers declared it against their consciences to work on Christmas day. The governor left them and led away the rest of the workers. But when he returned at noon the young men were in the street at play—some pitching the ball and some playing stool ball. He took away their implements and told them it was against his conscience that they should play while others worked and that they could observe the day within doors, but there should be no reveling in the streets.

On the day in question a tree was chopped down and dragged into one of the rough cabins where it was trimmed with cranberries and popcorn, while the young people feasted their eyes on its beauties. These "revelries" were frowned upon by the majority of the colonists and in 1659 the general court of Massachusetts enacted a law that made any person observing Christmas day liable to a fine of "five shillings." The law was repealed in 1861.

**Placecards.**  
Next after decorating the table comes the question of placecards. These may be as simple or as elaborate as you like, but you really should have them! You might cut white cardboard into small round pieces. Give each an irregularly outlined border of green and at the top of this little make-believe Christmas wreath punch a small hole, through it draw red baby ribbon, and tie in a bow. The name is written in the center.

**A CHRISTMAS LEGEND**

**Crowing of the Cock to Keep Away Evil Spirits.**

**Tale of Saint Stephen, the First Martyr, Whose Day is December Twenty-Six.**

EVER since that first Christmas eve the cock has crowed all night long on the anniversary to keep away evil spirits; for the cock is a holy bird and a knowing one. There is a pleasant tale of him and Saint Stephen, the first martyr, whose day is December 26, close by his dear Lord's.

Saint Stephen was King Herod's steward, it seems, who served him in the kitchen and at table. One night as he was bringing in the bear's head for his master's dinner he saw the Star shining over Bethlehem. Immediately he set down the huge platter and exclaimed:

"No longer, Herod, will I be thy servant, for a greater King than thou is born."

"What aileth thee?" cried the King wrathfully. "Do you lack meat or drink that you would desert my service for another's?"

"Nay," answered Stephen. "I lack neither meat nor drink. But the Child that is born this night is greater than all of us; and Him only will I serve."

"That is as true," quoth Herod, smiting the table with his fist. "as that this roast cock on the platter shall crow before us."

Hardly were the words out of his mouth when the cock stretched his neck and crowed lustily. "Christus natus est!" At this proof that Stephen's words were true, Herod was so angry that he made his soldiers take Stephen outside the walls of Jerusalem and stone him to death. And this is the reason why, unto this day, Saint Stephen is the patron of stone-cutters. —Abbie Farwell Brown, in Lippincott's Magazine.

**Cleansing the Saucepan.**  
Here is a simple but most successful method of cleansing a saucepan in which milk has been boiled. After pouring out the boiling milk, quickly replace the lid before the steam has time to escape, and allow the saucepan to cool before taking it off again. Then put the pan in cold water to soak. It can be cleaned quickly and easily.

**Obedient Instructions.**  
Fred was being sent to a boarding school.  
"Now," said his father, "when you write do not send me pages and pages describing all the pupils, where they come from and what class they are in, because I really shall not have time to read it all."  
A few weeks later his father received the following letter: "Dear Father: S. O. S., 50, R. S. V. P. Fred."

**THE ROSE OF JERICHO**

**Pilgrims Told of Its Power to Bloom on Christmas Day.**

Blossom Given the Name of Resurrection Flower; Also Called St. Mary's Rose.

SEVERAL varieties of the so-called resurrection plant have appeared among the novelties offered by florists but the original is the rose of Jericho. Along the shores of the Dead sea, far enough away to be out of reach of the death-dealing vapors and the salt spray, grows this rose, a little plant famed in many a legendary story which, when ripened, rolls up its sprays and branches into a curious little brown ball.

The desert winds snap off its dry stem and whirl the seemingly dead little ball away over sandy plains, like a feather-weight. After it chances to reach some damp place, in about ten days, the moisture has wrought a miracle for the once dead is alive again, green and growing.

The old-time pilgrims who brought back this plant with them from the Holy Land, told wonderful tales of its power to bloom out on Christmas day and gave it the name of resurrection flower. Another old legend names it from every spot where they halted to rest.

The dry ball when unfolding drops its seeds, and from these it may be cultivated as an annual. To resurrect these dry balls it is simply necessary to keep them standing in glasses of water, immersed about halfway to the top of their branches. The expansion is merely a mechanical spongelike process.

The botanical name of the rose of Jericho is anastatica, from anastasis resurrection. There are other species of resurrection plants, but they are not so attractive as their Dead Sea relative, which, although it has very little beauty, has an honored place among flowers because of the many fancies and associations it calls up and its peculiar development. —Argus.

**CHRISTMAS TOKENS OF LOVE.**

WHEN any uncertainty exists let us give a token of love, or friendship, or human kindness, something that, while expressing these things will, at least, be harmless. Let it be something that does not last—that brings the meaning and vanishes—something that never will know the indignity of the top shelf of the spare room closet!

A knock at a friend's door on Christmas morning and the clasp of a hand do this. A growing plant does it—but, most of all, thou beside me, singing in the wilderness—the personal revelation does it. Suppose a letter came on Christmas morning, to say: "You are perfectly dear to have sent me a spool box," but "I want you to know that your patience, or courage, or tenderness, during this last year, will help me to live more bravely and courageously and lovingly this next year!" What a Christmas present the receipt of such a letter would be to any one of us! What a Christmas present for any one of us to send to the human heart that has given us courage for the burden and heat of the day! —Indianapolis News.

**Her Christmas Dolly**



**THAT PESTIFEROUS BOY.**  
"A Merry Christmas, old man. But why are you limping?"  
"That pestiferous boy of mine set a steel trap for Santa Claus."

**OLD YULETIDE CAROLS**

**"Holy Night" Regarded as One of the Most Beautiful Songs.**

"Draw Nigh, Immanuel," One of the Oldest Pieces and Far Antedates Any Others.

THE ancient Christmas carol, "Holy Night" is German in its origin and is considered by many persons to be the most beautiful of all Christmas carols. It has sometimes been ascribed to Martin Luther, but the consensus of expert opinion is that it is much older than his time and is one of the oldest of German folk songs. The carol, "God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen," is English in its origin and dates back to about the beginning of the Seventeenth century, although the author of the words and the composer of the music are unknown. The fine old melody sung to this poem possesses all the best qualifications of a sterling hymn tune and will probably last as long as the verses with which it is always associated.

The carol "Draw Nigh, Immanuel" is one of the oldest pieces of coherent music in existence, and both the words and music far antedate any of the others. The music is an old French melody, dated from the Thirteenth century, although, of course, it has been harmonized to conform with modern standards.

There is a most curious but beautiful musical effect at the close of this carol. The words of "Draw Nigh, Immanuel," are about 100 years older than the music, being taken from the Mozarabic breviary of the Twelfth century, and it is generally believed that they were taken from the liturgy of the early Christians at Toledo, Spain, where the Mozarabic breviary was formulated.

Another carol, "The First Noel," has a traditional French melody and probably originated in Breton, although the exact origin of this fine old song is somewhat in doubt.

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