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### WHEN HEARTS ARE TRUMPS

Tragedy if Child Should Have Christmas Come and Go Without an Ecstasy.

**I**F YOU have no child of your own, you must borrow or beg one for Christmas eve; for it is the time when the world lights its happiness with a child's joy, writes Dr. James I. Vance, in the Illinois State Journal.

Only a child may have the right of way on Christmas eve. If you do not stand in with the children, you must stand aside.

It is the hour when the world makes a cradle its shrine; when not only wise men from the East, but grown-ups from all points of the compass slip down over the hills of memory toward childhood's dawn, saying under their breath: "We have seen his star in the East and are come to worship him."

What a wonderful thing is this yearning of the old world for the happiness of children that climaxes at Christmas! The better side of human nature comes to the front. We throw off our cynicism. Meanness is shamed into generosity, and for a little while on Christmas eve the tightwads of earth have a look in on paradise.

Was there ever a sweeter eagerness, a holier joy, a more heavenly anticipation, than that which all through the house is felt on Christmas eve? Every one is thinking of making somebody happy. The delicious secretiveness of it intensifies the thrill. Care is forgotten. Expectation is ringing the bells. Peace is over all the world. And the hero is a child.

Thank God for children! "Of such is the kingdom of heaven." It is a sin to disappoint a child. Then it must please God when we make the children happy.

If there is no child in your home, maybe there is one on your doorstep, waiting for you to be its saint on Christmas eve. There are certainly some there in the street. They are looking at the toys in the window with wistful faces, and wondering what the lover of children will bring them. It is your time to play, and hearts are trumps!

What a tragedy if a single child in your town should have Christmas come and go without an ecstasy!

### BOAR'S HEAD AT CHRISTMAS

Ancient Custom Which is Now Believed to Be Observed Only at Oxford University.

**R**INGING in the boar's head at Yuletide is not celebrated widely in Great Britain today, and probably the only place where it survives with something of its old-time glory is Queen's college, Oxford university.

The custom is believed to antedate Christianity; in fact, is said to have come down to Englishmen from the Druids, the Detroit News recalls. Freya, goddess of peace and plenty, was always represented as riding a boar, and the Druid priests are believed to have made yearly sacrifices of boars to this divinity in order to win her good will.

At Queen's the procession of the boar's head forms in the buttery. A soloist, who usually is a former student of the college, heads the line. Behind him march two or three broad-shouldered youths who bear the boar's head, mounted on a silver salver. In the old days the head weighed as much as eighty pounds.

Flags and pennants of the college flutter about the head, which is crowned with gilded sprays of rosemary, bay, laurel and other evergreens. A lemon or an orange, the old Norse symbol of plenty, is placed between the tusks.

Behind the bearers of the silver march the surpliced men and boys of the choir and the organist in a robe of an Oxford doctor of music.

On a dais at the end of the dining hall the provost and the principal guests stand. The provost says grace in Latin; the call to dinner is sounded with trumpets through the cloisters and the procession starts through the cloisters.

### Origin of the Word Yule.

Many explanations are given of the origin of the word Yule. One of the most probable is that it is derived from the ancient Gothic word, *giul* or *Alul*, the origin of our word wheel. The Yule festival is said to have received its name from being the turning-point of the year—when the sun apparently turns back from the south and begins to set each evening farther and farther to the north until in June it goes down almost in the northwest. In the old clog almanacs of the Middle Ages a wheel is the device used for marking Yule-tide or Christmas.

### Chocolate Sea-Foam Fudge.

Put over the fire in a clean saucepan one cupful of light brown sugar, a half-cupful of water and a third of a cupful of grated chocolate and boil without stirring until it spins a thread from the point of a spoon. Have beaten stiff the white of an egg; pour the boiling mixture upon it and stir until it begins to stiffen. Drop from a spoon on waxed paper in little bonbons, or pour into a greased pan before it begins to stiffen and mark into squares with a buttered knife.—The Delicatour.

### CHRISTMAS BAN IN 1643

Yuletide Observance Was Not Permitted by Edict of "Roundhead Parliament" in England.

**I**N THE northern part of Europe the ancient people kindled great fires to their gods, Odin and Thor, and sacrifices of men and cattle were made. The ancient Goths and Saxons termed this festival or feast "Yule," and we still use the word "Yuletide" in our day. Among the Teutons this holiday season was celebrated by decorating giant fir trees. The decorations consisted of lights, nuts, balls, golden apples and animals. These were to symbolize flashes of lightning, moon, stars and sun, while the animals represented sacrifices.

Christmas was not among the early festivals of the church. We find the first evidence of the feast from Egypt, according to the historians of the church, and December 25 was not the day on which it was universally celebrated. It was not until the Fourth or Fifth centuries that the celebration of the festival on this day spread to the East. The Nativity was celebrated December 25 at Rome before 364, and at Constantinople, not prior to 379.

As paganism began to be supplanted by Christianity, many of the old customs were taken and handed down through the generations. In the Anglo-Saxon days of King Alfred the holiday season began December 16 and closed January 6. When Puritanism arose in England the fate of Christmas was threatened for a time, and even extended to this country, since the Puritans brought along with them to New England a feeling against the celebration of Christmas.

In 1643 the "Roundhead parliament" in England put a ban on the observance of Christmas. The court of Massachusetts in 1659 followed England's example and Christmas was put under a ban there. With the restoration of the English royalty the restoration of Christmas was brought about, and Massachusetts again followed England's example and in 1661 the ban was lifted. From this time on Christmas has remained, and is now celebrated throughout the entire civilized world.

### A Christmas "Suppose"

**W**E would not change the children's Christmas. But suppose all the grown-up people were to say to one another: "This year, instead of my giving you a present and your giving me a present, let us club together and give our present to some poor child who will not have any Christmas. There are hundreds of them somewhere. Or, if we do not know of such a child, let us give our present to a hospital for children, a home for crippled children, for incurables, for the aged, the blind, the feeble-minded." This to be, of course, in addition to what we usually give to charities at this season. Why could we not try this as an experiment, and see what the result would be?—Christian Register.

### Russia's Christmas Comes Late.

In Russia Christmas occurs 13 days after our own. Perhaps one of the most interesting customs of the season is the Russian Christmas feast, for old and young alike, for which they dress themselves in various masquerading costumes and visit house after house, accepting the hospitality of their neighbors. The Christmas season is also notable for the fact that the young girls try to find out whether they will be married during the ensuing year or not. Some of them at twelve o'clock on Christmas Eve, secretly go out into the street and ask the first man they meet what his name is. Whatever name he gives will be that borne by their future husbands—such is the belief. Some of the girls are very much disappointed when the name is not a nice one, or when the man, as he will sometimes, call himself Satan or something similar.



### HOME MADE

"Making many Christmas presents this year?"  
"Yes. It's much cheaper than buying them."

### Chain Bracelet Gifts.

Such a gay, trifling, and sure-to-be-liked gift for a young school girl would be a very fine chain bracelet of white gold. It must be so fine as to be a mere thread, and from it should swing several of the little Parisian novelty animals in gold or enamel. For the girl who dances, there's a dainty little French diamond-shaped bag of black moire or brocade which is extremely new. Inside are tucked a wee mirror, powder puff and lip stick and a miniature change purse.

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