

CHRISTMAS FEAST FOR BIRDS

These in Bosnia Not Forget-
From Pitted Near Nests
and Shelters.

CHRISTMAS is not merely a
festival celebrated by and
for man alone. Among the
folklore of other countries
are several quaint stories
which animals and birds give evi-
dence of their admiration. A well-
known Bosnian legend offers a version
of the story. They claim that
on the holy day "the sun in the east
shed down the stars stood still; the
mountains and forests shook and
trembled the earth with their surmounts,
and the green pine tree bent; the
stars were lowered with the open-
ing of the heavens; incense sweet as
sandal pervaded upland and forest;
birds sang on the mountain tops and
all give thanks to the great God."

In Bosnia on Christmas Day a sheet
of straw is put near birds' nests and
bird houses for the birds' Christmas.
An old Indian legend says that on
Christmas night all the deer in the
forest kneel in adoration before the
Great Spirit. Woe to him, however,
who tries to spy upon them. He is
punished with perpetual silencing of
the forest.

Many people of the Old World
claim that on Christmas night animals
are gifted with speech, but none must
be passed or overheard.
Many and many have been the tales
which account for the robin's red
breast. In great many parts of Europe
he is called the Saviour's bird, and a
story is told that when the Christ was
crucified the robin, unable to stand
his suffering, ventured to pluck the
thorns from His head. In doing so, the
blood stained the robin's breast, which
sign he wears today.

USE OF CHRISTMAS STOCKING

From "Comes From Suixy Italy
Where Poor First Used Long
Knitted Purse."

THE custom of hanging up
stockings on Christmas Eve
comes from a legend that
across the ocean - from
sunny Italy.

In the city of Epina, long ago, stood
St. Nicholas used to go about the
streets after dark and throw through
the windows of the homes of the poor
loose knitted purses, filled with
gold coins, and containing much need-
ful goods. These purses were made of
wool, and when unknit looked not un-
like a stocking.

At this season, the poor
people, hoping thus to remind the
more fortunate of their needs, used to
hang these empty purses out of the
windows on the night before Christ-
mas, so that a gift might be placed
in them.

In the north country, when the
weather is cold at Christmas time, the
purses were hung by the chimney
places in the hope that St. Nicholas
would drop his offering down the
chimney.

CHRISTMAS DAY IN ICELAND

Natives Still Cling to Old Customs and
Songs; Day is One of Great
Happiness.

SUCH is strange-winded thing
is Christmas' cheer that it
finds believers itself even to
that isolated island of the
far north, where the shortest
day is four hours long, and where
Christmas Eve the sun does not
above the horizon for a week.
Christmas is a great day with the
people of Iceland and they still cling
to all their old customs and songs and
many of them is one of great hap-
piness of their favorite old songs is
one with simplicity that is catching
and gives a glimpse of a philo-
sophic life that is fresh, fine
and good, and think again
of the words with their heart to God,
"I look on the with eyes of light,
and find new joys in joy's notes."

HARD JOB

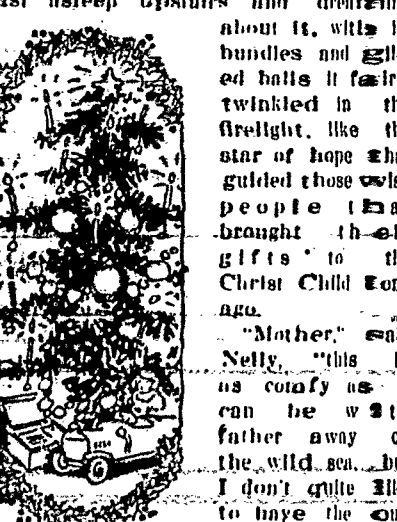
For little children
in a hat
Drawbacks are
a row of
The boy can't
The boy can't
The boy can't
The boy can't

The
Lighted Candle

By Christopher G. Hazard

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"I'M SORRY for anyone who has to
be out tonight," said Mrs. Cecilia
as she drew down the window shades
and stirred the hearth fire, shutting
the light in and the darkness out
and sending a host of sparks up the
chimney to scare away the storm. The
disappointed wind howled in its rage
and shook the house, the snow
whirled about and heaped itself up,
the cold tried to get in at every crack
and crevice, but Nelly and her moth-
er were as snug and safe as any
Christmas eve could wish to find
them. The Christmas tree looked all
ready for the youngsters who were
fast asleep upstairs and downstairs



about it, with its
bundles and gild-
ed balls it fairly
twinkled in the
firelight, like the
star of hope that
guided those who
people that
brought the
gifts to the
Christ Child long
ago.

"Mother," said
Nelly, "this is
so cozy as it
can be with
father away on
the wild sea, but
I don't quite like
to have the out-
side of the house
all dark. I like to think of friendly
lighthouses when it storms and of our
house as a kindly guide in the dark-
ness."

"Well," answered her mother
"suppose we do as they did in that
lovely story we read the other day
and put a candle in the window to
guide the Christ Child through the
storm, and you can hang up another
stocking, in case he should come."

So the four stockings by the chim-
ney corner became five, a shade was
lifted a little to give a glimpse of the
pleasant room, and the lighted can-
dle sent its beams out into the stormy
night, looking for any little wanderer
who might be astray. The cheering
rays played with the snowflakes and
they seemed to feel invited in to be
pressed upon the window pane.

While they sat there listening and
looking, there came a step on the
stair and there came Tommy, in his
nightgown and peering through the
partly opened door. "Fighting to see
Santa Claus, he was about to slip up
to his room again, but Nelly caught
him and said that he must sing first a
song first, as a punishment for his
curiosity. Tommy did just learned a
new song, so he was willing enough
and this was it:

Five little brothers set out together
To journey the lifelong day
In a curious carriage all made of leather.
The carriage was dark and not too roomy.
They could not move about.
The five little brothers grew quite gloomy,
The wee one began to pout.
Till the biggest one whispered
"What do you say?"
"Let's leave the carriage and run away."

So off they scampered the five together,
Far away they sped!
When somebody found the carriage of
leather.

Oh, my! How she shook her head!
"Twas her little boy's story as everyone
knows.
The five little brothers were five little
toes.

Then with a bow Tommy was off
to his dreams again.
The fire was burning low and so
was the candle, and it was time to go
upstairs and to
out of Santa's
way, but just as
Nelly and her
mother were
about to do so
there came a lit-
tle face ap-
pearing in the win-
dow pane and
they heard a
small voice say
faint that they
could not know
what it was say-
ing. It rang Nelly
but a moment to
throw open the
door and bring
the little stran-
ger in, but it was
longer than that before they could en-
dure him up into comfort and warm
cold little room. It was not until Christ-
mas morning that the searchers found
out where the little boy had wander-
ed to, and when they came to Mrs. Cecilia's
house he was happily busy in open-
ing his stocking, and did not want to
go home. After he had gone away,
with his stocking under his arm and
candy marks all over his face, Nelly
said, "Mother, I think there is a good
deal of truth in that story about guid-
ing the Christ Child to your house
with a lighted candle."

Nut Pudding.
One cupful well-beat crumbs, 2
cupfuls scalded milk, 1 tablespoonful
shortening, 1 cupful chopped nuts, 1
cupful chopped seeded raisins, 1/2
spoonful salt, 2 egg yolks, 3/4 cupful
sugar, juice and grated rind of 1 lemon,
2 stiffly beaten egg whites.

Mix bread crumbs, milk, shortening,
nuts, salt, egg yolks, sugar, juice and
rind of lemon. When well blended,
add raisins and mix thoroughly (be-
fore) in which of eggs; pour into but-
tered individual molds; bake 20 to 30
minutes. Serve hot with cream.

CHRISTMAS OF PRESENT TIME

Despite Methods of Travel and the
Ease of Making Long Journeys,
Home Holiday Best.

WHEN Christmas began its
pilgrimage down the years
society was stationary. To-
day families and individuals
are constantly on the move.
Modern means of transportation have
abolished distance. The family today
scatters to all quarters of the earth.
One brother stays on the Atlantic
coast, the other migrates to the Pa-
cific seaboard, but then they are "only
four or five days apart." In England
sons and daughters find their way to
all parts of an empire that covers the
globe; it is nothing for the cabled
Christmas salutations of a single fam-
ily to travel between Montreal, Mel-
bourne, Calcutta, Cape Town and Lon-
don.

When Irving wrote "Brace-bridge
Hall," the little journey into the
country was itself an adventure. The ease
of travel nowadays has taken the edge
from all such jaunts. Everybody
travels. And increasing numbers use
the modern transport system to leave
home at Christmas time. It may be
heresy, but the custom of spending
Christmas at an inn is gaining ground.
Congestion of population in great
cities has narrowed the dimensions of
the metropolitan home, and not many
apartments can comfortably accom-
modate the "family reunion" and the
preparation and setting of the Christ-
mas dinner. So when the trip to the
country falls the city family goes
holiday-making in a hotel. If hotels were
lively places at Christmas they
are far from lonely now, and many
seek them both for dinner and folk-
lore.

These are tendencies, variations
upon the old theme. The theme, how-
ever, remains unchanged. It will not
change. The great majority will still
keep Christmas at home. Where there
are children the proper perspective
and the unobscured observance will
hold the family at home. No substi-
tute fully satisfies. At best the away-
from-home Christmas is only a substi-
tute for the genuine article. So long
as children come to enrich the lives
of men and women Christmas will re-
main essentially a home holiday. The
organization of modern life brings
some compensations to the absent and
the homeless, but the fullness of
Christmas satisfaction is only to be
had at the family hearth.

THE FIRST CHRISTMAS CARD

First Decorated Yuletide Greeting Was
Made for Sir Henry Cole
in 1843.

ENGLISH NOTES AND QUER-
IES has the names of three
men who at one time or an-
other have been credited
with designing the first
Christmas card. W. C. E. Dobson has
come claim to making the first Christ-
mas card in 1843, but John C. Horsely
made a Christmas card for Sir Henry
Cole in 1843 and later began the pub-
lication of such cards.

But there is nothing particularly
new in the origin of pictures sent to
kind friends of some particular
kind. The custom who very old in
China, from which country so many
customs came to be known as very old
after they were established in Europe.
In the Chinese lanterns pictures in
red and black used to be familiar to
the man going for his weekly wash.
They were Chinese New Year cards
which remained in the walls until the
next New Year came around. But the
idea of Christmas cards as a business
came in about 1843 or 1844. The Amer-
ican made cards some years later have
the credit for introducing quality and
artistic design into Christmas card
printing.

On New Year's day Japanese mer-
chants send their patrons cards with
goodwishes of the season. An elaborate
symbolism is used in conveying the
Japanese messages, and when it is
known the store is supposed to live a
thousand years and the turtles ten
thousand, their significance on the
cards is readily understood; they say
to the recipient, "We wish you a long
life." The pine tree, everlastingly
green, is a symbol of good fortune;
the fan means increasing good fortune.
The seven gods of good fortune oc-
cupy prominent places on the New
Year's cards. They are: Kwan, happi-
ness; Daikoku, prosperity; Benten,
marriage; Fofei, charity; Goro, long life;
Fukuroku, good luck, and Bishamon,
protection against evil.

Christmas and Twelfth Day.

The festival of the Nativity was
never held on any other day than the
25th day of December. The ancient
observance of the feast, however, con-
tinued for 12 days, or in ecclesiastical
language, "an octave and a half," other
festival days having an "octave" or
eight days of observance only. Hence,
the last day of the feast was termed
Twelfth day, Little Christmas (among
the French) and Old Christmas day in
some parts of England. It was in
813 A. D. that the Epiphany was first
celebrated as a distinct festival, at the
end of the Christmas celebration prop-
er. The day has its own observances,
twelfth day cake, king of the feast,
the mystical bean in the cake, etc., etc.,
but is now usually celebrated as "le
jour de roi," by the French people,
or as the festival of the Epiphany, the
Greek word for manifestation of Jesus
Christ to the Gentiles.

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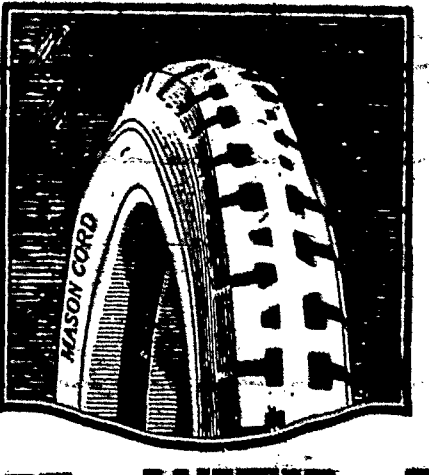
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