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A reproduction of the painting, "La vierge a la Grappe," by the celebrated artist mignard. Pierre Mignard was born at Troyes, November 7, 1612 and died at Paris, May 30, 1695, and though destined for the medical profession, early turned to painting, in which he achieved notable distinction. The original of the above painting hangs in the Louvre Galleries in Paris.

Keep the Pot Boiling for Christmas Dinner

EVERY afternoon they stood on opposite corners—he in a Santa Claus outfit, beside a "chimney"—she ringing a bell by the sign "Keep the Pot Boiling." Younger people, pausing to drop a coin in the pot or the chimney, wondered at two old people out in such wintry weather.

But the coins dropped often, so that "Christmas Dinners for the Poor" were coming true. And the man (such a thin Santa) said "That's you, sir." And the little old lady said, "God bless you."

Sometimes he would look a cross and smile and she would jiggle her bell the harder. But one day she was not there. "Sick," they said. That night he found where she lived and went to see her.

"Much better," she told him. "But if I had gone out today I might have been very sick tomorrow—and what of my corner?"

"I know," he said. "We love working for others—you and I—who know loneliness."

They talked long of their work, then of themselves, and two old people grew young again. "Don't you think," he said at last, "that maybe you and I—could keep the pot boiling together?"—Helen Galsford.

"Holy Night, Silent Night"

The song entitled "Holy Night, Silent Night," was written by a German composer named Father Joseph Mohr. This pretty little carol was written for Christmas in 1818, while Mohr was an assistant clergyman at Lauren, on the Salza, near Salzburg, and was set to music by Franz Gruber, schoolmaster at the neighboring village of Arnsdorf.

How Parisians Celebrate

Parisians celebrate Christmas eve with a joyful fete in the restaurants on the grand boulevard. All night the cafes are crowded with singing, gayly dressed people from all walks of life, even the poor clerk and the shabby artist from the Latin quarter managing somehow to save money for this yearly good time.

The Prince of Peace

Back in a niche of time when the quarrelsome world was momentarily at peace, there was born one whom the world delights to call the Prince of Peace. For nearly 2,000 years that day has been celebrated by unselfish giving throughout all Christendom.

Christmas in France

Christmas in France is observed chiefly in a religious way, and the great revelry and feasting and exchange of presents are reserved for the New Year.

Christmas Tree Decorations

The decorations used on Christmas trees are made from various materials. The colored balls are generally made from very thin glass.

North Ireland Religious Bias Causes Trouble

Dublin, Dec. 21.—A motion by Senator T. J. Campbell, K.C., in the senate of the Northern Parliament, stating that the educational policy of the Government at different intervals of a year is a just 1,500 elementary schools, was defeated by 16 votes to 3.

Mr. Campbell proposed his motion for the purpose of ventilating grievances under which the Catholic educational authorities suffer in North Ireland. He pointed out that all schools handed over to lay administration provided by the Northern Government, received building and equipment grants, while schools retained under clerical management received none. The main point of objection to the lay administration of the schools is that in such schools "simple Bible teaching" is given under the name of "undenominational teaching."

Mr. Campbell, Minister for Education, claimed on behalf of the Government that the "simple Bible teaching" is undenominational, and that the lay administration interfered in no way with the religious freedom of Catholic children. He admitted that the number of Catholic children in the elementary schools of Northern Ireland is only two short of 72,000, which represents 35 per cent of the entire school attendance of the six countries.

Senator Campbell pointed out that the British Government had always tolerated "simple Bible teaching" as denominational instruction, and he complained that Catholics under the six countries Parliament enjoyed less freedom of instruction than under the Protestant Government of England. He quoted the attitude of the Free State Government, which makes liberal grants for building and improving schools to individual managers whether lay or clerical, and without religious distinction. Mr. Campbell added that he believed that the British Government would never have handed over the six countries to a separate Parliament, if they had foreseen the present methods of controlling the school system.

THE CHRISTMAS SCHEMER



He—Yes, y'see it's like this—I bring this bi' empty box in and pretend to slide it under the bed. The wife is curious, of course, but won't let on. Then I ask to go to the club, an' it's a cinch, see?

Eighty-Two Statues Of Sacred Heart In Competition

Barcelona, Dec. 20.—A total of 82 statues of the Sacred Heart, submitted by German, Brazilian, Danish, Spanish, French, Belgian, Austrian, Italian, Polish and Swiss artists have been entered in the competition sponsored by the Subirana firm, producers of ecclesiastical furnishings. The award will be 50,000 pesetas (\$8,950).

Germany has produced the greatest number of entrants, 23, and the most audacious and extravagant treatment of the subject. Denmark's only exhibit came to Barcelona aboard the warship that brought Prince Knud.

These conceptions of a statue of the Sacred Heart are quite varied, not more than three showing resemblance, and display a tendency toward too much originality. However, they are, on the whole, more classical than modern.

The statues are on display in the Palace of Industrial Arts at the exposition grounds. The judges will include the Bishop of Barcelona and representatives from the Apostleship of Prayer and from the artistic circles of Barcelona.

The Christmas Message Brought by a Cyclamen

AS USUAL, the man stood before the Christmas display in the florist shop window. Instead of passing, he entered the shop. He wished the cyclamen that was in the window, he told Myra Gordon, the owner.

He was Jack Corwin, an actor, separated from his family, Myra had learned. The intense longing in his eyes each year as he saw the Christmas window touched Myra's heart.

"Don't bother about any change," offering a bill exceeding the value of the plant. "It's worth everything to me."

"It's my wife's favorite flower," he explained, a catch in his voice. "I haven't seen her for three years. A misunderstanding separated us. Each year your cyclamens have hidden me go back. I can't ignore their message any longer. I'm taking this to her today. Merry Christmas." And he was gone before Myra could answer.

Joy filled Myra's heart to think that she had again selected a cyclamen for her window.—Blanche Tanner Dilla. (© 1929, Western Newspaper Union.)

New Table Decorations

UNIQUE Christmas table decorations are brass candle holders in the form of stars, and the little wooden figures made by Russian and German peasants and imported to this country. The latter, which are painted in bright colors and have a naive humor, show medieval figures of brightly attired saints, like those in a stained glass window. They hold a taper in each hand and thus serve as candlesticks.—American Home.

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