

mas with many beautiful customs, and the same may be said of Scotch Catholics. Both springing from the Celtic race, regard the mysteries of the Christian faith with great awe and veneration. A candle is kept lighted in every household on Christmas eve, for it would not seem right to permit darkness to hold sway on a night which commemorates the entry into this world of the Light of Heaven. All attend mass, and throughout the entire day the happiness and joy within is reflected on every countenance. They have brought this Christmas spirit with them to every known land, and it was mainly through their example, that puritan ideas gave way to broader and more Christian-like views.

In "Merrie England," the Anglo-Saxons have customs peculiar to themselves. It was during the Christmas celebrations in eight hundred and seventy-eight, that the English army, commanded by Alfred the Great, was cut to pieces by the invading Danes. With the advent of William the Conqueror and the Normans, the feast was celebrated with becoming splendor. It was a day on which all men were equal. Squires and tenants mingled as brothers, and the mansion of the one, and the humble dwelling of the other were open to all-comers. But England became non-Catholic, and when the fanatical puritans held sway, Christmas and all other cardinal feasts, so dear to the heart of a true Christian, were abolished. Thus it was that the very existence of Christmas, in this hitherto happy land, was threatened. Fortunately matters did not remain long in this state, and before many years had passed, the people once more freely gave vent to their feelings of Christmas joy. A favorite custom of the present day is to burn the Yule-log, and to decorate the rooms with holly and mistletoe.

Polanders believe that on Christmas eve, Jacob's ladder is let down from heaven, but saints only have the privilege of witnessing the spectacle. In Germany most of the celebrating is done on the day before Christmas, while on the feast itself, the people pay and receive visits. The peasants of Austria place a lighted candle in the window, that the Infant Jesus may be guided on his way. Russians form into immense processions, and wend their way through the town or village, singing carols and other Christmas songs. When passing a nobleman's residence, or that of the mayor, coppers are thrown to them, as a mark of appreciation and of good-will. In Scandinavia every pair of shoes in the household is placed in a row, to show that