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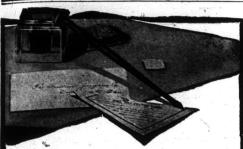
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"art a light of the world and a tree that is ever green; if thou hast renounced temples, make not a temple of thy own house-door."

That these New Year practices of the Empire had to do with the "Weihnachtsbaum" is very possible, but on the other hand, it has closer parallels in certain folk-customs that in no way suggest Roman or Greek influence. Not only at Christmas are ceremonial "trees" to be found in Germany. In the Erzgebirge, for instance, there is dancing at the summer solstice round "St. John's tree," a pyramid decked with garlands and flowers, and lit up at night by candles.

Nearer to Christmas is a New Year's custom found in some Alsatian villages: the adorning of the fountain with a 'May." The girls who visit the fountain procure a small fir-tree or holly-bush, and deck it with ribbons, egg-shells, and little figures representing a shepherd or a man beating his wife. This is set up above the fountain on New Year's Eve. On the evening of the next day the snow is carefully cleared away and the girls dance and sing around the fountain. The lads may only take part in the dance by permission of the girls. The tree is kept all through the year as a protection to those who have set it up.

In Sweden, before the advent of the

convey its life-giving, fructifying in-fluences. Probably the idea of contact with the spirit of growth lay also beneath the Roman evergreen decorations, so that, whether or not we connect the Christmastree with these, the principle at bottom is the same.

Christmas and Common Sense

Christmas will soon be here, trailing in its wake boundless good cheer, numberless gifts inspired by love and friendship and numberless other gifts dictated by foolish extravagance and the desire to equal someone else in the value and quantity of gifts bestowed. One of the least desirable results of Christmas is the thousands of tired, wan, overworked shop girls and boys and men. Why can't we be a little more sensible in our gifting? Why this orgy of merchandising each Christmas season? Is friendship and love to be absolutely gauged by the strength of the pocketbook as exhibited in Christmas gifts? Mrs. Jones sends a "little remembrance" to Mrs. Smith, It's nothing Mrs. Smith cares a picayune for, but she is bound by all the ties of honor and Canadian custom to go Mrs. Jones one better in the cost of a gift. Next year it will be Mrs. Jones' German type of tree, it was customary to turn again to raise Mrs. Smith in the place young pines, divested of bark and matter of value. So it goes on in endless



In the Old Land affectionate care is bestowed on the little Terriers

branches, outside the houses at Christmastide. An English parallel which does not suggest any borrowing from Germany was formerly to be found at Brough, in Westmoreland, on Twelfth Night. A holly-tree with torches attached to its branches was carried through the town in procession. It was finally thrown among the populace, who divided into two parties, one of which endeavored to take the tree to one inn, and the other to a rival hostelry. We have here pretty plainly a struggle of two factions—perhaps of two quarters of a town that were once separate villages—for the possession of a sacred object.

Though there is no recorded instance of the use of a tree at Christmas in Germany before the seventeenth century, the "Weihnachtsbaum" may well be a descendant of some sacred tree carried about or set up at the beginning-of-winter festival. All things considered, it seems to belong to a class of primitive sacraments of which the example most familiar to English peoples is the Maypole. This is, of course, an early summer institution, but in France and Germany a Harvest May is also known-a large branch or a whole tree, which is decked with ears of corn, brought home on the last waggon from the harvest field, and fastened to the roof of farmhouse or barn, where it remains for a year. Mannhardt has shown that such sacraments embody the tree-spirit conceived as the spirit of vegetation in general, and are believed to

procession and it's small wonder we feel the high cost of living and have to strain body and mind to keep up with the foolish procession. Let us get out of the swim long enough to get a view of ourselves in perspective. Let us at least try to give such things as will be appreciated. Carefully selected books and magazines are among the most sensible gifts, but wisdom and deliberation should inspire the choice, lest the joy-giving good intentions fall by the wayside. Little articles for personal use are never amiss, if the selection is guided by the aforesaid wisdom. Where the pocketbook cannot easily reach to provide a gift, a little fancy card and a letter conveying the spirit of Christmas ought to serve quite as well.

He was Discovered

A showily dressed man got on a car and sat down beside a woman he thought he knew. So he ventured a remark that the day was pleasant.

"Yaw," she replied.

"Vhy for you vear a veil?" he asked.

"So I don't addract addention."

"Id is de province off shentlemens do admire," he replied.

"Not when dhey pe married."
"But I'm nodt."

"Is dot so?"

"Oh, no, I'm a patchelor." "Vell, led me see," said the woman, removing her veil; "I am your mudder'Don't Monkey

With your Teeth!"

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