

HOLLY AND MISTLETOE

Without holly and mistletoe for decorations Christmas would not seem to be Christmas in England, and the custom has found its way to Canada, far as it is removed from the habitat of either shrub.

The holly with its dark green glossy foliage and brilliant scarlet berries is ideal for decorative purposes either in home or temple, and it is cultivated extensively in England for a Christmas foliage crop.

The use of holly at the yuletide season antedates Christianity. It is generally thought to be the survival of an old Teutonic practice of hanging evergreens in the dwelling as a refuge for the spirits of the woods during inclement weather. Decorating temples and homes with evergreens was also a feature of the Roman "Saturnalia."

There are many strange beliefs and superstitions in connection with the Christmas holly branches. In Worcester and Herefordshire a twig of holly that has been used in decoration of the parish church is eagerly sought for and if acquired, is credited with carrying good luck with it. There is, however, another belief, that it is unlucky to leave the evergreens in place after "Twelfth Night" (Old Christmas Day). Another strange belief is that a twig of Christmas holly from a church hung over the door is a protection against lightning.

The holly is Diocious as a general rule, but one of its strangest peculiarities, on authentic evidence, is that the tree changes sex with age, being practically male when young and female when old.

While holly has always had some sacred significance attached to it both in heathen and Christian times. Mistletoe, the sacred plant of the Druids, has become divorced from the church but not from the home. How it has come to figure in Christmas festivities is a mystery. The shrub is a parasite of both deciduous and evergreen trees in the temperate zone. Its favorite host is the apple, and it is rarely found on the oak. An oakbearing mistletoe became an object of veneration to the Druids and the cutting of the mistletoe with a golden knife by the Arch-Druid, was an important episode in their great annual ceremonial feast, which, according to Pliny, Caesar and others, who have left some accounts of the early Celtic religion, terminated with an orgy of unbounded license.

The right to steal a kiss under the mistletoe is quite evident a survival of the Druid carnival. The religion of the Druids and all their practices were very much under the ban of the early church, but customs die hard. Few of those who decorate their homes this Christmas with holly and mistletoe will appreciate the fact that they are affording a shelter for the wood sprites or celebrating the virtues of the Druid's golden bough, by whose virtue Aeneas passed unscratched through all the terrors of the infernal regions.

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THE STORAGE OF ICE

The heated period of the past summer must have convinced at least the majority of people of the necessity and value of having a supply of ice for domestic use. On that account a bulletin issued by the Dairy and Cold Storage Branch of the Dominion Department of Agriculture Ottawa describing simple methods for the Storage of ice is of special and immediate interest. The bulletin points out that any unoccupied corner of a shed may be made to serve the purpose. A rough board enclosure ten feet square and eight feet high will hold sufficient ice to provide fifty pounds per day for 130 days after allowing for a reasonable amount of wastage. An important fact to be remembered is that the smaller the quantity of ice stored the larger is the proportion of waste. The bottom of the enclosure should be covered with a foot of saw-dust, and a foot of space left between the boards and the ice which should also be similarly covered. The drier the sawdust the better. If the soil beneath the enclosure is impervious clay a layer of gravel under the sawdust is advisable. If sawdust is not obtainable, planer mill shavings will serve. If neither is to be had, two feet of marsh hay or any fine wild hay that grows in low places well packed will answer. If it is thought necessary to erect an icehouse, the roughest kind of a shed that will resist the weather is all that is required.

SIGNS FOR LAUGHTER

Sign in Dayton, Ohio—"Ladies: Save your back and rugs—let us clean them for you."—Syracuse Herald.
Sign on Farm Fence—"Fine milch cow, with her own calf."—Daily American Tribune.
Sign in Butcher Shop—"The best you can do is to buy our wurst."—Marquette Univ. Tribune.
Sign on Tannery—"Let us tan your hide."—Central Outlook.
Sign in Pittsburg Dept. Store—"Unrestricted showing of beautiful things in ladies' dresses."—Boston Record.
Sign on Chestnut Street says—"Ladies ready to wear clothes."—Penn. Punch Bowl.
Sign on Farm Fence Post—"Eggs for settin' on and to be et."—Westfield (N.J.) Leader.
Sign in Restaurant—"Table d'hôte dinner 60 cents. Soup changed daily."—Boston Herald.

A woman once asked a little girl of five if she had any brothers. "Yes," said the child, "I have three brothers." "And how many sisters my dear?" asked the woman. "Just one sister, and I'm it," replied the little girl.

If you interfere between man and wife, remember this, that they will be friends again and you won't.



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Of Goods, Suitable Christmas Gifts for everyone of your friends.

Every effort is being made to meet the demands of the Holiday Season.

Silk for Afternoon and Evening Wear

Canton Crepe, 35 inches wide in shades of Tomato, Henna, Harding Blue, Brown, Black, White. \$4.25 per yard.

Tricollette, 40 inches wide. All colors, special Price \$3.00.

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Neckwear

The latest Frilly Laces, Nets, and Organdies in Setts, and separate pieces from 50c. to \$2.00 each. Ribbons and Laces of all kinds.

Dress Serges, Checks, Plaids, Tweeds, and Velvets, at Bargain Prices.

Silk Blouses

In Tricollette, Crepe de Chine, Georgette, and Washable Silks, all Colors, all Sizes, from \$2.50 to \$10.00. Some lines at Half Price to close out.

SILK Underwear, Under skirts, Bloomers, Camasoles. All Colors and Prices.

Hosiery

Heather Hose, plain and ribbed, Golf Top Hose for Boys and Girls, 75c., 85c., \$1.00 to \$2.00 a pair.

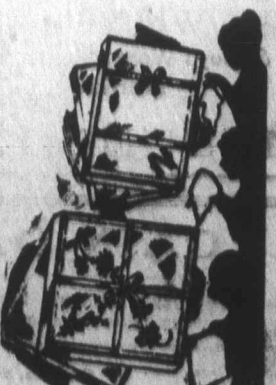
Silk Hose in all colors, 75c., \$1.00, \$1.25, to \$4.00 a pair.

Niagara Maid Hose, the Glove Silk Hose, at \$2.50 to \$4.00.

Boys Heavy Hose, 75c., \$1.00, and \$1.50 a pair.

Handkerchiefs

A great assortment of Plain and Fancy Handkerchiefs, in Christmas Boxes at 50c to \$2.00 each. Plain Handkerchiefs 5c., 10c., 15c., 25c.



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Furs in Muff and Stoles in Brown Taupe and Black Wolf, at 25% off the price. Closing out this line.

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