

Every open square has been turned into a market. Some are for the sale of Christmas trees, and there is that odour throughout the city—the sight of the trees, the spicy odour, adding to the “Christmas feeling.” Every family must have its tree, so the squares are little fragrant forests for weeks before the holiday. Other squares have booths, with articles for presents. As the handsome stores have revealed the Christmas of the rich German society, so here we read the Christmas joys of this other—the peasant class in the large city. O, what odd things! All sorts of wooden animals, knit dolls, all varieties of caps, shoes of queer shapes and materials, candles, wax figures, woollen articles, nuts gilded and decorated, and everywhere—Pfeffer Kuchen.



BLACK FOREST HEAD-DRESS.

In the open square about the Old Palace in Berlin booths are erected, where people may sell their wares. How some of these poor people look forward for months to this market, when they may be able to make a little money! The market holds for two weeks; alas, if it is rainy weather! The people will go to the stores then, and the Christmas season is a sad disappointment. One woman, last year, in the bitterness of her disappointment, hanged herself. This market is a relic of the centuries. In the last few years of the wonderful growth of Berlin, it has been thought that this was “too rustic, too country-like,” and that it should be abandoned, but the old Emperor said that as long as he lived it should remain, as so many poor people delight in it, and for some poor children it is the greatest pleasure of the holiday. The whole land keeps holiday. The places of amusements are thronged. The picture galleries have an unusual number of visitors, and these linger long before the pictures of the Nativity. Before Raphael's lovely Madonna, at Dresden, there is often quite a crowd of admirers. No engraving, however, can give the look of happy motherhood in her eyes and the fearless questioning gaze of the Divine Child.

Germany seems a nation of children now. Men and women