

all the doorbells. Then the callers were admitted, regaled with eatables and drinkables, and contributions for the poor were given to them. The following curious legend or song was sung by the masqueraders :

Bonjour le maître et la maîtresse  
 Et tous les gens de la maison.  
 Nous avons fait une promesse  
 De v'nir vous voir une fois l'an.  
 Un petit morceau de Chignée  
 Si vous voulez  
 Dites-nous le  
 Nous prendrons la fille ainée  
 Nous y ferons chauffer les pieds.  
*La Ignolée ! La Ignoloche !*  
 Pour mettre du lard dans ma poche !

Nous ne demandons pas grand'chose,  
 Pour l'arrivée.  
 Vingt-cinq ou trente pieds de Chignée  
 Si vous voulez.  
 Nous sommes cinq ou six bons drôles,  
 Et si notre chant ne vous plaît pas  
 Nous ferons du feu dans les bois,  
 Etant à l'ombre ;  
 On entendra chanter l'coucou  
 Et la colombe !

Both the custom and the song of the Ignolée are believed to be of Druidical origin. In France it is called *La Guillannée*, and there, as formerly in the country parts of Canada, a New Year's gift was formerly called a *gui-l'an-neuf* or *guillanneuf*. *Gui* is the French name for mistletoe, and when at the beginning of the New Year, or rather at the winter solstice, it was the custom of the Gallic druids to cut the mistletoe from the oak with a golden sickle, it will be remembered that the cry of the priests was the equivalent of "The mistletoe of the New Year" or "*Au gui l'an neuf.*"

It has been considered probable, that those singular lines in the song of *La Ignolée*:

Nous prendrons la fille ainée,  
 Nous y ferons chauffer les pieds.

are a veiled allusion to the human sacrifices which marked the ancient Gallic rites. It recalls the son of Velleda in the *Martyrs of Chateaubriand*.