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CHRISTMAS IN BAGDAD

NO TOYS NOR TURKEYS NOR HOLLY OR MISTLETOE THERE.

The Oldest Christians in the World Make of Dec. 25 a Merry Festival and Young Men Walk the Streets Singing and Spending Their Money Like Sailors—Moslems Have Taught Sobriety.

Stowed away in the heart of mystic Arabia lies the city of Bagdad, the home of the Arabian Nights, of Sinbad the Sailor, of Hauroun-Al-Raschid and the entrancingly beautiful Zebodia. Here on the ancient Tigris, the oldest Christians in the world—pure Chaldeans of Bible Chaldean—celebrate Christmas as a festival and a frolic. There are gay and frivolous young cut-ups among the Bagdadis, according to Frederick Simplic, and they find their way in groups to the district where white lights are even now trying to shine, and raise their glasses in toasts to the spirit of the day.

The great Arab market place, with its crowds of Bedouins, camel drivers, Jews, Armenians, Chaldeans, Kurds and Persians, is just as busy and as picturesque now as it was 600 years ago, when Marco Polo did his holiday shopping here and sent home gold woven shawls to his Venetian Venus. And this same Mark P. was no mere mad tourist, rushing through this little known east seeking new sensations. Mark was the original bargain hunter, and the Bagdad bazars made such a hit with him that he stayed here a whole year—and then had to walk out. For there are Christmas bargains in Bagdad that New Year wots not of. Arabs and Jews run the wonderful booth, piled high with prizes of the east, and deny that Christ was the true prophet. But they are a practical lot, these hawk-eyed merchants of Bagdad, and out for the plasters. In the east no money is hoarded. If Chaldean Christians will persist in spending hard cash to celebrate a strange day they call Christmas, the wily Moslem shopkeepers sensibly swallow all religious differences and rake in the Christian coin.

No city in the world has such strange streets as Bagdad—narrow, dark and built like tunnels, walled over at the top with arches of brick or mud and poles. In summer it's 125 in the shade at Bagdad for weeks at a time, and the shops are hidden from the horrible heat by these roofed-over alleys. The booths for merchandise are arranged along the sides of these tunnels, each shopkeeper squatting on a rug before his pile of goods. On Christmas eve torches are put out, fancy lamps are lighted and the Christian colony turns out for a good time. That is, the men do. For Christian women in Bagdad still observe the Moslem rule of seclusion, and are seldom seen un veiled in the street crowds. Think of an Anglo-Saxon crowd on Christmas or New Year's Eve, and not a woman in sight! How long would the male promenade hold out? But in Bagdad's busy throng, no one seems to miss the women.

"Crowds of young Chaldeans, arm in arm with Armenians or Jews, wander through the narrow, swarming bazaars, shouting noisily, singing with lusty lungs of old ballads of sinful Sinbad's racy age, and performing very much like our own 'Won't go home till morning' parties. Along the river front at Bagdad stretches a row of old coffee shops, built centuries ago when Bagdad was the centre of the great caravan trade between Damascus and Teheran. Here on Christmas eve the young bloods of Bagdad assemble to drink coffee, smoke cigarettes and watch the sinuous dances of the painted Arab girls.

"Few Christmas revelers get tipsy in Bagdad. The Koran says that alcohol is the fountain of all sin, and to drink it is a misdemeanor in Moslem eyes. This idea is so deep-rooted in Arabia that even the Christians have seized on it, and are generally an abstemious lot.

"But all Bagdad does not spend its Christmas eve in the gay round of the coffee shops. Seven churches of the Christian faith hold special Christmas services, conducted by the Carmelite and other priests, and here at dawn on Christmas day are assembled the better element of the several thousand Chaldean Christians in Bagdad. The chants, the sermon and the prayers are all in Arabic, and when they sing of Moses they call it 'Musa'; 'Yusuf' is Joseph and so on. Little Chaldean boys form the choir, and venerable old priests in that splendor of gold lace so necessary in eastern lands conduct the services. This is one chance the Bagdad Christian woman has to unveil in public without exposing herself to the rude gaze and ruder remarks which would greet her should she appear with her face uncovered in the bazaars. For custom and the unwritten law of good breeding make it bad form to stare at a woman in church; where Bagdad is better than the United States.

"So Bagdad keeps Christmas without toys or turkeys, cranberries or Tom-and-Jerry, trees or trailing holly. Camels and donkeys snort in Bagdad streets as taxis snort in the Occident. Santa Claus himself is a myth of the future. Chaldean children as yet enjoy no such wonderful personage. "What a treat an American woman

.SCIATICA.
EXPECTED DEATH ANY DAY

'Another Case Where Life Was Saved and Health Restored by "Nerviline."

It is because he feels it his solemn duty to tell to the world his friend, Nerviline that Victor P. Hires makes the following declaration: "For three years I was in the Royal Mail service, and in all kinds of weather had to meet the night trains. Dampness, cold, and exposure brought on sciatica that affected my left side. Sometimes an attack would come on that made me powerless to work. I was so nearly a complete cripple that I had to give up my job. I was in despair, completely cast down because the money I spent on trying to get well was wasted. I was speaking to my chemist one day, and he recommended "Nerviline." I had this good liniment rubbed on several times a day, and got relief. In order to build up my general health and improve my blood I used Ferruzone, one tablet with each meal. I continued this treatment four months and was cured. I have used all kinds of liniments, and can truthfully say that Nerviline is far stronger, more penetrating, and infinitely better than anything else for relieving pain. I urge everyone with lumbago, neuralgia, rheumatism, or sciatica to use Nerviline. I know it will cure them."

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You can painlessly remove any corn, either hard, soft, or bleeding, by applying Putnam's Corn Extractor. It never burns, leaves no scars, contains no acids; is harmless, because composed only of healing gums and balsam. Fifty years in use. Putnam's Corn Extractor, 50 cents per bottle, trial size, 25c; sold everywhere, or The Catarrhozone Co., Kingston, Ont.

PUTNAM'S PAINLESS CORN EXTRACTOR

would have if she could do her Christmas shopping in Bagdad's big bazaar! Think of hand hammered finger bowls at 11 cents each, all solid brass! Or long, full ostrich plumes selling for \$1.25. The kind you pay our milliners \$15 for. Of course, the Bagdad plumes are gray with dust and look droopy and whipped out, just as when snatched from the tail of fleeing fowl—glad to get away with only the loss of its tail feathers. But cleaned and scrapped—oh, what plumes they are! So it is with silks and rare old Persian rugs; you get them here for one-third of western prices. But the 15,000-mile trip back home, plus excess baggage and the custom duties, takes all the fun out of it."

Shiloh's Cure
quickly stops coughs, cures colds, heals the throat and lungs. . . . 25 cents.

The Third Word.
"I'll bet you anything you like," said Jones to Brown, "that you can't spell three simple words I'll give you within twenty seconds."
"I'll take it on. What are they?" said Brown.

"Well, here goes," Jones said, as he pulled his watch. "Believe," "Receive," "Receive." "Wrong!" said Jones. "What?" exclaimed Brown. "I've spelt the two words you gave me correctly. I'm certain I'm not." "Time's up!" Jones said triumphantly. "Why didn't you spell the third word—w-r-o-n-g?"

Prod For Prod!
"This animal, ladies and gents," said a traveling showman, "is the chimpanzee. The remarkable thing about the chimpanzee is that it comes nearest to being a human person of any species of the monkey tribe. This here is the chimpanzee, ladies and gents—the one inside the cage. Please stand a little father back, sir," he added to a youth who was poking the animal with his cane. "for the company may make a mistake!"

Flower Scents.
True flower scents are obtained in three ways—first, by spreading fresh blossoms upon glass thickly smeared with pure grease, letting them stand in the sun and as they will replace them until the grease is as fragrant as the flowers; second, by repeatedly infusing fresh petals in oil, and, third, by infusing them in ether, which is then distilled to a dry solid.

His Dearest.
Wife—Do you love me as much as ever?
Husband—I reckon so.
Wife—Will I always be the dearest thing in the world to you?
Husband—I am sure you will unless the landlord raises the rent.

Shiloh's Cure
quickly stops coughs, cures colds, heals the throat and lungs. . . . 25 cents.

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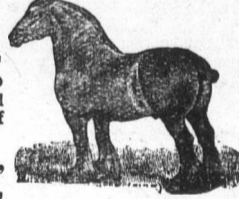
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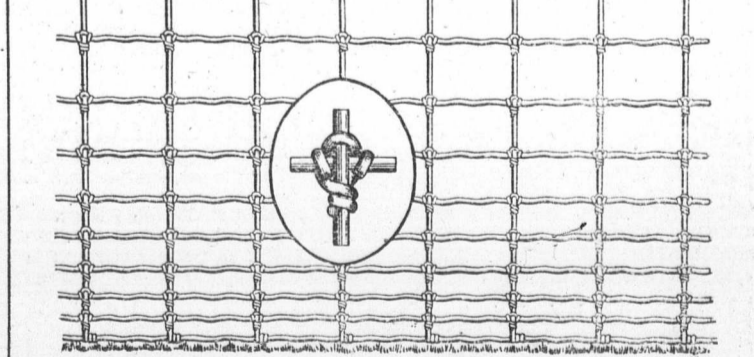
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