

There Should Be a Violin In Your Home

Because there should be good music in every home.

A few soft airs; some of the old familiar pieces will make your evenings at home so different. Evenings of that kind sweep away all little differences; drive out petty cares; soothe the big worries and prepare every member of the family to attack the work of the morrow with a cheerful well-balanced mind. And these happy restful evenings will exercise a great influence over the character of every member of the family.

The violin will give you the music you need to accomplish this. It is conceded to be the finest musical instrument in the world; there is nothing outside its range.

THE VARENI VIOLIN

The Vareni Violin is a medium price instrument, but it is of such high quality that the finest results can be obtained. This Violin is the production of a master violin maker; and materials, construction and finish have received the highest possible consideration. The tone is rich and pure and of splendid quality.

Are you going to give some member of your family the opportunity of learning to play this grand old instrument?

With every Vareni Violin we give a certificate entitling the holder to free tuition. Doesn't that remove the last obstacle?

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Through the influence of the common school; through close urban contracts; through the consciousness of a common inheritance in the new world; through the broadening of social life, which is a redemptive evangel in new communities -the miracle of assimilation will be completed; and a great and potent commonwealth will present a composite type, to which has been contributed the distinctive qualities of many racial origins. The blessed spirit of Christmas knows no geographical limitations. It is as prevalent at the Antipodes in the midst of broiling heats as in our white Northwest. It enters the cabin as freely as the mansion of the rich-nay to the everyone.

possession shares the unified thought of | humble it brings richer joys, for satiety knows no piquancy of delight. As we gather round the smoking board, thank: ful for the friends into whose loving faces God has permitted us to look, wistful, it may be, for those other faces which we shall only see again when we cross the great Divide, conscious of the hush, but also of the simple happiness of the Christmas season. Let us feel something of the spirit of Him who came to bring peace and goodwill to a world which can only be saved by that greatest thing in the world-love. Hope. ful, eager, courageous under trial, confident of the future-let us breaths the apiration of "Tiny Tim"-God bless us

Christmas as it is Celebrated in many Lands.

By Addie Farrar.

ferent lands, so particularly does the celebrating of the greatest religious festival day of the Christian era, the nativity of Our Saviour. Christmas is always an interesting time, but one could almost say that in the Holy Land it is more so than anywhere else. For one who has seen Christmas celebrated there it is a time never to be forgotten, for thousands of people then journey to Palestine to witness and to take part in the various odd religious ceremonies held there. Nearly everyone makes their headquarters at Jerusalem, and on Christmas morning they rise early, usually with the sun, and begin their journey to Bethlehem, which lies almost due south of Jerusalem to attend the services held in that village in a stable above the image of the Christ Child. It is a wonderful sight to see the crowds of people streaming along the ancient thoroughfare, some on horses, some on foot and many in carriages, all bound for one place, the birthplace of Christ. It is a sight that is not witnessed under similar conditions anywhere else, this gathering, as one might say, of the world, for it is a fact at this time almost every nation under the sun is represented, and as many of the guests are dressed in their national garb, the sight is more wonderful still.

Perhaps in Italy, more than in any other country outside Jerusalem, religion ominates the observance of Christmas The most striking is the representation of the "Presepio," Holy Manger, in the churches, and in many of the homes of the wealthy and by the wayside in the poorer vilages. In many instances living groups instead of sculptured groups are used to depict the nativity. In each appears the Holy Babe, Mary, Joseph, the Magi, and the Shepherds. Sacred music adds to the impressiveness of the tableau, and the devotion aroused by the people is most genuine.

In some of the rural districts the head of the village will come to this shrine attired in special garments and surrounded by a great crowd will offer to the Infant Saviour a pot of steaming soup. At the foot of the improvised altar worshippers set upon a carpet, jars filled with water which they reclaim on the morrow and use as pious presents on New Year's day. Young women give a drink of this water to their bethrothed lovers and believe that the quaffing of it is equivalent to a sacred promise that he will be a faithful loving husband.

The Christmas tree plays no part in the Italian celebration, but, incongruous as it may seem, the Yule Log is burned, and its sparks and ashes are supposed to bring good luck. After attending mass on Christmas eve, there is served a supper of eels, vermicelli, and periwinkles, and next day the feast, the big feature at the collect a "plum pudding cakes" a set the bing which is a cross between a richer pudding.

It is a curious fact that I not observe Christma- at an ordinary holiday, as we It is the day of St. No.

As customs of all kinds vary in dif- | ber 6, when the patron saint of childhood goes about on his white horse to bring presents to deserving children, that corresponds to Christmas in our land. Over night the little Dutch children leave carrots on the hearth for the steed. and the next morning they are apt to find that he has eaten the carrots and left pretty presents in their stead. Shoes instead of stockings are hung about the chimney and are mysteriously filled. St. Nicholas is said to be attended by a black boy, a sneaking, prying, disagreeable boy, who is given to lurking about the houses all the year round that he may report to St. Nick how the children have been behaving themselves. Those who are bad get no gifts and neither will St. Nicholas eat their carrots.

In Denmark and Norway some strange customs, relics of pagan times, are still observed. Grain is used to deck gateways and gables and the roofs of cottages just as in heathen days they were so disposed to feed Wodon's mighty horse as he bore his master about, but now the children say it is for the birds. Great are the celebrations of the Christmas eve, and a big supper is then spread with the cakes that the housewife has been busy making for weeks and a big bowl of punch to finish. The Christmas tree is almost general in all parts, and presents are hung on the tree instead of

being left over night. The Russians do not celebrate the 25th of December but the 6th, 7th and 8th of Presents are exchanged on January Christmas eve, January 6th, and the feast is on Christmas Day, January 7th. No work is done on these three days excepting such as is absolutely necessary. The Russians have no Santa Claus nor any other good fairy to take his place, who is supposed to bring good children gifts on this day, but they do have a Christmas tree, and this tree is most gorgeously decorated and lighted. These Christmas trees, however, are had only in the homes, for to have one in a church would be indeed a sacrilege. Their Christmas is one of religious observances and feasting mostly. It is at Easter that the Russian really celebrates what seems to be a Christmas to us, for then gifts are exchanged by every one.

Christmas is a great festival day in Germany, and the German child looks forward to it for months. As soon as the summer holidays are over the German fancy turns to thoughts of "Weihnachten" (Christmas), and while the children make out long lists of wanted gifts and enclose them in envolopes addressed to the "Christkind," the girls and women organize coffee parties, and while their tongues fly so do their needles as they work on the gifts for Christmas day. There is always a gift being made for every member of the family, all the poor and lonely relations, the aunts and cousins, even to the third degree being remembered.

On Christmas eve all the family, including even invited poor and distant relatives will assemble, and after formal greetings, there will be semi-religious services with hymn singing, etc. When all is in readiness in the room next to

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