













Poetry.

CHRISTMAS EVERGREENS

(By the Rev. William Crozier)

The harkle-woman laughs they would... Through every hollowed tree... A soft, sweet, quiet melody...

CHRISTMAS—DECEMBER 25th

(From the Christmas Sermon, Sunday the 25th of Dec. 1894)

This festival has been observed with lively interest and holy joy by the great body of the Christian world...

Who was a child is born, who was a Son is given, and the government shall be upon his shoulders...

Sing the Redeeming grace that renews this glorious morn;... The promised Child is born... Now shall the powers of darkness fall...

ST. STEPHEN'S DAY—DECEMBER 26th

The day after Christmas the Church has devoted to the commemoration of the death and character of St. Stephen...

Ab, whosoever do the impious Jews... At Him they stare, with ruthless hands... At Him they stare, with ruthless hands...

ST. JOHN—THE EVANGELIST—DEC. 27th

The second day after Christmas is devoted to the commemoration of St. John the Evangelist, who was called "the disciple whom Jesus loved..."

Oh! how favoured, thou to whom 't was given... To lay thy hand upon the golden keys... And all the bright apocalypse of Heaven!

INNOCENTS DAY—DECEMBER 28th

The third day after Christmas is devoted by the Church to a notice of those little ones, who were slain by the order of Herod, who feared that the birth of Christ would destroy his power...

Hail, infant martyrs! martyr'd how 'twas said... Cut off by ruthless hands... Just at the gate of life...

CHRISTMAS IN ENGLAND.

(From a Revised Book Published by the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge)

We hail with great delight the approach of the Festival of Christmas. It is a happy period of the year, and one which brings with it some of the most pleasing recollections of our life...

As nothing which relates to the observance of this festival can be out of place, we shall lay before our reader an account of some of the ancient Christmas customs, a few of which still linger among us...

The example, the yuletide as it is called, is observed in some parts of the country, particularly in the north...

The Yuletide, Christmas, is a festival which is observed in some parts of the country, particularly in the north...

We now come to Christmas-cards, the word card seems to have been derived from a Greek word, signifying joy...

The Bishop says, "As soon as these blessed characters had sung their Christmas Carol, and taught the Church a hymn, to put into her hands for ever the anniversary of this festival..."

An American writer, who visited this country a few years since, gives a pleasing specimen of a card which he heard in Yorkshire on the morning of this Festival...

It was usual, in the ancient times, to sing out a psalm, and "place him in the midst, to sing a kind of carol to God..."

The following anecdote, given by a clergyman, describing the practice of singing at this season in Devonshire, may be interesting...

Hark, the herald angels sing, glory to the new-born King... Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled...

The circumstance made an impression upon me which it would be difficult to remove...

In connexion with the ancient custom of singing Christmas carols, the waits may be mentioned, as usual at the happy season of which we are speaking...

Nor must we pass by the ancient custom of decking churches and private dwellings with greens. This practice has been thought, by some, to have been adopted in order to record the circumstance of the people cutting down branches from the trees, and steering them in the way, crying, "Hosanna to the Son of David!"

Others have considered it merely a sign or symbol of gladness; and, when we thus look at the laurel, ivy, mistletoe, and bright-berried holly, green and glistening in the depth of winter, when other plants have departed with the summer and autumn, a very natural emotion it excites...

The mistletoe, with its round milk-white berries, is supposed to have been adopted as a part of Christmas decorations, in consequence of the respect paid to it by the Druids...

As Christmas-eve, as soon as it was dark, candles of an uncommon size, called Christmas Candles, were lighted up, and a log of wood, called the Yule Log, or Christmas block, was laid upon the fire, to warm and illuminate the house, and, as it were, to turn night into day...

The fire, with well dried logs supplied, went razzing up the chimney side...

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