ALLEN'S LUNG BALSAM
will positively cure deep-seated
COUGHS, COLDS, CROUP.
A 25c. Bottle for a Simple Cold.
A 50c. Bottle for a Heavy Cold.
A $1.00 Bottle for a Deep-seated Cough.
Sold by all Druggists.

Xmas Gifts Now Opened

Toys, Dolls, Games, Fancy China, Xmas Cards and Calendars. Xmas Stationery. All kinds of Musical Instruments and Music Books.

Fancy Goods in endless variety.

H. A. Tanton & Co
Great George Street.
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CANNED CHICKEN

We have a nice quality in tins put up by W. A. Leard, Bedeque. It is highly recommended and the price is only **22c** per tin.

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Federal Blend

A choice Blend of Ceylon India and China Teas, in such proportions as to insure a delicious cup of Tea.

Sold by all the principal Grocers. Wholesale by

McLINNON & McNEVIN
Lower Queen St. Ch'town

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New Tourist Sleeping Cars
FOR CHICAGO
Leave Montreal Every Tuesday
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Leave Montreal every Thursday and Sunday.
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An inexpensive means of travelling. Comfort and cheapness combined.
For particulars and tickets call on J. E. MATTHEWS, Charlottetown, or write to F. R. PERRY, Acting D. P. A., C. P. R., St. John, N. B.

The Present Time!

A few suggestions for presents.

LADIES.	GENTS.
Gold Watches,	Watches,
Gold Chains,	Chains,
Gold Lockets,	Cuff Links,
Gold Necklets,	Stick Pins,
Gold Brooches,	Rings etc.
Diamond Rings and other Gems.	
Bracelets, etc.,	

All articles bought of us engraved free.

G. H. TAYLOR,
Jeweler and Optician.

HOCKEY BOOTS

8 cases just in—lowest prices in the city for spot cash.

CONROY,
The Shoeman.
Sunnyside, Ch'town.
a w tf tts

Saint Nicholas The Good

At this season of the year it is easy to guess who it is that holds the first place in the hearts of the children of America. Today dear old Santa Claus may be out of sight, but he is undoubtedly not out of mind. He is probably receiving hundreds of letters daily—via the fireplace or through the register routes—telling of the fond hopes that are fixed upon some especial toy, and in the meantime, as if to bring the thought of this genial old saint ever freshly to us, on the streets and in the shops we can see men dressed like Santa Claus.

In the midst of all this holiday turmoil how many children ever stop to ask who Santa Claus really is, or

HE THREW THREE PURSES FILLED WITH GOLD.

who he was, for he died centuries ago? I know that some little girls and boys are longing to say now:

"Oh, we're too old for that sort of thing. We know there is no such person as Santa Claus. Our presents are given us by our fathers and mothers. We know all about it."

So far as the presents are concerned, perhaps they are right, but when they push dear old Santa Claus out of the way as a myth they are quite wrong, for Santa Claus was once as much alive as any little girl or boy who reads this.

St. Nicholas lived about the year 300 A. D., and he was a bishop of the early Christian church in Asia Minor. The name Santa Claus is merely a different form of his real name, just as Carl and Carlos are varying forms of the name Charles, and Maria and Marie are of Mary.

During his holy and useful life St. Nicholas was very good to all the little children he met, giving them presents and making them happy in every possible way. He is, therefore, to be remembered at this season because it is especially the children's feast day, and his memory should be kept more green in our hearts than the greenest leaves of the mistletoe that decorate our homes.

One story told of St. Nicholas relates how he found three lovely maidens who were very unhappy because there was no one to take care of them, and they were so poor they feared they might starve to death. The good old saint, hearing of their grief, went and tapped softly on the window of their home. When it was opened he threw three purses filled with gold into the window and hid before the girls could see who it was that sent this unexpected gift.

The next night he did not go, but the night following he tapped softly again and threw three more purses into the window. He waited a like time and then threw them a third present, but did not hide quickly enough, for they saw who it was—the kind old bishop who loved children so tenderly. Of course, they were very grateful for helping them out of their trouble this way. Some people think that the custom of giving presents originated from this old legend.

In Germany they keep the feast of St. Nicholas on Dec. 6. At this time some one dresses in the traditional costume worn by Santa Claus, gives presents to the children who have been good and sorrowfully says "I have nothing for you" to the naughty ones. —Philadelphia Ledger.

A Confession That Failed.

"So you concluded to dispel the Santa Claus myth from the mind of your youngest son?"

"Yes," said the thoughtful citizen. "You see, I thought that it would be better to hurt his feelings than to countenance deception in any form."

"And were his feelings hurt?"

"Not at all. He looked at me pityingly and said he guessed I had been one of the bad boys to whom Santa Claus did not pay any attention."—Washington Star.

Mr. Gladstone Failed to Tip.

Mr. Gladstone's hatred of tipping, writes a correspondent, was not only shown in his avoidance of the custom whenever possible, but also in the smallness of the gift when he found custom too strong for him.

At a private hotel in Brighton where Mr. Gladstone had stayed for the week end one of the dining-room waiters who had served Mr. and Mrs. Gladstone gives as one of his reasons for voting against Liberal candidates at local elections the fact that "Gladstone only gave me a shilling." For this "insult" the Liberal party lost one vote.—London Chronicle.

THE MYSTIC MISTLETOE.

Once a Feature of Pagan Rites, It Now Belongs to Lovers.

From time immemorial the white berried mistletoe has played a leading part in Yuletide festivities, though it has not always conveyed the osculatory privileges which give it its value in the eyes of the romantic youth of today. Like so many other features of the Christmas celebration, mistletoe has been borrowed from the pagans of antiquity and Christianized by the lapse of centuries. The Persians before the birth of Christ used the mistletoe in their sacred rites, and in parts of India pagan priests still incorporate it in their ritual. It figures largely in Scandinavian mythology. Baldur, the son of Odin, though a demigod, was slain by a spear of mistletoe, a proof of its magic powers.

It is from the Druids of old England, however, that mistletoe has come to us. The Druidical priests, sprung, it is said, from the magi of the east, the wise men who worshiped at the cradle of the infant Saviour, held the mistletoe as their most sacred possession, and the cutting of the pretty parasite from the oak, the tree which the Druids claimed God loved more than any other, was attended with the greatest solemnity. On the Druids' festival day a grand procession, leading two white oxen, moved to the mystic grove. There the oxen were fastened to the oak by their horns, and a white robed priest climbed into the leafless branches and cut the bunches of mistletoe with a golden knife. The oxen were then sacrificed and religious services performed, after which the procession returned to the temple in the forest and the mistletoe was deposited in the Druidical arcanum.

Besides taking its place in the religious observances of the Druids, the mistletoe, which the priests gave a name meaning "all healing," was made into many curious decoctions by processes in which times and seasons and incantations were supposed to add to its mysterious powers. These medicines were regarded as cures for human ills generally, whether of mind or body.

With the advance of civilization and the death of superstition mistletoe has lost its religious character, but not its popularity, and the forests of England and of our own southern states are as eagerly frequented by mistletoe gatherers as ever were the dark woods of the ancient Druids.

CHRISTMAS IN SWEDEN.

One Day When There Are Neither Rich Nor Poor.

If you were in Sweden on Christmas eve you would hear the church bells begin to ring at 5 o'clock, for everybody stops work then and the festivities begin in great earnest everywhere in the kingdom. Class distinctions are forgotten and servants are allowed to sit at table with the family. After supper comes the universal Christmas tree, for Sweden is one of the early homes of this beautiful custom.

On Christmas morning at 6 o'clock, while it is still dark, you would go to church, for everybody goes, unless you stayed at home to mind the lights in the house, for every home in the kingdom is illuminated. There is almost sure to be a deep snow, and you would go to church in a sleigh. Behind every sleigh you would see two boys standing on the runners and holding pine torches—a beautiful spectacle as a long procession of sleighs glides over the snow on a forest road. These torches are stuck up in a circle around the church. A whole week is given to good cheer and hospitality.

Not New.

Don't think our Vapo-Cresolene is something new, for it isn't. For more than twenty years it has been extensively used for all forms of bronchial and throat trouble. Mrs. Ballington Booth said of it, years ago, that "No family where there are young children should be without Vapo-Cresolene." You breathe in the vapor, it goes all through the bronchial tubes, soothing, healing, curing. It's pleasant, safe and economical. 70

Vapo-Cresolene is sold by druggists, or sent express prepaid on receipt of price. A Vapo Cresolene outfit, including a bottle of Cresolene, complete $1.50. Send for free illustrated booklet. LEEMING, MILES CO., Ltd., Agents, 288 St. James St. Montreal.

SANITARY PLUMBING.

How often disease and sickness comes in the home, and very often the cause is with the plumbing.

We always pay particular attention to the sanitary laws, as this is very important to the maintenance of health.

Our plumber is a first-class man, and can be relied upon in fitting up this class of work in the most up-to-date and sanitary manner.

We use none but the very best quality of goods on the market and we can guarantee entire satisfaction in every respect.

Give us a call when in need of any plumbing work done

Bruce Stewart & Co.
Founders, Engineers, Machinists and Boiler Makers
Steam Navigation Co's Wharf, Charlottetown P. E. I.

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ROSS & ROSS, Barristers, Solicitors to Loan Straight Loans or from Building and Loan Company.
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Sydney, C.B.
General Commission Merchant.
Island Produce handled on commission. Prompt returns made.
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WIVES ON CHRISTMAS TREES

Strange Christmas Customs That Prevail In Parts of Russia.

Of all Christmas tree customs, one of the strangest prevails in parts of Russia. A gift tree is set up in the village, on the branches of which roost young unmarried women, cloaked and hooded and veiled so that their identity is concealed. The swains are admitted one by one, just as they are in our familiar American game of "spat in, spat out." Each as he enters lifts a veil—of course at random—and the face thus disclosed belongs to his future wife. The act of lifting the veil betroths the couple, the penalty for breaking the engagement being a heavy fine to be paid into the village treasury.

Another Russian custom is a procession of children dressed in fantastic animal costumes. One boy holds aloft

A RUSSIAN CHRISTMAS TREE.

a star shaped paper lantern to represent the "star of the east;" another carries on his back a miniature theater, on the stage of which puppet performances like "Punch and Judy" shows are given at every farmhouse where the motley pageant halts.

The modern Christmas tree comes to us from Germany, the Yule log from Scandinavia, Santa Claus from Holland and the Christmas stocking from France, but the Christmas turkey—ah, that is America's contribution to the world's stock of Christmas cheer! But there is one part of the world where the people are afraid to eat turkey. In Armenia it would be too much like treason to their cruel ruler, the Turk. If they do venture to eat the fowl they call it "Egyptian hen." Down in Egypt they name it "Indian hen." Thus both Armenians and Egyptians save themselves from Moslem vengeance.—Pittsburg Dispatch.

Christmas Table Decorations.

The dinner table itself should proclaim the season by its decoration. A snowy cloth patterned with holly leaves or mistletoe, a centerpiece of glossy holly leaves and brilliant berries, silver candelabra and silver bonbon dishes are appropriate and dignified. Flat wreaths of holly tied with bows of "berry" red ribbon are very effective on the table, one in the center and one encircling each candelabrum. A silver or a cut glass bowl of holly and meteor roses or holly and mistletoe may be set in the wreath to complete the centerpiece. The outline of the Christmas star may be used instead of the wreaths. In this case the bows of ribbon are omitted. And for the guest cards either bells, stars, plum puddings, holly or ivy leaves, cut out and painted and ornamented with Christmas verse or greetings, are appropriate, and a little silk stocking of bonbons may be laid by each card as a souvenir.

Christ's Birthday.

There is something akin to sadness in the fact that in tracing the origin of many of our church festivals we find it in pagan celebrations antedating the Christian era. There is nothing certain even about the birthday of Christ. Some authorities assert that December was in the dry season, when shepherds were on duty day and night. In the controversy over the date, extending from December to May, Pope Julius (337-352) had an investigation made by St. Cyril and was satisfied that the 25th of December was correct. It was so established in the Roman church, and before the end of the fourth century the dictum was universally accepted.—Boston Herald.

Mrs. Leader's Liberality.

Struggling Pastor—Nearly all the congregation has subscribed liberally for the Christmas tree fund, and I feel sure that I can also have your hearty co-operation. How much will you—

Mrs. Leader—Let me see. Oh, I am the only member who has a carriage and coachman, I think.

"Yes. The rest are poor."

"Well, I will drive around and collect the subscriptions."

Christmas Day.

Oh, blessed day which gives the eternal lie
To self and sense and all the brute within—
Oh, come to us amid this war of life;
To hall and hovel come; to all who toil
In senate, shop or study and to those
Who, sundered by the wastes of half a world,
Ill warned and sorely tempted, ever face
Nature's brute powers and men unmanned to brutes—
Come to them, blest and blessing, Christmas day.
Tell them once more the tale of Bethlehem—
The kneeling shepherds and the Babe divine—
And keep them men indeed, fair Christmas day.

—Charles Kingsley.

WANTED—A case of headache that Kumfort Headache Powders will not cure in ten minutes.

$3.75

A POPULAR GIFT

There is no more popular Christmas gift than "Queen Quality" Shoes. Thousands of pairs are sold at this season of each year, saving all worry and doubt as to "what to give."

The stamp "Queen Quality" removes all doubt. It is an absolute assurance of correct style, and what can give woman more downright pleasure than perfectly fitted stylish boots? Such a gift is a compliment to the *good taste* of the recipient and the *good sense* of the giver.

We have the sole right of sale in this city for "Queen Quality" Shoes. Most styles sell at **Three Dollars.** Special styles **Three Fifty.**

If, for any reason, a different style or size be desired than the one purchased, we will cheerfully make exchanges after the holidays and give special attention to their careful fitting.

ALLEY & CO., Sole Agents

A pair of GRANBY RUBBERS will wear as long as two pairs of ordinary rubbers and they look well all the time.

GRANBY RUBBERS "WEAR LIKE IRON."

CENTRAL MUSIC STORE

IN STOCK:

Pianos	Violins
Organs	Banjos
Sewing Machines	Accordeons
Mandolins	Tambourines
Autoharps	Mouth Organs
Sewing Machine	Gramophone
Needles	Needles
Gramophones	Guitars

We have also full control of the celebrated Berliner Gramophone for the Island, with the new Maroon Records which can be used over a thousand times with good results.

We will allow you one third on your old records taken in exchange for new ones.

Call or write for prices.

Kent St., Ch'town.

Annual Meeting of the Merchants Bank of P.E.I.

The annual general meeting of the shareholders of the Merchants Bank of P. E. Island will be held at the Banking House, Great George Street, Charlottetown on Tuesday the 10th of January next, A. D., 1905, at the hour of 11 o'clock a. m. Proxies must be left with the cashier at least one day previous to the meeting.

J. M. DAVISON,
Cashier

25 wed, fri & w td

Dividend Notice!

Merchants Bank of P. E. I.

Charlottetown, Nov. 24th, 1904.

Notice is hereby given that a half-yearly dividend of 8 per cent per annum on the capital stock of this bank has been declared payable at its Banking House on and after the 3rd of January, 1905. Transfer books closed from Dec. 20th, 1904 to Jan. 3rd, 1905, both days inclusive.

By order of the Board.

J. M. DAVISON, Cashier.

26 wed, fri & wtd.

Cured her husband.

Drunkenness Cured Secretly

Free Sample and pamphlet giving full particulars, testimonials and price sent in plain sealed envelope. Correspondence sacredly confidential. Enclose stamp for reply. Address—The Samaria Remedy Co., 22 Jordan St., Toronto, Canada.

Boston and New York Ads.

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Successor to H. B. Joyce & Co., Commission Merchant.
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