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THE DAILY EXAMINER
DECEMBER 30, 1897.

QUEEN'S XMAS.
She Has a Scotch Tree, English Mitten, Biglum Wine, a German Cake, and Congratulations From Everywhere.

There is really but one day in the year when Queen Victoria does absolutely no work at all. Even on Sundays she spends an hour or two at her desk, pen in hand, or has one of her secretaries read any papers, despatches, or letters of importance aloud to her, but the 25th of December is an absolute holiday for her Majesty. The only labour of that day is the rather pleasant task of answering telegrams of good wishes and greetings that come to her from all parts of the globe.

THE QUEEN'S TREES.
Long before the court leaves Balmoral to go down to Osborne house on the Isle of Wight, where Christmas for the last fifteen years has been passed, the Queen drives out to the Christmas tree grove. Here grows a famous clump of firs, of which two are selected. One to be sent to Sandringham to the Prince of Wales. The other goes to Osborne, and when the trees are cut down, two new, fine specimens are put in their place.

Literally all the year round Queen Victoria works at her Christmas list. There are something like a thousand names set down on it, and nearly every year adds a grand or great-grandchild or two.

In the spirit of generosity the Queen believes in remembering all her relatives and dependents from the heir-apparent to her last scullery maid. In the spirit of economy she also believes in not pampering either her domestics or royal kinspeople with extravagant gifts, so that to nearly every individual whose name appears on her list some hand and home-made useful present goes.

SIMPLE GIFTS.
Because she is an expert knitter can crochet admirably, and embroider very well, she gives to her nearest and dearest all manner of small comforts worked by herself. Silly little tea-cloths, doilies, etc., are not in her line, but a royal duke is like to get a pair of yarn golf stockings; to an empress niece often goes a stout undershirt, knitted in red and blue wools, and a pair of good linen pillow cases, marked boldly and plainly with the letter A, is apt to be found in the stocking of the future Queen of Great Britain.

As for the others, the faithful cottagers the faithful servants, etc.; the ladies-in-waiting make their gifts, which are presented with the Queen's good wishes. No lady, for this reason, attends on the Queen who is not an expert needlewoman, and furthermore, faithful in the use of her bright little tool.

A GERMAN CHRISTMAS.
Down at Osborne the Royal festivities are conducted on a very decorous plan. The Queen avoids garish, extravagant celebration, such as the household of Sandringham have leaned toward. The Queen's tree is not illuminated with electricity, the day made hideous with a rattle of firecrackers, and special pyrotechnics, an aldermanic feast, and a dance at night. The whole sermon is conducted on the German plan rather, and the older she grows the less noise and display the royal lady likes to have around her. Usually the Albanys, the Battenbergs, and Princess Christian only go down to Osborne, along with their boys and girls, and one single tree, candles lighted, and dressed by Princess Beatrice, is enjoyed by the entire household, servants and all.

Fond as she is of giving her little hand-wrought presents, the Queen has almost an aversion to receiving gifts, especially those that are big, expensive, and very like the thousand or more objects of beauty or value that she has been receiving all her life, and with which her palaces are stored. Economical herself, she strangely enough admires sensible frugality in others.

It is no secret that Victoria looks with far more approval on the big hamper of game and sweetmeats sent her every Christmas from her Imperial grandson, William, in Berlin, than the jewels and fur and priceless mosaics and enamels that

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come to her from her relatives in St Petersburg. Most of all her gifts last year she enjoyed a little iced cake that came in the German hamper. It had been compounded and cooked, that little cake, by Emperor William's only daughter, and after it was formally cut by the Queen, and passed around as the cake of honor at the Christmas dinner, a piece was sent the head cook of the palace, with a request that he would pass officially and impartially on its merits.

Besides this hamper, the Prince of Wales always sends his mother her Christmas mutton, and the King of Belgium contributes some rare old wines, and the Duke of Norfolk sends wonderful holly and mistletoe from his forests. Christmas day at Osborne goes as quietly as in any modest American household. On the evening of the 24th the tree is displayed, and the Queen never sees it until every candle is bright, and then the youngest grandchild present leads her in to a big chair beside it. The family sing songs, German fashion, around the tree, a band of singers waits outside, really the capitally trained choir boys of Whippingham church, sing many old-fashioned carols, and are given a fine supper for their pains, and the servants come in to view the tree and greet their mistress.

SIMPLE CUSTOMS.
The servants in her Majesty's employ are not permitted to offer gifts to members of the Royal family, so, in return for the substantial tips and warm socks or petticoats they receive, one of their number is usually selected to make the Queen a little speech, and, on special occasions, such as this Christmas of her diamond jubilee year, their tribute of good wishes and gratitude is engrossed on an illuminated scroll, to be given her Christmas eve, as on the occasion of the golden jubilee.

According to the sensible German custom, the small boys and girls of the Royal family are never loaded with extravagant toys or French bonbons. A bag of simple sweets is put in every stocking, for none but little sugar-topped cakes are presented on the tree, and the toys invariably chosen and given by the Queen would astound a pampered American child—inexpensive horns and balls, toy watches, and the least luxurious whips, tops and china-headed dolls dangle from the boughs.

But if the Queen is rather severe in this respect she is absolutely indulgent in another. No amount of wholesome noise and frolicking is frowned upon or forbidden on Christmas day, and the aged head of an Empire on which the sun never sets will give an hour out of her Christmas day to show a tiny grand daughter how to get the best results out of a tin kitchen, or evolve quite a royal blast from a noisy tin horn for a persistent little duke, who insists that grandmamma must show him how.

THE LADY IS ALWAYS A LADY.
The True Keynote of the Grande Dame is Gentleness and Simplicity

Ruth Ashmore, writing on "The Simplicity of the Grande Dame," in the January Ladies Home Journal asserts that "a lady may stand behind the counter, be mistress in her own home, or busy all day at a desk, but no matter what her position in life is; she never swerves, and unconsciously she always impresses those who are around her with the fact of her gentleness and simplicity. The lady gains her strength not from riches, not from her high position, not from great learning, but from good common sense. Any one of us may learn this if we will take a good model and copy it. No lady is free and easy in her manners. She does not, however, go to the other extreme and become stilted, but she tends rather to quietness and to a slight reserve, since, when she takes a friend, she proposes to keep her. She does not become intimate with you after twenty-four hours' acquaintance, but you in the place of a confidante in forty-eight hours, and in a week's time tire of you. The lady knows you first merely as an acquaintance, and then, if she finds you interesting, or if she thinks she can in any way be of use to you, she permits you to come gradually into her life, and between you may grow up a friendship that may last through life, even unto death."

ODESSA, Dec. 27.—It is reported that two first-class cruisers with a large number of extra marines, have been ordered to join the Russian squadron in Chinese waters.

SAN FRANCISCO, Cal., Dec. 27.—The Salvation Army has abandoned its prison gate home in Contra Costa county. The leave of this fine farm, of 300 acres, will probably be given up, for the task of reforming the ex-convicts has been found too great. The ultimate fate of the movement will be decided by Commander Booth-Tucker, who will reach this city on January 1st. The ex-convicts did not seem to appreciate the efforts to rehabilitate them. One stole a horse, wagon and harness, belonging to the home, and was sent back to prison for two years. Another, while on his way to the home, robbed a house, and the penitentiary was again made his dwelling place.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 27.—The recent tragic death of Miss Leila Herbert, the daughter of the ex secretary of the navy, is given as the reason for the suicide which occurred to-day of Miss Annie Virginia Wells, an accomplished young society woman, and a daughter of Lewis S. Wells, a well-known attorney. The young woman shot herself through the heart with her brother's revolver, at the residence of the father, 1311 N street, N. W. Miss Wells had met Miss Herbert a number of times and was very much attached to her. She herself had been confined to the house for four months by illness, and this combined with the shock caused by the death of her friend brought on melancholy which resulted in suicide. Miss Wells was 33 years of age and very beautiful.

SWIMMING A FAD.
(From the Philadelphia Record)

According to the London newspapers, fancy swimming is quite a fad in the metropolis just now. Society patronized the international contests at the Westminster baths and applauded the feat (as well as the feet) of Miss Alma Beaumont, who "walked on the water" with marked skill and superaquatic grace. At a swimming entertainment, as a rule, says the Daily Graphic, the unlucky onlooker usually has to choose between a numbing headache in a crowded gallery or the dangers of a drenching by the waterside. The bath club, however, with the attendant luxuries, has changed all that and swimming entertainments are now to be numbered among the fashionable fixtures of the season. On Thursday last a "ladies' night" took place at the club. The programme was not very different from other displays of the kind, but the comfortable conditions which surrounded it made it far more enjoyable. From a sporting point of view, the most exciting event of the evening was the back-swimming competition for the challenge shield, though this would have been more interesting still but for the non-appearance of two of the best men entered for it—R. A. Crawshaw, the holder of the shield, and G. Martin, who holds the world's record for 100 yards at this particular style of swimming. As it was the shield was carried off by the champion of Holland, J. D. Bloemen, but only after a splendid tussle with W. S. Bornest, of St. Saviour's, S. C., who struggled gamely to the end. A graceful wind-up to the entertainment was given with an exhibition of fancy swimming by Miss Ada Lewin, the instructress to women members of the club.



It takes a man who is a whole man, at least physically, to be a western cow-boy. His every-day life calls for great physical endurance, and upon some occasions this must also be backed by considerable nerve. It would be a good thing for many a hard working business man if he could turn cow-boy for a couple of months each year. It would give him a chance to get the free, pure, invigorating air of the prairies into his lungs, a little steel into his muscles, a little edge to his appetite and a little of the calm of the boundless plains into his nerves. Unfortunately, the rush of modern business will not permit the average hard working business man to turn cow-boy even for a short time each year. The only resource left him, if he does not wish to break down prematurely, is to keep a watchful eye upon his health, and when he finds that he is getting out of sorts, let up a little on work, and resort to the best of all known tonics. That tonic is Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery. It promptly puts a worked out man into condition, because it starts at the right place. It begins by restoring the lost appetite. It corrects all disorders of the digestion and makes the assimilation of the food perfect. It invigorates the liver. It purifies the blood and fills it with the life-giving elements of the food. It is the great blood-maker and flesh-builder. By enriching the blood it nourishes and builds up every organ and tissue in the body. No man ever broke down with nervous exhaustion or prostration who resorted to this great medicine when he felt himself threatened by ill-health.

An honest dealer will not urge a substitute. There is nothing in the world "just as good," although avaricious druggists will sometimes say so for the sake of the greater profit to be made upon the inferior article. Keep your head up and your bowels open. The "Golden Medical Discovery" will put steel in your backbone, and Dr. Pierce's Pleasant Pellets will cure constipation.

His Name For the Fire Engine.
"What be that 'er mersheen?" asked Uncle Abner of Ruralsville as he witnessed the working of a fire engine for the first time.

"Why, uncle," replied his city nephew, "that is a machine for extinguishing fires."
"Well," exclaimed the old man, "if I hadn't seed it with my own eyes I never would belev'd that pesky little tenkittle could hev held so much water."—Chicago Post.

Few seem to doubt for a moment that contentment is the cause of happiness. Yet the inverse is true. We are contented because we are happy, not happy because we are contented.

There's lots of religion in a beefsteak if you give it to the right man at the right time, says Jerry McCauley.

IT DON'T PAY.
To buy drinks for the boys—it don't pay to buy drinks for yourself. It will pay to quit. But the trouble has been to do this. My Vegetable Cure will absolutely remove all desire for liquor in a couple of days, so you can quit without any self-denial, and nobody need know you are taking medicine. You'll save money and gain in health and self respect from the start. Medicine is perfectly harmless, is pleasant o taste, steady nerves, and does not interfere with business duties.—Full particulars sealed. Mr. A. Hutton Dixon, No. 40 Park Avenue, Montreal.

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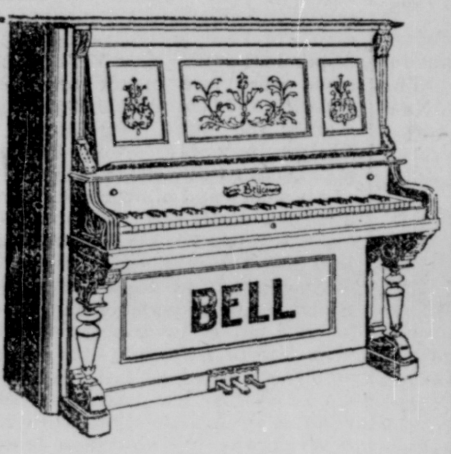
TO PREPARE OATMEAL FOR THE TABLE.

Where hard coal is used for cooking purposes, oatmeal may be put over the fire at six o'clock in the evening, brought to boiling point, and kept at this temperature over night so that it may be ready to serve in the morning. Where soft coal, wood or gas is used for cooking purposes, it will be necessary to put the oatmeal over the fire at noon, when the luncheon or dinner is being prepared. Put four heaping table-spoonfuls of the steel cut oats into one quart of cold water; add half a teaspoonful of salt, and put it over the fire in a double boiler; cover, and cook continuously for one or two hours. Then it may be put aside until the night meal is being prepared, and cooked again as long as the fire is burning, and then put aside to be reheated at breakfast time. The kettle should be covered closely, and the oatmeal must not be stirred from the beginning to the end of the cooking, otherwise the grains will be broken. Stirring oatmeal seems to destroy its flavor.—Mrs. S. T. ROBER, in January Ladies' Home Journal.

Heart Trouble

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ANNUAL MEETING 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 its Banking House, Gt. George Street, on Tuesday, the 11th day of January, next, 1898, 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. DAIVISON, Cashier.
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