

OLD CHRISTMAS CARDS.

THE SWEET AND SAD MEMORIES CONNECTED WITH THEM.

That Crude Little Picture of Two Snow-shoes Crossed, Surrounded with Summer Flowers, with the Verdure of Spring in the Background.

Did you ever open the drawer in which you have been storing the Christmas cards you cherished most, for the past eight or ten years? I did the other day. I wanted more room for lots of things and I thought it foolish to keep so much valuable space lying idle.

I have heard too much about the influence of a sudden waft of perfume, or a bar of music, in recalling some long forgotten scene, but I cannot imagine any melody, or perfume as potent as the sight of a bit of writing in some well known hand to bring back in a sudden flash of memory the scenes of other days.

The Christmas cards of ten years ago were not as artistic as they are now, nor half as pretty, but they served their purpose and gave just as much pleasure I am sure, funny as they look today.

Here is a crude little picture of two snow shoes crossed, appropriately surrounded with summer flowers, and with a landscape of smiling verdure for a back ground; but a line written across the back tells me that the shoes are a memento of a snow-shoeing party we had been at the week before, and the lad who sent it was my partner "on the tramp."

There are more cards in the drawer, but they are left undisturbed, and all but that one go back to their places. How many changes in ten short years, and how many vacant places left! I have sorted enough cards for one day somehow I don't care about having any more space, so I close the drawer with a curious feeling of having stood beside a grave.

St. Crispin's Day. A pleasant story is told of the Emperor Charles V. One night he strolled into a cobbler's shop to get his boots mended.

She Had Her Suitcases. A gentleman stopped at a cabin where an old woman lived, and, while waiting for one of the children to get a bucket of fresh water, entered into conversation with her concerning the crop prospects.

A Queer Little Card. A queer little card lies just beneath, and across its brightly gilded surface a group of grotesque Chinese figures are dancing.

A Curious Theatre. A theatre that will probably rank as one of the most unique buildings in the world is in course of construction at Buenos Ayres.

Japan Churches. According to a correspondent of the New York Observer, a christian church in some parts of Japan cannot be established without the consent of the property owners in the neighborhood.

In Thuringia, Germany, there is a whole district which is dependent for its support on the manufacture of artificial eyes—husbands, wives, and children all working together.

A whole handful comes up next, with such an odd one on the top, just a bowl and plaque of old china leaning against a side-board shelf, and a few well-chosen words on the reverse side express the wish that I may have a very happy Christmas.

"To Astra with loving Xmas wishes from Jennie," and Jennie's laughing blue eyes have been closed in eternal sleep for five long years.

"Astra with love from Bertie." Bertie was a sweetheart of mine long ago and a handsome lad he was too, but he has been married I don't know how many years, and lives at the other side of the world.

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St. Crispin's Day.

A pleasant story is told of the Emperor Charles V. One night he strolled into a cobbler's shop to get his boots mended. It happened to be the festival of St. Crispin. The cobbler was making merry with his friends and declared that no work could be done on that day for any man, even though he were Charles himself, but the stranger was cordially invited to join in the merrymaking.

She Had Her Suitcases. A gentleman stopped at a cabin where an old woman lived, and, while waiting for one of the children to get a bucket of fresh water, entered into conversation with her concerning the crop prospects.

A Queer Little Card. A queer little card lies just beneath, and across its brightly gilded surface a group of grotesque Chinese figures are dancing. Once more the legend on the back tells me in excellent verse, that the dancers represent ourselves as we appeared the week before at an evening wedding when the fairest of the group of friends was married, and the rest of us danced our feet weary in her honor.

A Curious Theatre. A theatre that will probably rank as one of the most unique buildings in the world is in course of construction at Buenos Ayres. Seating five thousand persons, it has the largest capacity of any building of its kind.

Japan Churches. According to a correspondent of the New York Observer, a christian church in some parts of Japan cannot be established without the consent of the property owners in the neighborhood.

IS CHRISTMAS VULGARIZED?

So Said a Thoughtless Woman in the Street the Other Day.

Christmas has become dreadfully vulgarized in these days, a thoughtful looking woman was overheard saying to another in the street recently, and we imagined she went on thus: How little we hear of the simple souvenirs, expressing friendly sentiments, a considerate watchfulness of individual tastes, and the dainty workmanship of industrious hands through many weeks and evenings, which were in vogue a quarter of a century ago!

ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON. Something About the Popular Author who Died Last Week.

By the death of Mr. Robert Louis Stevenson Britain loses one of her greatest romance writers. 'Treasure Island,' which brought him into notice, was held by many of the best read men and soundest critics to be the greatest book of its kind since 'Robinson Crusoe,' and its popularity for a time was very great.

THE GAME OF SNAPDRAGON.

Players Must Be Quick and Not Mind Burned Fingers.

Few "Christmas gambols" exist in their original form. But the old game modified to suit modern taste as well as the new ones are just as full of fun and are entered into by the young folks nowadays with as much zest as were the rougher gambols over which in old England the "Lord of Misrule" presided.

Saving Money.

That doesn't mean buying anything, just because the price is low. Cheapness means honest value, as to clothes, fit, finish and style, when clothes are the subject. When we say "cheap" we mean a low price, offset by all that bestness of clothes means.

Delaying Sunset.

A British admiral experienced a peculiar privilege recently, affording thereby an illustration to the question often presented to the curious as to what might happen should the senior officer of a ship or fleet choose, when "eight bells" or "sunset" is reported to him, to withhold his "Make it so, please," by officially delaying sunset for over an hour.

He Paints the Town Red.

The Hack Writer (preparing a biography of eminent modern men)—How shall I handle this man? I've got to praise him, and they say he drinks like a fish, and doesn't pay his debts.

How can we reasonably expect our scholars to do as much in 3 months as in other schools in 6 months? Here is a hint, we do our book-keeping in shorthand.

HOLIDAY GOODS. XMAS, 1894.

Advertisement for holiday goods including Diamonds, Watches, Jewelry, Clocks, Bronzes, Etc. and Sterling Silver, Silver Plated Goods, Etc. with illustrations of various items.

Opera Glasses, Spectacles, Etc. FERGUSON & PAGE, 43 KING St.

"Strongest and Best."—Dr. Andrew Wilson, F. R. C.

Fry's PURE CONCENTRATED COCOA.

90 PRIZE MEDALS AWARDED TO THE FIRM. Purchasers should ask specially for Fry's Pure Concentrated Cocoa, to distinguish it from other varieties manufactured by the Firm.

CONDENSED ADVERTISEMENTS.

Announcements under this heading not exceeding five lines (about 28 words) cost 25 cents each insertion. Five cents extra for every additional line.

WANTED HELP. Men or Women (local or traveling) to introduce a new discovery and keep our show cards tacked up on trees, fences and bridges throughout town and country.

FOR SALE. A 100 HORSE POWER triple expansion Marine Engine, Cylinders, 58 1/2 x 10 1/2 x 12 inch stroke; guaranteed in thorough repair.

Book Agents Wanted. Canada to sell three Standard Music Books; large profits for agents.

AS YEARS GO BY. The public is realizing more and more the merit of Short's "Dyspepticure."

ONE MILLION CUSTOMERS witness our beautiful do. We will send you post free, for only 25 cents, 6 eight inch imported, stamped cloth dolls.

\$3 A DAY SURE. Send us your address now to make \$3 a day absolutely sure. We will show you how to do it.

NO GOOD HOUSEKEEPER will be without one of our New Patent Raisin Seeders. Seeds a pound of Raisins in less than 10 minutes.

"VIRGIN" CASTILE SOAP—Lately received four cases of this celebrated soap. Unrivalled for the nursery, toilet, and bath.

RUBBER GOODS. Do you want ANYTHING in Rubber goods? If so send us as we supply EVERYTHING known to the trade.

AMATEUR PHOTOGRAPHERS. Printing and general finishing for amateurs. Lubin Photo Studio, 38 Charlotte St., St. John, N. B.

RESIDENCE for sale or to rent at Rothesay for the summer months. That pleasantly situated house known as the TITUS property about one and a half miles from Rothesay Station.

How?

Send a 2 cent Postage Stamp to PRESS & LUBIN, London, Eng., and ask for a copy of their new reference book, with beautifully coloured illustrations of high class articles manufactured by them for the use of members of fashionable society.

STAINED GLASS Memorials Interior Decorations Castle & Son, 20 University St., Montreal.

WEDDING PRESENTS.

We have an immense stock of Silver Plated Ware, Table Cutlery, Solid Silver Goods from the best English, American and Canadian makers, which we shall be pleased to show to everyone.

W. H. THORNE & CO., MARKET SQUARE, ST. JOHN.

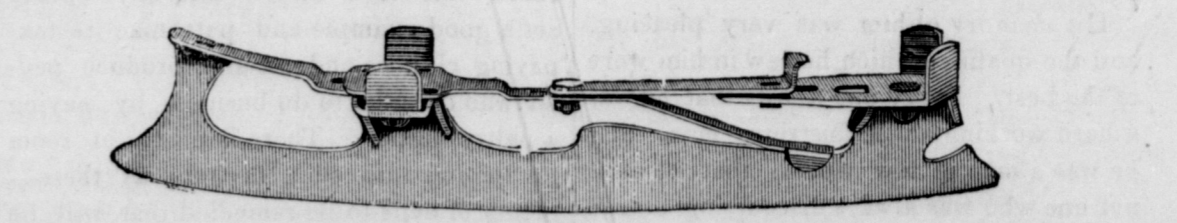
BARGAIN COUNTER

Advertisement for Bargain Counter featuring kitchenware like teapots, kettles, and cups, with the text 'FOR THE CHRISTMAS SEASON.'

Our Annual Sale of Kitchen Furnishing Goods is now going on. We have opened a Special Department Counter, ranging from 5c. up, and are offering Exceptional Bargains in all lines.

Emerson & Fisher

Skates. Skates.



Acme Pattern, The most and best self-fastening Skate Made.

Long Reach Skates, Hockey Sticks, Hockey Pucks, Sleds and Framers, Sleigh Bells, &c. Send for Prices.

T. MAVITY & SONS, - ST. JOHN, N. B.

A USEFUL XMAS PRESENT

"The Little Helpmate," by E. M. Tree, steward of the Union Club, St. John, N. B.; late of St. James' Club, Montreal. It contains a great deal of household information NOT GENERALLY KNOWN, also the whole method of the wonderful GENERAL CLEANSING AGENT known as "Carpet Shampoo."