## CUSTOMS OF HALLOWEEN

AN OBSERVANCE THAT HAS COME FROM PAGAN TIMES.

FOR

PIERCING THE

VARIOUS DEVICES

veil of futurity—english, irish, AND SCOTCH EXPERIMENTS—THE CURIOUS RITE PERFORMED ON THE ISLE OF LEWIS.

All Hallow Even or Halloween, which is to-morrow night, is undoubtedly a relic of

The Druids were accustomed pagan times. to kindling sacred fires on the eve of Nov. 1, possibly to ward off evil spirits, as the popular imagination this has always been considered the high carnival season for witches, fairies, and the immaterial principle in humanity to wander abroad. Supernatural influences prevail and divination by means of mystle ceremonies is at its highest power then. In certain parts of England and Ireland they call it Nuterack night, one of the oldest customs still in vogue being as follows: Desiring to ascertain if one's sweetheart is faithful, let

each one place a nut upon the grate, naming it after a lover; if the nut cracks or jumps the swain or maiden is proved fulse, but if it blazes and burns merrily, he or she loves. If nuts named after a girl and her lover burn together the pair will be married. But the greatest sport of all, which is indulged in now in this country as well, was the diving for apples. It being dilficult to bite the bobbing fruit they were usually caught by the stems, or forced to the bottom of the tub and then seized. Some preferred to harpoon them by dropping a

fork from above. Another popular custom was to tie a stick up to the ceiling by a string around the middle. then a lighted candle was stuck on one end and an apple on the other. The stick was rapidly twirled while the merrymakers in turn strove desperately to catch the apple by their teeth (Without using the hands) while avoiding the

Implicit reliance was placed upon the results,

fancied or real, of peering into the matrimonial future. "Pulling Kale Stalks" was devoutly

observed by the Scotch. Couples would go into the field hand in hand, blindfolded; each person

was to pull the first stalk that came to hand. The future partner was bound to bestout or slender, short or tall, according to size of stalk selected. The amount of earth clinging to root furnished a suggestion as to dowry or fortune. The taste of the pith indicated the character of the temper. Finally, the stalks were placed in a row over the door, and it was supposed that the Christian names of all those who entered afterward in succession during the evening would be identical with those of the future mates. Another Scottish observance was that of the "Three Dishes," or "Luggies." Two of these were filled respectively with clean and dirty water; the third was left empty. They were then ranged along the hearth. Each palpitating swain, being blindfolded, advanced in turn

and tremblingly dipped his hand. If it was in clean water, he would surely wed a maiden; if

in the foul, a widow; but it, sad fate, he struck the empty one, single blessedness was his doom. Burns refers to two of these ancient observ-

ances in his poem of Halloween: "The auld guid wife's weel-hoarded nits Are round an' round divided, An' monte lads' and lassies' fates' Are there that night decided. Some kindle, couthie, side by side An' burn thegither trimly; Some start awa wi' saucy pride, And jump out-owre the chimlie, Fu' high that night. "In order, on the clean hearthstone The luggles three are ranged; And every time great care is ta'en To see them duly changed; Auld Uncle John, who wedlock's joys

intended will appear in a dream and quietly present you with a couple of lemons. To ascertain if the future husband will be a gentleman, tradesman, or traveler, grate a walnut. hazelnut, and nutmeg, and mix together with butter and sugar, in pills; take before going to bed. If golden reseate dreams ensue, If golden reseate dreams ensue, you will wed a gentleman; if odd noises and tumults disturb your slumbers your lot will be cast with a tradesman, and if thunder and lightning bewilder you it will be, alas!—a traveler. "Drummers" evidently were not rated highly

weird and uncanny to the last degree.

There was a gruesome observance

missing.

called the "Coel Coeth bonfire."

around the dying embers, then

morning,

were

stones

Sin' Mar's-year did desire,

He heaved them on the fire

Because he got the toorn-dish thrice.

In wrath that night." The true fortune teller has the following infallible receipts for maidens anxious to question

the future: To learn if she will get the man she wishes, wear two lemon peels, one in each pocket, all day; at night rub the four posts of the bedstead carefully before retiring. If hap-

piness is in store for you, the apparition of your

in those days. Many of these old oustoms were

performed in solitude, as was often necessary,

spasms of nervous fright sometimes ensued, which frequently developed into insanity.

would throw a white stone into the ashes, marked for identification. Prayers were said

nearly out, each member of the family

any

the

When a fire

all retired.

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Mulvay

in St.

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owner

not escape death before another Halloween. Then there was the custom of eating an apple before a glass: the future husband was expected to look over your shoulder in the reflection. The wet shirt sleeve hung before the fire to dry was very popular in Scotland. The owner was to lie awake until midnight, watching for the future partner to come in and turn it. Burns says, somewhere; "The last Halloween I was waukin' My dronkit sark-sleeve as ye ken, His likeness cam' up the house stankin' And the very gray breeks o' Tam Glen." It was a general superstition that children born on Halloween possessed mysterious faculties, such as the ability to see and converse with spirits. Scott makes mention of this in "The Monastery." Dumb cakes were made of wheat flour and salt. After being kneaded and spread out flat each girl marked the initials of her name in the cake with a pin. Then it was placed before the fire, the maldens gathering around it in perfect silence. Just after the

stroke of 12 the husband of the girl first to be

Church, each man with a peck of malt to be brewed into ale. After a while one of their number would wade into the sea up to his middle, bearing a cup of ale. Then he invoked the

"Shony, I give you this cup of ale, hoping that you'll be so kind as to send us plenty of sea ware for

Forthwith the libation was thrown into the

The strangest custom of all was that peculiar to the Isle of Lewis—a veritable pagan institution styled the sacrifice to the sea god Shony.

married appeared and pointed to her initials.

The inhabitants assembled

enriching our ground the ensuing year."

sea god as follows:

very bright.

sea and all returned to the church to worship in silence until a given signal, when the single candle before the altar was extinguished, and everybody adjourned to the fields for singing and dancing and drinking of the ale. POST OFFICE EMPLOYES' FAIR. ASSURANCE OF A GREAT SUCCESS MADISON SQUARE GARDEN. The outlook for the coming fair of the New-

York Post Office Mutual Aid Association is

management shows that nothing is being left

The fair opens in Madison Square Garden in

plenty of time to allow every one to make his purchases of Christmas presents at the booths. The prices are to be as low as the same class of

Last week a meeting was held, attended by representatives of the Mutual Aid Association

and the Letter Carriers' Association. It was agreed to further the interests of the proposed

fair in every possible way. Committees were appointed to work with that end in view. It

undone that can insure a big success.

goods can be obtained for elsewhere.

The preliminary work of

was decided at the meeting that the following disposition shall be made of the proceeds of the undertaking. After payment of about \$10,000 due to the widows and orphans of former mem-

bers of the Mutual Aid Association, the surplus

is to form a nucleus of a fund for disabled or re-tired letter carriers. Thus every carrier in the Post Office becomes a beneficiary of the funds which shall arise. The law does not permit employes of Post Office to solicit subscriptions, or tickets. The same regulation applies to Post-master Van Cott, and he cannot give his official sauction to the enterprise. Mr. Van Cott, as well as many other well-known gentlemen, is a liberal patron of the fair and will be present on the opening night.

This will stand in the centre of the the roof. amphitheatre and will be elaborately decorated by the Edizon Electric Light Company. Many firms have made application for space in the Garden and will devote a percentage of their sales to the fair association.

The single admission fee has been fixed at 25

cents and season tickets at \$1. A. B. de Frece, who has had much experience in conducting

One of the features in the Garden will be a mammoth Christmas tree, reaching nearly to

A number of societies and charitable institutions will take part in the fair, and booths have

been set aside for their use.

big fairs, is in charge of this one.