

is destruction most absolute and inevitable in carrying on the fight in the old way.

HALLOWE'EN.

Hallowe'en, observed on October 31st, the evening before All Saints' day, is undoubtedly, as far as many of its peculiar customs and observances are concerned, a reminiscence of paganism. The Germanic nations as well as the Celtic had their ideas of witches and fairies and demons and other invisible beings, and they seemed to think that the power of these was manifest particularly during the passing of the seasons from spring to summer and from fall to winter. The marked changes to which all nature at these times is subject may have suggested this belief, and also the peculiar practices by which communication with the supernatural beings was sought for purposes of divination or even supplication.

With the introduction of Christianity the pagan notions were denounced. Church holidays were instituted, but it is apparent all through the Christian world that the old ideas were unconsciously carried over and transplanted into the new institutions. The old names were exterminated, but not the old notions; new names were invented, but the old spirit found refuge into the new forms. The Germans kept their Johannisfeuer or their Osterfeuer, and in Scotland and elsewhere the Hallowe'en still remained the evening of fairies and witches with the bonfires at night.

Nor is this surprising when it is remembered that the so-called mother-church set the example. All Saints' day originated seemingly in a pagan idea. As early as a quarter of a century before our era, Marcus Agrippa erected a temple, the Pantheon, in honor of Jupiter and all the other gods of the ancient mythology. The eastern churches in the fourth century, as if under an impulse to imitate this feature of paganism, set apart the first day of November as a festival in honor of all the angels and the departed saints, and in the seventh century Pope Boniface IV set the official seal of the church upon this festival by dedicating Agrippa's famous Pantheon to the worship of God under the invocation of the Virgin Mary and all the saints. The old gods and sainted heroes of Rome were dethroned and their places supposedly filled with the departed men and women of fame in the church, but the Pantheon was the same, and so were many of the popular ideas of which that structure was an embodiment. The festival became general in the ninth century, and was retained in the Protestant Episcopal and Lutheran churches, although these discarded the Roman doctrine of "sainte."

Hallowe'en, therefore, is the evening preceding the day dedicated to all who are "hallowed" or holy, that is the departed "sainte," although the signification of it, if it still retain any, is that of a grand anniversary of fairies, demons and sundry mischief-makers from an unseen world.

The festival is widely observed in English-speaking countries, and it is

taken advantage of for games that are considered peculiar to that season. Formerly, one of the ceremonies of Hallowe'en required the young people to go out hand in hand, their eyes shut, and pull the first stock of kale they happened to find. If it were straight, the finder might be assured of a happy marriage. If a little earth clung to the root, fortune was foreshadowed. Girls on that evening would take a candle, go to the mirror and comb their hair while eating an apple. After looking intently in the glass, they would see their future husbands peer over their shoulders. Another ordeal girls would subject themselves to was to go to the barn entirely alone. Then, standing in the middle of the threshing floor, they would hold a vessel in the air, as if pouring oats, for the wind to winnow. Presently the future husband would come and pass through the barn. According to another custom, the girls would go to a stream running south and dip the left sleeve of the dress in the water. The garment was then hung up before a fire to dry. About midnight the figure of the future husband would appear and go to the garment and turn it, as if to dry the other side.

The married women, too, had their amusement. The wife would sit at the fire and place nuts on the logs, each nut being named for a lad and lace, and laid in pairs, and as the nuts burned steadily or rolled apart with the heat of the flame, the future was outlined. If a nut popped open with a report, it meant the namesake would by his bad temper make things uncomfortable for the partner.

The evening was, besides, spent

With merry songs and friendly cracks,
And unco tales and funny jokes,

and that is about all that remains of it to this day.

AUTOGRAPHS WANTED.

In another part of this evening's NEWS will be found a card from Mr. John R. Wilson, the designer and maker of the novel "State table" of which frequent mention has been made in these columns, inviting certain persons to send their autographs to him in order that they may occupy a place in the table. The idea of the whole affair is unique, and it is deserving of continued encouragement. The top of the table will be composed of bits of wood from the various states of the Union, while the four legs will come from cities representing the extreme cardinal points of the Republic. Beneath the top will be the space in which it is intended to place the Utah Constitution and the autographs of the candidates for office at the first election held under it. In addition to these, it is desired to obtain as many autographs as possible from old settlers—those who came to Utah when the new State was an unredeemed part of the desert, and who have watched and helped in its growth from those conditions to present greatness. The compartment in the table which contains these papers will be permanently closed up when the piece is finished, and can only then be opened by destroying it. The NEWS takes pleasure

in stating Mr. Wilson's desires and circulating his invitation and hopes the latter will be promptly and generously responded to.

ANOTHER WONDER OF THE WORLD.

The proposed North River bridge across the Hudson river, says the Scientific American, is the greatest engineering undertaking in the world. A board of officers of the corps of engineers has recently been appointed "to investigate and report their conclusions as to the maximum length of span practicable for suspension bridges, and consistent with an amount of traffic probably sufficient to warrant the expense of construction."

Working upon the data furnished, the board has calculated the amount and weight of material needed as well as the cost of a steel suspension bridge 3,200 feet long as follows: Suspended weights, in pounds, 90,870,000; towers, 52,313,000; chains and anchor plates, 18,324,000, or a total of 161,460,000 pounds at a cost of \$6,460,000. To this come main cables and wrappings, and backstays with wrappings at a total weight of 56,348,000 pounds and costing \$3,942,260; the cost of superstructures and foundations is further estimated at \$11,784,000, making a grand total of \$22,186,540 as the estimated cost of the structure.

Should this bridge be built, it would far eclipse any of the so-called seven wonders of the world, that once so strongly appealed to the ancients. The greatest of the pyramids of Egypt would be more than equalled in bulk or quantity by the united mass of masonry that must be constructed on the shores to resist the enormous pull of the 16 cables. The four steel towers that carry these cables will each overtop the lofty Washington monument and be exceeded in height only by the Eiffel tower in Paris. Looked at from another point of view, it will certainly be more useful, and consequently more worthy the present age than that Parisian monument of engineering skill, inasmuch as the latter is but merely a spectacular object, more curious than anything else.

The bridge is calculated to carry, at a height of 150 feet above the river, seventeen heavily loaded freight trains, which, if strung out, would form a line two miles long and weigh 26,000 tons, and yet be able to resist a windstorm that would endanger many of the buildings in New York City. It is evident that the difficulties to be overcome in the construction of this mammoth bridge are immense, yet so far has engineering skill advanced that the work can be undertaken with absolute safety, and that, too, without disregard for the requirements of beauty and elegance in the outline.

IN CANADA they found a new river the other day, but as it contained nothing but water, they didn't make much fuss about it. It would be different in certain parts of the central states, however, where the Ohio river is so low that there is hardly enough water to lay the dust in the usual channel.

THE STREAMS all over the country are drying up. In this they are setting a worthy example to the politicians.