

December Is a Gay Month in Mexico.

Christmas Festivities Last for Many Days in Southern Republic — Gay Street Scenes a Feature of the Celebrations.

The month of December is the gayest in the Mexican calendar, for the Christmas festivities are not confined to one day, but beginning with the night of the 16th the "posadas" begin. They are kept up during the nine succeeding nights and ending with the night of the 24th.

On the morning of the 15th one will find preparations begun for the construction of booths about the "Zocalo," which is a small plaza fronting the National palace. These booths are a sight in themselves, being constructed of the crudest materials and thrown together in the shortest possible time. Most of them are composed of old, weather beaten lumber that has done service many a time for the same purpose on other feast days. This old lumber is tied together with ropes to form the framework, and in some cases is roofed over with "petates," or mats made of rushes, which are in the same weather beaten condition as the framework. Some are topped with old muslin or anything that will shut out the sun, and that is all that is required at this time of year, for it is the dry season.

A double row of booths is arranged facing each other with a cobblestone paved walk between. These are built about two sides of the plaza.

On the evening of the 15th this mushroom growth of booths is completed and filled with the articles peculiar to this season, which will be in such great demand on the following day.

On the morning of the 16th the vendors are offering their wares in the little passageway between the booths. Some are selling the favors for the "posadas," which are the "star of Bethlehem" for 5 cents, and again the holy family is offered for 12 cents. These rambling peddlers are able to underbid those in the booths, and they seem to vie with each other in their efforts to advertise their wares, which they do in the loudest voice and the noise is deafening at times. The streets near by are full of peddlers with their stock in trade spread upon the ground. These people sell the fruits, peanuts, sugar cane, gum moss and evergreens. The last two named articles are used for the decoration of houses and "patios."

Toward evening the trade becomes more brisk and many children are out with their family servants to select their "pinatas" and the sweets with which to fill them. When their purchases are made it is an amusing sight to see a "cargador" with a pole on his shoulder, suspended from which is sometimes seen a life sized bride equipped with veil and ornate blossoms, dangling from one end of the pole and from the other a vicious looking bull fighter.

There are booths filled with "confite," which is a poor quality of candy made in little balls, colored with all sorts of dyes. There are other booths where "colacion" is sold, which is also a cheap grade of candy but a trifle better than the first.

Here in other booths may be seen the "andas" which are used in the procession at the opening of each "posada." The "andas" are boards upon which are placed Joseph, Mary, an angel and

the mule. The figures vary in size and price, the cheaper ones, being made of clay and painted in the most gorgeous colors. The more expensive ones are made of wax and Joseph may be seen decked out in a red plush gown and the angel in a lustrous green satin one and wearing a red feather in his crown.

The most suspicious booths as well as the most interesting are those where the "pinatas" are sold. The pinata is a receptacle for sweets, usually made out of an "olla," or jar of clay. This forms the body of the figure for the "pinata." Sometimes it is in the form of a clown, or of a devil and the jar of sweets constitutes the body, which is surmounted by a paper-mache head, dangling a pair of cardboard legs and dressed in tissue paper. Some are old ladies, clowns, bicycle riders astride of a wheel constructed of barrel hoops.

But the bristly one should see the shy young creatures with their wealth of blushes and their filmy veils made entirely of tissue paper, cut and torn in such a fashion that it really is a fair representation of veiling. But it cannot hide those vermilion blushes. These figures are made by the poor people of the lower and middle classes and it is really interesting to see the ingenuity displayed. Some of them are really artistic and can be brought in all sizes and prices, from 6 cents to \$5 apiece and from 6 inches to 6 feet in height.

The "posadas" are emblematic of the journey of Joseph and Mary seeking lodgings in Bethlehem. They are given in the evening and often the same guests are invited for the whole series of nine entertainments, meeting each night at the same place. The guests arrive early, for the little folks must see it out.

The patio or courtyard is sometimes canvassed overhead and a canvas spread for dancing. The "patio" is decorated beautifully with flowers and blooming plants, for they bloom every year. The "posadas" open with a march in the house and "patio" are ablaze with light and a string band is stationed at one end of the patio.

The "posada" opens with a march in which old and young are expected to join. When the couples are lined up small wax candles of various colors are passed by the host and a servant follows with a lighted candle, from which each guest takes his light. When the candles are all lighted the "anda," with Joseph, Mary and the angel, is placed in the hands of the leaders. The music strikes up and all sing in concert about the "patio," through corridors and rooms. This is kept up until the candles are burnt low. Then a whistle is blown, a signal to extinguish lights and get ready for dancing.

The ladies are seated on one side of the patio and the gentlemen upon the other. The candles are disposed of and the gentlemen engage their partners. After each dance the ladies are seated on their side of the patio and wines are passed, while the gentlemen repair to a room set apart for wine and cigars. When they have all returned to the patio favors are passed, which are filled with candy. They are small blague figures made with an opening for sweets. Some are in the form of old shoes, plug hats, animal heads and other designs.

AGUNALDO MAY BE TRANSPORTED HERE.



It is believed that at an early date Aginaldo will be brought to this country and placed at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, where he will serve a sentence of two or three years. It is reported that this step will be taken on the recommendation of Gen. Chaffee, who believes his presence in the islands is responsible for the insurgents' recent activity. Treasonable correspondence and fomenting strife are the offenses with which Aginaldo is charged. The above are photographs of Aginaldo the military prisoner at Leavenworth where he will probably be put to work, and the warden of the prison.

About 10 p. m. the dancing is stopped for a time to break the "pinatas." The children are formed in line and the hostess ties up the eyes of each child in his turn, gives him a cane, leads him about the room in which the pinata is suspended from the ceiling. After turning him around several times and thus confusing him as much as possible he is told to break the "pinata" and he strikes furiously. Sometimes he is given three chances. The "pinata" meanwhile is raised and lowered by means of a cord and pulley, thus rendering it a difficult matter to break. By so doing the fun is prolonged and the figure torn to pieces by degrees. Some one is always lucky enough to break them and then the contents are precipitated to the floor. Then the scramble begins. All the children throw themselves upon the floor, endeavoring to cover as many of the "dulces" as possible, for all they can cover belong to them. When each one has gathered up his share the dancing begins once more and is kept up till the close of the evening. When there is a large company of young folks a number of "pinatas" are broken at intervals during the evening.

This is the program for each of the nights, beginning with the 15th and lasting until the day of the 24th, when

the program is varied, for this is the "noche buena," or the good night. On that night they have the grandest "pasada" of all and among the better class the grandest toilets are brought out for the occasion.

There is a "nacimientos" or nativity arranged for that night. Sometimes a corner of the parlor is used or a small room is devoted to the purpose. A table is draped and placed against the wall, pine boughs are nailed above and at either side of the table and these are decorated with grey moss, cotton and countless small candles are fastened to the branches, and there is always conspicuous among its branches a star of Bethlehem, which is made of a bright shining metal and having a long tail like a comet. Upon the table is placed Joseph, Mary, the angel and some cattle and the mule that bore them on their journey. There is sometimes a representation of a manger; in fact, there should be.

At the hour of 12 the march begins with a lady at the head bearing a tiny object rolled up in her "rebozo" or shawl. After a time she leads the way to the table prepared and taking the small object from her shawl lays it in the manger that is arranged upon the table.

It is the "Nino Dios" made of wax and entirely devoid of clothing and of the most brilliant rose color imaginable. There are numberless presents laid up on the table to represent the gifts of the wise men.

When the "Nino Dios" is presented to view countless tin whistles are blown to announce the birth of the Christ child. The festivities are kept up on that occasion later than on any night previous. After a sumptuous feast the guests seek their homes about 5 in the morning and thus closes the season of Mexican "posadas."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

A Night of Terror.
"Awful anxiety was felt for the widow of the brave General Burnham of Machias, Me., when the doctors said she would die from pneumonia before morning," writes Mrs. S. H. Lincoln, who attended her that fearful night, but she begged for Dr. King's New Discovery, which had more than once saved her life, and cured her of Consumption. After taking, she slept all night. Further use entirely cured her. This marvelous medicine is guaranteed to cure all Throat, Chest and Lung Disease. Only 50c, and \$1.00. Trial bottles free at Z. C. M. I. Drug Dept.

Chicagoans Can Now Telephone For a Nickel While They Wait.

Thousands of New Slot Instruments Are Being Installed And Leading Restaurants Are Placing One at Every Table.

Telephoning in Chicago is becoming a nickel-in-the-slot habit. Thousands of these instruments have been installed. Movable telephones are being installed in leading restaurants, with plugs beside every table, enabling customers to use the apparatus while eating their meals, says the New York Herald.

Six months ago Chicago had thirty thousand telephones. Today she has forty thousand, and within the next two years she will install instruments that will bring the total number of subscribers up to one hundred thousand. This is the way John I. Sahin, president of the Chicago Telephone company, tells the story of the enormous increase in the number of telephone subscribers. The demand, he says, has gone beyond the resources of the corporation. The

directors decided yesterday to issue \$2,000,000 additional stock in the coming year, making a total increase in twelve months of \$5,000,000.

Several thousand applications for service are now in the hands of the installation department, every branch of the working force has been increased more than twenty per cent and all canvassers have been taken out of the field.

One interesting feature has been the opening of what is practically a school for new operators. Of the ten thousand new subscribers secured during the last six months, nine thousand are persons who have never before used the telephone. The firms that have always been large users are demanding the installation of individual switchboards and internal service.

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of the most stubborn and distressing kind positively cured, permanently by NATURE'S DYSPEPSIA CURE, which is now recognized in medical circles as the only specific known. No matter how long you may have suffered you can find immediate relief if you will do what thousands of others have done—try this wonderful remedy. It is not a patent medicine. It is the prescription of one of the most famous physicians in the world, and has been doing good for the past ten years. A woman who writhed in agony for 25 years found perfect health through this marvelous medicine. Hundreds of men and women who were painfully troubled for from 10 to 20 years have been cured. Ordinary cases of dyspepsia—of from one month to a year's duration—cured with one bottle. If you have a sore spot in the pit of the stomach, if you are subject to vomiting, severe pains, heartburn, bloating, reproduction of food in the mouth, a distressed heavy and aching feeling before eating, or after eating, or if your tongue is coated, or if you are subject to dizziness, or sour breath, or any of the other symptoms of dyspepsia, and you desire permanent relief, there is nothing but NATURE'S DYSPEPSIA CURE that will give it to you. Beware of so-called remedies that only afford temporary help. \$1.00 a bottle, 6 bottles for \$5.00, express prepaid, at F. C. Schramm, Bruhl & Frank, and Hill's Drug Store, or Fennell & Son, Portland, Oregon, or 30 Broadway, New York.

Many Things For Christmas.

More like a Christmas store just now. So many handsome things here that would make nice presents. Some little articles that's in daily use. Makes gift giving more pleasurable. Makes gift receiving more pleasurable. New lots of ebony back toilet articles just in. Some hair brushes at 75 cents that are wonders. Some more hair brushes. Hat brushes, Nail brushes, Cloth brushes, Combs, Mirrors, Baby sets. Then there are sterling silver toilet articles. Perfume atomizers, perfumes.

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