

Zeitschrift: The Swiss observer : the journal of the Federation of Swiss Societies in the UK
Herausgeber: Federation of Swiss Societies in the United Kingdom
Band: - (1933)
Heft: 634

Artikel: Christmas thoughts
Autor: [s.n.]
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-695154>

Nutzungsbedingungen

Die ETH-Bibliothek ist die Anbieterin der digitalisierten Zeitschriften. Sie besitzt keine Urheberrechte an den Zeitschriften und ist nicht verantwortlich für deren Inhalte. Die Rechte liegen in der Regel bei den Herausgebern beziehungsweise den externen Rechteinhabern. [Siehe Rechtliche Hinweise.](#)

Conditions d'utilisation

L'ETH Library est le fournisseur des revues numérisées. Elle ne détient aucun droit d'auteur sur les revues et n'est pas responsable de leur contenu. En règle générale, les droits sont détenus par les éditeurs ou les détenteurs de droits externes. [Voir Informations légales.](#)

Terms of use

The ETH Library is the provider of the digitised journals. It does not own any copyrights to the journals and is not responsible for their content. The rights usually lie with the publishers or the external rights holders. [See Legal notice.](#)

Download PDF: 18.03.2025

ETH-Bibliothek Zürich, E-Periodica, <https://www.e-periodica.ch>

CHRISTMAS THOUGHTS.

Once again Christmas is close at hand and to numerous hearts it will bring a brief season of happiness and enjoyment. How many families, whose members have been dispersed and scattered far and wide, in the restless struggles of life, will be reunited and meet once again in that happy state of companionship and mutual good-will!

The passing year has alas, to many of our compatriots been a trying one, the cares and sorrows of the world have laid heavily on many shoulders, and many of the hearts that throbbled so gaily twelve months ago, have ceased to beat, many of the looks that shone so brightly then, have ceased to glow, the hands we grasped have grown cold, the eyes we sought have hidden their lustre in the grave. How many old recollections, and how many dormant sympathies, does Christmas time awaken!

Happy Christmas that can win us back to the delusion of our childhood days, that can transport our thoughts, hundreds of miles away, back to our dear ones, back to the land of our birth.

God grant, that the coming year will be for all of us a year blessed with peace amongst all nations, a year of striving to lessen the hardships under which a tired world is labouring. May the silver lining for which we so often have gazed heavenwards, appear and shed its light over the darkness in which we have tumbled during the last few months. Let courage and an unflinching determination to win through in spite of heavy odds be our Motto for 1934.

In the towns, villages and hamlets of our homeland, the bells will ring on Christmas day, spreading the glad message of goodwill amongst mankind; their sound will pierce the Alps and ride on the ocean waves and will bring to everyone of us the greetings of our country. Let us spread this inspired message, coupled with the best wishes for the land of our adoption which has accorded to us a generous hospitality, and to many of us a second home.

ST.

ck. CORNER.

Good evening, folks. I was just sitting quietly and innocently in my room last Friday night when the mail arrived and I found a letter from the Editor asking me for another of my "famous" articles. Famous. Famous. I nearly burst out shrieking in Kyburgian Kapitals. Why, not so long ago I casually said something about one of my recent articles and I was met with a stony stare. The poor fish had never even noticed it was in the paper. And after that, the Editor thinks I can turn out stuff, columns of it, just like Kyburg or ST.

I was very tempted to send a contribution to the recent correspondence between Kyburg and a Regular Reader, but this would never do, because if ck started to criticise Kb., Kb. would probably retaliate on ck and this is not done in the best journalistic circles and, of course, a paper with the reputation of the S.O. must keep up with the best traditions of the profession. Not that I agree with either of them. But I do think it is extraordinary that out of the thousands of other Regular Readers of this paper, not one thought it worth while to express his opinion and goodness knows, both of them gave you sufficient openings. And then you complain that the S.O. is dull instead of collaborating to make it a nice, bright, snappy little paper with lots of uplift and inspiring correspondence.

However, the Editor tells me that some of you liked my poem about the Swiss Banquet and as, of course, it was only a parody, I thought I would tell you something about the author and some of the other poems he wrote. Charles G. Leland was an American who wrote a number of poems in the middle part of last century which were afterwards collected in book form with the title "The Breitmann Ballads." The hero of most of the poems is Hans Breitmann a mythical German-American and the subject matter often refers to events which took place in the sixties and the seventies so that many of the ballads are distinctly dated.

Most of the poems are written in an amusing mixture of German and English, but some, for instance about Breitmann's adventures in Paris are written in a mixture of German-English and French and one dealing with his adventures in Rome is in Latin-English-German-Italian. One pleasing little ballad tells how "Der noble Ritter Hugo von Schwillensaufenstein rode out mit shper and helmet, und he coom to the banks of de Rhine." And there he met a mermaid, though I think it should be Rheinnmaid, who endeavours to entice him down under the river "You'd petter coom down in de wasser, Where dere's heaps of dings to see, und hafe a shplendid dinner und dravel along mit me" and she describes to him the treasures he will find "Dere ish trunks all full mit money in ships dat vent down of old; und you

helpsh yourself, by dunder, to shimmering crowns of gold. Vot you vantsh mit your schnapps und lager? coom down into the Rhine, Der ish pottles der Kaiser Charlemagne vonce mit gold-red wine!" And then she pulled the poor sap down and he was drowned. Moral. Do not listen to strange wasser maidens on the banks of rivers.

To me, the Breitmann ballads have ever been a joy and I treasure them together with the Ingoldsby legends and the tales of a thousand Nights and one Night, and therefore I am going to introduce you to one of the most amusing which deals with the adventures of a certain Mr. C. Hagelstein with an American Insurance Company.

Ich bin ein Deutscher, und mein name is Cobus Hagelstein, I coom from Cincinnati, and I life peyond der Rhein; Und I tells you all a shdory dot makes me mad ash blitz, Pout how a Yankee gompany was shvindle me to fits.

I heard apout dis gompany, und vished to see dot same, Das Lebensfeuernversicherungsgesellschaft vos ids name; Dot is de name in Sherman — in English it will say Dot it insures your life mit fire, ven you de money pay.

Now, I had a liddle house-line where I life so shtill ash mice, Und yoost drei tausand dollar vos dot little pilding's price; I vos always yoost so happy ash ein Kaiser in de land Dill at last I kit in trouble, for mein haus vos abgebrannt.

Den I goes undo dot gompany und dells em right afay (Das Lebensfeuernversicherungsgesellschaft), und I say, "At last de youngest day is coom for you to plank de cash, And you moost pay me monies, for mein haus is purned to ash."

Den de segredary answered, "All dis is fery drue, Boot you know ve have de option to pild your house anew; Dere ist a lot of beoples vot burns deir hauser down, Den coom to kit de money back all over in de town."

I look indo de bapers und I find it ash he say, Das Lebensfeuernversicherungsgesellschaft need not bay; So I dells em all to go aheth und pild anoder ahdre, Und dey make me von in Yankee shtyle more petter ash pefore.

With Best
Compliments of the Season
to our Patrons

Solve the Problem
of Xmas Presents
with a case of

Patzenhofer
Finest Pilsener or Munich
LAGER BEER

Please order now to ensure
delivery before the holidays

An attractive Lager Beer Stein
will be presented with every
case ordered before Christmas



Sole Agents for U.K. and Export:
JOHN C. NUSSLE & CO. LTD.
8, Cross Lane, London, E.C.3.
Telephone: ROYAL 8934 (2 lines)

W. WETTER
Wine Importer.
67, GRAFTON STREET, FITZROY SQ., W.1

BOTTLED IN SWITZERLAND.

Clos du Mont Valais	Per Doz. 24/2	Dezaley	Per Doz. 56/-
Fendant	52/- 58/-	Johannisberg de Sion	54/-
White Neuchâtel	50/- 58/-	Dôle Red Valais de	
Red Neuchâtel	54/-	Sion	58/-

—As Supplied to Whipnade Zoo—
Nett Cash. Carriage paid for London.
COUNTRY ORDERS MUST BE PREPAID.
ALL ORDERS EXECUTED IMMEDIATELY

WHEN IN LONDON
STAY AT
The GLENDOWER HOTEL
Glendower Place,
South Kensington, London, S.W. 7

One minute from South Kensington Station, Ten minutes from the West End.

Telephones: KENSINGTON 4462-3-4
Telegrams: "Glendotel Southkens" London

100 ROOMS. RUNNING HOT & COLD WATER IN ALL THE ROOMS
ENGLISH AND CONTINENTAL CUISINE
Under the personal supervision of the Proprietor, A SCHMID.