

## **The English Christmas Numbers**

*The Illustrated London News* has on its Christmas cover the usual little flaxen-haired girl in red standing in the snow, with a spray of holly and mistletoe over her shoulder, and within its covers more pictures of ice and snow and mistletoe, and an apparition of Santa Claus, as we would call him, or Father Christmas as he is known in England, to a flock of black-faced sheep, their shepherd and his dog. The leading story is "The Great North Road," by the late Robert Louis Stevenson, which is followed by "The Luck of the Susan Bell," by Sir Walter Besant. The extra plates are a print in colors of "The Young Briton," being taught how to draw his sword by an old pensioner in scarlet, after a painting by Arthur J. Elsley; and a grisaille of a girl with a puppy, "Playfellows," after a drawing by Luke Fildes.

*The Art Annual* for 1895, which is the Christmas number of *The Art Journal*, is devoted to the work of Luke Fildes, one of the foremost of living illustrators and a clever artist in water-colors. The frontispiece is an effective etching, by Léon Salles, of Mr. Fildes's painting of "The Doctor"; and other full-page plates are an excellent line engraving, by C. Cousen, of "The Sweet River," with lovers in a boat gathering water-lilies, and a photogravure of "An Al Fresco Toilette" of Italian girls under a grape arbor. There are many other illustrations from sketches and drawings by the artist, and the text includes a readable account of his early experiences and a critical appreciation of his work as an illustrator.

The English edition of the Christmas number of the *Figaro Illustré* has a careful translation of Alphonse Daudet's charming story, "The Lighthouse on the Sanguinaires," with clever illustrations in colors showing the versatile author hobnobbing with his sailor friends. "A Christmas at Sea," by René de Pont-Jest, "The Fairy Surprise," by Gyp, and "Azrael," by Armand Silvestre, are also illustrated in colors, the fanciful designs to the last-mentioned story being by Albert Lynch. These color impressions are distinguished for harmony and delicacy of tone. A poem by Paul Bourget, "Nuits d'Été," set to music by Ch. Widor, is set, moreover, in an effective frame of landscape in grisaille, by Jules Adeline. Two large typogravures in colors, after paintings by Alonzo Perez and M. Outin, have for subjects travelling scenes of the end of the last century or the beginning of the present.

The cover of *The Graphic's* Christmas number is brilliant with snow, turkey gobblers and a young woman in red who is feeding them. Within is an East Indian tale, "Shuf'rât," from the brilliant pen of Mrs. Flora Annie Steel, with an excellent illustration in colors by W. Hatherell. The customary piece of mediæval foolery is a tale in verse of "The Outlandish Knight" and the mermaids, illustrated by W. Rallston. Rudyard Kipling's story, "The Devil and the Deep Sea," is illustrated by Frank Brangwyn, and Mr. I. Zangwill's "Joseph the Dreamer," by Solomon J. Solomon. These prints in colors show a marked improvement over those of previous years. The supplement includes a good colored engraving of Sir Joshua Reynolds's celebrated portrait of Georgiana, Duchess of Devonshire, and her baby, and one of Miss Mary L. Gow's painting of Queen Victoria receiving Lord Conyngham and the Archbishop of Canterbury.

*Pears' Pictorial* is devoted to a fancy for Christmas time, "The Haunted Man," illustrated with half-tone engravings after drawings by Charles Green, R. I. The "colored supplement" consists of large engravings in colors of "The Long Bill," a pictorial rebus in which the long bill of a stuffed stork directs attention to another long bill which its owner is perusing; "Suspense" of appetite on the part of dog and girl while the latter is saying grace, from "the last picture painted by the late celebrated C. Burton Barber"; and "Flowers of the East," human and other, together with fans and decorated crockery, after a decorative painting by W. S. Coleman.

*The Lady's Pictorial* has a cover like the panel of a last-century sleigh, with a picture of a pretty girl in furs leaving a crowd of skaters. Marie Corelli's "Three Wise Men of Gotham" and how they took to one boat with three unwise maidens is cleverly illustrated by Fred. Pegram. "The Disenchantment of Diana" with her poet Astel Verlaine is recounted by Ella Hepworth Dixon and pictured by Maurice Greiffenhagen; and there are a ghost story by Rhoda Broughton, a funny tale of "Mr. Welbeck's Experiences," by Mrs. W. K. Clifford, and a legend of "The Queen of Ruatava," by Clio Graves. The colored extra plate is from a painting by N. Sichel, representing a handsome girl robed in dark red and seated on a marble throne, who is indulging in "Day Dreams." (International News Co.)