

HALLOWE'EN

The witch cat wears its mystic ring,
The black cat spreads its gruesome
wing.
Hobgoblins weirdly chant and sing
On Hallowe'en!

Come, help us break enchantment's
spell,
Down by the fairies' wishing well,
Where elves our good-luck fortunes tell
On Hallowe'en!

There is perhaps no other night in the year which the popular imagination has stamped with a more peculiar character than the evening of the 31st of October, known as All Hallows Eve, or Hallowe'en. It is clearly a relic of pagan times, for there is nothing in the church observance of the following day of "All Saints" to have originated such extraordinary notions as are connected with this celebrated festival, or such remarkable practices as those by which it is distinguished.

The leading idea of Hallowe'en is that it is the time, of all others, when supernatural influences prevail. It is the night set apart for a universal walking abroad of spirits, both of the visible and invisible world.

It is thought to be a night when devils, witches and other mischief-making beings are all abroad on their fanciful midnight errands. Even the fairies are said to hold high carnival on this mystic evening.

First, there is the oracle of the nuts; a number of nuts are named for lovers and put upon a bed of coals. If a nut jumps, the lover will prove unfaithful. If a nut blazes and burns, he surely loves the girl who named the nut. If both nuts named for a maid and her lover burn together, they will be married. Nuts seem to have been used very early for purposes of divination. The Roman boys used them for their sports; and in marriage ceremonies among the Romans the bridegroom threw nuts about the room for the boys to scramble for.

An old Scotch method of seeing future things is to pull a cabbage, blind-folded. The amount of earth clinging to its root showed the amount of her dowry, the shape and size indicated the appearance and height of the future husband, while the flavor of the heart and stem signified his disposition. In the old Scottish Hallowe'en game each took home the stalk and laid it behind the outer door, and the first person to

enter next morning was to be the future husband.

Eating an Apple Before a Mirror

An appropriate Hallowe'en method of inducing visions directs a young lady to eat an apple while standing before a mirror combing her hair. The future husband will look into the glass over her shoulder. To be effectual, this must be done at midnight.

Bobbing For Apples

Bobbing for apples is a stunt so old that no one seems able to tell its origin. Nevertheless, no Hallowe'en party is complete without it. Fill a small tub with water, put in eight or ten apples, first having inserted in one of them a ring, in another a thimble, in a third a coin, and in one a button. Thus will the tale of four persons be decided on the spot.