

or no effect in checking the license of the festival. This continued through the whole Christmas season and sometimes lasted till *the day of Epiphany* (January 6)" (page 65, emphasis ours).

In order to escape religious bigotry, oppression and persecution, many were forced to escape England and settle in the New World.

Francis X. Weiser comments: "In the colonies of New England, however, the unfortunate and misdirected zeal of the Puritans against Christmas persisted far into the nineteenth century. . . ." (*Handbook of Christian Feasts and Customs*, page 65.)

Then how did Christmas become the biggest, most expensive holiday in the world?

Again Weiser puts his finger on the source of Christmas customs in the New World when he writes, "It was not until immigrants from Ireland and from continental Europe arrived in large numbers toward the middle of the last century that Christmas in America began to flourish. The Germans brought the Christmas tree" (page 67).

It was the Roman Catholics of southern Ireland and German Protestants and Catholics who finally overbalanced the Puritan objection to Christmas and New Year's observance.

The Puritans were not the only group to recognize Christmas as BAPTIZED PAGANISM!

Today, professing Christians openly acknowledge the pagan origin of these seasonal festivals. See any Encyclopedia, article "Christmas." Most think IT DOESN'T MAKE ANY DIFFERENCE where Xmas or New Year's came from.

Don't YOU make that mistake!

Write immediately for our free booklet, *The PLAIN TRUTH About Christmas!* and the free article, "The Truth About NEW YEAR'S!" for more information (see inside front cover for addresses).

● Is it true that many American colonists refused to keep Christmas and New Year's Day because both were derived from paganism?

D. H.

Not only did most American colonists reject the pagan customs of observing Christmas and New Year's, but so did the KING OF ENGLAND!

Here are the facts of history!

During the 16th century Henry VIII of England abolished the observance of Christmas with its attendant revelry. In 1542, the licentious customs of paganism were still firmly welded to December 25. After criticism from his counsellors over the disorders during the Christmas season, Henry proscribed the festival for TWELVE YEARS! It was restored in 1554, after Mary Queen of Scots—a zealous Roman Catholic—took control.

In his authoritative book, *Survivals of Roman Religion*, Gordon Laing reports, "Apparently the compromise made by the early Church in adapting the customs of Saturnalia [Roman solar festival] to Christian practice had little