



Turkey

NEXT THURSDAY is Thanksgiving Day, the one feast-day that is found in the calendars of all American churches regardless of creed, and the one feast-day that is exclusively American.

The gastronomic features of the day, not less than the religious, are decidedly American also. Thanksgiving Day means "turkey and fixin's" in the typical American household, and the feast could easily be set forth with an all-American menu: turkey, white potatoes, sweet potatoes, corn-bread, tomatoes, Lima beans, cranberries, pumpkin pie. If one were willing to forego coffee, which comes from the Red Sea region, American chocolate could very well take its place.

The center of the table, of course, is held by the turkey, a noble bird whether you regard him as he struts at the head of his flock in all the bravery of his plumage, or browned and garnished on a platter. Why he has had to bear the name of an alien Oriental nation nobody has ever been able to explain satisfactorily.

The beautiful bronze turkeys that furnish the biggest specimens for the family festivities were domesticated before white men came to America. Cortez found them in the markets of Mexico, and showed that he was a gourmet as well as freebooter; for turkeys soon found their way to Spain and thence all over Europe, finally being re-introduced into American domestication in the English-speaking colonies, which had, however, already made the acquaintance of the smaller native wild turkey of their own forests.

So popular was the turkey with early Americans that Benjamin Franklin advocated placing it on the national coat of arms instead of the eagle, and there are still those among us who believe that his counsel should have prevailed.

Science News Letter, November 21, 1931

Here's how you can give two likeable **\$3.50** Christmas Gifts

A \$5.00 gift at this reasonable \$3.50 price--if you fill out two of the gift spaces below with names of your friends, you may have the two Science News Letter Subscriptions at \$3.50 each, instead of \$5 each.

A good way to solve two Christmas Gift problems at one time, and save a little money as well.

-----COUPON-----

To SCIENCE NEWS LETTER
21st and Constitution Avenue,
Washington, D. C.

Please enter for 1 year 2 years the following subscriptions to SCIENCE NEWS LETTER and bill me:

GIFT TO	GIFT TO
Name.....	Name.....
Street	Street
Address.....	Address.....
City and	City and
State.....	State.....
GIFT TO	My Name and Address—Send Bill to:
Name.....	My Name.....
Street	Street
Address.....	Address.....
City and	City and
State.....	State.....

Prices: 1 year, \$5.00; 2 years, \$7.00

12080

Two or more one year subscriptions, \$3.50 each

No extra charge for postage to anywhere in the world

