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"MEN OF STRAW"

ANCIENT MOUNTAIN CUSTOM.

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Picture.:-

Christmas is celebrated in various ways in various parts of the world, and in the mountains of Bavaria it is done this way. Before the advent of Santa Claus, or St. Nicholas, as he is called here, men of straw run through the mountain hamlets to meet him. I can't give the slightest reason why they should, but there you are, they do.

The masks give them a very distinguished appearance, but are removed before suffocation sets in. If bits of straw get down their throats, it's almost impossible to scratch. Perhaps that's what makes them run and dance. The appearance of St, Nicholas is most welcome, because the "straw men" can then de-straw themselves.