

HALLOW-E'EN PLEASURES

A FROLIC FOR THE EVENING WHEN THE
SPELL OF THE FUTURE ABOUNDS



THE following suggestions for an American Hallow-E'en reproduces many features of a delightful party given by a young farmer and his wife among the Doneglan Glens of Ireland:

Over every door of the house and rooms apple parings hang, and beside each a maiden watches eagerly the lad whom the fairies have chosen to pass under it first. Meanwhile she sits busily cutting out letters of the alphabet, which later are to be set sailing in basins of water. With inflated cheeks she is to blow the letters into line so they shall spell the charmed name of her dearest friend.

Groups of lads duck their heads deep into buckets of water to bring out with their teeth small coins scattered over the bottom of the tub.

Others still test apple charms—first peeling the apple, then winding the peel about the head three times the while "wishing a wish," and throwing the peel backward over the left shoulder. The initial letter it forms begins the name of the future sweetheart. Then the apple must be eaten and the seeds stuck upon the palm of the hand. These are named for as many different friends, then tossed over the left shoulder—the one remaining is the true heart chosen by fairies.

Again, salt herring (in Ireland they must have been playfully stolen) are broiled without turning, eaten with hot tongs, then "dreamed on" without drink. The dreams, supposed to be ruled over by fairy folk, are "sure to come true." Then bannocks are fried upon a griddle by the lads, and whoever turns one without breaking it will some day win the maiden who mixed the batter. Hazelnuts are burned and their ashes carefully done up in packages. These are hidden under the pillow to ensure happy dreams.

Then corn popping, molasses boiling and chestnut roasting goes on. Sometimes but two kernels of corn are put in the skillet and over it two friends bend to take note of their future fortune. If the two kernels pop decorously inside the skillet, they are to remain friends forever. If one kernel pops outside the skillet the one toward whom it pops will be the breaker of that friendship. If both go outside the separation will be mutual.

Dancing led by rollicking music goes on until midnight. Then under a special spell the fairy folk reveal by signs, well understood among these superstitious people, their fortunes for the coming year.