

THE DAILY EXAMINER.

DECEMBER 24, 1888.

The Children's Festival.

CHRISTMAS is getting more and more to be the Children's Festival. It is the children who look forward with such pleased expectation to the happy time. It is for them a time of receiving, and with receiving and possessing all their young ideas of things are connected. It is the child's nature to want, and Christmas is the magic season when the doors of forbidding Fate stand open, and there are messages from fairy land. Perhaps, as we grow to be men and women, and cease to hang up our stockings for our lover of good things, we cannot bid away the sense of sadness that comes to fill the place of departing hope. If it were only the loss of the annual stockingful, the mischief would not be serious. But Christmas is not now the time of expectation that it was; we cease to be placing our happiness in mere getting and possessing; but we turn to the young and hopeful, and live over the Christmas joy in their delight.

And a delight it is to see the children happy. His Christmas gifts are the child's tools of trade. He does not know that he is playing soldier—he is a soldier. It is a world all peopled and alive he lives in. Not to pass the time does he beat the drum or build the castle of blocks; but to satisfy his young passion for doing. What imaginations children have! And each Christmas time brings a new store of equipments to planne their flight again. But the world gets prosaic to the children of a larger growth, as all overgrown children look prosaic. It is a scene of worry and strife, of competition and over-reaching, of struggle with sickness and hard conditions, and the zest of victorious youth gives way to the sober activities and the patience of manhood. It is hard sometimes to believe that this is, indeed, the same world that once throbb'd to the great hope of the promise of the first Christmas Day. Yet though our day be not cloudless, we scarce know from what a night of darkness our race has already emerged; and the sun is yet mounting. It is for us to learn to spread what happiness we can; to keep childhood bright; to cherish the altar-fires of home; and in our dealings with the sterner world to aim for the reign of peace among men of good will.

Christmas is a reminder of the larger race-family, of the kinship of all human interests, of the dim and flitting truth that by recognizing and drawing closer these human ties of kinship is our own life made stronger and fuller.

To all our patrons we wish A HAPPY CHRISTMAS.

The merchants of Charlottetown are greatly annoyed on account of the report that the Stanley is now to be taken from this route. The harbor is open, the weather soft, higher temperature is among the probabilities and large quantities of freight have been collected here. Why take the steamer away! This is a question upon which the Charlottetown Board of Trade should speak at once.

For Teachers—A Good Exercise

The use of character for reputation, learn for teach, stop for stay, spare for give, and other similar errors should be guarded against. Ask your advanced pupils to distinguish the difference in meaning of the words in each of the following groups. Allow them to use their dictionaries:

- 1. Catch, seize, snatch.
2. Retain, obtain, attain.
3. Postscript, appendix, supplement.
4. Relate, narrate, rehearse.
5. Kind, benevolent, gracious.
6. Restrain, hinder, impede.
7. Answer, respond, reply.
8. Theft, larceny, embezzlement.
9. Wages, salary, income.
10. Military, infantry, cavalry.
11. Impel, propel, repel.
12. Expel, dispel, compel.

WANTS TO BE PRESIDENT.

The New York World's Paris correspondent sends that paper a three-column interview with Gen. Boulanger, which the World sums up as follows: The General frankly admits he would like to be president of France and is confident that he will be some day. He denies that he is plotting war or a coup d'etat. He says there is corruption in the Chamber of Deputies and trouble in the Senate; the former he would dissolve and the latter abolish. Half of France, he says, is at his back in the movement to revise the French constitution. General Sheridan was his ideal of cavalry general. He also speaks enthusiastically of Generals Sherman and McDowell and other memories of his trip to the United States in 1881.

Two new discoveries which are likely to have an important influence in cheapening telegraphy are reported. One is the invention of a South American electrician, and is an instrument with which messages may be sent without the aid of batteries. Some experiments made by experts appointed by the Government have resulted in a very satisfactory manner. Another is the result of the labor of an ingenious Washington inventor, and it is claimed, will make it cheap to telegraph messages than to write them. It is a system by which the letters of an ordinary English alphabet are reduced to ten elementary characters written by an instrument resembling a type writer. It is reported that a test of the new apparatus held in New York the other day sent in twenty-five seconds. The invention will greatly facilitate the work of sending of long messages and correspondingly increase the capacity of the wires for doing business.

IN THE TOOLS.—W. F. Callaghan, of Summerside, one of the canvassers in the employ of the Frederic's Publishing Company, has been arrested and placed in jail at the Company, on a charge of forging names to orders for their Directory.

[WRITTEN FOR THE EXAMINER.]

Christmas.

This is the time of Heavenly Charity. Will not proud man forget, for a brief while, Soul-maddening spite, and doff the scornful smile, And learn kind brotherhood? Better to be A ravening brute, crouched for brute-enemy, And sated but with blood, than so doleful The image within, nursing on craft and guile A heart faint for deep draughts of sympathy.

For this is Heaven's order; who bend low To uplift pale want, them-lives are lifted up; Who mete out blessing, with full generous cup Their bosoms richer measure shall o'erflow; Who helpful follow where the Master trod, Shall breathe the Love's air, which is the breath of God.

[WRITTEN FOR THE EXAMINER.]

A Christmas Memory.

BY MRS. A. D. MACLEOD.

Hail Christmas! beacon ever bright, Athwart the way-worn years; Full lusted of celestial light, Thy white-robed awn appears. Best season when our much-loved band Around one altar meet; When voices from the spirit land Our longlag spirits greet.

In tender memories arise Sunlit, the days of old, When roseate vistas oped the skies, And streaked earth's grey with gold. Beneath a lofty castle dome Three fair young dreamers smile; And fraught of love, the light of home The flitting hours beguile.

They wander by the river side, They call the sweet wild flowers; Glad joy flows like the rippling tide Through all the sunny hours. They climb the purple mountain crest, They list the curlew call;— Ah, me! gay life, then quiet rest, Earth's shadows, darkness-pall.

Yet, lo! a brighter vision breaks;— The beacons but I see, Where glow-dawn in gladness wakes, Where all the rans-mud be. High-seated in Immanuel's land, Yond shadow of the tomb; Safe-nurled 'neath a Father's hand Immortal youth doth bloom.

Oh, happy, happy hearted! Who tread the golden floor; Oh, sinless, early parted! Who live to die no more. Oh, home where nought can sever! Where life is life for aye; Where through the bright forever No night shall veil the day. Within the grand orchestral throng They harp with crowned brow; While sadness mingles in our song, We at His footstool bow. Hail Christmas! light to weary eyes, Light thou the years along; Till, in one home in Paradise, We sing our Christmas song.

Varia

"With gentle deeds and loving thoughts, And loving words wistful, Welcome the merry Christmas in And hear a mother's call."

It is hard to write or say anything new about Christmas. It comes to us year after year bringing with it joy and gladness, and often reconciliation to severed friends. Good nature and Christian charity prevail more than at any other season; but, alas, I fear there are many who hold the sentiments expressed in the verse I have just quoted, but who allow this happy season to pass without doing all that they can to make others happy. In northern Russia a very pretty custom is observed. On Easter Day every Russian church considers it his duty before attending church to seek out every person with whom he may have quarrelled during the year and renew the interrupted friendship. I have often thought it a pity some such custom does not prevail in our country. There is nothing lost by being as gentle and forgiving as little children, if only once a year. Charles Dickens has said, very prettily: "It is good to be children sometimes, and never better than at Christmas, when its mighty Founder was a child Himself." And to any one familiar with his Christmas stories it is evident that this was the spirit which animated the charming novelist, as he wrote them. To many people—to all, I wish I could say—the season is one of happiness. For nearly nineteen hundred years the Festival has come and gone, and still, for Christian people, it loses none of its joy and beauty. The reason, I think, is not hard to find. It is as Adelaide Proctor truly says:

"The star that shines in Bethlehem Shines still and shall not cease; And we listen still to the tidings Of glory and of peace."

After all I know of no better or more graphic description of the festivities of Christmas Eve than that by Sir Walter Scott: "On Christmas Eve the bells were rung; On Christmas Eve the Mass was sung; That only night, in all the year, Saw the staid priest the chalice rear. The laisel domed her kirtle sheen; The hall was dressed with holly green. Forth to the wood did merry men go To gather in the mistletoe, Then opened wide the baron's hall To vassa, tenant, serf and all. Power laid his rod of rule aside And ceremony doffed his pride. The heir, with roses in his shoes, That night might village partner choose. An halloo'd with unscented delight, And general voice the happy night. That to the cottage as the crow, Brought tidings of salvation down! The fire, with well dried logs supplied, Went roaring up the chimney wide; The huge hall-table's oaken face, Scrambled till it shone, the day to grace. Bore then upon its massive board No mark to part the squire a d Lord. Then was brought in the lusty brown, By old bus-goad'd servant many. Then the gin-bar's head frowned on high, Crested with bays and rosemary. Well on the green-garbed ranger fell, How, when and where the monster fell; What dogs before his death he tore, And all the baiting of the boar. The wassail round in good brown bowls, Garnished with ribbons blithely trowls. There the huge stilton reeked; hard by Plung porridge stood, and Christ was pye; Nor failed old Scotland to produce, At such high tide her savoury goose. Then came the merry masquers in And carols roared with blithesome din; If unmelodious was the song, It was a hearty note and strong, Who lists may in their maiming see Traits of ancient mystery; White shirts supplied the masquerade,

And smutted cheeks the visors made; But, oh! what masquers richly dight, Can boast of bosoms half so light! England was merry England, when Ol' Christmas brought his sports again. 'Twas Christmas broached the mightiest ale, 'Twas Christmas told the merriest tale; A Christmas gambol oft could cheer The poor man's heart through half the year."

In England during the Commonwealth, determined attempts were several times made by the Puritans to suppress not only the observance of Christmas Day, but the innocent sports which accompanied it. I find that in the year 1647 the Cromwell party ordered throughout the principal towns and cities of the country, by the common order, that Christmas Day should be no longer observed—it being a superstitious and hurtful custom—and in place thereof, to work a change, markets should be held on the 25th day of December. The Holly and the Mistletoe were to be cut up root and branch as plants of the evil one. Cakes and ale were held to be impious libations to superstition; and the Roundheads would have none of it. This was attacking the people in their most sensitive part, but the existing records of those days bear ample testimony to the fact that the bereavement was not quietly submitted to, the country folks especially resenting and opposing it.

One favorite English Christmas sport, very generally played on Christmas Eve, has been handed down from time immemorial under the name of Snap Dragon. This amusement, I imagine, is more familiar to English than to Canadian boys, for I cannot learn that it has been adopted here. But to those who have brought with them recollections of Christmas in Old England, it is perfectly familiar. A quantity of raisins are deposited in a large dish or bowl (the broader and shallower the better), and brandy or some other spirit is poured over the fruit and ignited. The bystanders now endeavor, by turns, to grasp a raisin by plunging their hands through the flames; and as this is somewhat of an arduous feat, requiring both courage and rapidity of action, a considerable amount of laughter and merriment is evoked at the expense of the unsuccessfull competitors. As an appropriate accompaniment I introduce here

THE SONG OF SNAPDRAGON.

Here he comes with flaming bow! Don't he mean to take his toll! Snip! Snap! Dragon.

Take care you don't take too much, Be not greedy in your clutch. Snip! Snap! Dragon.

With his blue and lapping tongue Many of you will be stung. Snip! Snap! Dragon.

For he snaps at all that comes, Snatching at his feast of plums. Snip! Snap! Dragon.

But old Christmas makes him come, Though he looks so fee! fa! fum! Snip! Snap! Dragon.

Don't 'ee fear him, be but bold— Out he goes, his flames are cold. Snip! Snap! Dragon.

While the sport of snap-dragon is going on it is usual to extinguish all the lights in the room, so that the lurid glare from the flaming spirits may exercise to the full its weird-like effect. There seems little doubt that in this amusement we retain a trace of the fiery ordeal of the middle ages, and also of the Druidical fire worship of a still remoter epoch.

The Lord of Misrule also played an important part in the festivities of Christmas in the old time. His duties were to lead and direct the multifarious revels of the season or, as it would be expressed in the present day, to act as Master of the Ceremonies. The following account of him is given by Stow: "On the feast of Christmas there was in the King's house, where-ever he lodged, a Lord of Misrule, or Master of Merry Disports, and the like had ye in the house of every nobleman of honor or good worship, were he spiritual or temporal. The Mayor of London, and either of the Sheriffs had their several Lords of Misrule, ever contending without quarrel or offence who should make the rarest pastime to delight the beholders. These Lords began their rule at Christmas Eve, continued the same till the morrow of Candlemas Day, in which space there were, fine and subtle disguising, masks and hammeries, with playing at cards for counters, nayles and points, in every house, more for pastimes than for game." In the University of Cambridge the functions of the Lord of Misrule were performed by one of the Masters of Arts, who was regularly elected to superintend the annual representation of Latin plays by the students, besides taking a general charge of their games and diversions during the Christmas season, and was styled the Imperator or Prefectus Ludorum. A similar Master of Revels was chosen at Oxford.

But it seems to have been among the lawyers at the Inns of Court in London that the Lord of Misrule reigned with the greatest splendour, being surrounded with a parade and ceremony of royalty, having his lord-keeper and treasurer, his guard of honor, and his two chaplains, who preached before him on Sunday in the Temple Church. On Twelfth Day he abdicated his sovereignty, and we are informed that in the year 1635 this mock representative of Royalty expended in the exercise of his office £2,000 from his own purse, and, at the conclusion of his reign was knighted by Charles I at Whitehall. A favorite mode of his Lordship to enter the duties of his office was by explaining to the company that he absolved them from all their wisdom, and that they were to be just wise enough to make fools of themselves. No one was to sit apart in pride or self-sufficiency to laugh at others. In the pantomime of the present day we see in the mischievous pranks of the clown who parodies all the ordinary occupations of serious life, a reproduction under a modern form of the extravagance of the Lord of Misrule.

The last memorable act of a Lord of Misrule occurred in 1627. The Lord of Misrule and his followers on Twelfth-night sallied forth from the Inns of Court to tax the people of that neighborhood five shillings for each house. When the master of a house refused to pay his door was broken in with sledge hammers, which being reported to the civic authorities, brought the

Lord Mayor upon the scene, who ended this rather serious game after a hard and ludicrous fight between his party and that of the Lord of Misrule. In this fight the Lord Mayor of London fought gallantly, and with his own hands captured the Lord of Misrule by the collar and made him prisoner.

There are many other pretty and interesting customs to which I might refer, but the space so kindly allowed me is already much exceeded. I hope your readers will be interested in the descriptions I have tried to give of the manner in which the people of dear old England spent "A Merry Christmas."

A Denial

Sir,—In a late issue of THE EXAMINER there appeared "Alexandra Notes," over the signature of "Alfir." One note reads: "One of the residents discovered near his dwelling a package of sugar containing strychnine. Suspicion points to his next neighbor as the guilty party." Nothing of the kind occurred, Mr. Editor. Said note is a base, malicious falsehood, bearing on its face the character of "Alfir." The affair has been discussed as true, by outsiders. Questions such as, "Who are the persons? Where was the package found?" Who placed it there, that his neighbour would find it? have been frequently heard. If a capful of sugar, borrowed by a little boy from a neighbor (not next neighbor) and put by for his own use, may be called "a package of sugar containing strychnine" then facts can be distorted. I am pleased to say that nothing approaching a crime can be found in the past history of this community. A coat of a black color, covered with feathers, will be "Alfir's" reward, should he commit an indiscretion of like character again. Insert and oblige a justly indignant people.

WHITE CAP.

Local Notices.

Fresh Candies, hot from the pan, at B. Balderson's to-day.

Nuts! Almond nuts, coconuts, walnuts, Brazil nuts, chestnuts, filberts, and peanuts, at Geo. Larter & Co's.

Confectionery! Call and inspect our display of choice confectionery in mixtures—only 20 cents per lb. Conversation lozenges, almond candy, lily chocolates, coffee, honey and raspberry cordials, chocolate cream drops and a choice assortment of pure English candy at Geo. Larter & Co's.

Sausages made fresh every morning, from the best material, at J. H. Myrick & Co's. dec22-31

Salmon, Shad, Mackerel, Herring, Codfish, etc., at the Fish Market. 31-dec22

Fresh Eggs at the Fish Market. dec22-31

Banker Hill Mixed Pickles and Chow Chow, the best made, at J. H. Myrick & Co's. dec22-31

See Beer & Goff's magnificent display of Chocolate Creams, Biscuits, Sugar Toys, Figs, Dates, Nuts, etc., before buying 21-dec22

Pure Candy, only 20 cents per pound: Dates, 10 cents per pound; Green Grapes, 20 cents per pound; Figs, from 16 cents per pound up, at Beer & Goff's. 21-dec22

IN MALE ATTIRE.—A Kansas city paper reports that a young woman named Mary Gordon was recently arrested at that place for appearing on the streets in male attire. When tried before Recorder Davenport the evidence showed that she was quietly walking along the streets when arrested. "I do not want any more cases like this brought before me," said the recorder. "I have ruled on several of them lately, and the officers ought to know how I stand on them. There can be no law which prevents women from dressing in male attire and appearing in public therein, so long as they do not conduct themselves in a disorderly manner. Any ordinances to the contrary are illegal. It is the latest fashion for ladies to dress in the opposite sex, and women are gradually coming to it. It is the correct thing, not only for health, but for comfort. I will discharge every woman brought before me under such conditions, as the defendant in this case. You can go, Mary. I think you look as neat as if you had a dress on."

APPLES, TEA, &c.

BY AUCTION, on THURSDAY, December 27th, at 11 o'clock, at Rooms:—

75 barrels No. 1 Apples (best winter-keeping kinds),

10 half chests Tea,

10 casks Vinegar,

5 barrels Onions, Oranges, Lemons, Wrapping Paper, &c.,

All of which must be sold out without reserve to close consignments.

dec24-t1 ale A. McNEILL, Auctioneer.

CASH PAID FOR WHEAT,

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We are Showing a Fine Line of COLORED DRESS GOODS,

WITH TRIMMINGS TO MATCH. See Them, as they are the Best Value we have ever Shown.

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IN ALL THE NEWEST FABRICS, AT CLOSEST FIGURES.

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BEST VALUES AT Stanley Bros, Brown's Block.



Harris & Stewart, London House,

For Useful Christmas Presents. Silk Handkerchiefs, Plain and Hem-Stitched, Fancy Border Handkerchiefs, White Silk Handkerchiefs.

HARRIS & STEWART, LONDON HOUSE, For Wool Clouds, Fascinators, Hoods, Jerseys, Cardigan Jackets, Astracan Mitts and Gloves, Kid Mitts.

HARRIS & STEWART, LONDON HOUSE, Are showing a fine stock of Dress Goods, Ulster and Mantle Cloths, Silk Sealtettes, Wool Sealtettes, Nap Cloths & Tweeds.

HARRIS & STEWART, LONDON HOUSE, For Mens' Shirts and Drawers, Reefing Jackets, Top Coats, Suits, Hats and Caps, Knit Wool Gloves.

HARRIS & STEWART, LONDON HOUSE, For Astracan Jackets, Muffs, Collars, Fur Caps, Sleigh Robes, Mens' Fur Coats.

HARRIS & STEWART, LONDON HOUSE, Have a nice stock of Fancy Goods for Christmas, Work Boxes, Jewel Cases, Ladies' Satchels, Purses, &c., &c.

Harris & Stewart, London House.

Charlottetown, December 19, 1888—eod & wky

REDDIN'S DRUG STORE. CARD TO THE PUBLIC.

HOLIDAY SEASON! Best Value! Lowest Prices!

SPACE will not allow us to particularize, but we would ask the public to call and see for themselves. No trouble to show goods.

WRITING DESKS, in DOMINOS, LEATHER CASES, in PERFECTION Cases, WORK BIBLES, in SACHET POWDERS, Plush, CIGARETTES, Gentlemen's DRESS-ING CASES, LADIES' PANS, TRIPLE MIRRORS, CRABAPPLE B + ROS, FRUIT KNIVES.

dec24-t1 Jan 1st. D. O'M. REDDIN, JR.

P. E. ISLAND RAILWAY.

Christmas and New Year's Holidays.

RETURN TICKETS at one first-class fare will be issued to and from all Stations on this Railway, on 21st, 25th and 31st December, inst., and on January 1st, prox., good to return up to and on January 7, 1889.

J. UNSWORTH, Superintendent, Railway Office, Charlottetown, Dec. 19, 1888. dec19-all prs 4 31st

Reddin's Drug Store, CIGARS, WHOLESALE.

10,000 HAVANA CIGARS, 5,000 DOMESTIC CIGARS, 5,000 COOK ROBIN. COOK ROBIN!—Manufactured for our trade the largest profit to the retailer of any cigar in the market. D. O'M. REDDIN, JR. dec14-t1 Jan 1st

WE have accepted the invitation of Mr. Theo. L. Chappelle to remain at the DIAMOND BOOKSTORE until Tuesday morning, 25th inst., and would ask an EARLY VISIT from our friends, so that all may be benefited during our stay. SANTA CLAUS, SANTA G. CLAUS. Ch'town, Dec. 1, 1888.

Referring to the foregoing, I would remind the public that the

DIAMOND BOOKSTORE

is filled with the VERY NEWEST, MOST VARIED and LOWEST PRICED stock of

Christmas Presents

EVER OFFERED HERE. Special Attention is called to the Grand

BAZAR

—fitted up in this premises overhead.

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of every Design, Quality and Price. In order to avoid the rush peculiar to Christmas Eve, it is requested that our numerous patrons call early and select their Gifts, thereby making it mutually agreeable. THEO. L. CHAPPELLE, Diamond Bookstore and Bazar. dec21-w s t1 22nd