EBENSBURG, PA., FRIDAY, DECEMBER 26, 1873.

OLUME VII.

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he Daily World.

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wall be made. [4-4-1f.] man solicited.

CHRISTMAS MORNING.

BY CHARLES DICKENS.

'Twas the morning of Christmas: And Benny and Ned Had captured their stockings, And gone back to bed; And there in their night-gowns, As soon as 'twas light,

They emptied their treasures : And O, what a sight ! Such stockings! long stockings! (Mamma's, I suppose,) Filled full to the openings, And crammed to the toes.

"Isn't Santa Tlaus dood, Ned?" Cried Benny, "Dus' look And see what he's div me; A drate picture book.

"And me !" exclaimed Neddy; "Mine's diff'rent from yourn : Tis chuck full of stories, And long words to learn ! But then you know, Benny, I'm older than you, And need older presents. As Santy Claus knew.'

"O-o-o !" shouted Benny, "A big Noah's Ark; Au' lots of wild animals ; And here is a tart Wiv a little horse in it; He looks like our Ace,

For he's tinder spotted, And dot a white face." "I never !" said Neddy, "What's this, do you think? A bag full of marbles,

I guess, by the chink. Besides a great buzz top, All red, white and blue! And a two-bladed jack-knife! Have you got one, too?"

"Dess not," answered Benny, "But I've dot a cat; And a sheep vat says ba-ba Tew pinch him like that, And then there is somefin Tied up with a strin'-

Dus put core hand in ! D'ye feel what a lot 'tis? I fought I'd have some ; For ma said I should have, When Santa Tlaus tum."

O, Neddy, 'tis tandy!

"Merry Christmas, my darlings! Why not up before And mamma with baby, Appeared at the door.

CHRISTMAS GHOST.

A Reminiscence of the Siege of Vicks-

On Christmas eve, in 1862, I was borne on the Mississippi steamer, Continental, bound down the river for Vicksburg, then, as is well known, in possession of the contion of the fleet which carried Gen. Sherman's army, and which was destined to Yazoo river, while, as was intended, Gen. Grant was to march down overland, and to the north of the confederates, strong-

so a lively season was inaugurated. The boat carried General Frederick Steel and staff; and anybody who knew Steel, Paddock, poor Sokalski, Charley Seammon, cluding the humble writer hereof, will understand that if the whiskey and sugar there were great patches of red. would not give out when they started in

Jollity reigned. Steele's pale face lighted up with a roseate glow, and he was the gayest of the gay among the jolly crowd that warmed under the genial influence of steaming "commissary," until the surthe coming battle, had many a steaming to my care. bumper in advance of his heroic sacrifice. or reminiscence or favored the bacchantes

with his favorite song. ward cabin. I accompanied him, and found neither obliterate nor soften.

"That is the man," said my guide.

continued.

"No, I don't," I replied, as I gazed into his bearded face.

printer in the --- office." known him as a printer he was rather hand- tion, and then I said : some, dandified, clean shaven youth main- "In God's name, Tom, is that you?"

to recognize him. The last I had known | broken by a voice which said : of him was that he had been elected second lieutenant in an infantry company that was raised in the town where he resided.

thought you were lieutenant in the Twelfth | do comfort themselves." Iown."

portance to tell you."

quite pretty girl at home, and, as I sup- Tom S. whom I left mortally wounded and posed, they were to be married. She was dying in the cabin of the steamer on the

tion, and arxious to carry as many lovers'

scalps at her belt as she could secure. escape and returned north. He reached an expiation of her sins. home full of eager anticipations, and disand was now on the eve of marriage with ever was written and published. a prominent citizen of the town.

Broken down by the shock to his hopes, Tom went on a prolonged spree, and had his commission taken from him, had finally run away and enlisted as a private in a cavalry regiment, from which he had been selected to serve as Steele's body guard.

As Tom concluded his narration, he hesitated a moment to regain his composure. He was very much broken down by disease, or dissipation, and seemed in the last

stage of a decline. "What I wish particularly of you," he resumed in a little while, is this: "I have a presentment that I shall be killed in the coming fight. I have a photograph and some letters from Laura, and I wish you to take charge of them, and carry them to her with the assurance that I died loving her, and that she is responsible for my death."

presentments, but it was all useless. He knew he should be killed, and when I further attempted to argue with him he finally ceased to listen and seemed buried in a profound and painful memory. Giving up the attempt to convince him as being futile, I took the small package, shook hands with him, and returned to the after

The battle of Chickars w Bayou occurred on the second or third day after. Steele's forces occupied the extreme left, and labored gallantly but uselessly all that bloody federates. The Continental formed a porcupied by the confederates.

Near midnight I was standing on the attack Vicksburg from the direction of the deck of a steamer on which were being brought such of the wounded as could be reached under the confederate guns .co-operate by an attack from the land side | Among others who were carried on board I recognized, in a mass of blood, dirt and torn uniform, the face of Tom S. He was We were nearing Vicksburg on Christ- laid on the cabin floor; but when I attemptmas eve, and all knew that a fight, and a ed to attract his attention I found that he desperate one, was imminent. In view of was unconscious. His face was deadly this approaching danger, it was resolved white, save where streaked with blood. to make the most of the opportunity, and His eyes were fixed, his under jaw had fallen, and he seemed already in extremis.

Hunting up an assistant surgeon, I secured an examination of the wounded man. His breast was bared and revealed and the other members of that crowd, in- three terrible wounds, about which the blood had coagulated, and around which

"He has been shot through the body in for a "lively season," one would be sure three places, and the chances are that he will not live twenty minutes, certainly not two hours."

Such was the report of the surgeon. Soon after I went on another boat, and a few days later I came up to Memphis with my accounts of the battle. From rounding darkness rang with volleys of thence I mailed to Laura ---, a circumlaughter and their chorus of roaring voices. stantial account of my interview with Tom, Toasts were drunk to the girls we left be- his wounding and death, had the letters hied us; "the first who dies," in view of and photographs which he had committed exposed by the windows and doors? The

In the fall of the following year I left and each contributed his share of anecdote the army and located in the Garden city. Years passed, but I never could quite forget poor Tom, his prostration when I While the revelry was at its height, first met him, on the night of the battle. sleep, they will drop into their shoes some which was towards morning, an orderly | The thing haunted me like a painful mem- of the treasures they are bearing to the touched me on the shoulder and said that ory in my own life, and was one of the few a soldier wished to speak to me in the for- recollections of the war which time would

myself a moment after standing over a On last Christmas eve I remained late is sacred to him who came to bring peace cavalryman, who was lying on the floor on down town in order to smuggle home the and good-will to the world. The favorite a bed of blankets, with his head pillowed knick knacks intended for the morrow's toy of the season is called "The Nativity." breakfast table. The streets were almost It is sometimes very elaborate and costly, deserted. As I turned the corner of Dear- representing a landscape under a starry "Did you wish to speak with me?" I borne and Washington, I found myself | night; the shepherds watching their flocks, under a gas-lamp, and face to face with a the magi coming in with wonder and awe, "Yes," he said, feebly, as he, with some pedestrian. I glanced into his face, and, and the child in the stable, shedding upon difficulty, rose up so as to rest on his el- with a thrill of astonishment, not unmixed the darkness that living light which was bows. "You do not remember me?" he with horror, I recognized the unmistakable to overspread the world. -[John Hay in nials; with poetry, music, eloquenee, and lineaments of-Tom S. !

In the action of a second I recollected it was Christmas eve, and the eighth anniver-"My name is Tom S. I once worked as sary of our meeting in the cabin, and of edits a paper. It happened in this way : regeneration of mankind.

Enrishered, PA.

Rearly opposite Blair's advantage to call on or address me.

The ford of West Ward.

"Is it me. You bet it's me!"

"And aren't you dead ?" "Dead? Me dead? Come on, and I'll "How in God's name is this, Tom? I show you that if I'm dead, how the dead

I think it was hot Scotch that the test "So I was. But I have been in trouble was made with and it acted like an exorsince. I want you to listen to me for a cism. To see whether I was awake or few minutes, for I have something of im- dreaming I applied the test to myself, too. We repeated the test. In less than an I sat down on the edge of his blanket, hour I was entirely satisfied, not only that and then Tom proceeded to unfold his I was awake, but that the apparition was one of flesh and blood, and the one hun- It was charity, in pity sent to village, town I knew that he was very devoted to a dred and sixty pounds remnant of my poor

a giddy young woman, very fond of a flirta- night of the battle of Chickasaw Bayou. I was duly informed, while we were employing the hot Scotch test, that Tom did I learned from Tom that when he left as not die on that night, or any other; that lieutenant of the Twelfth, they were en- he recovered in time, was discharged, went Attired was she in sable, and the book was gaged. At Shiloh, the regiment was cap- home, and married the young woman who tured almost to a max, and himself among | -struck with remorse by the letter and the others. He had been taken south but Tom's tragic end-had jilted her last flanfour or five months later he had made his eee, and had resolved to die an old maid as Anear her sat a maiden, her eyes with tear-

And this is the only veritable ghost I ever covered that his fiancee, accepting a re- met in my life; and, moreover, this is the port of his death, had buried his memory, only true, genuine, real ghost story that

CHRISTMAS IN SPAIN.

There is no civilized country on earth in

promise of the coming Christmas. Butin every country the festival is called by a different name, and its presiding genius is painted with a different costume and manner. You know all about our jolly Dutch Santa Claus, with his shrewd, twinkling eyes, his frosty beard, his ruddy face, and the bag af treasures with which he comes tumbling down the chimney, while his team of reindeer snort and stamp on the icy road. The English Christmas is equally well known, and the wonders of the German miracle-tree, the first sight of which no child ever forgets. But you are, perhaps, not so familliar with the spirit of the blessed season of advent in Southern Eu-I tried to rally him on the absurdity of rope, and I will tell you some of the pleasures and fancies of the Spanish Christmas. The good cheer which it brings everywhere is especially evident in Spain. They are a frugal people, and many a good Spanish family is supported by less than the waste of a household on Murray Hill. But there is no sparing at Christmas. This is a sea. son as fatal to turkeys as Thanksgiving in New England. The Castillian farmers drive them into Madria in great droves, which they conduct from door to door. making the dim old streets gay with their scarlet wattles and noisy with obstreperous gabbling. But the headquarters of the marketing during those days are in the Plaza Mayor, where every variety of fruit and provision is sold. There is nothing more striking than those vast heaps of fresh golden oranges, plucked the day before in the groves of Andalusia, nuts from Granada, and dates from Africa; every flavor and color of tropical fruitage; and in the stalls beneath the gloomy arches the butchers drive their flourishing trade. All is gay and joyous-chaffering and jesting. greeting of friends and filling of baskets. The sky is wintry, but the ground is ruddy and rich with the fruits of summers. At night the whole city turns out into the streets. The youths and maidens of the poorer class go trooping through the town with tamborines, castanets, and guitars, singing and dancing. Every one has a different song to suit his own state of mind. The women sing of love and religion, and many of t he men can sing of nothing bet ter than politic. But the part which the children take in the festival bears a curious resemblance to those time-honored ceremonies we all remember. The associations of Christmas in Spain are all of the Gospel. There is no northern St. Nick there to stuff the stockings of good children with rewards of merit. Why, then on Christmas Eve do you see the little shoes wise kings of the East are supposed to be journeying by night to Bethlehem, bearing gifts and homage to the heavenly child, and out of their abundance, when they pass by the houses where good children Baby Prince in Judea. This thought is never absent from the rejoicings of Christmas-tide in Spain. Every hour of the time St. Nicholas for January. A good thing is told of a preacher who

his presentiment of his death. My senses | As the forms of the paper were being put | Even in rude times, Christmas has had I recollected him at once. When I had were frozen with horror, for a single pulsa- on the press, by some accident, not ex- the power to mitigate the ferocities of war. SPECIAL ATTENTION given to the collective of type promisenously piled up and then ties of Christmas gave a short interval of but it is well that they should feel that the O tion of claims in Blair. Cambria, Huntingdon, Bedford, Centre and Clearfied countries

Parties wishing to purchase, rent, sell or exchange real estate will find it greatly to their
advantage to call on or address was bearded, dirty, emastadvantage to call on or address was bearded, dirty, emastadvantage to call on or address was bearded, dirty, emasta grin like that of a vice of frozen steel. before me, he was bearded, dirty, emaci- a grip like that of a vice of frozen steel, done here, but you know I am not the one a night of minstrelsy with trumpets and of the grown up folk, and in short share

A VISION OF CHRISTMAS,

It was in the bleak December, as I watched each blazing ember, And fresh from nature's loom gleamed the

garment of the spow , And the Christmas bells were ringing-to

the world glad tidings bringing Of the child Messiah cradled in a manger long ago.

While bitter winds were sighing, I saw an angel flying. Fairer, fairer than the snow, fluttering downward like a pall;

and city,

words of love to all. Quick she sped across the alleys to the wild,

snow-covered valleys, Where sat an aged mother by the beight trim English fire

on the table Which she ceased to read to listen to the Christmas minstrel choir.

drops laden, and of a sailor-boy ; And the angel entered slowly, with a foot-

step soft and holy, And they felt life still had left for them a cup of real joy.

Straightway again she wandered, by a cottage hearth she pondered, which children are not made happy by the Where in its last death struggles lay a lit- and fowl. In the reign of Henry III, the tle suffering child; And its father and the mother, clinging

closer to each other. In the majesty of sorrow and despair were weeping wild. As the latch she lifted lightly the fireside

beamed more brightly, And from the shrouded spirits the stone of sorrow rolled; And they saw above their pining the Star of

Bethl'em shining, And knew their lamb was gathered in the tender Shepherd's fold. may this lovely angel be the world's di-

vine evangel. And gather in the poor around the Christmas board Clothe the naked ones who shiver, sing Ho-

sannas to the Giver.

And with mistletoe and holly wreathe the cannon and the sword.

CHRISTMAS GEMS.

The first song ever composed in England was a Christmas carel in Anglo Norman

The first tragedy in the language, and the oldest of the comedies, were brought out as a part of the Christmas festivities of The Saviour had not where to lay His

head, but His scriptures are translated into a thousand languages, and the grandest structures of the modern world are the home of His church, and the temple of His Christmas is each year more generally

once proscribed by law, and before another generation it is probable that most of the religious denominations here will observe the anniversary by public religious exer-A very remarkbble frost was one that began on Christmas day, 1766, and lasted till the 17th of January, when there was

one day's thaw, followed by another week of excessively sharp frost. The continuance of intense cold for nearly a month was terrible in its effects upon the population and vegetation. The beautiful spirit of benificence has

endeared Christmas day to the poor and the young. What a joyous time it brings to the heart of childhood! And how pleasant it must be to a truly generous nature to participate in the usual felicities of the holiday season, and to observe the exultation of the young at the tokens of affection they receive ! There is a very curious custom observed

by the Greek church throughout Russia. It is the baptism at Christmas of the patron saint. Each village and each city has its particular patron. In the larger towns ones turn wistfully toward the locked the ceremony is performed by a bishop. A cross is cut in the ice, and the patronsaint, represented by a carved wooden effigy, is baptised.

The coldest day ever known in London was a Christmas day just seventy-four years ago. The occurrence is not fresh in the memory of many of us. The register then was sixteen degrees below zero, and though that was beaten only ten years ago in many parts of England, it has not been equalled in the metropolis, which is in by to means the coldest latitude of the Island.

The Christian nations of the world honor the anniversary of the Saviour's birth with solemn worship and with social joy; with the impressive pomp of religious ceremospiritual communion. In this beautiful festival-the grandest and the gladdest of sons of men, they celebrate the spiritual

plained, one of them was knocked into The siege of Orleans, in 1428, the English pi. The preacher looked at the mountain historian says the solemnities and festivirors of war were suspended by melodies which were thought to be delightful.

NUMBER 48,

The beautiful custom of adorning houses with evergreens during the Christmas holidays is ascribed to various causes. Those who have taken the christian view of the matter refer to those expressions so frequently met with in the prophetical writings, where green boughs are spoken of as ornaments of the sanctuary and signs of rejoicing. Others have affirmed that the custom had a pagan origin and refer to the beautiful druidical custom of langing up in the house boughs of green to which the wood spirits might resort to To heal the broken-hearted, and speak shelter them from the nipping blasts of

winter. Christmas out door sports possess a character of their own-fully appreciated by all those who have shared their delights, Who does not remember, with enthusiasm many a sleigh ride over the smooth snow, when the influence of the cold wind was met and overcome by the warm glow of the heart. There is no element so poweras real contentment, and to him whose Their thoughts were of a new-made grave heart is weary and restless, all the fires of Vesuvius would prove insufficient. But at Christmas every one is filled with an exultant glow and the cold air is rather reveled in than otherwise.

One of the specialities of Christmas day in olden times was the Christmas pie, which was often composed of fish, flesh sheriff of Gloucester was once ordered by that monarch to procure "twenty salmon, ten peacocks and ten brawns," for Christmas pies. The peacock was only produced at solemn and chivalric banquets, such as that of Christmas, and when thus served up-with gilded beak and plumed crest, his head appearing at one end of the pie and his tail at the other, spread out in all its glory-was carried in state into the hall, to the sound of minstrelsy, by the lady most distinguished for birth and beauty, the other ladies following in due

Hail, all hall the joyous morn; Tell it forth from earth to heaven. That to us a child is born, That to us a son is given.

Augels, bending from the sky, Chanted at the wondrons birth "Glory be to God on high, Peace-good will to man on earth."

Join we in our feeble lays, To the chorus of the sky : And, in songs of grateful praise, Glery give to God on high. One of the first problems the young scholar sets himself to discover is what

day of the week Christmas falls on. Seeing that a little disappointment ensues upon the accident of the 25th of December falling on Sunday, it soon became a question in the nursery how often the event will happen. Confining himself to the present century, the child finds that between 1800 and 1900, Christmas day occurs on Sunday fifteen times, and during the hundred years it happens thrice (in 1820, observed in New England, where it was 1848 and 1876) that leap year causes Christmas day to jump from Saturday to Monday. It will be nine years before the holiday falls again on Sunday. After the nine years the intervals are six years, five years, six years, eleven years, and so on as long as the century holds out; but the occurrence of the centenary spoils the order, there being no bissextile for eight years at the end of each century.

THE CHRISTMAS TREE.

The origin of the Christmas tree, which so many of our citizens have introduced into their households for the enjoyment of their children, is thus given : In Germany, many years ago, when the houses were decorated with evergreens for the Christmastide, it was the custom to select a large bough for a conspicuous place, and on it were placed the presents for the children. After a time the bough became a tree, dressed with symbolical ornaments, and adorned with gifts for the household, of which the children had much the largest share. The custom was imported into England and this country lias now become almost universal and each year adds fresh marvels and delights to the magical fruits of this tree.

The mystery of its preparation is half of the charm. The bright eyes of the little doors of the room that contains the wondrous tree; they long to take a peep, and yet they would not "for the world." Not

Some still retain the Ohristmas tree in its old form-that is, after the ornaments are on, space is left for the children's presents; others place all the family gifts on or under the tree, and, after those of the children are distributed, the little ones discover and present the gifts of the older nembers of the family; and others again made of their Christmas trees mere show pieces on which to arrange artistically the glittering baubles, the stars, angels, etc.; and these are often accompanied by such costly orgaments that such a tree without a gift on it will cost hundreds of dollars. Such magnifidence must, of course, be on exhibition, for it is entirely too artistic and costly an affair to be thrown away on the children alone; so it is advertised privately and all the acquaintances of the family visit it between Christmas and New Year. It is, in truth, a tribute to family

vanity rather than to family affection. The second plan s ems to be the more desirable. The Christmas tree is then what it should be-the home centre-sacred to the family, around which gather old and young linked to each other by loving remembrances. It is understood that the trees belong especially to the c clarions. This was granted, and the hor- their Christmas tree with them.