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THE WORLD. 1874. THE WEEKLY POST. THE HARRISBURG WEEKLY PATRIOT. THE SUN. THE PATRIOT '74.

18 DAILY AND WEEKLY. 74 THE PITTSBURGH POST!

THE WEEKLY POST, an eight-page, fifty-six column family journal, and without doubt the largest, cheapest and best weekly political and literary paper in the State.

Pure and Unadulterated Democracy, upon the final triumph of the principles of the prosperity of the country and the perpetuity of Democratic-Republican institutions depend.

Advocate of the People's Rights against all foes whatsoever, in favor of an honest and economical government, and will demand that the just laws between Monopolies, and the discrimination against Labor and in favor of Capital, shall be revoked and restored to the people to whom they were granted by corrupt, Radical legislation.

NEWS AND MISCELLANY will contain the latest intelligence of importance from all parts of the world by mail and telegraph. Particular attention is given to the progress of the war in Europe, the movements of the armies, and the operations of the fleets.

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JAMES F. MILLIKEN, Attorney at Law and Real Estate Agent, HOLLIDAYSBURG, PA.

SPECIAL ATTENTION given to the collection of claims in Blair, Cambria, Huntingdon, Bedford, Centre and Clearfield counties.

CHRISTMAS MORNING.

BY CHARLES DICKENS. 'Twas the morning of Christmas: And Benny and Ned Had captured their stockings, And gone back to bed;

THE CUBAN COMPLICATIONS, which for weeks have so intensely agitated the public mind will grow in importance with the assembling of Congress and the progress of the session.

THE DEMOCRATIC REVOLUTION OF 1873 placed a new phase on our political condition, and the Post will continue to be, as it has always been, the fearless, independent, consistent and straightforward advocate of the people.

Pure and Unadulterated Democracy, upon the final triumph of the principles of the prosperity of the country and the perpetuity of Democratic-Republican institutions depend.

THE PITTSBURGH WEEKLY POST is in every sense a newspaper, for the diffusion of useful knowledge and information, containing all the news of the day, and the latest news of the world.

Literature and Art will receive special care and attention, and will contain the latest intelligence of importance from all parts of the world by mail and telegraph.

THE LIVE STOCK MARKETS, which are carefully reported for THE POST, and one of the greatest importance to the Farmers of Western Pennsylvania, Ohio and West Virginia.

CHRISTMAS GHOST.

A Reminiscence of the Siege of Vicksburg. On Christmas eve, in 1862, I was borne on the Mississippi steamer, Continental, bound down the river for Vicksburg.

We were nearing Vicksburg on Christmas eve, and all knew that a fight, and a desperate one, was imminent. In view of this approaching danger, it was resolved to make the most of the opportunity, and so a lively season was inaugurated.

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broken by a voice which said: "Is it me. You bet it's me!" "And aren't you dead?" "Dead? Me dead? Come on, and I'll show you that if I'm dead, how the dead do comfort themselves."

I think it was hot Scotch that the test was made with and it acted like an exorcism. To see whether I was awake or dreaming I applied the test to myself, too. We repeated the test. In less than an hour I was entirely satisfied, not only that I was awake, but that the apparition was one of flesh and blood, and the one hundred and sixty pounds remnant of my poor Tom S. whom I left mortally wounded and dying in the cabin of the steamer on the night of the battle of Chickasaw Bayou.

I was duly informed, while we were employing the hot Scotch test, that Tom did not die on that night, or any other; that he recovered in time, was discharged, went home, and married the young woman who—struck with remorse by the letter and Tom's tragic end—had jilted her last fiancée, and had resolved to die an old maid as an expiation of her sins.

CHRISTMAS IN SPAIN. There is no civilized country on earth in which children are not made happy by the promise of the coming 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.

On Christmas eve, in 1862, I was borne on the Mississippi steamer, Continental, bound down the river for Vicksburg.

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A VISION OF CHRISTMAS.

It was in the bleak December, as I watched each blazing ember, And flash from nature's loom gleamed the garment of the snow.

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

Quick she sped across the alleys to the wild, snow-covered valleys, Where sat an aged mother by the light of the English fire;

As the latch she lifted lightly the fire-side beamed more brightly, And from the shrouded spirits the stone of sorrow rolled;

O, may this lovely angel be the world's divine evangel, And gather in the poor around the Christmas board;

Clothe the naked ones who shiver, sing Hosannas to the Giver, And with mistletoe and holly wreath the canon and the sword.

CHRISTMAS GEMS.

The first song ever composed in England was a Christmas carol in Anglo-Norman French.

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 worship.

Christmas is each year more generally observed in New England, where it was 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 exercises.

A very remarkable frost was one that began on Christmas day, 1765, and lasted till the 17th of January, when there was one day's thaw, followed by another week of excessively sharp frost.

The beautiful spirit of beneficence has endeared Christmas day to the poor and the young. What a joyous time it brings to the heart of childhood!

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.

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 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 ceremonies; with poetry, music, eloquence, and spiritual communion.

Even in rude times, Christmas has had the power to mitigate the ferocities of war. The siege of Orleans, in 1428, the English historian says the solemnities and festivities of Christmas gave a short interval of repose.

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 Christmas, it was the custom to select a large bough for a conspicuous place, and on it were placed the presents for the children.

ros of war were suspended by melodies which were thought to be delightful. The beautiful custom of adorning houses with evergreens during the Christmas holidays is ascribed to various causes.

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.

One of the specialties of Christmas day in olden times was the Christmas pie, which was often composed of fish, flesh and fowl.

That to us a child is born, That to us a son is given. Angels, bending from the sky, Chanted at the wondrous birth; "Glory be to God on high, Peace—good will to man on earth."

Join us in our feeble lays, To the chorus of the sky; And, in songs of grateful praise, Glory 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.

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