OLUME XI.

EBENSBURG, PA., FRIDAY, DECEMBER 21, 1877.

NUMBER 47.

EW ADVERTISEMENTS.

GENTS WANTED

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ncis from Letters from Pastors of Churches. MONA saved my daughter's life. - Rev. E. hemsen, N. V. has God for the bonefits we received from of PULMONA,—Rev. P. Warren, Canne shall recommended it to has benefit to its use. - Rev. C. D. Humphreys, Ra

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MEAKFAST TABLE.

be buce stone dead, and fill your py, healthful mirth. mic paper, full of stale, thin jokes \* a paper that needs no recommends

the office and it will be sent by return per seent free one year to all persons. dute of five or over, in addition te

being Address, E P. BROWN & CO., Publishers. CINCINNATI, ORIO. The BREAFAST TABLE and the CAMBRIA a the subscription rates of the two

RMS AT PRIVATE SALE .ndersigned offers at private sale containing 18s acres, well improved, all the necessary farm buildings, bedivated into two or three parts, Thanks, and if not sold before the next, it will then be rented. the on which I now reside, in Logan miles from Altoona. This property alte of cultivation and has a splendid d other buildings thereon erected.
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1 Oct. 12, 1877. - 3m.

COH NOT!-All persons are oned against interfering in Sheriff's sale and left with Si

to thest township, during my please all his hogs, a lot of wheat, rye, corn is grain, dran, and flour. Also, one and not clock, bought by me at priced in with the same party.

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1877.-8t in person. TANDER TAIT, M. D., PHY-

#### A CHRISTMAS HYMN.

Welcome to Thee, heav'nly Stranger, Gladsome shall Thy advent be : Tho' Thy birth-place was a manger, Nature saw her God in Thee : Whilst Thy lowly home was wanting

All that earthly joys could bring. Scraphs hymns of joy were chasting, Unto Thee, earth's new-born King. In Thy stable birth-place lowly, Angels waited Thy behest;

Whilst Thy mother, maiden holy, Clasp'd Thee to her spotless breast; Shepherds who their flocks were tending In Bethlehem's lonely plains by night; Saw the heav'nly host descending, Filled with wond'ring, strange delight;

They their flocks left unprotected, Wand'ring o'er the plains afar, Through devious ways to Thee directed, By Thy radiant natal star.

Wise men, too, with presents laden, Jewels rare and perfumes sweet, From lands afar rich robes array'd in, Came to worship at Thy feet.

And in adoration kneeling On Thy happy natal day, We like them to Thee appealing :-"Turn not Thy sweet face away ; God and God-like, condescending, As the day that saw Thy birth, Mercy, (with Thy justice blending),

Show unto us, sons of earth !" Lighten Thou the load of sorrow, Ease of pain the piercing emart; Let us hope and comfort borrow From the love that fills Thy Heart, Men's fierce passions all assuaging, O'er the earth let discord cease; The "better part" let man engage in,

Guided by the hand of peace.

## MERRY CHRISTMAS.

On Christmas eve the bells were rung; The damsel donned her kirtle sheen; Forth to the wood did merry men go To gather in the mistletoe. The heir with roses in his shoes That night might village partner chuse; All hailed with uncontrolled delight And general voice the happy night That to the cottage, as the crown, Brought tidings of salvation down. The buge half-table's oaken face, erubbed till it shone, the day to grace, Bore then upon its massive board
No mark to part the squire and lord.
Then the grim boar's heat frowned on high,
Crowned with bays and rosemary.
The wassail round, in golden bowls,
Garnished with ribbons, bithely trowls; Then the huge striom recked; hard by Plumb-porridge stood, and Christmas py2; Nor failed of Scotland to produce At such high tide her savory goose England was merry England, when Old Christmas brought his sports again. Twas Christmas broached the mightiest ale,

Twas Christmas told the merriest tale; A Christmas gambol off would cheer The poor man's heart through balf the year. The practice of using green branches for

for Christmasse, mentions the yule log :

Come, bring me with a noise, Mr merrie, merrie boyes, The Christmas log to the fireing:

While my good dame, she
Bids ye all be free,
And drink to your hearts' desiring.
With the last yeere's brand
Light the new block, and For good success in his spending, On your psalteries play, That sweet luck may Come while the log is teending.

One on the earliest customs was the wassail-bowl, and one universally patronized. The first wassail is said to have been as follows: Rowena, the daughter of Hengist, presented the British king Vortigern with a bowl of wine, saluting him with, "Lord king, wæs-heil," to which the king (as previously instructed, the legend says) replied, "Drine heile," and saluted her after the theu fashion. Being much smitten by her charms, the king married the fair cup-bearer, to her and her father's great satisfaction, and the Saxons obtained what they wanted. This form of saluta Ation is found, however, to be much older than this romantic scene, and to have been used by the Saxous years before, Some accounts say that the Britons had their wassail bowl as late as the third century. The followers and worshippers of Odin and Thor drank deeply in honor of their gods, and when converted continued the practice in honor of the one God and his saints, and

it required much patient labor among the early missionaries to abolish it. Dancing was a favorite Christmas amusement. William of Malmesbury tells us quaintly of a party of young folk who were dancing in the churchyard, one Christmas eve, and by their laughter and songs disturbed a priest who was saying his Mass in the church. He begged and entreated them in vain to desist and allow him to complete his duties undisturbed; they only ings, under the penalty of being disbarred, danced the more and sang the louder, until, the priest's patience becoming exhausted, he prayed that they might never cease dancing. This prayer was heard, and they continued their dance all through the year. Neither heat nor cold, hunger, thirst, nor fatigue, affected them. Their friends made every effort to stop them. A brother of one of the girls took her by the bidden to enter because he did not dance arm, and tried by force to bring her away; the limb came off in his hand, without apeve! Dugdale gives a programme of the parently causing any pain or distress to the dancer, who lost not a single step of the performance, and went on as steadily as and the play ended) are begun by the whole before. At the end of the year, Bishop house; judges, serjeants-at-law, benches,

with queer sounding names, whatever their before them. Which ended, the utter baractual merit may have been. Crane was risters take their places and sit down. Some Strates, St. Augustine, Osm.

Night carls should be made at [8-17, 77, -41.]

actual merit may have been. Claus with of the gentlemen of the inner barr do present the bird of the season, just as turkey is with of the gentlemen of the inner barr do present the prince being supposed to be absent in frequently made, is the pocket-book.

what was the real nature of each compound. Dillegrout must have been something very remarkable, for the tenant of the manor of Addington, in Surrey, held it by the service of making a mess of the delicacy on the day of the coronation. ients, which were almold-milk, the brawn of capons, sugar and spices, chickens parboiled and chopped fine, been put together! A little too much of one, too little of another, an instant's too long cooking per- revels, it is ordered : haps, and the goodly manor was bestowed upon a greater artist or more lucky individual. Manpigyrum was the same dish with the addition of fat. Of the Christmas drinks were hippocras, ale, mead, and clanu. The English in early days were celebrated for their pre-eminence in drinking. Iago says, in reference to this characteristic: "Your Dane, your German, and your swag-bellied Hollander are noth-

these drinks were aside from the wassailbowl, which still held its own. Morat was made from honey and mulberries; claret, pigment, hippocras, and garhiofilae from the girofle, or cloves contained in it; were different preparations of wine mixed with honey and spices. Henry III. ordered his wine keepers to deliver to the sheriff of York white and red wine to make garbiofilac and claret for the next Christmas; and in the twenty-sixth year of his reign directed the sheriff of Gloucester, to cause twenty salmons to be bought and put into pies for Christmas, and the sheriff of Sussex to buy ten brawns with the heads of ten peacocks, and other provisions. Imagine the Lord High Sheriff of either of the above counties receiving such an order now a days from Queen Victoria! To the crane, as the Christmas dish, succeeded, about this time, the boar's head, and it was

ing to your English," The Saxons drank

wine, mead, cyder, ale, pigment, and mo-rat, to which the Normans added clane,

garhiofilac, and hippocras. Of course,

always brought in with great ceremony, preceded by musicians and an usher, and welcomed with shouts and hurralis. Under Edward III., Christmas was beld n great style; there were revellings, maskngs, and dancings, the masks one year taking the form of birds, dragons, etc., and the next of elephants and other froliesome beasts. During the reign of Richard II. in 1398, two hundred tons of wine were drunk and two thousand oxen eaten on this feast, to say nothing of other dishes. These were royal Christmases indeed. This king also had his pageauts or maskings; but, instead of birds or animals, there is on one occasion in the wardrobe accounts a charge for twenty-one linea coifs for "counterfeitthe decoration of churches and houses at | ing men of the law" in the king's play at Christmas time is of very remote date. In Christmas, 1389. Richard was murdered early carols the holly and ivy are both on Twelfth day, 1400, and so ended all his spoken of, but the former more frequently earthly Christmases. During the wars of than the latter; ivy, however, became one | Henry V. in France, he always ceased hosof the plants regularly used with bolm and tilities on Christmas day, and during the bay, to which goodly company the mistle- siege of Rouen offered food to those of his toe was afterward added. Rosemary and hungry enemies who would accept it from laurel were also among the favorite Christ- him At the seige of Orleans in 1428, a mas evergreens, and chaplets of them were like truce was proclaimed, and the English made and worn on the head-whence came and French exchanged gifts. When Henthe expressions, "To kiss under the rose," ry VII. ended the wars of the Roses Christand "Whispering under the mistletoe." ras was celebrated in a most magnificent The yule-log is of very aucient use. Be- manner. In 1493, on Twelfth-night, there fore chimneys were invented, the fire was was great banqueting and wassail. The built in the middle of the room, the smoke king made the usual offerings of gold, escaping through the roof. On Christmas | frankincense, and myrrh, and in the eveneve, a huge log, the yule-log, was put upon | ing wore his crown and royal robes; kirtle the fire and each member of the family in surcoat, furred hood, and mantle with long turn sat down upon it, and sang a yule- train, and his sword borne before him; his song, and drank to a merry Christmas and armills of gold set with rich stones, and his happy new year. The sitting on the log sceptre in his right hand. The wassail had to be abolished when fireplaces were was introduced in the evening with great invented, and in these days the log itself ceremony, the steward, treasurer, and has fallen into disuse by reason of the comproller of the household going out for modern improvements of Latrobe stoves, it with their staves of office; the king's and furnaces, etc. Herrick, in his Ceremonies the queen's servers having fair towels round their necks and dishes in their hands, such as the king and queen should eat of; the king's and queen's carvers followed in like manner. Then came in ushers of the chamber, with the pile of cups-the king's the queen's, and the bishop's-with the butlers and wine to the cupboard, or sideboard as it would now be called, and squires of the body to bear them. The gentlemen of the chapel stood at one end of the hall, and, when the steward came in with the wassail, he was to cry out three times, 'Wassail, wassail !" to which they answered with a good song-no doubt a wassail-song or a carol, as they were prevalent at that time. Henry VIII., in the early part of his reign, did not neglect the Christmas merry-making; plays, masks, pageants, and similar diversions were frequent and splendid, for Henry was young. gay, and light-hearted in those days. In

> which he himself took part; but after he grew corpulent, encumbered with his wives and interested in the established religion, these merry-makings fell off and gradually ceased altogether at court. At this period, the Christmas festivities of the Inns of Court had become celebrated and afterward far surpassed those of the court in faucy, if not in splendor ; nor is this surprising, considering the talents that must always exist in these communities. some fresh from the universities imbued with classic lore, others fraught with the knowledge acquired in many years, with wit sharpened by constant intercourse with wits as keen as their own; and perhaps few are better able to appreciate true wit and bumor than those who turn to it from deep and wearing mental labor. There was a rule which required the attendance of all who lived in the Inns at these merrymaka threat actually held out in the time of James I., at Lincoln's Inn, because the offenders did not dance on Christmas day, according to the ancient order of the society, and some were indeed put out of Commons by decimation. Imagine a lawyer coming into court to attend a trial of importance stopped at the door and for-

his third year at Greenwich, there was a

pageant arranged before the queen in

with his opponent's counsel on Christmas performances at one time : "First, the solemn revells (after dinner Huber; came to the place, and, absolving the party, the dancing ceased. Some of them died right away; others, after a sleep of the ntter barr is chosen to sing a song to of three days and nights, went round tellwhich is usually performed; and in default From the earliest times, the kings of England celebrated Christmas and the succeeding holidays with royal feastings. In the time of Henry II., they had dishes the fore them. Which ended, the utter had the time of the miracle.

karumpie, and maupigyrum. These names | post revells, and continue their dances till | Russia on public affairs. On that day, he convey to modern ears very little idea of | the judges or bench think meet to rise and | was received at Blackwall, as if on his re-

depart. Lincoln's Inn celebrated Christmas as early as the time of Henry VII.; but the Temple and Gray's Inn afterward disputed | ered the commemoration of a holy festival, the palm with it, and indeed on some occa- to be observed with devotion as well as sions seem to have surpassed the other Inns | cheerfulness. The services of the church With what anxiety must not the ingred- of Court. The first particular account of any regulations for conducting one of these grand Christmases is in the ninth of Henry | there must be no more celebration of VIII., when, besides the king for Christ- | Christmas; people were to go to heaven mas day, the marshal and master of the

"That the king of the cockneys on Christmas day should sit and have due service, lowing ministers to preach on Christmas and that he and all his officers should use day and for permitting the adorning of the honest manner and good order, without any church. The parliament, by an order waste or destruction making in wines, brawn, dated 24th of December, 1652, directed chely, or other vitails, and also that he and his marshall, butler, and constable-marshall should have their lawful and honest commandments by delivery of all the officers of Christmas; and that the said king of the cockneys nor none of his officers meddle in the buttery, nor in the steward of Christmas, his office, upon pain of forty shillings for every such meddling. . . . That Jack Straw and all his adherents should be theuceforth utterly bansht, and no more to be used in this house upon pain of forfeit, for every time £5 to be levied on every fellow happening to offend against this rule."

Who this Jack Straw was, or what his offences were, does not appear.

In order to divert the mind of the young king, Edward VI., from the grief he felt at the condemnation of the Duke of Somerset, the most magnificent revellings on did as before; the spirit was wanting there record were prepared. George Ferrers, of Lincoln's Inn, a gentleman of rank, was appointed lord of misrule, or master of the king's pastime, and acquitted himself so well as to afford great delight to many and some to the king, but "not in proportion to his heaviness." He seems to have been well adapted to his responsible office, being the country, the Christ-child is never repnot only a man of rank, but a person of decision and determination to carry the thing through in the proper spirit and display. He required of the master of the revels, Sir Thomas Cowarden, that John Smyth should be allowed him as his clown; besides jugglers, tumblers, fools, etc. A new fool's coat with a hood was made for John Smyth, who, from his being mentioned by name, must have been a well-known court fool.

The dress of this clown will show that no

The dress of this clown will show that no expense was spared even about the officers of arranging them on a Christmas-tree. all events, sufficiently national to appeal long fool's coat, of yellow cloth-of-gold, fringed with white, red, and green velvet, containing 71 yds., at £2 per yd., garded leave to learned antiquarians to decide. with plain yellow cloth-of-gold, 4 yds., at | The following jolly description, \* however, 83s. 4d., with a hood and pair of buskins of what a little New Yorker witnessed of the same figured gold, containing 2½ about the year 1784, puts beyond doubt yds., at £5; and a girdle of yellow sarcenet, of \(\frac{1}{2}\) yd., at 16d. The whole value £26 14s. this city at least long before any of the 8d., a goodly sum for the dress of a jester. The dresses of the lord of misrule himself must be mentioned to give some notion of the style in which this celebrated revelling was carried on. On Christmas day and during that week, he wore a robe of white baudekin (a rich stuff, made of silk interwoven with gold thread), containing 9 yds., at 16s. a yd., garded with embroidered cloth-of-gold, wrought in knots, 14 yds., at 11s. 4d. a yd.; having a fur of red feathers with a cape of camlet thrum, A coat of flat silver, fine works, 5 yds., at 50s., with an embroidered gard of leaves of gold and silk, containing 15 yds., at 20s. A cap of maintenance, of red feathers and camlet thrum, very rich, with a plume of feathers. A pair of hose; the breeches made of a yard of embroidered cloth-of-gold, 9 yds. of garding, at 13s. 4d., lined with silver sarcenet, one ell, at Ss. A pair of buskins of white bandekin, 1 yd., at 16s., besides making and other charges, Ss. more. A pair of pantacles, of Bruges satin, 3s. 4d.; a girdle of yellow sarcenet, containing \( \frac{1}{2} \) yd., at 16s. He had different but equally magnificent suits for New Year's and Twelfthday. These dresses were supplied from the king's stores, and must have satisfied any one. Taking, too, in account that he was attended by the members of his court, and all handsomely dressed, it was enough to turn any moderate man's head. His suite was composed of his heir-apparent, John Smyth, counsellors, pages of honor, gentlemen ushers, a sergeant-at-arms, private marshal, under-marshal, lieutenant of ordnance, heralds, and trumpeters, an orator, interpreter, jailer, footman, messenger,

sky. So up to the house top the coursers they flew, With the sieigh full of toys-and St. Nicholas And then in a twinkling I heard on the roof The prancing and pawing of each little hoof. As I drew in my head and was turning around, Down the chimney St. Nicholas came with a He was dressed ail in fur from his head to his an Irishman, an Irishwoman, six hunters, And his clothes were all tarnished with ashes jugglers, etc. The lord of misrule chosen and soot;
A bundle of toys he had flung on his back. in the fourth year of Elizabeth's reign was And he looked like a pedler just opening his Mr. Henry Helmes, and his title was as folpiick. His eyes, how they twinkled! his dimples, how lows: "The High and Mighty Prince, Henry, Prince of Purpoole, Archduke of Stapulia and Bernardia, Duke of High and Nethen Holborn, Marquis of St. Giles and Tottenham, Count Palatine of Bloomsbury and Clerkenwell, Great Lord of the Cantons of Islington, Kentish Town, Padding-

ing, and arrived at the temple in time for

breakfast, at which were served brawn,

mustard, and malmsey. The dinner, of two courses, was served in the hall, and

game, dressed in green velvet, and the

ranger of the forests, in green satin, bear

ing a green bow with arrows, each of them

having a hunting-horn about his neck;

after blowing three blasts of venery, they

paced three times round the fire, which

of the feast. This ceremony having been

performed, a huntsman came into the ball

with a fox and a purse-net with a cat, both

bounds and killed. This charming sport

being finished, the marshall ushered all

in their proper places to the dinner, and,

after the second course, the oldest of the

masters of the revels sang a song, with the

the marshal was borne in by four men, on

round the hearth, his bearers crying out,

"A lord, a lord !" after which he came

then addressed himself to the banquet,

merry! His cheeks were like roses, his nose like a cherry; His droli little month was drawn up like a bow. And the beard of his chin was a white as the The stump of a pipe he held tight in his teeth, the smoke it encircled his head like a wreath. ton and Knightsbridge, Knight of the most He had a broad face and a little round belly heroical order of the Helmet and Souvereign That shook, when he laughed, like a bowl full of jelly. He was chubby and plump-a right jolly old of the same." The revels of these grand Christmases continued throughout the whole twelve | And I laughed when I saw him, in spite of mydays; Christmasday, New Year's day, and A wink of his eye and a twist of his head, Twelfth-day being more particularly dis-tinguished. On Twelfth-day, the lord of Soon gave me to know I had nothing to dread. He spoke not a word, but went straight to his misrule, with one hundred followers, made And filled all the stockings; then turned with his progress through London in the morn-

The master of the game next made three readers in regard to the observance of the

courtesies and knelt down, and petitioned great Christmas festival now almost at

to be admitted into the services of the lord | hand, from which we extract the following,

sight :

a jerk, And, laying his finger aside of his nose, And giving a nod, up the chimney he rose; He sprang to bis sleigh, to his team he gave a whistle.

And away they flew like the down of a thistle;
But I neard him exclaim as he drove out of after the first course came the master of the

\* By Clement C. Moore, born in New York, July 15, 1779. -Catholic World, January, 1871. CHRISTMAS HINTS. - The New York Triwas then placed in the middle of the hall. bune gives some sensible advice to its

"Happy Christmas to all, and to all a good night!"

not having space for the article entire : bound at the end of a staff, and nine or ten turkey to one hungry family, or a ton of coal to another, and then dropping the whole class out of your mind for the rest couples of bounds, the horns blowing. The fox and cat were then set upon by the of the holidays, but by actually taking thought how to help them substantially.

\* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* Lastly, and above all, let us all remember in Christmas week, before we give a dollar away, to pay every dollar of our debts. We assistance of others present; after some have no right to give to rich friend or to means, -Balleu's Monthly. repose and further revels, supper of two starving scamstress the money which actucourses was served; and, when finished, ngs to other people. be honest, let us attract no false credit to a sort of scaffold, and taken three times ourselves by pretending to be generous. We shall not be likely to deceive our neighbors any more than God; and money houdown and danced. The lord of misrule estly earned and honestly paid, is twice as live and useful as money given in alms.

which ended with minstrelsy, mirth, and THE book of most general circulation dancing. There was a cessation of sports from Twelf:b-night to the first of February, and the one to which reference is most

#### HANG UP BABY'S STOCKING.

Hang up baby's stocking-Be sure you don't forget-The dear little dimpled darling ! She ne'er saw Christmas yet;

Dear! what a tiny stocking!

turn, and that and the following day were

were attended before the merry-makings

began. But in 1642 the flat went forth that

after the fashion of the Puritans, with long

faces and short hair. In 1647, some parish

officers were fined and imprisoned for al-

lowing min'sters to preach on Christmas

that no observation shall be had of the

five-and-twentieth day of December, com-

monly called Christmas day; nor any so-

lemnity used or exercised in churches upon

that day in respect thereof." Evelyn states

in his memoirs that, as he and his wife,

with others, were taking the sacrament on

rounded by soldiers, and the assembly taken

into custody for celebrating the nativity of

their Saviour against the ordinance of the

to his good subjects, the revival of the

Christmas festivities was attempted, with

but ill success. The spirit had been checked,

and could with difficulty be resuscitated.

Neither were the court displays as splen-

wand in one hand, and a bell in the other,

whose post is behind the tree, where he or

of the lights upon it. In other parts of

through Pelznichel of the conduct of each,

this city at least, long before any of us

A VISIT FROM ST. NICHOLAS.

Twas the night before Christmas, when all

through the house Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse

eare, hopes that St. Nicholas soon would be there:

While visions of sugar plums danced in their

Had just settled our brains for a long winter map -When out on the lawn there arose such a clat-

I sprang from my bed to see what was the mat-

Tore open the shutters, and threw up the sash. The moon, on the breast of the new-failer snow! Gave a lustre of midday to objects below;

When what to my wondering eyes should ap

pear
But a miniature sleigh and eight tiny reindeer,
With a little old driver, so lively and quick,
I knew in a moment it must be St. Nick!
More rapid than eagles his coursers they came.

And he whistled and shouted and called then

"Now, Dasher! now, Dancer! now, Prancer

On! Comet, on! Cupid, on! Donder and Blit-

To the top of the porch, to the top of the wall!

Now, dash away, d ash away, dash away, all!' As dry leaves that before the wild harricane

When they meet with an obstacle, mount to the

Away to the window I flew like a flash,

mamina in her kerchtef and I in my cap

ever received

When the "Merrie Monarch" came back

commonwealth.

Christmas day, 1657, the chapel was sur-

Christmas was always, however, consid-

spent in revelling and feasting.

But I told her all about it, And she opened her big blue eyes, And I'm sure she understands it, She looks so funny and wise,

Such little pink toes as baby's Away from frost and cold. But then, for the baby's Christmas It will never do at all ; Why Santa wouldn't be looking For anything half so small

It doesn't take much to hold

I know what we'll do for the baby-I've thought of the very best plan-I'll borrow a stocking of grandma, The longest that ever I can ; And you'll hang it by mine, dear mother, Right here in the corner, so,

And write a letter to Santa And fasten it on the toe. Write: "This is the baby's stocking That hangs in the corner here; You never have seen her. Santa. For she only came this year

But she's just the blessedest baby-And now before you go Just cram her stockings with goodies From the top clean down to the toe.

### CHRISTMAS IN NORWAY.

The great festival of the year in Norway, as among all Germanic nations, is Christas elsewhere. But the Christ-kindschen is mas. Whether it owes all its sanctity to represented by a young person dressed in its association with the birth of the Saviour white, with a gift crown upon the head, a is, bowever, an open question; for many customs still kept alive in the remoter valleys seem to point beyond the beginning of she is but dimly seen, owing to the glare the Christian era, to the time when the Norsemen are horseflesh in honor of Odin and Thor and Frey. The festival, as the resented; the children are told that he has retaining of the old name indicates, is as provided the Christmas-tree, and knows yet strongly tinctured with reminiscences of the old pagan Yule. Tracing the charbut his existence is an article of faith, not acter of Christ and His apostles as they apan ocular demonstration.

As most of us can testify from early recollections, however, St Niklas, or St. Nicholas, as we call him, is not unknown that was dear to them in the old gods to to the children of this country-enly here the new diety, and thus, by a sort of com-Just when this custom of hanging up little strongly to their Norse hearts. The nastockings and these visits of the good old tionalizing of one's divinity is, of course, saint began on this side of the Atlantic we not peculiar to Norway; it would have been more singular if Norway had shown no trace of it,

> The preparation for the Yuletide, in the way of provisioning the house, would, to American eyes, look perfectly enormous. Baking and brewing and butchering keep the whole household busy during the lasthree weeks preceding the festival. And the fact that the process is repeated year after year probably proves that it is necessary. Every man, woman and child who of his bishopines of chimney-tops, the chilcomes within stone's throw of the house during the holidays (which usually last un- them with hay, oats or carrors for the til a week after New Year) must be invited in and urged to cat and drink without | table, or set them in the ine-place. The regard for comfort. Even the birds are to bave their share of the Christmas joy. As feast" at five o'clock in the afternoon of Christmas Eve, the father of the house takes his richest sheaf of oats or barley and attaches it to the end of a pole, which is nailed to the gable of the barns or the storehouses. The mother and the children stand by enjoying the sight of the happy birds fluttering around the sheafs, while the father will perhaps quote the passage about God's care even for the sparrow, wherefore t is right that the sparrow, too, should re-

oice on the day when Christ was born. Among the many evening visitors which are sure to drop in to taste the Christmas brew, some are apt to be disguised in grotesque masks and otherwise fantastically accoutred. These are called Yulebucks, possibly because the most common mask may have been that of a goat or some other horned creature. At present I do not know that any special kind of disguise is preferred. The rule seems to be the more grotesque the beiter.

The German custom of having poor children wander about on Christmas Eve carrying a large lighted star of cauvas. representing the star of Bethleham, prevails also in Norway. No one can hear their shrill, tiny voices in the snow under his window, singing the dear, familiar carols, and refuse them their well-carned penny. - Scribner for January.

WHAT CHRISTMAS MEANS. - Christmastide is here again, and every year the preparations for it grow more magnificent. The shops are full of costly furs, costly silks and velvets, costly toys. The book sellers display books sumptuously bound and the picture shops are full of gayly framed pictures, great and small. But in many temptations for the purse, so much hood. Would you lay a gift upon the First be reconciled by thy brother, and is all too short for misunderstandings or Even if Flora McFlimsey be our nearest friend, to add another jewel to those that | tec; the hands, -Ballan's Monthly. glitter on her pretty, helpless fingers is hardly worth while. Christmas is not firly kept by gifts like that. Better fill a poor woman's empty tea caddy, a poor family's empty coal bin-better teach some one human soul the sweet lesson that "all we are brethern"-than drop new gifts into careless hands that are over full already. Human help and human brotherhood, remembering the all loving, all pitying Father who helps us all-that is what Christmas

months has been beating its rays flercely theman says he has never fed it, or petted down upon questions of "love and mar- it in any way, which makes it more reriage," advises young men to be careful markable; but we were told by a frequent. how they marry women older than them | er of the gardens that about two or three selves. It says: "A year or two or so years ago a man used to come there and sometimes is no harm, but a decade is bad. feed this identical gone regularly, so we A young man at eight and twenty is pretty are inclined to think that it is a case of likely to soon find out his mistake if he mistaken identity on the part of his goose. marries a woman of eight and thirty.

# ST. NICHOLAS.

St. Nicholas, as all the world knows, is the patron of children, with whom he is the most popular saint in the calendar. Bishop of Myra, in Lycia, in the time of Con- a the stantine the Great, according to the Romannere or breviary, he supplied three destinte mais more or ens with dowries by secretly leaving a prior of the riage portion for each at their wilmans; thence lieuce the popular fiction that he iontaining 457 veyor of presents to children on Chi also, another veyor of presents to children on Chi also, another Eve. He usually makes his appeararom the southan old man with a venetable beat; thence north dressed as a bishop, either riding thereby thence horse or an ass, and carrying a large s, to a birch; on his arm, and a bundle of rods pince south 27 hand. In some parts of Bohemia tie 46 perches. pears dressed up in a sheet instead of a sulton surplice, with a crushed pillow on his head instead of a mitre. On his calling out, "Wilt thou pray?" all the children fall

upon their knees, whereupon he lets fall some fruit upon the floor and disappears. In this manner he goes from house to house, sometimes ringing a bell to announce his arrival, visits the nurseries, inquires into the conduct of the children, praises or admonishes them, as the case may be, distributing sweetmeats or rods accordingly. St. Nicholas is the Santa Claus of Hol-

land, and the Smiklaus of Switzerland, and the Sonnor Klas of Heligoland. In the Vorarlberg be is known as Zemmiklas, who threatens to put naughty children into his hay-sack; in Nether Austria as Niklo, or Niglo, who is followed by a masked servant called Krampus; while in the Tyrol he goes by the name of the "Holy Man," and shares the patronage of his office with St. Luco, who distributes gifts among the girls, as he among the boys. Sometimes he is accompanied by the Christ-child. In many parts of Switzerland, Germany,

and the Netherlands, St. Nicholas still distributes his presents on St. Nicholas Evethe 5th of December-instead of on Christmas Eve. In the Netherlands and adjoining provinces he is especially popular, and s perhaps the only saint who has maintained his full credit, even among the Protestants. For days previous to his expected advent busy homsewives have been secretly conspiring with the bakers in gilding outs, cakes and gingerbread, and torturing pastry, prepared with flour, sugar, honey, spices and sweetments, into the most fantasical forms, from which the good saint may from time to time replenish his supplies. As to the children, St. Nicholas or Sunder Klass is the burden of their prayers, the staple of their dreams, and the inspiration of their song. As they impor-tune him to let fall from the chimney-top some pretty gift into their little aprons, they go on singing with childish fervor:

"Sunder Klass du gode Bloot! Breng mi Noot un Zuckerbrod, Nicht to veel un nich to mona Smiet in mine Schorten in!"

In Belgium, on the eve of the good bishop's serial voyage in his pastoral visitation dren polish their shoes, and after filling saint's white horse, they put them on a room is then carefully closed and the door locked. Next morning it is opened in the soon as the church belis have 'rung in the presence of the assembled household, when miribile dicta! the furniture is found to be turned topsy turys, while the little shoes, instead of horse's forage, are filled with sweetmeats and toys for the good children. and with rods for the bad ones. In some places wooden or China shoes, stockings, baskets, rups and saucers, and even bundles of hay, are placed in the chimney, or by the side of the bed, or in a corner of the room, as the favorite receptacle of St.

# CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS.

The custom of decorating with evergreens at Christmas is far from being a modern one. The Romans two thousand years ago did the same thing. Indeed it is more than probable that the origin of adorning our homes with ivy, holly, and bay must be sought for in the Roman saturnalia, held every year toward the end of December. Formerly the decorations of rooms consisted of a few branches of evergreen stuck here and there; but now they are of a much more complicated character. To make effective and pretty designs requires good taste, pracice, skill, and a general knowledge of the materials to be employed. Although holly, ivy, and mistletoe are principally used, there are many other plants admirably adapted to intersperse with the above. Among them are arbutus, aucuba, Lay, encoymus, gold and silver hollies, ivies of different colors, laurels, laurustinus, Portugal laurel, spruce and silver firs, yew, and so forth; also branchlets of arbor-vitte, cypress, deoder, joniper, thuja, or any other ornamental shrubs obtainable. According to the style of decoration, so the foundation must be the midst of so much hurry and bustle, so selected. For garlands, wire or strong many temptations for the purse, so much cord should be used: the latter is preferaparade of the external Christmas, there is | ble, however, as it is not so hable to twist a growing danger that the Christmas of as wire; and, for what are called upright the heart will be forgotten-the Christmas wreaths or panels, fine iron rods are the that means peace and good-will, faithful best. For ornamental devices, perforated love, forgiveness of sins, human brother. zinc should be used. for letters, strong brown paper; for narrow beadings, where Christmas altar, the old rule holds still, | single leaves only are employed, tape wire; for crosses, picture-frames, texts, and so then come and offer thy gift." This life | forth, flat laths or hazel rods; for wreaths, strong wire; and, for small garlands, fine contention; and why should we, poor, twine is serviceable. In addition to the foolish, frail, imperfect children of one above, several halls of hemp twine, fine Father, be bitter or selfish or cold to each | and coarse, large needles, and strong linear ther-we, for all of whom nlike came the thread, dark green or black, a pair of first blessed gift of Christmas? Let there scissors, penkuife, and ree of binding be less costly present making, and more wire, must also be at hand; and one if human sympathy and consideration, the most important things to be supplied with is a strong pair of kid gloves to pro-

man is a matter of food. The Halifax Chronicle says: "Whenever a certain old gentleman approaches the poud at the Public Gardens and calls 'Hobby,' a goose will leave the pond and sit bedde him, and, when he leaves to go home, will follow close at his feet to the gate, and sometimes into the street, when it has to be forcibly put back, to its manufest disgust, for it goes off to its native element twisting its tail with indignation, and giving vent to -The New York Sun, which for several sundry discordant squeaks. The old penship,"