- "THE GLORIOUS SONG OF OLD." It came upon the midnight clear, That glorious song of old, rrom angels bending near the earth To touch their harps of gold ; "Peace on the earth, good will to men, From Heaven's all-gracious King;"
- The world in solemn sitence lay To hear the angels sing. Still through the cloven skies they com With peaceful wings unfurled; And still their heavenly music floats
- O'er all the weary world: Above its sad and lowly plains They bend on hovering wing. And ever o'er its Babel sounds The blessed angels sing.
- But with the woes of sin and strife The world has suffered long; Beneath the angel strain have rolled Two thousand years of wrong; And man, at war with man, hears not The love-song which they bring; Oh, hush thy noise, ye men of strile, And hear the angels sing!
- And ye, beneath life's crushing lead Whose forms are bending low, Who toil along the climbing way With painful steps and slow, Look now! for glad and golden hours Come swiftly on the wing; Oh, rest beside the weary road,
- And hear the angels sing! For 10! the days are hastening on, By prophet-bards foretold, When with the ever circling years Comes round the age of gold ; When peace shall over all the earth Its ancient aplendors fling, And the whole world send back the song Which now the angels sing,

CHRISTMAS.

SIXTY YEARS AGO.

REMINISCENCES OF ITS CELEBRATION Dr. Rathvon's Comparisons of the Old Time Christmas.

For the CHRISTMAS INTELLIGENCER.

"To every one it must be clear, That Christmas comes but once a year." Christmas day is not now what it was most proper way to state it—I should have eaid, that popular festival sixty years ago was not what it is to-day; and by saying this, I do not mean that it was less sincere, less expressive and less significant than its more magnificent, more expensive and more pronounced successor of the present period. Sixty years ago a very considerable portion of the Christian community of the American States practically manifested no special recognition of Christmas day, as a Christian festival; and this was especially so in the Eastern States, whatever regard they may have entertained for it from the standpoint of piety. Possibly the present generation may be too sensational, too ostentatious and too elaborate in its mani-

thanks to a Beneficent Providence for the bounties and blessings of the year; they may have acknowledged His gifts according to their respective conception of their value; and now their desires, intents and purposes are turned towards that time-honored period which furnishes an occasion to bestow or confer those gifts upon each other. Wherever civilization and Christanniversary approaches. No matter how poor, how selfish, how penurious, or how churlish the individual may be, he is not quite satisfied with himself until he has bowed before the Gift-shrine-or, until the holidays are numbered with the past, and no longer rebuke him for his want of pracand the searcher of hearts, and we have a made up the tout ensemble of the decoraward man." It, however, cannot be the that the entire Christian world is thus simultaneously exercised when the "great anniversary" approaches, whatever may be its faith in the advent which it essays to

The very air we breathe as the period nears seems to be more and more charged with a peculiar aura, which affects almost period and on no other occasion throughout stimulant to general goodness, they may find themselves mentally, if not audibly, ejaculating, "Glory to God in the highest," even though they may profess to have no very definite perception of who or what

the medium of communication was more obedient and more pure. To sincerely be Christmas tree, were enabled to see "clear lieve that Jehovah "bowed the heavens through" the deception of the Bells Nickand came down," and became the Emanuci, el, and knew he was a sham, yet when his ous influence in forming that conjunction | ually did early on Christmas eve-we were anniversary of the Christ-child would be reason too, for he could make himself painmore properly celebrated and redeemed fully tangible if he chose. from cant, hypocrisy and abuse.
Of course, the outward manifestation of

seems to be enlarging the sphere of its operations; but no one now living in a Christian country, perhaps, can look back to the lusion; and, instead thereof, we hurried period in his life's experience when there off to bed. was not some illustration of this festival, however insignificant and humble it may from paganism, climinated and adapted to the new use. This, however, is not necessarily disparaging, because some remnants more. Limited stocks of this species of of the good and the true have existed merchandise were kept by dry goods and dawning of human society down to the beer-shops, but there was no special dislatest. This part of the subject we waive, play made to cater for the "Christmas because, if the reader turns to the files of trade"—if such a trade at all existed. the newspapers of one or two years ago, Appropriate church services wherever he will find allusions to Christmas, its ori-church societies or church structures exgins, its festivals, and its order of observisted were held, but the programme of ance among many Christian nations, more services differed very little from ordinumerous than poetical effusions on "The nary days of worship, except, perhaps, Beautiful Snow." I therefore, also, need the specialty of the subject. not say anything on the Christmas of now, From those days, however, down to the lars

but shall endeavor to recall an episode or present time, the Christmas demonstrations so of sixty years ago.

If Luther's famous Christmas tree was type of the Christmas trees of Lancaster county, or of the state of Pennsylvania, sixty years ago, then I had never seen one, nor heard of one-even twelve years later, if such a tree had been erected in a place so large as the city of Philadelphia, the knowlege of it must have been confined to the very few, or had not entered into the

that belong to periods from one to five or two of them were the subjects of records made some years ago, hence no further alusion will be made to them here.

During the winter of 1822 and 1823 I was township of Donegal, and then first participated in the erection of a Christmas tree after the "county fashion" of that period-so far at least as that locality was concerned. Christmas occurs during the shortest days of the whole year, and people in the country lived somewhat farther apart than they do now, hence visits could not readily be made to see how the people kept the day, therefore families mainly kept it within themselves, and when the day was gone, it was gone for another year; for the morrow brought its

The tree on this occasion was a low ce-dar bush which "we boys" had "spotted" when we were out walnuting as early as the beginning of the previous November. The head of the family was of Irish de-"Pennsylvania Dutch," and had accommodated himself to their peculiar ways, and when necessary spoke their peculiar language. Only one of the elder boys, the housemaid and myself, in addition to the "Old Folks, participated in the preparatiou of the tree. All the others were the victims of the harmless little ruse which parents saw fit to resort to once a year, in order to furnish an agreeable surprise and pleasure to their little ones, whose boxes, scent but had married into a family of pleasure to their little ones, whose boxes, hats, caps and stockings occupied different nooks and corners to receive the gifts of the a"Bells-Nickel" to good little boys and girls, and somehow all claimed to be good on that occasion at least. But when the Bells-Nickel appeared in his proper person on Christmas eve, with his hideous visage, his bag of nuts, and his long whip, jingling his bells withal, and speaking in a dialect sixty years ago-or perhaps that is not the | confusion of Babel, the chilldren were not

far as i can remember, had then no curreacy in the rural districts of our county. It was the Bells-Nickel that rewarded good children and punished bad ones, and it was he who filled the stocking legs, the hats, caps and boxes on Christmas night. These gifts to children, and indeed all gifts passing between the young and the old were severally termed a b"Christ-kindly," but as ing between the young and the old were severally termed a b"Christ kindly," but as severally termed a b"Christ-kindly," but as little was heard and known of Kriss-King taem, for the small quantity of sugar they gle as of Santa Claus.

and when the youngsters commenced suck ing taem, for the small quantity of sugar they contained, their hands and their faces from their mouths to their eyes and ears presented

population, was just as common as it is as the Rubicon of Thanksgiving day is passed, which impels their thoughts and that was confined to the larger towns. Christmas-ward. They may have accorded In the country there was an annual butchering just before Christmas, and many gifts were in the form of "puddings and sau-

Our Christmas tree on this occasion may have been four feet high (about the height of a boy of ten years old) and every available branch contained an article of some kind, and its base was garnished by the Christ-kindlies of the children, which conianity are dominant, almost every human being, whether Christian or Gentile, and also to some extent Jews and Pagans, seems to be moved by a simultaneous impulse to give or receive some token of affection, good-will or personal regard as the Advant good-will or personal regard, as the Advent | tic usc. The tree was decorated with ginger bread cut in various grotesque forms. remote approximations to men, women, horses, dogs, deer, roosters, fishes, stars, hearts, sheep, goats, cows—and even the "bad man"—diamonds, houses, rings, etc. and these were embellished with a mixture of starch and sugar, which gave them a tical sympathy with a custom that is so frightful, if not a comic look. These with universal. Gift-making or gift-taking may apples, here and there a bunch of raisins, be perverted or abused. With that I have nothing to do: The value and the motive shop and brightly colored for constant of the perverted or abused. With that I have or a e" matzebaum," obtained from a town shop and brightly colored for constant of the perverted or abused. are clearly within the ability of the giver posed of scarlet, yellow and green flannel, right to infer that they are the representa- tions of the Christmas tree of the country, tives of "Peace on earth, and good will to- and even this was by no means universal, for then, as perhaps now, there were result of mere caprice, or selfish impulse, large religious communities that never made any demonstration of this kind at all. They may have baked a special batch of sweet-cakes for their children, but nothing more except, perhaps, the usual religious service.

The custom, however, was more common in the towns, and there, too, being more accessible to the stores, other decoevery one as they are affected at no other rations were improvised, such as glass beads, oranges or lemons, mint-dropsthe entire year; and, under the impending like rows of red and white buttons or slips of paper-toys and candies, according to the pecuniary circumstances of the host; but most of the toys, even, were home-made. Where pine, cedar or juniper could not be obtained, laurel was substi-God is, or whether, perhaps, there be any duted for the tree. Donning the "woolsy God at all; and this is all because God exlindsy" winter Sunday suit for the first ists, without regard to human recognition. time was often put off to Christmas day,

Although "us boys" by our participa-tion in creeting and "trimming" the -"God with us"-would have a marvel- personator visited the house-which he usbetween God and man, through which the terribly afraid of him, and with some

The superstition that at twelve o'clock on Christmas night the cattle in their stalls the Christmas festival has been gradual all kneel down and pray, "us boys" had and progressive, and every succeeding year | concocted a scheme to test, but when the

Of course, sixty years ago there was no confectioneries, ice cream saloons or toy have been. Many of its customs and also shops as they exist at the present period, gross superstitions were doubtless derived | nor any that made the remotest approximaamong all people on earth, from the earliest | grocery stores, by drug stores and cake and-

have not gone backward, but have been gradually increasing, and are likely to con-tinue so, and any attempt to inculcate a sentiment abrogating them would excite as much indignation as Paul's preaching did among the image makers of Athens. And there is no reason why they should not continue, so far as they are legitimate. Repudiate or abrogate the 4th of July and the dissipation of America's liberty is likely to follow. Obliterate Christmas and Chrisdomestic gossip of the town. . tianity is likely to become weakened or There are phantoms of humble little dissipated, for it would be the beginning tianity is likely to become weakened or Christmas trees dancing through my mind of the obliteration of Deity. It is the 'plane and continent" of God's manifesyears anterior to sixty years ago, and one tation of Himself to men, which is the only medium of conjunction with Him who, "out of Christ is a consuming fire," This spiritual fermentation moved the human mind sixty years ago, has moved it, annumember of a farmer's family in the ally at least, ever since, and with increasing intensity moves it to-day.

> a. This term, in the country, was usually pronounced "Bell-Snickel," and by way of Anglicism was tortured into Bell Nicholas, all of which was in allusion to St. Nicholas, the patron saint of boys, no doubt. It was once common in Germany, and perhaps, is so still, for the children of the family to assemble on the eve of St. Nicholas (Dec. 6) when nuts and sweetmeats would be distributed among them, but if any naughty children were present, instead of a present they would get a whack of the Klaubaut. This custom, in this country, somehow, was transferred to, and became a somehow, was transferred to, and became part of our Christmas sports.

> b This term was pronounced "Krisht Kindly" and it, with Kriss Kringle, are doubtless corruptions of Christ Kindehen, or "Christchild." I had been disposed to regard Kriss Kringle as a mongrel translation of Christ-Kindehen into English, but Dr. Breener quotes it as a Dutch (Hollandish) term.

d. James Monroe was then president of the United States, and this particular footgear was named after him. "Us boys" had heard of Monroe and knew he was president, but we had no very distinct idea of his relation to the country or to us. If we should have happened to have seen him, and not found him about ten feet high and six inches between the eyes, we perhaps would not have entertained any more regard for him than for any other man.

his bells withal, and speaking in a dialect that seemed to have been brought from the confusion of Babel, the chilldren were not quite so sure of their goodness, if they did not fly in terror from his presence and hide themselves under the remotest corner of their beds. The name of Santa Claus, so far as I can remember, had then no currence in the remotest corner of the remotest corner of their beds. The name of Santa Claus, so far as I can remember, had then no currence in the remotest corner of corner in the remotest corner of corner in the remotest corner of their beds. The name of Santa Claus, so far as I can remember, had then no currence in the remotest corner of corner in the remotest corner of t "Matzebaum"-this is a corruption of Christmas-gifting, in proportian to the a indicrous aspect of commingled daubery.

ostentatious and too elaborate in its manifestations of display; but even this might be looked upon with commendable indulgance, so long as we felt sure that the least not in the country. People generally the tighting complete the country of the decorations of aChristmas tree sixty years ago, tor, excepting a moiety of highly colored guass beads, which were not always nor everywhole was not merely "a tinkling cymbal and sounding brass."

But, whether as an external out-birth, or an internal affection, it cannot be denied that the whole Christian world at this day, is influenced by an almost irresistible impulse (unaccountable to the many) as soon as the Rubicon of Thanksgiving day is of the tree with their faces outward, and could be kept from one Christmas to another with

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That there is a misapprehension, and hence an abuse of the Christmas frstival, which seems to travel side by side with a more enlightened conception and a more devotional use of it, does not militate against its real significance in the catagory of fact. At the advent of the first Christmas on earth, the illiterate but godlyminded shepherds who were watching their flocks in or near "Bethlehem of Judea," felt the same influx (because proceeding from the same source) that mankind does to-day, and that the manifestations was the more perfect or pronounced, was because the medium of communication was more cure any one or loriest \$10 *\$1.000; that he has not thrust his pictured face into their houses or on the fences, in the disgusting Pinkham style, so common to quack venders of nostrums. His claim is simply to cure all the various ills of mankind by external applications of remedials, and that he does not make a drug shop of the stomach, and he will before leaving publish a large pamphlet containing hundreds of rames of persons cured in this city and county, many of them very extraordinary. A banker's wife cured of sick headache of over thirty five years, and her glasses removed, reacing and sewing with natural vision. Mr. Sutter, of 320 Middle street, cured of 5 years terrible annoyance of dyspepsia, in one day. Epileptic Fits of twenty years cured in one week. Tumors, Cancers and Cataracts removed without any pain or use of the knife, Axioms, Wretched-looking countenances do not cure disease. A regular graduate can become a nountebank. A regular practitioner and surgeon cannot (at the same time) be a special-ist. Certified cures of difficult cases make converts of the incredulous. Consultations and correlations and correlations from the context of the cure of the context special-ist. Certified cures of difficult cases make converts of the incredulous. Consultations and examinations fare. Catarrh cured for 50 cents. The remedy sent to anyone on receipt of 50 cents in stamps.—DR. CHAS. A. GREENE, 146 East King street. MWF&S.

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Years ago we were overloaded with goods, and we frankly said so. We have no secrets about our business. We take the people into our confidence and ask for a return of confidence, AND GET IT, because the people find out exactly what can be depended on. We sold out long ago all our surplus stock. Five furniture cars would carry all the old stock now in our double six-story building, and while we do so large a business and sizes break up so rapidly as they do, we always expect to have just as much as we have to-day.

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NEW GOODS OF SPLENDID CHARACTER.

And made for the purpose of driving up and along the sales to far outdo the best endeavors of former years.

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Nor is all our stock marked down, but

Oversacks and Chesterfields, made to sell at

Gray striped, fancy back, Skeleton Over-

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Brown Chinchilla Oversacks, made to sell at \$15.00, reduced to \$12.00.	Also, 255 Suits of same goods, with Sac't or Walking Coats, at same price.	31 Fancy Cassimere Suits, mac \$9.60, reduced to \$8.00.
Gray mixed, fancy back Diagonal, Skeleton	Men's Business Suits.	58 Fancy Casalmera Suits mad

16 Fancy Cassimere Suits, made to sell at \$10, reduced to \$9. 178 Very Strong, All-Wool, Blue Cheviot acks, made to sell at \$16.50, reduced to \$13.00. Suits, fast colors, made to sell at \$13, reduced 30 Fancy Cassimere Suits, made to sell at \$12,

reduced to \$10. Beaver Ulsters, made to sell at \$14.00, reduced 113 Fancy Diagonal Cheviot Suits, made to sell at \$15, reduced to \$12. Mixed Frieze, all wool Oversacks, made to reduced to \$12. reduce to \$14. Finest Imported "Eskimo" Beaver Over-59 Fancy Cas acks, made to sell at \$20.00, reduced to \$20.00. \$20, reduced to \$15. Finest Imported " Duffell " Beaver Over icks made to sell at \$28.00, reduced to \$20.00.

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Il at \$25.00, reduced to \$19.00. hs' Business Suits.

58 Fancy Cassimere Suits, made to sell at 20 Faney " Empire" Cassimero Sutts, made

2) Fancy "Harris" Cassimere Suits, mad 25 Fancy "Eddy" Cassimere Suits, made t 38 Fancy " Eddy" Cassimere Suits, made t 111 Very strong, all-wool, Blue Cheviot Suits, Fancy Back Fur Beaver, \$15.00 to \$12.00.

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Mixed Frieze Oversacks, \$5.00 to \$1.00. Mixed Frieze Oversacks, \$6.50 to \$5.00. Mixed Frieze Oversacks, \$7.50 to \$6.00. Mixed Frieze Oversacks, \$9.00 to \$7.50. Mixed Frieze Oversacks, \$8.00 to \$7.00. Boys' Suits. Fancy Cassimere, \$7.00 to \$6,00 Fancy Cassimere, \$7.50 to \$6,00 Fancy Cassimere, \$7.50 to \$6,50 Fancy Cassimere, \$9.00 to \$7.00, Fancy Cassimere \$10.00 to \$3,50.

Fancy Cassimere, \$11.00 to \$8.50. Fancy Cassimere, \$12.00 to \$10.00. Fancy Cassimere, \$13.50 to \$11.50. Fancy Cassimere, \$15.00 to \$10.00. Fancy Cassimere, \$14.00 to \$12.00. Fancy Cassimere, \$17.00 to \$14.60. Very Fine Brown Pique, \$17.00 to \$15.00. Boys' Overcoats. Fancy Cassimere, \$7.50 to \$6.50. Fur Beavers, Black, Blue and Gray, \$10 to \$8.50. Fancy Back Skeleton, \$12.00 to \$10.00.

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