

Lancaster Intelligencer.

SATURDAY EVENING, DEC. 24, 1881.

"THE GLORIOUS SONG OF OLD."

It came upon the midnight clear, That glorious song of old...

Still through the cloven skies they come With peaceful wings unfurled; And still their heavenly music floats...

But with the woes of sin and strife The world has suffered long; Beneath the angel strain have rolled...

Look now! for glad and golden hours Come swiftly on the wing; O, rest beside the weary road...

For of the days that are fastening on, By prophet-bards foretold, When with the ever-circling years...

CHRISTMAS.

SIXTY YEARS AGO.

REMINISCENCES OF ITS CELEBRATION

Dr. Matthew'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 sixty years ago--or perhaps it is not the most proper way to state it--I should have said, 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...

But, whether as an external or internal affection, it cannot be denied that the whole Christian world at this day, is influenced by an almost irresistible impulse...

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...

The custom, however, was more common in the towns, and there, too, being more accessible to the stores, other decorations of the occasion.

That there is a misapprehension, and hence an abuse of the Christmas festival, which seems to travel side by side with more enlightened conception and a more devoutal use of it, does not militate against its real significance in the category of fact.

Of course, the outward manifestation of the Christmas festival has been gradual and progressive, and every succeeding year seems to be enlarging the sphere of its operations...

From these days, however, down to the present time, the Christmas demonstrations have gone on increasing, and are likely to continue 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 as far as they are legitimate. Repudiate or abrogate the 4th of July and the dissipation of America's liberty is likely to follow.

Such a time has come to Oak Hall, and we have to announce "OCCASION EXTRAORDINAIRE."

So the French people put it, and the great stores, "The Louvre" and "Bon Marche" every few weeks have a rousing sale or "occasion."

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but shall endeavor to recall an episode or so of sixty years ago.

If Luther's famous Christmas tree was a 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 as large as the city of Philadelphia, the knowledge of it must have been confined to the very few, or had not entered into the domestic gossip of the town.

There are phantoms of humble little Christmas trees dancing through my mind that belong to periods from one to five years anterior to sixty years ago, and one or two of them were the subjects of records made some years ago, hence no further allusion will be made to them here.

During the winter of 1825 and 1826 I was a member of a farmer's family in the 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.

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1881, so far, has been the largest year's business OAK HALL HAS EVER DONE.

Mr. John Wanamaker has this season watched over personally and supervised the old house in a measure like in old times

AND NOW desires to say he has determined to put the annual sales far beyond anything ever reached before in the annals of the Retail Clothing business in the United States.

There is not a day to lose, as the season is passing. We have therefore prepared all the inducements we can offer and they

GO INTO EFFECT IMMEDIATELY.

Years ago we were overladen with goods, and we frankly said so. We had 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.

NOW THEN, THIS IS TO SAY That this "Occasion" is based on the cleanest, newest, best stock we can possibly get together.

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.

SUMMING UP THE INDUCEMENTS, THEY ARE 1. A stock of goods, most of it "just born," clean and beautiful, arriving daily from our workrooms. 2. A "right smart" deduction of usual prices, "something that can be seen."

3. Opportunity given to take a purchase away, compare it, bring it back and get money returned. 4. Wanamaker & Brown's stamp on the quality and make of the goods as the guarantee of value. Of course

THERE ARE SOME BETTER BARGAINS THAN OTHERS, Nor is all our stock marked down, but

THIS IS EXACTLY HOW IT IS. Cut out the lists and walk into OAK HALL and have a look.

A Men's Overcoats. B Men's Dress Suits. C Youths' Business Suits. D Small Boys' Suits.

13 Superb "Rock" Cassimere Suits, made to sell at \$25.00, reduced to \$18.00. 9 Superb "Hockanum" Cassimere Suits, made to sell at \$25.00, reduced to \$19.00.

113 Double-Braced Frock Coat Suits of Schumbe's Finest Blue and Black Crepe Cassimere, made to sell at \$20, reduced to \$22.

16 Fancy Cassimere Suits, made to sell at \$30, reduced to \$20. 178 Very Strong, All-Wool, Blue Cheviot Suits, fast colors, made to sell at \$15, reduced to \$10.

108 Very strong, all-wool, Blue Cheviot Suits, fast colors, made to sell at \$12.90, reduced to \$9.00.

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