

CHRISTMAS DAY.

How the Glad Tidings of Great Joy Were Received in Lancaster.

AN IDEAL HOLIDAY THAT WAS BRIMMING WITH MERRIMENT.

Noteworthy Religious Features of the Day's Observance—Fine Music and Excellent Sermons—How the Fun-Loving Portion of the Public Put in Their Time—The Day on the Road and Some of Its Minor Features.

The great Christmas festival was joyously commemorated in Lancaster, and believer and unbeliever alike have occasion to remember it as a day of gladness. The religious feature of the day's observance was more than usually significant, and the services in the churches of all denominations were of a high order of excellence, and all were attended by large congregations. The day abroad was an ideal Christmas. The air was just cold enough to be bracing, and the merry jingle of the sleigh bells kept time with the joyous beat of the Christmas pulse. Within doors old Santa Claus was kept busy distributing presents to the little ones, and few were the homes where his work was not on exhibition. Though the volume of business at the stores was much smaller, the business men had been prepared for a decreased traffic, and they profess themselves satisfied with the results of the Christmas trade. Below will be found the main features, religious and secular, of the day's celebration:

THE LUTHERAN CHURCHES.

How the Glad Christmas Tidings were heard by the Followers of the Reformation Leader.

At St. Stephen's Lutheran Church, corner of Duke and Church streets, the decorations were elaborate, but neat. The pillars were twined with evergreen, there were wreaths on the walls, above the pulpit a heavy festoon of evergreens, on each side of the altar a large Christmas tree, filled with gifts, and between the festoons over the altar was the inscription in the letters on a silver background, "Glory to God, in the Highest." The morning service was opened with the singing of Christmas anthems by the choir, which was followed by congregational singing. The sermon was preached by Rev. Meister from Luke 2: 10-11, "Behold I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people, for unto you this day is born a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord."

In the evening the Sunday school celebration was held, and the program was gone through with, reflecting great credit on all concerned. It consisted of recitations, dialogues, responsive reading and an address by the pastor. The Sunday school officers were unable to secure an orchestra for this evening and they have obtained a giving and entertainment on Sunday evening which will be a full orchestra present. A special program has been prepared for the Sunday evening entertainment. Mr. Meister was especially fortunate this Christmas in receiving gifts. The teachers of the Sunday school presented him with a writing desk, the bible class with a handsome dressing case, and the confirmation class also made him a handsome present.

ZION'S LUTHERAN CHURCH.

Zion's Lutheran church is very tastefully decorated. The chandeliers are festooned with evergreens, there is a large arch above the pulpit, and the altar is decorated with white letters on a green background, "Behold, I bring you glad tidings of great joy," and above the arch is a star. The exercises on Christmas morning opened with Christmas anthems by the choir, after which Rev. Mayer preached a sermon from John 1, 16, the theme being, "Reasons for joy on Christmas."

GRACE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN.

The committee in charge of the decorations of Grace Lutheran church did their work well, and the interior of the church presents a handsome appearance. At the morning service on Christmas morning, Rev. Haupt preached from Luke 2, after which a small class was confirmed. The Sunday school held their usual Christmas celebration in the evening, when the following Christmas service was observed:

PROCESSIONAL—THE FOLLOWING: choir, congregation and school.

Prayer.

Carol—Christmas Morn Merry Make the Echo.

The Holy Child—Responsive reading.

Carol—No Room in the Town.

Infant Carol—Our Christ is Born.

Carol—The Hills of Bethlehem.

Carol—A Wonder.

Carol—Never Shown a Light so Fair.

The Golden Star—Responsive reading.

Carol—Bright and Wonderful.

Hymn—Gladly the Trumpet sounds.

After the distribution of prizes the large congregation present were dismissed with the benediction.

TRINITY LUTHERAN.

A beautiful scene met the eyes of the large congregation attending the musical festival in Old Trinity. The decoration was never so elaborate, and its arrangement showed that master-hands were at work. Around the edges of the galleries were placed large, bulky spruce trees about eight feet apart; above the highest of windows on the left and right of the pulpit were the words in black extended text letters "HUMANITY—DIVINE" respectively; upon the right gas-burnet of the pulpit hung a banner of silk, on which the inscription "LAMBETH SET DECEMBER 26, 1884" was written in gold, and on the left another of similar design was inscribed "THE TOP OF IT REACHING TO HEAVEN"; from the centre of the pulpit a ladder of evergreen rested upon the end wall within a yard from the ceiling, and immediately above the ladder a crescent metal arch with a gas-burner burning brightly before it, reflected the rays upon an angel suspended several yards below it.

The choir of fifty male voices, under the direction of Rev. C. L. Fry, rendered a Christmas hymn in pleasing manner. Miss Ella Musser presided at the organ.

The thrilling sweetness of the following seven compositions was admirably brought out by Prof. Thorbahn's orchestra, composed of Messrs. Krebs, Robertson, Bowman, Lotz, Knight, Hager, Mohring, Weber, Apple, Zahn, Biser and Master Zahn:

Opening—Funeral—Rescue.

Four songs—(Mendelssohn.)

Clarion—Patriot.

Clarion—Solo—"Gloria"—by Prof. Thorbahn.

Forget Me Not—(Keger.)

First Concerto—Benoit—violin and viola—by Prof. Thorbahn.

Grand march—Zahn—(Richard Wagner.)

There was no sermon, Dr. Greenwald reading portions of the second and sixth chapters of St. Luke. The 28th hymn was sung by the congregation. A collection was lifted for the poor of the church, and the services were

closed by the Lord's prayer and the benediction.

In the afternoon Christmas carols were sung by the scholars of the Sunday school in the chapel and candy was distributed to all in attendance.

AT CHRIST LUTHERAN.

At Christ Lutheran church the walls of the building were handsomely festooned with evergreens and a large Christmas tree was placed near the pulpit. At the morning service Rev. E. L. Reed preached a sermon from Luke 2: 11, "Behold I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people, for unto you this day is born a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord." The entertainment of the Sunday school was held and consisted of "The Holy Child" carols, responsive readings, recitations, anthems by the choir society and an address by Rev. Reed.

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN.

At St. John's Lutheran church the infant department of the Sunday school had a celebration on Christmas day. The exercises consisted of recitations and songs, and reflected credit on the participants as well as on Mrs. Dr. Knight and Miss Emma Sener, who were in charge of the school. The school was addressed by Rev. Sider, who read Christmas presents and were then dismissed. The entertainment of the Sunday school will be held in the church this evening and an interesting programme has been prepared.

AMONG THE CATHOLICS.

Five Musical Service at St. Mary's—The Day in St. Anthony's and St. Joseph's.

Christmas was a gala occasion for the good parishioners of St. Mary's Catholic church, who were in charge of the school. The school was addressed by Rev. Sider, who read Christmas presents and were then dismissed. The entertainment of the Sunday school will be held in the church this evening and an interesting programme has been prepared.

THE REFORMED CHURCH.

A Fine Programme at St. Paul's—Elaborate Decorations in the First Church.

St. Paul's Reformed church was tastefully decorated with festoons and wreaths of laurel, while in the pulpit and chancel were set flowers. The Christmas tree was set up at 10:30 o'clock, and were opened with the singing of an anthem by the choir, after which Rev. Dr. Shunaker preached from 1st Cor. 9: 15 "Thanks unto God for his unspeakable gift." In the evening the 53th anniversary of the Sunday school was observed. The following was the programme:

All Hall the Power of Jesus' Name."

Reading of scripture and prayer by Rev. Dr. Shunaker.

Carol, Carol, Christmas, by the school.

Recitation—"Merry Christmas," Alice Welch.

Responsive Reading—Superintendent and choir.

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear, by the school.

Recitation—"In the Solenn Midnatt," Lamm Knud.

Hymn—Solo and Chorus—Gente, Genta Faith.

Responsive Reading—Superintendent and choir.

"Hark! A Bunch of Heavenly Music" by the school.

Responsive Reading.

Brightest and Best of the Sons of the Morning" by the school.

Superintendent's report.

Recitation—"The Peanut Boy," Samuel P. Beitlin.

Recitation—Christmas Comes but Once a Year, Amy Lovelace.

Angels from the Realm of Glory," by the school.

Address by Dr. Shunaker.

Distribution of gifts.

Benediction.

ST. JOHN'S REFORMED.

At St. John's Reformed church the pastor, Rev. Neff, preached a Christmas sermon on Christmas morning from the text, Thl. 2: 11-14. In the evening the children of the Sabbath school assembled in the church and participated in the entertainment. Each of the members of the Bible class recited verses from the Old Testament appropriate to the day. The children of the infant department sang several selections and recited selections. The schools received presents taken from the large tree erected in the church.

FIRST REFORMED.

Early morning service was held at the First Reformed church and there was a large congregation present. The choir, assisted by the choir of the Second Reformed church and Keffler's Institute orchestra, eighteen pieces, rendered the "Adeste Fideles," Mozart's "Gloria" and "Te Deum." The solos were sung by Misses Lovelace and Sener, Messrs. Stamm and Souler. The decorations were finer this year than ever before and reflected great credit upon the ladies who had charge of the same. The altar was filled with ferns and tropical plants, and the sides of the church were festooned with evergreens. The services were conducted by Doctors Stahr and Dubis.

THE EPISCOPALIAN.

The Beautiful Decorations and Fine Music at St. James' Episcopal the font, chancel, lectern and altar were handsomely decorated with holly and evergreen. There were special Christmas services at this church, conducted by Rev. Dr. Knight, after which Prof. Finkler, of the University of Minnesota, preached an eloquent sermon on the incarnation of our Lord. The musical part of the morning service was in charge of Prof. Matz and he was assisted by an enlarged choir. Among the music was the "Adeste Fideles," "Knapp's Te Deum," "Dank's Jubilate," and "St. John's Christmas Anthem." The soloists were Adam Bender, tenor; Thomas Hamilton, soprano; William Marshall, alto. The attendance was very large. A Sunday-school entertainment will be given on the evening of Holy Innocent, and an interesting programme has been prepared for the occasion.

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL.

Rev. J. E. Pratt officiated at the usual services, and spoke eloquently from the text: "And the Word was made flesh." The offertory was for the support of the disabled clergyman and the widows and orphans of deceased clergymen. Rev. F. Hoskins, after preaching in St. James, joined Mr. Pratt in the administration of the holy communion. Mr. Hoskins, with his family, left this afternoon for his new position as warden of Holyoke college at Fairport, Minnesota.

FESTOONS OF YEOPHONADOTI ADORNED THE PULPIT, FONT AND CHANCEL.

The services were opened with the singing of the "Adeste Fideles," and the choir, under the leadership of Wm. B. Aitken, sang golden orations from all. The mass was taken by Misses Lovelace and Sener, and the choir, under the leadership of Wm. B. Aitken, sang golden orations from all. The mass was taken by Misses Lovelace and Sener, and the choir, under the leadership of Wm. B. Aitken, sang golden orations from all. The mass was taken by Misses Lovelace and Sener, and the choir, under the leadership of Wm. B. Aitken, sang golden orations from all.

AMONG THE METHODISTS.

At the Duke street M. E. church, on Wednesday evening, and there was a large attendance of friends of the school. "Tune Pictures" is a Christmas cantata, was well rendered by the choir. The programme from the usual Christmas custom this year, the principal one of which was that the members of the Sunday school with the exception of the infant class, brought presents instead of receiving them, and those that were brought consisted of flour, fine produce, etc., were distributed to the poor of the church. Following is the programme of the cantata:

Gloria.

Solo and Chorus by Primary department.

TIME PICTURES.

PART I. SCENE—THE SCHOOL ROOM.

Christmas Carol—"Hark, the Bells" First School.

Recitation—"God's First Promise of a Saviour," Master Frank.

Quartet and Chorus—"Gente, Genta Faith," Soprano Solo—"I Will Join Your Happy Greet."

Chorus—"Carry Them Back," Faith, Hope and Love.

PART II. SCENE—A BEAUTIFUL PARLOR.

Jewish Harvest Song—"A Beautiful, Beautiful Home," Jewish Children.

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Jewish Harvest Song—"A Beautiful, Beautiful Home," Jewish Children.

Recitation—"The Time to Gather in the Wheat," Naomi and Ruth.

Duet—"We Know Not Why," Ruth and Naomi.

Chorus—"Reaping, Reaping," Reapers.

Duet—"An Ant's Stranger," Ruth, Zilpah and Boaz.

Duet—"Moab's Fairest Daughter," Zilpah and Boaz.

Baritone Solo—"Hark! the Distant Thunder Rolls."

Chorus—"Jewish Evening Hymn," Two Chorus.

PART III. SCENE—THE PLAINS OF BETHLEHEM.

Recitation—"O People Honored of the Lord—Mercy."

Solo and Chorus—"The Day of His Coming is Nigh," Faith and Hope.

Duet—"Come On, Come, Thou Star of Glory," Faith, Hope and Love.

Recitation and Dialogue—Memory and the Shepherds.

Solo—"Foot Ye Not," The Angel.

Solo—"Gloria"—by the school.

Recitation—"Gloria"—by the school.

St. Paul's M. E. church did not hold any services on Christmas. The Sunday school entertainment will be held on Tuesday even-

ing with a wide fireplace in which a log fire burned brightly. The ancient andina, shovel, tongs and poker, the brass candle, stick and grandfather's clock on the mantle, and the rows of stockings of all sizes which hung in readiness for Santa Claus' visit, made every good imitation of an old-time Christmas Eve. Santa Claus was personated by Master Harry Falk, and delighted the little ones. The entertainment was in charge of Assistant-Superintendent D. H. Bartholomew the superintendent, Mr. H. C. Moore, having been called to Philadelphia by the death of an aunt.

AT THE UNION BETHEL.

Rev. W. B. Covert, of Pittsburg, preached at the Union Bethel church on Wednesday evening on the birth of Christ. On Christmas morning the Sunday school scholars assembled in the lecture room, where two large Christmas trees, filled with candles and toys had been erected. After the singing of a number of Christmas carols and addresses by Rev. Selheimer and S. J. Owens, superintendent of the children's school, gifts were distributed to the children.

SECOND EVANGELICAL SUNDAY SCHOOL.

The Second Evangelical Sunday school, on Mulberry street, held their celebration last evening. The exercises consisted of responsive readings, recitations by the scholars, singing of Christmas carols and an address by the pastor, Rev. L. N. Worman. All the children were made happy by being presented with handsome gifts.

AT THE COUNTY POOR HOUSE AND HOSPITAL.

Early in the morning all the inmates of these institutions were treated to a bountiful supply of cakes and apples, after which Steward Brock delivered an address kindly urging upon all the duty of observing the day in a proper and becoming manner, commending his remarks by wishing all a "Merry and Happy New Year." At the conclusion of Mr. Brock's address the inmates rose to their feet and returned him their thanks for his kind attention to their every want.

The dinner at the poor house consisted of roast beef, dressing, potatoes, celery, sauce and pie. At the hospital Dr. McLeary substituted oyster soup for veal.

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NOTES OF THE DAY'S CELEBRATION.

Admission was presented each of the shifts of the police force a box of Havanas.

Harry Stehman, cigar manufacturer, entertained his employees at a supper on Christmas eve.

Edward F. Powell, instructor, gave a Christmas lecture at the Exhibition hall on Christmas afternoon. The attendance was good.

The skating rinks were well patronized. In the afternoon both were crowded. In the evening, at the King street rink, the "Midgists" gave an exhibition of fancy skating.

Mr. John Trissler of this city received from his son Harry H. Trissler of Peale City, Centre county, Pa., on Wednesday, a deer weighing 125 pounds and a box of venison.

The hills in several sections of the city were crowded with coasters on Christmas afternoon, and several hundred persons availed themselves of the good skating on the Conestoga creek at Manheim.

Christmas services were held by the Sunday-schools of the Reformed, Lutheran and United Brethren churches last evening. At the Reformed church, the decorations were elaborate. The audience chamber was crowded, chairs were carried in to increase the seating capacity, and visitors were compelled to stand. The exercises consisted of anthems by the choir and Christmas carols by the school. The superintendent, Mr. H. C. Boyd, presided. Mr. W. J. Johnson, of Lancaster, conducted the devotional exercises, and delivered an address. Mr. Stauffer on the part of the choir and congregation, and appropriate words, presented a beautiful silver water, pitcher and goblet, chased and gold lined, to Miss Hostetter, the organist of the school and church. Mr. H. C. Gingrich, leader of the choir, responded on the part of the choir. The exercises were well conducted and the choir and congregation were distributed to all the scholars.

THE DAY AT QUARRYVILLE.

The usual Christmas festivities at St. Paul's Reformed church, Quarryville, last evening were on a grander scale this year than usual, the church was finely decorated, and two beautifully trimmed trees with a large lighted star on top, and a large collection of gifts. The programme consisted of a fine collection of music by the choir accompanied by Dr. Rohrer on the violin and J. P. Suter on the cornet. All the children of the Sunday school were presented with Christmas cards and salutes of candy.

A LARGE MILL BURNED.

A Fire Near Refton Involving a Considerable Amount of Property.

On Wednesday evening the large frame flour and saw mill owned by Samuel Miller, of Quarryville, and situated about a mile and a half south of Refton on the Big Beaver creek, was totally destroyed by fire. The flames were first seen shortly after 7 o'clock, and they spread so rapidly that in a short time the structure was laid in ashes. The fire is supposed to have originated from a defective fuse.

Up to a short time ago the mill was operated by Daniel Helm and when the late Frank Miller, the brother of the owner, took it in charge. In the building at the time of the fire there were 450 bushels of corn, 100 bushels of wheat and 150 bushels of oats, all of which were destroyed. The valuable machinery, including the circular saw in the saw mill, was either totally destroyed or so badly damaged as to be worthless. The building was insured for \$5,000, and the contents for \$300 in the Penna mutual co. It is said that this will not cover the loss.

ALMOST A FIRE.

Whilst the Christmas festival was being held at Wesley church in Colerain Twp., the large Christmas tree, from a candle, and for a short time it looked rather serious. The large crowd in the church were badly frightened, but with a little coolness on the part of a few stalwarts, it was prevented and the fire extinguished.

BUSINESS TROUBLES.

Eliza B. S. Harberger, in trust for the use of Elizabeth Harberger, on Saturday afternoon issued execution against Henry W. Harberger, Alexander Harberger and Robert McCully.

The sheriff commenced the sale of the stock at the grocery store of Joseph Herzog at ten o'clock this morning to satisfy the execution issued by Dana Graham for \$14,000.

F. S. Bletz of Columbia has made an assignment of his property for the benefit of his creditors to Robert A. Evans.

Lewis S. Hartman presented each of his employees with a turkey on Christmas eve.