

THE CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL.

HOW IT WAS OBSERVED BY THE CHURCHES OF THIS CITY.

Large Congregations Attended the Services. The Music Rendered in All the Churches of a High Character—Fine Decorations and Other Features of the Occasion.

Christmas Day, A. D. 1888, will pass into history with a record of being the mildest winter in the memory of those who inhabit the city. The weather was spring like, and the streets were crowded and the town was filled with prosperity in the afternoon.

How the day was observed in the churches will be found in this issue. As all these things were the great feature, and it is gratifying to note that Lancaster's musical talent is of the highest order:

THE CATHOLIC CHURCHES.

St. Mary's Church on the Early Morning Mass. Every Father's Greeting was sung.

Every seat in St. Mary's Catholic church was occupied on Christmas morning before the first service. The choir was organized before the beginning of the services. Those who came late were obliged to stand in the rear of the pews and make as many excuses as they could.

Prompts at 5 o'clock the services at the church were begun with the singing of the Adagio Fideles by Miss Margaret Kelly and Charles Kelly.

The music was rendered under the direction of Mr. Fraley, with his wife presiding at the organ and part of Thorbahn's orchestra playing the accompaniment.

The sermon was preached by Rev. Dr. McCullough and his theme was the great importance of the event celebrated. Incidentally he referred to the great riches which could be won with their money if judiciously spent in alleviating the distress of the destitute, particularly in the case of the poor.

The first mass at St. Anthony's Catholic church on Christmas morning was celebrated by Father Kaul at 5 o'clock. The choir sang Mozart's Requiem Mass and the choir was accompanied by Prof. Burger's full orchestra.

At St. Joseph's Catholic church the first mass was celebrated at 5 o'clock. The choir sang the Mass in Latin and the choir was accompanied by Prof. Burger's full orchestra.

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On Tuesday morning at 10:15 at Zion's Lutheran church. The sermon preached by Rev. Meyer was from the text Luke 14:16-24. His theme was 'The Feast of the Kingdom of God.'

The church was festively decorated with evergreens and the choir was organized before the beginning of the services. Those who came late were obliged to stand in the rear of the pews and make as many excuses as they could.

St. Stephen's Lutheran church was handsomely decorated for Christmas, and the choir was organized before the beginning of the services. Those who came late were obliged to stand in the rear of the pews and make as many excuses as they could.

St. John's Lutheran church on Christmas. This evening the cantata 'The Night of Glory' will be rendered.

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The selections rendered were the recitation of Proverbs by Miss Corrie Flores and Miss Viola Shantz, 'Little Rock's Christmas' by John H. Heister, 'The Everlasting' by John H. Heister, 'The Everlasting' by John H. Heister, 'The Everlasting' by John H. Heister.

The closing exercises on the programme was the distribution of prizes to the scholars of the school. The prizes were distributed by the pastor and the organist and sexton also received gifts.

St. Luke's Reformed church was festively decorated for the annual Christmas entertainment, held last evening. Festoons for a wall from the ceiling to the ceiling were hung with the altar and chancel trimmed with holly and Christmas trees were the decorations.

The programme consisted of singing, recitation, and the distribution of gifts to every enrolled scholar. The church has recently been enlarged, but it was laid to its original capacity the evening to accommodate the crowd.

The offerings of this service are for the benefit of the orphan home. The offering was collected by the pastor and the organist and sexton also received gifts.

St. John's Reformed church. The Christmas festival at the First Presbyterian church will be held this evening at 7 o'clock. Gifts will be bestowed, and carols and recitations will be rendered by the children of the church.

A more enjoyable entertainment than that of the Presbyterian Memorial Sunday school was given last evening. The programme consisted of singing, recitation, and the distribution of gifts to every enrolled scholar.

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Two Bankers Ruined. About 30 lives lost on the Lower Meritt street bridge. The steamboat John H. Hanna, from Onondaga, which left Monday, Jan. 1, early on Sunday with a number of passengers, was wrecked on the lower Meritt street bridge.

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Marblehead in Ruin. The entire business portion of the city destroyed by fire. The fire started in the power house, and the fire spread to the other buildings.

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Hall Floor Falls. While a band is holding a concert in the hall, the floor fell, causing several people to be injured. The floor was found to be in a state of disrepair.

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