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Administrator's and Executor's Notices, 42;
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[April 12, 76.] ATTORNEY-AT-LAW. ATTORNEY-AT-LAW B. KELLY, Dearts.—Office and both of the ecclesiastical bodies and was marked by the prevalence of PHYSICIAN AND SURGEON.

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VOLUME XLL

TOWANDA, BRADFORD COUNTY, PA., THURSDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 28.

NUMBER 30

THE FARMER'S CHRISTMAS EVE mas Eve is here rake down the Bible, Mary, your about came to them nd told them the great C

mehow, I cannot help it, I feel my boy is ther Among the angels looking down upon hi feel his face against

We shall not hear his voice speak to him;

see you've found the place, my child; so I'll still and smoke While you read about the cho

Although I did not hear the earth again, d join my feeble v Ah! got the stockings all hung up along

You think, no doubt. our home a call : Well, shouldn't wonder if he did ! He's rai lles through the snow ow I've been tinkin' all the while

That if God gives us

and hitch up Bob and Jimmy, our strongest worl hen got a load of body-wood and

For what's the good of wishing warmed and fed And not give the food to

here'd be bappiness among the poor

## CHRISTMAS DAY.

to a festival.

A question, however, which has been long and eagerly agitated, is jects of worship, there was a no less here brought forward. Is the 25th remarkable uniformity in the period of December really the day on which of the year at which these different not left vapunisit; for thair oxin ran our Savior first showed himself in nations celebrated a grand festival in human form in the manger at Beth- his honor. The time chosen appears | leamit [lamed] sum pleugh men, as possess regarding the date is not of the New Year, or, rather, the winonly traditional, but likewise conflict- ter-solstice, from which the new year of the Presbyterian form of church ing and confused. In the earliest was frequently reckoned. This unapperiods at which we have any record nimity in the celebration of the festi
government, as constituted by John Annie but me. I have done the best pies" upon the side-board. Her work preferred to be first in the room; it John, to supplant the giant turkey of the observance of Christman and his coadjutors on the mod. I could. I know they have been of preparation dear child, had been of preparation dear child. f the observance of Christmas, we val in question, is to be ascribed to elof the ecclesiastical polity of Calfind that some communities of Christhe general feeling of joy which all vin, having taken such firm root in now am not sorry that I answered tians celebrated the festival on the of us experience when the gradual Scotland, the festival of Christmas, lst or 6th of January; others on the shortening of the day reaches its ut with other commemorative celebra-29th of March, the time of the Jew- most limit on the 21st day of Decem- tions retained from the Romish calish Passover; while others, it is said, ber, and the sun, recommencing its observed it on the 29th of September, upward course, announces that midobserved it on the 29th of September, upward course, announces that mid- ans, is comparatively unknown in or Feast of Tabernacies. There can winter is past, and spring and sumble no doubt, however, that long be fore the reign of Constantine, in the grounds, and with similar demonstrations observed it on the Low-like to burden him; fore the reign of Constantine, in the grounds, and with similar demonstrations observed it on the Low-like to burden him; and sometimes a sound of happy fourth century. The season of the tions, the ancient pagan nations observed it on the Low-like to burden him; so, without explaining my reasons (I knew he would not listen to me if I knew he fourth century, the season of the tions, the ancient pagan nations obseems almost inherent in human nature has, in North Britain, been, for period for celebrating the Nativity, a difference in this respect existed in a difference in the sum and a difference in this respect exists and a difference in the sum and a difference in the sum and a difference in the sum and a difference in this respect exists and a difference in the sum and a difference in this respect exists at the culminations of the difference in the sum and a difference in the sum and the practice of the Eastern and Westcrn Churches, the former observing
the 6th of January, the latter the 25th
of December. The custom of the
Western Church at last prevailed.

Western Church at last prevailed.

Western Church at last prevailed.

Christmas and Christmas Eve to Codd knows there was anything but his ascent on the 21st of June, or the custom of the appellation of the would write again, but he never though life. Poetry and pleasure for them, loneliness and distasteful land, however, and also in the county of the battle with the rheumanness of Scotland, and this would be the way through life. Poetry and pleasure for them, loneliness and distasteful land, however, and also in the county land. ern Churches, the former observing longest day. Western Church at last prevailed. Saturnalia, or the festival of Saturn.

agreed to hold the anniversary on a universal license and merry-making. the same day. The fixing of the date The slaves were permitted to enjoy appears to have been the act of Julius for a time a thorough freedom in , who presided as pope or bishop of speech and behavior, and it is even Rome, from 337 to 352 A.D. The said that their masters waited on circumstance is doubted by Mosheim, them as servants. Every one feasted but is confirmed by St. Chrysostom, and rejoiced, work and business were who died in the beginning of the for a season entirely suspended, the fifth century: This celebrated fath- houses were decked with laurels and er of the Church informs us, in one evergreens, presents were made by of his epistles, that Julius, on the parents and friends, and all sorts. solicitation of St. Cyril of Jerusalem, games and amusements were indulged caused strict inquiries to be made in by the citizens. In the bleak on the subject, and thereafter, fol- north, the same rejoicings had place, lowing what seemed to be the best but in a ruder and more barbarous authenticated tradition, settled au- form. Fires were extensively kinthoritatively the 25th of December dled, both in and out of doors, blocks INSURANCE AGENCY as the anniversary of Christ's birth, of wood blazed in honor of Odin and the "Festorum omnium metropolia," Thor, the sacred mistletoe was gathered in the character of the control of t as it is styled by Chrysostom. It is ered by the Druids, and sacrifices. This Bank offers unusual facilities for the trans-

the fourth centuryat least, the 25th of December has been uniformly observed tianity might thereby be advanced ed as the anniversary of the Nativi- the Church endeavored to amalga ty by all the Nations of Christen- mate, as it were, the old and new re

insurmountable difficulties yet exist make them subservient to the cause with respect to the real date of the of religion and piety. A compromis momentous event under notice. Sir was thus effected between clergy and Isaac Newton, indeed, remarks in his laity, though it must be admitted "Commentary on the Prophecies of that it proved anything but a harmo-Daniel," that the feast of the Nativi- nious one, as we find a constant, the y, and most of the other ecclesiasti- ineffectual, proscription by the ecclecal anniversaries, were originally siastical authorities of the favorite fixed at cardinal points of the year, amusements of the people, including without any reference to the dates of among others the sports and revelries OUR CHRISTMAS STOR the incidents which they commemo at Christmas. rated, dates which, by the lapse of time, had become impossible to be urnalia, the Christmas festivities re ascertained. Thus the 25th of March, ceived in Britian further changes and or about the time of the vernal equi- modifications, by having superadded nox; the feast of St. Michael on the to them, first, the Druidical rites and 25th of September, or near the au- superstitions, and then, after the ar tumnal equinox; and the birth of rival of the Saxons, the various cere Christ and other festivals at the time | monies practiced by the ancient Ger of the winter-solstice. Many of the mans and Scandinavians. The re-apostles' days—such as St. Paul, St. sult has been the strange medley of Matthias and others—were deter- Christian and pagan rites which conmined by the days when the sun en- tribute to make up the festivities of tered the respective signs of the the modern Christmas, ecliptic, and the pagan festivals had The name given by also a considerable share in the ad- Goths and Saxons to the festival justment of the Christian year. To of the winter solstice was Jul or this last we shall shortly have occa- | Yule, the latter term forming, to the sion to revert more particularly, but present day, the designation in the at present we shall content ourselves Scottish dialect of Christmas, and by remarking that the views of the great astronomer just indicated, pre"Yule log." Perhaps the etymology sent at least a specious explanation of no term has excited greater discharged woods, dark with age. Nothonly a little girl seven years old, and the only a little girl seven years old, and ber on their homeward walk were so then the tears would come. Roger yet I was only seventeen when I loved Roger. I only hope she may not take leave of him with even a sison which I am sitting speaks. of the original construction of the cussion among antiquarians. Some ecclesiastical calendar. As regards maintain it to be derived from the

anniversary of the Passion and Recould not have taken place in the point of the year, or at the period at

the ecclesiastical year, and so import- mas about the period of the winter antandjoyous a solemnity is it deemed, solstice or the shortest day, it is well that a special exception is made in known that many, and, indeed, the its favor, whereby, in the event of greater number of the popular festive the anniversary falling on Friday, observances by which it is characterthat day of the week, under all other ized, are referable to a much more circumstances a fast, is transformed ancient origin. Amid all the pagan nations of antiquity, there seems to to be universally celebrated with That the birth of Jesus Christ, the have been a universal tendency to every mark of rejoicing. On the deliverer of the human race, and the worship the sun as the giver of life mysterious link connecting the trans and light, and the visible manifesta- by most of the northern nations of cendent and incomprehensible attri- tion of the Deity. Various as were Europe in the sixteenth century, the butes of Deity with human sympa- the names bestowed by different peo- Lutheran and Angelican churches rethies and affections, should be con- ple on this object of their worship, tained the celebration of Christmas worthy of being reverently and joy- worshipped under one of the characously commemmorated, is a proposition which must commend itself to of the gods; among the Scandinavian the heart and reason of every one of nations he was known under the epi-His followers, who aspire to walk in thet of Odin or Woden, the father of His footsteps, and share in His inef- Thor, who seems afterward to have fable benefits which His death has shared with his parent the adoration at one period denounced by the Pur- ty of which the sun was the visible itans as superstitious, and to the manifestation; whilst with the ancient present day disregarded by Calvinistic | Persians, the appellation for the god |

Concurring thus as regards the ob-The evidence which we to have been universally the season is notoriously knawin in sindale regarding the date is not of the New Year, or, rather, the win-

by the idea that the spread of Chris CHILD. Once in hely Gallico

ligions, and sought, by transferring In a manger he was laid, Thus far for ancient usage, but it the heathen ceremonies to the solem will be readily comprehended that nities of the Christian festivals, to But the Magi from afar This is what the clappers tell Swinging in each brazen bell, Ringing round the world so wide: Christ was born at Christmas-tide

Ingrafted thus on the Roman Sa

The name given by the ancien the observance of Easter indeed, and Greek, ouloi or ioulos, the name of a its accessory celebration, there is hymn in honor of Ceres; others say it good ground for maintaining that comes from the Latin jubilum, signithey mark tolerably accurately the fying a time of rejoicing, or, from its being a festival in honor of Julius surrection of our Lord, seeing that Cæsar; whilst some also explain its we know that the events themselves meaning as synonymous with of or took place at the period of the Jew- oel, which in the ancient Gothic lanish Passover. But no such precision guage denotes a feast, and also the of date can be adduced as regards liquor used on such occasion, whence Christmas, respecting which the gen- our word ale. But a more probable erally received view now is, that it derivation of the term in question is does not correspond with the actual from the Gothic gul or hill, the oridate of the Nativity of our Savior. gin of the modern word wheel, and One objection, in particular, has been bearing the same signification. Acmade, that the incident recorded in cording to this very probable explaby night on the plains of Bethlehem, name from its being the turning

month of December, a period gener- which the firey\_orb of day made a ally of great inclemency in the region | revolution in his annual circuit, and | entered on his northern journey. A Though Christian nations have confirmation of this view is afforded The festival of Christmas is rest thus, from an early period in the his by the circumstance that in the old garded as the greatest celebration in tory of the Church, celebrated Christ- clog almanac, a wheel is the device ly-preserved records of our dead anemployed for marking the season of Throughout the middle ages, and down to the period of the Reforma-

tion, the festival of Christmas, ingrafted on the pagan rites of Yule continued throughout Christendom script written so long ago. adoption of a new system of faith sidered as the most glorious event he was still the same divinity. Thus, and other festivals, which Calvinists For years the thought of seeing Rog- constant occupation is my only relief that ever happened, and the most at Rome, he appears to have been rejected absolutely, denouncing the er Sheldon again has haunted me, just now. One thing for which I am observance of all such days, except and often, in imagination, my hands thankful is, although they seem to Sunday, as superstitious and unscrip- have touched his again, and I have think so much of each other in my tural. In reference to the superstition and unscription anciently prevalent in Scotland against spinning on Christmas or Yule day, and the determination of Christmas or Yule day, and the determination of Christmas or Scotland In In Scotland In Sc

ing passage is quoted by Dr. Jamie- change is in me. I did not realize after he is gone? If I could only son from Jhone Hamilton's "Facile there was a change till I went to the travel or go somewhere: but I can't. Traictise:" "The ministers of Scot. glass after he had left me and tried and, to prevent thinking of it, I will Protestants, as unwarranted by Scripof light was Mithras, apparently the land—in contempt of the vther halie to look at myself impartially, as with go down and see how the best room dayes observit be England—cause unfamiliar eyes. Yes, it is a sadly looks since the carpet has been taken dispute the propriety of observing the Phonicians or Carthaginians it their wyfis and seruints spin in oppin changed face that I see, not much up—that is where we expect to do the anniversary of Christ's birth by was Baal or Bel, an epithet familiar sicht of the people upon Yeul day; like the one he had looked at long our dancing Christmas night. and affectionnate auditeurs con ago, when I was a fair girl of twenty. straines their tennants to yok their pleuchs on Yuel day in contempt of it now, when the grave sedateness of Christ's Natiuitie, wilk our Lord has middleage is coming to me so fast. wod [mad], and brak their nekis, and have passed since he saw me last.

tricts, the day for the annual merry-From a curious old song preserved n the Harleian manuscripts in the British Museum, we learn that it was peculiarly lucky when Christmas day ell on a Sunday, and the reverse when it occurred on a Saturday. The intermediate days are for the most part, characterized by a happy uniformity of propitious augury. The versification is of the rudest and nost rugged description, but as an interesting specimen of medieval "Bordinges, I warne you al beforme, Yef that day that Cryste was borne, Falls uppon a Sunday; That wynter shall be good par fay, But grete wyndes alofte shalbe; The somer shall be fayre and drye; By hydra shall be fayre and drye;

By hynde skylle, wythotya lesse,
Throw all londes shalbe peas,
And good tyme sil thyags to don,
But he that stelyth be shalbe fownde sone;
ay hate chylde that day borne be,
A great lond he shalbe.

Done as the REPORTER OFFICE, opposite the fullding, made all the worshippers | vinced partly of the inefficacy of such i crop of apples may consulted work a specialty | perish in the flames. Since the end of denunciations, and partly influenced the following year.

WHAT THE BELLS TOLD THE

Boughly cradied-little maid. Saw the glowing Eastern Star. Kneit before him and adored, Called him Jesus, Christ, the Lord

new cloak I sat up so late last night

that Annie and Roger love each oth-

er. They have not said so, it is true,

but I can see it as plainly as if they

happy now, and Roger seems con-

Chapter From an Old Journal

Make the charred logs burn brighter I will show you by their blaze, Of bygone things and days. Bring here the ancient volume. The clasp is old and worn, The gold is dim and tarnished,

And faded leaves are torn. The dust has gathered on it-There are so few who care To read what Time has written

Brightly, in this quaint old library in my grandfather's house, the fireflickers on the gleaming brass and throws fitful reflections on the carved woods, dark with age. Nothchair on which I am sitting, speaks be more happy in her loving than I ter's eye upon the parting, so she of a long-forgotten past. Strange have been. She is, at any rate, very waits for him in the hall. stories might these antique relics tell. if speech were given them; of lives tented—yes, and happy, I think. I he said, still holding my hand. "Will begun and ended within these ancient walls—lives whose loys and sorrows sort of pitying expression. I won I dare not claim a few moments of the cold calm of the grave has quietthe cold calm of the grave has quiet-der if he does not guess my secret, your time? I have something to ed long ago. How many scenes and I try to control myself, but some say. Will you come to me in this faces has that old mirror reflected— times, when I see them starting off room before your guests have come bright eyes tender with love's young together, I can hardly keep back the to-morrow?" dream, and sad, sad eyes, perhaps the tears. I fear I am getting nervous

Is this the history of a life, I wonin her youth? She told me before I without her? came on this visit to her early home that I would find here many carefulcestors. This must be one of themhow strange! the name upon the fly leaf is the same as my own! "The Journal of Ruth." The ink is faded and the leaves yellow with age, and the date was written when the century began-1800. Surely there can be no violation of privacy in giving to

the world a chapter from a manu December 1. 1880-I wonder if the says, why I should be so uncommontion? It has never been so for me. of the work. She does not know that the Calvinistic clergy to put down from that; he is grander, nobler ry over, I dread to have it end. What all such notions, the following amust han when I saw him last. The will there be to make life endurable I know I was fair then; I may say

our money was gone, there was no one to take care of mother and little Roger's letter as I did. Let me greens and bright berries to decorate hink: that was five years ago; he our sober rooms. Loger helped her, wanted me to be his wife, he said, and the work seemed well fitted for of Forfair, and one or two other dis. given up the hope of seeing him. It work for me. Did they ever think has been the one thing to which I of that? have looked forward. So I was not Later, as the twilight brought a much surprised this afternoon, when cessation from labor for me, the sil- til after long moments of silence that shall write no more upon these pages. Annie came running up to my room very sound of sleigh-bells came near- I could trust my tongue to say: "I But I will treasure you still, and if in such haste, to see his name on the er and nearer, and General Atherly's thought you had long ago forgotten ever a shadow comes upon my life card in her hand. I knew he would black horses pawed impatiently at all that." come some time. It was not until I the door, while their owner ran in to "I cannot forget it," he said, "nor those wretched days and learn from was in his presence and saw the look ask me to take a sleigh-ride and see would I if I could," he continued, it that our greatest blessings often of surprise that came over his face the moonlight on the lake not yet coming close to me and seeking my lie nearer than we think .-- Andrew's when he saw me, that I realized how frozen over. I went with delight. I eyes, which I had to keep averted or Bazar. much I had changed. He recovered was so tired and nervous I could they would have betrayed me. "Do himself in a moment, and we talked hardly have sat the evening out with you think, Ruth," he continued, humlike old friends, nothing more. I the sight of Annie and her lover tor- bly, "that I ever thought myself like old friends, nothing more. I the sight of Annie and her lover tor-bly, "that I ever thought myself gether concrete numbers?" The class suppose that I should have been satisfied with that; but, as I said at say it, when her happiness ought to since I could remember you had be my dearest thought. But why, been my ideal of all that was beauti
first, the reality did not quite fulfil be my dearest thought. But why, been my ideal of all that was beauti-the anticipation. Anyway, my dream oh why, could she not have loved ful, and my love for you grew with "Bur I pass," said the Rev. Mr. is ended, and I must take up the some other than he? I was glad, too, my growth. I hoped, when I had Swipes, in dismissing the theme of his is ended, and I must take up the burden of life again—this time with nothing before me to brighten the prospect. But pshaw! how foolish and wicked I am; I have work to do, and wicked I am; I have work to do, sought my company.

excused myself on the plea of not rosy and bright that I am sure you having time. I find the old trouble enjoyed your sleigh-ride.'
likely to reassert itself if I allow it Then I said lightly (I was so glad too much latitude. I did look longingly after the gay party that started out this morning after, evergreens with which to decorate the house on than a sleigh-ride."

Then I said lightly (I was so giad to more. When I came to the door and Annie opened it I could almost have imagined it was you, as I last saw you. I think she must have considered by the old pine was out of breath, and for the old pine was out of breath, and for the old pine was out of breath, and for the old pine was out of breath, and for the old pine was out of breath, and for the old pine was out of breath, and for the old pine was out of breath, and for the old pine was out of breath, and for the old pine was out of breath, and for the old pine was out of breath, and for the old pine was out of breath, and for the old pine was out of breath, and for the old pine was out of breath, and for the old pine was out of breath, and for the old pine was out of breath, and for the old pine was out of breath, and for the old pine was out of breath.

seems more like Indian summer than cort," sidded Roger. anything else. Roger and Annie "Yes, of course,"

brought up the rear, as usual. How ing reply, pretty the dear child looked in the Than the Then they went off, Annie, as usual, in the wildest spirits; Roger quiet, how pleased she was to find it done this morning. She dearly loves pretthis morning. She dearly loves pretty clothes, and she should have them. What difference would they make in a middle aged woman? What the written confidences to this unrettens again. I must be getting childish. It is high time I put up my pen, trouble enough, and really felt as if I could not enough, and really felt as if I could not endure any more, but I askedown at this old scretary, ly as if I had left only day before Christmas the black pine saw therefore, with my cloaks and perfect, peering our principal day before Christmas the black pine saw there blossoms, white and perfect, peering our through the white snow.

Now there were two little ones, children of Klotz, the wood-cutter, who were the days and see if I could not change your opinion of me, and see if Mannie every day has helped me wonderfully. She is such a dear, the lowest and process to the surface of the side of the most dear, the surface in the glowing embers as the slowest had something the pointed. I hardly knew what I had a fert only day before Christmas the black pine saw there blossoms, white and perfect, peering our through the white snow.

Now there were two little ones, children of Klotz, the wood-cutter, who were mearly heart-broken, for their mother was sick, and that morning the kind nursed her through the night had said: "God pity this home! I fear the process I have a lower had a great half-hurnt to be sufficiently and the process of the sufficient and the process of the process of the sufficient and the process of the process of

But there was not much time for had finished revers: for before I had finished go without telling you..." but I can see it as plainly as if they had. I am a little surprised that Annie has not spoken of it to me, for generally I am the recipient of all her confidence; but this, I suppose, is different. At first I could not realize that she was anything but a suppose, is different. At first I could not realize that she was anything but a suppose, is different. At first I could not realize that she was anything but a suppose in the suppose in

"To-morrow will be Chirstmas often find him looking at me with a your friends keep you so busy that

I said yes; and when he summon same that shone so brightly in youth, and cross, for Annie asked me only ed me I would come, and controlled whose light of life was quenched in yesterday if I was not well, which, my voice so that I am sure not a Annie. If she loved him I must give our mother's life." tears. Often, it may be, in this very room, has been breathed to willing ears the old, old story, ever new to each young player in the changing drama of life.

yesterday if I was not well, which, which, my voice so that I am sure not a perhaps, was her gentle way of show-tremor betrayed what it cost me to him up even then. I was just telling the perhaps, was her gentle way of show-tremor betrayed what it cost me to him up even then. I was just telling the perhaps, was her gentle way of show-tremor betrayed what it cost me to him up even then. I was just telling to him so, when the door opened and a well, what he wanted. He merry voice said:

Well, this torture will not last much only waiting to will ask me for Annie. Does he "Oh, you dear old goosie, did you drama of life." spend his Christmas and New Year's think I am a stone? Will no thought think I wanted him for myself? for the church festival. He took the flowder—this clasped volume that I have I suppose; before he leaves he will me, me, of his love for another? Especially such a grave one as Sir trailing moss, into a tall, white vase taken from the old escritoire, whose ask my consent to take Annie away. Was it thoughtlessness or wanton Roger!" Then she danced away Then he knelt with the children and praydrawers and pigeon-holes my mother | Heaven knows the old house is dreary cruelty that prompted him to select again, and in a minute after I saw ed to God that if it might be consistent told me it was her delight to explore enough with her what will it be time and place that witnessed his her romping with the children, the with his holy will, he would spare the

> mined to have a regular old-fashioned me through such an interview. the evening. I have gone into this and brings the day nearer. I dread gave me courage to make one more with more than usual animation, for its coming; but as far as lieth in my trial to win your love." much. She can't understand, she

> > quiet dead! t seems like slighting an old famil- love. iar friend. But I have left it undone new, so strange, that I most think it heart, it was like a dream. I heard. words. Did I write those words on versation carried on at the table and tening home to his little but. Although the opposite leaf? Did I say I en- the compliments upon my housewifevied the dead? The thought makes ly skill that were given so freely as ling barely enough for the wants of his me shudder. God forbid that I should be taken at my word and torn from

Now, I will go back to the beginning. Annie went to church this passed. I kept too busy all day to morning: I had said before that I receiving the guests, and between think much. Rhoda and 1 have could not go out, and she did not them they concocted a little plan hurried on by the ten hard years that worked as if all the world were to urge me. I went into the library dine with us to-morrow. "What a and watched her from the window. notable housekeeper," said Roger, as Roger met her as she left the gate. After father's death, when we found Annie brought him into the dining. He will go with her, I thought, but room to see the great center-piece of with a gay greeting she went on, and fruits on the dining-table, and what he came into the house, into the li- brought in the great Christmas pudshe called "Ruth's noble array of brary, where I waited for him. I ding and placed it in front of Uncle of preparation, dear child, had been comfortable and happy, and even of preparation, dear cultu, had been was easier than to come in at his line skill in carving mad conquered, to weave garlands of Christmas bidding. I turned to meet him, but and, in the excitement of the children he arrived at his but he put down the in spite of my schooling I was strange- at the lighting of the brandy, with child and rapped at the door, which was which he quickly placed for me. "This is not the first Christmas

deep dejection in his look and man- little cousins.

He waited as if for an answer, but I did not speak. What could I say? all unabashed, though I, at first, felt nemory," he continued, rather sadly, "which belongs to a time, long whispers had not confirmed it.
years ago, when I ventured to hope And now, my journal, my that you loved me.".

those other days?" It was not un- dences will all be to Roger, and I

power seemed to prevent. I never ntended returning, but I could not

delightful for this time of year. It horses; with the General for an es son, for, knowing I was so near you some reason be never renewed the converhad a great effect upon me When I sation. heard the rustle of dress, that after- "All the world is deed except the pine before me, so little changed in ap- I had better follow his advice. If I was pearance—only, if possible, more made for a holy purpose the Christ child to finish. I was well repaid for the but indoubtedly as happy as she. beautiful—I could hardly speak; but will not forget me." So she took good loss of a few hours' sleep when I saw How ould he be otherwise? Then you were as self-possessed and friend-care of her round green buds, and the how pleased she was to find it done I sat down at this old sccretary, ly as if I had left only day before Christmas the black pine saw

a child; why, ten years ago, she was probably the words he had said to but what can I do without her? And "What do you mean, Ruth? Who s this you are giving to me?"

"Wby Annie, of course," I said. I have known all along that, however much you may have loved me here," cried the sister, spying the Christonce, you love her now." "Yes, as a dear younger sister ]

do, but for a wife I want my first my only love-you!" I could hardly believe my earshad my trouble been only borrowed trouble, after all? Then I thought of

December 23—Have been very ond? I am no coward, but I almost only a child after all.

busy the last few days. We deterdoubt if I have the strength to carry

After a while Roger said, "So you that brought the resembrance of his bewere a little jealous of Annie, were loved Son to comfort and encourage them Christmas tree and arches, and it Annie sleeps, happy child! but no you? We are even, then, for I must in the time of trouble. When they retakes considerable preparation. Our sleep would come to me if I sought | confess I felt anything but kindly turned home their father met them at few relatives are to be invited to it. To drown sad thoughts I write, toward General Atherly. It was the door and exclaimed joyously; dinner, and then the neighbors—in write, write, and the night wears on only Annie's repeated assurances

I don't want to give myself a moment power I will make it a happy day in which to think. Annie says I am for every one I can. The bitterness happiness has been knocking at my looking thin and pale, and expostu- of my own heart no one shall know door and I never knew it. Oh, this right. We were all made for a holy purlates with me because I will do so or guess; but oh, what a mockery it merry, merry Christmas day! Will pose, and we shall learn what it is in will be when they wish a merry life ever look dark again to me, now God's own time. Christmas to me-to me, to whom that Roger has come back to me life looks so empty that I envy the again—tender and true and faithful through all these dreary years? How

December 25.—For so many years could I do him such injustice as I have written the thought of my have? But never again will I doubt heart in this journal that to neglect | him; my trust shall be perfect as my Our dinner was a merry-making to to-day, not because there has been the aunts and uncles and the gay nothing to say, but because I have young cousins, but to me, with my turned over a page in my history so new-found happiness hidden in my over again before I can put it into and yet I did not hear, the gay con-

the viands were discussed. Roger had not been invited, as thinking of them, when he heard a faint

the happiness that has come to me at none but relatives were coming to wailing. Guided by the sound, he gropsecured a whispered conference with clothed, shivering and sobbing by itself him as she let him cout, while I was in the snow. which was a revelation to the good aunts. who, in their minds, had long destined me to a life of single blessedness. I sat at one end of the table, Annie at the other. Rhoda had ly agitated and I sank into the chair which it was saturated, Annie skip-immediately thrown open, and the chilped unperceived from the table, red dren rushed to meet him. turning with Roger, whose expected . "Here, wife, is a guest to our Christday on which you and I have met in knock at the door she was waiting mas Eve supper," said he, leading in the

this room," said he, with no joy or for, and ceremoniously installing him little one, who held timidly to his finger triumph in his tone, but rather a in her seat, she crowded in with the with his tiny hand. There were no explanations needed: the look that Roger gave me, he

"I have another interview in my some dismay at such sudden publicity, told all, even if Annie's nods and And now, my journal, my tried friend, good-bye. I have told you "Why," I asked in my thoughts, all my care and troubles, my hopes why does he torture me by recalling and fears; but henceforth my confi-

again, I will read over the record of

"PROPESSOR-"Can you multiply to

THE CHRISTMAS ROSE

A little way up one of the Rhs Alps, beneath the shade of an old black pine, grew a Christmas rose. The sumflice, and the hardy little mountain rose had two buds. "Dear me," fretted the rose, "I wish I could blossom when other ure in displaying one's self for the damiy blue gentian or the pretty eyebright; but with no one to admire me I see no use in

blossoming at all." "Ho! ho!" laughed the old pine, waving his shaggy arms. "Ho! ho! what a little grumbler! The snow and I will admire you. You were named after the blemed Christ-child, and onght to be happy and contented. Push up through the deepening snow, little friend, and expand resist the desire to see you once your bads into perfect blossoms; we were more. When I came to the door and all made for a holy purpose, and we shall

noon, and looked up and saw you and I," murmured the rose, "and perhaps

suppose I can. I have discovered they will from the great, half-burnt pondent, she always had something your mother will die before night." Their encouraging to say. I must leave father sas by the fire-place, speechless to-morrow, and, Ruth, I could not with grief, and answered them neither with word or look, when they crept up to

"If all the mothers in the world were dying, that hard block of pine would not care." said the boy, bitterly; "let us go back into the valley, sister; there we will at least find human hearts, while here there is no one to care whether we live o

"There is one who cares for us even mas roses, and in a moment she had scraped away the snow and secured them. "We had forgotten the Christ-child, and that to-morrow is his blessed birthday. Let us take these roses to the church dear brother, and pray the all-merciful One for whom they were named to spare

So they hastened down the mountain to the village church, where they found the good priest busy trimming the altar first love story, to tell me of his sec- merriest one among them—she is mother's life, and they forgot not to

er is better. Praise God.' The Christmas rose had fulfilled its destiny. Ah, me! the black pine was

A CHRISTMAS LEGEND. STORY FROM THE BLACK FOREST ABOUT

CHRYSANTHEMUS. It was Christmas eve. The night was very dark and the snow falling fast, as cloak tighter around him, and the wind Black Forest. He had been to carry a he worked very hard, he was poor, gainwife and four little children. He was the family dinner. But Annie had ed about and found a little child, scantily

> "Why, little one, have they left thee here all alone to face this cruel blast?" The child answered nothing, but looked piteously up in the charcoal-burner's

"Well. I cannot leave thee here. Thou wouldst be dead before morning." So saying, Hermann raised it in his arms, wrapping it in his cloak and warm-

Now let him come and warm himself by the fire." The children all pressed round to we

They showed him their pretty fir-tree, honor of Christmas Eve, which the good for her children.

Then they sat down to supper, each child contributing of its portion for the shone so as to shed a brighter light in the little room; and as they gazed it grew into a sort of halo around the head, and Soon two white wings appeared at his shoulder, and he seemed to grow larger and larger, and then the beautiful vision

knees, exclaiming in awe struck voices:

true, indeed, that some have represented this tiging of the day to have been kindled at been accomplished by St. Telesphore and without an adverse that the authority of the assertance of the same to a notice of the observance of Ohristman in the region of Emperor Commodia, and about a hundred years at terwards, in the time of Diocessian, and about a hundred years at terwards, in the time of Diocessian, and about a hundred years at terwards, in the time of Diocessian, and about a hundred years at terwards, in the time of Diocessian, and about a hundred years at terwards, in the time of Diocessian, and about a hundred years at terwards, in the time of Diocessian, and about a hundred years at terwards, in the time of Diocessian, and about a hundred years at the early ages of Christianity, mas in the region of Emperor, who covers to refrain from indulging in an arcoicous act of cruelty is record-durf, and about a hundred years at the converts to refrain from indulging in a new colors and about a hundred years at the time of Diocessian, and about a hundred years at the early ages of Christmant, and a some the converts to refrain from indulging in a new colors and the converts to refrain from indulging in a new colors and the time of the converts to refrain from indulging in a new colors and the time of the converts to refrain from indulging in a new colors and the converts to refrain from indulging in a new colors and the converts to refrain from indulging in a new colors and the converts to refrain from indulging in a new colors and the converts to refrain from indulging in a new colors and the converts to refrain from indulging in a new colors and the converts to refrain from indulging in a new colors and the converts to refrain from indulging in a new colors and the converts to refrain from indulging in a new colors and the converts to refrain from indulging in a new colors and the converts to refrain from indulging in a new colors and the converts to refrain from indulging in a new colors and the converts to ref