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VOLUME 85. ERIE, PA. THURSDAY AFTERNOON DECEMBER 22, 1864

MERRY OLD CHRISTMAS.

There is an old man whom we all of us know, He knocks at the door, both of cottage and And a right hearty welcome receives at them

This old man for ages has trod o'er the earth. With the same happy vigor, the same social By the aged rever'd, by the youthful ador'd, words." And care flies abashed when he alteratibe board. po.
New who is this jolly old fellow, I pray?,

Who but old Christmas, Merry old Christmas, Dear to the heart as the sun to the day.

Our forefathers hail'd him as we hail him. With the ever-green leaves round his everglad brow.
When smoked the old benches with good

homely fare, Plum pudding, roast beef, stout "October" so rare. Te smiled at the zest which the held yeoman

showed, When the trenchers were filled and the forming brown flowed,

Then, as the cheer raised the mirth to a roar. Old Christmas laughed out till his sides were

SOTE. Who was the best friend of our fathers, I Pray? Who but old Christmas,

Merry old Christmas, -Dear to the heart as the sun to the day.

Good lack! what mad pranks the old joker has seen. Waen the girls were entrapped, 'neath the Mistletoe green; But why should we envy the jolly years fled?

as red : Our country is dear as it ever has been, Where honor and liberty ever is seen; Our stout manly hearts every for fam with-

And the world still confesses Columbia the land. Then welcome old. Christmas to every heart dear. Sing to old Christmas. ...

Happy old Christman, With hearts blithe and warm may be long find us here. Fritten for the Erie Observer.]

THE FORTUNE-TELLER.

A STORY FOR THE HOLIDAYS.

It was Christmas eve. The night was artramely cold, and the wind was driving the snow fur ously, and singing its welcome to Christmas through the branches of the trees. There were but few of either sex who ventured upon the streets that dreary evening. But above the moise of bells, telling us, though dark and dreary the night, old Santa Claus was not neglectful of his duty.

Trudging along one of the principal streets in L-, this cold winter evening, might have been seen an old woman, whose dark and withered face, crocked shoulders, and dirty and torn garments bespoke her a Gipsy. And she walked on where a bright light shone from behind the closed shutters. She drew her weary bones up the stone steps with some difficulty, and rang the door bell. The door soon opened and a voice in the ball inquired her wants.

"Would you be so kind," said the Gipsy in a squeaking voice, "as to give an old woman something to eat for her starying children !"

"I will see," replied the Bervant, and she disappeared at the end of the hall. "Give an old woman something to eat! Why, certainly!" exclaimed the sweet voice of a young lady, as she entered the hall accompanied by the servant. "Here, old lady, give me your basket.—But come in and warm yourself. It's awful cold to-

night, and the wind blows so I scarcely see how you managed to reach here!" The old woman handed the kind lady her basket, and followed her into the room, where blazed a cheerful fire.

said after taking a seat near the fire; "but poor people must get used to such weather. You have here a good house and a it is."

"Yes, yes, I know," said the lady thoughtfully, "we are blessed in many ways. I only wish everybody was so well off."

basket well filled with provisions, and the Gipsy took it as if about to leave.

"Oh, do not go yet!" exclaimed the young lady. "I have been fonely to-night and there is no one else likely to come through this storm. You can tell fortunes, and if you will tell mine, I will pay whatever you may ask."

"I can tell fortunes," replied the Gipsy. but I will ask no money of you. I will tell yours because you have been so kind to me."

She extended her bony hand, and the young lady rested here within it. Then there was a moment of silence, while the Gipsy looked fixedly upon the little white

hand before her. "You have thought much of a certain young man of late, she said!" "You love him, but you are too proud to confess it. He loves you with all his heart, and would make you his wife, but thinks himself un-

worthy of you, and Years your refusal." "That is all very well," said the maiden composedly, seeing the Gipsy hesitate. "Now, if you tell me the gentleman's name I will believe your strange power.' The Gipsy hung her head over the fair hand reflectingly, and answered.

"William R. Grayson!" The maiden started, and quickly drew her hand from that of the Gipsy. "What!" How do you know that?" and the solor came and went upon her cheeks in quick

this house, and have a large bundle under and William Graylon. And now when jought to be-throned in the heatts of his A.W. From in Mill Creat township, on the Edhier record with the record of the form of the Edhier record with the record of the form of the Edhier record plant road on the night of Owner lots, a form of the parlians white mate on the form of the form will take it, and then he will effer to kies but in commemoration of the days which pray to him." you but you will refund said see "Oh, no! you are mishi

sould not do so l'esid the candid maiden abstractedly. But the Gipsy heeded her With a merry bald pate and a beard white as met, and proceeded . 21 2406 a mailtim

set my band and cause t the

He will untie the bundle, and present you a large and handsome Bible. You page you will find written the words, 'Life is drear without you.' And immediately below you will write the same

The Gipsy ceased speaking, and seeing the lady have her eyes fixed intently upon the floor, engaged in deep thought, she said abruptly:

"It is growing very late, and I must hurry home." She was conducted to the door and was once again trudging along the deserted streets.

mind, keen perception, and admirable exceeded that of the oldest practitioners-He had known Miss Annie Whittier almost a year, and was eften in her compawere regarded as lovers,

His was a heart that know no grief ... If cide with his.

rived, and the blessed sun beams stole, policy in this war, was used in England in from behind a lingering snow cloud, the time of our rebelliou, and "the diwind had subsided, and already the merry vinity which doth hedge a King," gave it; but it will suffice for the present purjingle of sleigh bells stole upon the balmy; an element to their discussions which is

waiting, and then the voice of Miss Whittier was heard as she entered the room.

"A merry Christmas, Mr. Grayson !" Mr. Grayson wished her the same, and arose and extended his hand. She took the wind could be heard the jingle of it warmly, and then he leaned his headand kissed her.

"That part of the Gipsy's tale is false," she thought, "and no doubt the rest will preve so too." But she was surprised to see Mr. Gray-

her an exceedingly handsome Bible. She turned instinctively to the title-page and (vol. vi., p. 24,) as follows: was startled to read there the words the Gipey had foretold: "Life is drear without won." With a trembling hand she took her pencil and traced as well as her meryousness would allow the same words immediately below. Mr. Grayson observed her agitation, but said nothing, for reasons he best understood.

They talked awhile about the day, the weather, and the thousand and one secrets lovers always have, and then Mr. Grayson-proposed a sleigh ride.

"My sleigh I own have ready and be only accompany me."

It is true Miss Whittier might have refused the offer, but just now she imagined an inward monitor bade her go. She listened to that monitor, and regarded it as the ruler of her destiny.

So, when the half hour was up, Mr. Grayson had arrived at the house and found Miss Whittier ready, Few words were said until they had passed the thronged streets and gone beyond the city, limits; and then Mr. Grayson relented his "Yes, young lady, it is very cold," she hold upon the bridle, and allowed the herse to go at his own pace.

"Annie." he said abruptly, after some time of earnest thought, "ever since I warm fire, and you needn't care how cold have had the pleasure of your acquainte ance, I have loved you dearly, and longed to make you my wife. Now, tell me, will you not secept me as your husband?"

Annie was embarrassed, but she regarded it the working of fate, and so all Then the servant returned with the lowed her hand to rest confidingly in his, while he kissed her cheary lips, and read the assent in her countenance, which

spoke louder than words. And as they rode on, their hearts heatng with a new born joy, Miss Whittier told him of the adventure with the Gipsy the night previous, and he listened anxiously till she had finished.

"You will pardon me," he said. "when I tell you a secret about that Gipsy woman ?"

"You—that Gipsy woman—what do you know of her ?" "More than you suppose?" he said that Gipsy woman was - your burable ser-रित्या कि कोर्ज़िश

vant."-"Mr. Grayson !" Tily Jeed ored Line "It is true," be continued. "I confured me tell your fortune, and I contrived it

just as you have related it." "I see," she said, after some thought ; out on the still sireseed; Mark Design Annie wat not jasalted not angry in the least. Mer was not make disposition.

"But the jobs id an you," she said.

[Prom the Philadelphia Age]

Sec. 20. 19. Within the apontractors, who furnish shoddy uniform and the political generals who get their "ten per cent; to divide will open the book, and upon the title around, and the fanaties who rejoice that Lee's army was not destroyed at Gettysburg because the country is not prepered for the immediate suppression of English courts, and which has been susthe rebellion,"it is a favorite device to tained in numerous decisions within late reply to those who advocate a conservative and humans policy in the conduct of the war, that "no terms can be made with rebels with arms in their hands," and that there is no one with whom the Government can treat. As these arguments may be well to throw a little light upon the subject from "the lamp of experi-William R. Grayson was a newly admit | ence." It will be generally conceded, we ted member of the bar in L He was presume, that the sovereignty of Great a man of good moral qualities, a clear Britain in 1776 was quite as sacred as that of the United States is now, and those business faculties, and his practice already who are tamiliar with the history of that time will remember that, in the estimation of the English people, the guilt of the Colonists was greatly aggravated by ny, so that, in the eyes of the world, they the fact that they were rebelling against "the Lord's audinted." That circumstance gave a neculiar bitterness to the he encountered difficulties, he would bear feelings with which "the rebels" were them patiently, and say they are incident | then regarded, so that if one will read the to life. "Life is brief," he argued to him .. Parliamentary Debates, which took place self, "and we should make our stay here during the war, and sepecially the as happy as possible." A merry heart, to speeches of the Bishops, he will find that III. Other precedents, however, are relied We have eyes quite as bright, and lips quite him, was a sign that the love of God ex. there are capabilities of inventive in the upon by them to justain the theories of isted therein. He was ever gay, and made language which have never been sounded the Conservatives. One of the most strithe dispositions of those about him soin. by the orators of our time. Every argument, therefore, which is employed in When the happy Christmas morn gr. favor of an unrelenting and exterminating this State. That little demonstration was wanting in ours: It may, then, be safely surgents resisted an act of Congress im- BITUMINOUS COAL! In the afternoon of that day we see Mr taken for, granted that the British Gov-Grayson walking in his usual lively pace ernment did nothing which it would be in the direction of the residence of Mr. undignified for our own to do, because it Whittier, and bearing a large square bun- must be remembered that the right of committed upon the Federal officers will H 1 5 O L D 'S T A N D dle under his arm. Arriving there he as the Colonists to take the stand they did compare favorably with the achievements i cended the steps, rang the bell, and was was as strenuously denied by the English of the New York mobi. When the insurushered into the parlor. A moment's as the right of secession is by us. What was done, therefore, was done in a case in which it was asserted by every one con-I then President, was obliged to interfere,

> tion-that the rebels in arms were utterly without excuse. The first steps towards reconciliation, as is well known, were taken by Chatham | individuals, with whom they should think and Burke. From the writings of the lat- proper to confer, in order to quiet and ter we have so recently made a opious, ci- extinguish it." The outlines of the tations that we need not delay "to define son take the bundle, undo its and hand his position," and the views of Chatham were also given, and these, too, were of

"Not, indeed, that he could be blind to the manifold grounds of provocation which appointed by the insurgents, and several schusetts had afforded. But he that provocation could no longer be united province, and when it was sup ported by eleven provinces more. He felt s Burke at the same period truly and finely mid, that he did not know the method of drawing an indictment against carefully avoided, the people were soon CROCKERY AND WOODEN WARE.

a whole people." Accordingly, he introduced a bill on the first of Fabruary, 1775, making the most ample concessions, introducing it with what Franklin describes as "a most ex- facts. In these respects, as in others, the here in half an hour," he said, "it you will sellent speech." But the bill, of which ies." It was opposed by the Ministry.

"Who can wonder that you should put negative on any measure which must annihilate your power, deprive you of

your emoluments, and at once reduce you to that state of insignificance for which God and nature designed you !" Had it been adopted, no historian doubts that the war would have been averted, as it would have been also had Burke's scheme been tried; but persistence in the "no compromise" pelicy resulted that year in the outbreak of actual hostilities. Even then, however, schemes of extermination did not absolutely prevail in Parliament, and in November the he would to have losselfly campaigns -"American Prohibitory Bill" was intro- The legitimate result of such victories is duced by Lord North himself, by which submission, and the Southern people the King was authorized to send to America commissioners selected by himself, who were to have almost unlimited powers; but Lord and General Hove, day we scruple to do that which we did who were subsequently appointed Commissioners, were only invested by the terms of their commission with very limited powers; and as Lord Hower did not arrive till after the Declaration of Independence had been adopted, nothing was accomplished by his efforts at pacification. It deserves mention, in this connection, however, that, after Washington had declined to receive a letter addressed to him as "George Washington, Esquire," upon the request of Lord Howe, an informal meeting took place between himself and a committee appointed by Congress, at which he argued that they ought to return to their allegiance, and that they might obtain the most favorable the plan for sport; but you would have terms. Now observe that this conference took place on the 11th of September,

1776, after the battles of Bunker Hill and Long Island, and after the Continental "just like you;" and her merry, laugh rang; Congress had renounced allegiance to the King. In the next year, after the battles of Tranton and Princeton had been fought; Lord Chatham again made an effort to "But the jobs is a room," she said,

"Why?" invited the said,

"See what, the said,

pointing to Herry the said,

"It is a best to said, and an address to the crown, lamenting to herry the said, and beseeching me Majesty to take was his reply.

But both the said t succession.

"I can tell you more?" said 'ship far, with lights, and the old t

mahered them, into a new life—a"life of Chatham's plan; and it was not until the

next veer after Burenvnes in reader ary taxation -a claim, it must be remembered, which had always been upheld upon the mere question of law by the years. Nor was this all. A second bill provided for the appointment of five commissioners, who, were to have the most extensive powers and to raise us difficulleaders on the other side, but were to be any body or bodies politic, or any person or persons whatever. They were further authorized to suspend hostilities, and to terms of reconciliation short of the recognition of their independence. Now it will hardly be pretended that our Government has any higher sanctity than that of England, nor can anything be said against the rebels of the South that was not said by English statesmen during our revolution. against the rebels of '76. If we were, therefore to offer terms to the Confed erates, and to receive Alexander H. Stephens as a Pesce Commissioner, we would only be following the example of George king of them, perhaps, is that drawn from the history of the Whisky Insurrection in not very creditable to Pennsylvanians, and we are not unxious to say much about pose if we remind our readers that the inposing an excise tax on whisky. It was not alleged that the law was unconstitutional at all; but some of the outrages rection, however, had grown to enob dimensions that Washington, who was nected with the Administration and he began by the appointment of commiswith a few exceptions, by all the opposi- sloners, who were instructed by Edward Bandolph, then Secretary of State, "to proceed to the scene of the insurrection and to confer with any bodies of men or communication which they were to make are briefly summed up by Lord Mahon the most conciliatory and friendly character. Under this appointment, the commissioners did confer with a committee | WHOLESALE AND RETAIL PHOTOGRAPH ALBUMS devs were consumed in the negotiation. treated as such when it came from one This humans policy baffled the leaders, a large military force moving into the disaffected district, and a collision being pacified. It will thus be seen that our ! first Administration did not object to the blad.
"calling a spade a spade," nor did it think ofty. it essential to dignity to ignore plain men in Washington are very far from folthe concluding words were, "So shall true lowing the example of Washington and reconcilement avert impending calami. Discabinet. They persist in treating the whole Southern people -who have been, and was rejected, because, said Chatham: for the last year, more unanimous than any rebellious people' spoken of in history-precisely as they treat the Sioux Indians after they have indulged in a scalping expedition. Those mighty influences which mould the hearts of

> remediless disaster. Robel Rejoicing over the Election of Lincoln.

> people are entirely neglected, and brute

force is alone relied upon. Therefore it

is that the greatest battles ever fought

man like Chatham or Louis Napolean

would have felt that it was more shameful

not to have profited by such victories as

those of Vicksburg and Gestysburg, than

would have submitted, if we had not made

it impossible for them to do so. Bach new

victory renders us more obdurate, and to-

when humiliated and disgraced by a de-

feat which our ignorance magnified into a

It was falsely charged by the advocates of Mr. Lincoln's re-election that the Democracy were sympathizers with the rebellion, and that the rebels were in favor of General McClellan. The converse of this was true, as the Democratic press asserted, and as the following extracts f From the Richmond Whire Nov. 11th. 1

Our information is next to positive that Lincoln has been re-elected. Few have doubted from the first that this would be the result, and fewer still will regret it. For burielyes, we feel that the great cause for which we are struggling has escaped a real peril. The policy of conciliation, of concession, and espollery which McClellan would have attempted was semething more to be dreaded than Lincoln's armies and navies. There was great reason to apprehend that such a policy would deceive, demoralize and divide the South. With Lincoln, there is no fear of this. Our people will continue to stand as one man. With him it is a united South against a divided North. With Ma. Ciellan it might have been a united North against a divided Spath, in which event all we have been striving or in this four vears' struggle would hive been lost. But Lincoln is to continue to be the master of the Yankees, and the spectre of grant M USIC LESSONS. strution vanishes forever.

Trom the Richmond Pagnizar, Nov. 11, 3 Linkoln has been re elected President Properties. of the United States. His first election bould not surprise suy one, for he was wholly daknown; but his re-cleating, after Chatham's plan; and it was not until the "four, year's experiends of his character

and canceity will not fail to impress that another effort at reconciliation was the world with a very low opinion of popmade. This time the measure was intro- Tular government. So far as the people of duced by Lord North, and was nothing these States are interested, the election less than the renunciation of Parliament of Lincoln is entirely satisfactory. For us, he is the right man in the right place .--We would not have had him defeated, but gave all the influence of the Enquirer te him. Our reasons were entirely selfish. We prefer the management of this war to remain in the same hands that have directed it for the last four years. We prefor an ignorant, brutal fool as commanderin-chief of the enemy to any other man: ties as to the rank or legal title of the General McClellan might have given us more trouble, but we have taken the meamsy have deluded some honest men, it at liberty to treat, consult and agree with sure of Lincela and know exactly his entire worthlessness. The four years more of war, which his election now makes sure would not have been avoided by the elecaunul any act of Parliament relating to tion of McClellan, but might have been America, and, in short, to accept any conducted with much more ability and given us more trouble than Lincoln can possibly command. This re-election of Lincoln binds our people still firmer together, and prevents, the discussion and discord which the election of McClellan might have introduced. We know that it means continued war, and our country will prepare for it. There is no prospect for peace, and it is better for us that we should know clearly the purpose of the enemy in this matter, than to have been divided in opinion by the hopes of peace which the defeat of Lincoln would have raised among our people. Let our authorities begin immediately the work of reorganising the army, consolidating the regiments, filling up the ranks improving the cavalry, and preparing for the spring, PINE PERFUMERY. campaign.

Bemoeralie Party and the Country.

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