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The Rev. Canon Rhodes Bristow, who has had a large and varied experience of life in London's underworld, tells of an amusing incident which happened at a christening. Infants usually cry while undergoing this ceremony, but this one was as quiet as a lamb. Throughout it smiled cheerfully in the canon's face. "Madam," he remarked later to the young mother, "I must congratulate you on the little one's behaviour. I have never before christened a child that has behaved so well as yours. 'No wonder he behaved well,' was the unexpected reply. 'His father and I have been practicing on him with a pail of water for the last 10 days.'"

Those who are interested in the Holy Land cannot fail to have observed the steady, gradual increase of the Jewish settlements, both in number and in population, not only in the cities and towns but in the country districts. Gradually the land is becoming a safe one to live in. The remains of the dwellings and life of the peoples who lived there are being re-discovered, and in connection with the spade work, which has been in progress so long, we read that Baron Edmond de Rothschild, of Paris, is to visit Palestine in order to have excavations made in the locality where it is believed the tombs of the Jewish Kings are situated.

Apropos of the purchase of Clifford's Inn as the headquarters of the Knights Bachelor, the Law Times refers to the quaint form of grace. After dinner, when the tablecloths had been removed, and before wine and dessert had been placed on the tables, a loaf made in the form of a cross of four small arms was handed to the senior member of the Kentish Mess who presided at that table. He then with a small hammer knocked once on the table, and everyone, including the Principal and the Rulers, then stood up. Then with his right hand he raised the loaf up above his head to the full extent of his arm and brought it down with a thump on the table. This he did three times, and then slid it down the full length of the table to the vice-president, who arrested it in its career and handed it to a servant in attendance. This ceremony was symbolical and of origin dating from the days when all lawyers were either actually ecclesiastics or at least connected in some way with the Church. The knock was merely to attract attention, and had no symbolic meaning. But the bread made in the form of a loaf with four small arms symbolized the Bread of Life centred on the Four Evangelists. The three blows upon the table were an invocation of the Trinity. The bread being slid down the table symbolized that this bread of the Gospel was spread over the world. Finally, the bread was removed to be given to the poor, reminding us of charity.

THE "MESSIAH" AT MASSEY HALL.

All Toronto Church-going people should try to hear the usual December performance of this, the greatest Oratorio, in Massey Hall, Dec. 29th. From latest reports, Dr. Torrington will conduct the best presentation yet, and that is saying a great deal from an artistic standpoint.

Children's Department

THE MIRROR.

A long time ago there lived a young married couple in a very remote and rural district. They had one child, a little daughter, whom they both loved devotedly. I cannot tell you the names of the parents, nor yet that of the daughter, for the names of the humble poor are soon forgotten, but the district in which they lived is Matsuyama, in the province of Echigo, in west Japan. Here the story that I am about to relate is still a popular legend among the peasant folk. It happened that while the daughter was still a very little child, the father was sent by the overlord of the district on a business mission to the capital of the empire. As the

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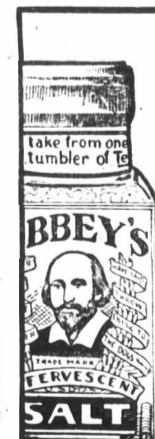
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1855**

journey was a long one neither the wife nor the daughter could accompany him, and so, bidding them good-bye, and promising to bring back with him some pretty gifts for both of them, he set out alone. The mother had never travelled farther than the little hamlet in sight of her humble home, and she knew nothing of the great world of men and cities beyond her native mountain valley. She, therefore, could not help feeling a certain fear on account of her husband's long journey to Kyoto; but, at the same time, this fear was mingled with a proud satisfaction because, of all the peasantry of that district, her husband was the first to go down to the great and opulent city where all the grandees of the empire lived in such splendour, and where there were such wonderful things to be seen and heard. The time came for the husband's return, and the wife dressed the little girl in her best clothes and arrayed herself in a beautiful blue gown, which had been a precious heirloom in the family for many years, and which she knew her husband always was pleased to see



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