ST. JOHN SEMI-WEEKLY SUN

VOL. 21. ST. JOHN, N. B., WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 28, 1898. NO. 77.

A GREAT HOLIDAY SALE

of Clothing and Gents Furnishings at Frasers'. What more—acceptable present can you give a man, boy or child—than a good suit of Clothes. A handsome Necktie. A pair of Kid Gloves. A comfortable Reefer. A good warm Overcoat or Ulster. Imagine $4.00 only for an Ulster. Some of them here yet. Come or write us.

FRASER, FRASER & CO., CHEAPSIDE,
40 and 42 King Street, St. John, N. B.

ONTARIO AND QUEBEC

Nominations Made Yesterday for Ottawa Municipal Elections.

A Large Grain Elevator to be Erected at Paspebiac for New Steamship Line.

Ex-Mayor Beaugrand Returns from Paris and Talks About Dreyfus' Imprisonment.

OTTAWA, Dec. 23.—The postmaster general's proclamation in regard to the imperial penny postage, which goes into effect on Sunday, will be out tomorrow. It is on the same lines as the one issued some months ago, commencing, "I, William Mulock," but which had to be withdrawn owing to pressure from the home government.

It is reported tonight that the governor general will tomorrow convey to Mr. Mulock the signification of her majesty's desire that he should accept a K. C. M. G., although it is just possible that the conferring of the honor may be deferred until New Year's day.

The colonial secretary has conveyed to the department the revised official list of countries to which the new rate will apply. It is as follows: United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, British India, Newfoundland, Natal, Jamaica, Bermuda, Barbados, Bahama Islands, British Guiana, British Honduras, British East Africa, Niger coast protectorate, Niger companies' territories, Uganda, Aden, Ascension, Sarawak, Mayalay States, Gonor, British Central Africa.

A meeting of the cabinet was held today at which Washington conference matters were again under consideration. The ministers confirm the telegraphed report that Lord, Herschell must leave for England on January 25th, hence the commission must conclude its work by January 21st. The Canadian representatives will at once leave for Ottawa and commence preparation for the work of the session, which under the circumstances cannot commence before March 9th. It is expected that parliament will be called together for that date. The ministerial programme will be light.

The recent visit of D. C. Fraser, M. P., to Skagway was for the purpose of inspecting the work already done on the White Pass railway. Mr. Fraser was one of the chief promoters of the line when the incorporation bill was before parliament two years ago, and as legislation bearing upon railway construction in the territory covered by the company's charter will be before parliament the coming session the member for Guysboro is anxious to be able to speak of the line and of the country from personal observation. Mr. Fraser says the White Pass road will be in operation to Lake Bennet before the opening of navigation.

TORONTO, Dec. 23.—The conservatives this morning abandoned the protest in the West York election trial and the judges confirmed Mr. Hill in the seat in the commons. In commenting on the case, Justice Falconbridge said it was a gratifying feature that although offers seemingly corrupt had been made, not a single case had been acted upon. At the close, St. John, the defeated conservative, and Hill, shook hands.

COWANSVILLE, Que., Dec. 23.—Jasper Ingles of Pellighsburg, fell down his well last night. His wife awoke, and on seaching for him, found him in the well. A glass tightly clenched in his hand showed that Ingles had gone to the well for a drink and had fallen in.

BELLEVILLE, Ont., Dec. 23.—John Murphy, operator on duty on the morning of the Murray Hill wreck, when a dozen people were killed by the collision of two Grand Trunk trains, was arraigned today before Magistrate Rumble at Coburg and committed for trial on a charge of manslaughter, preferred by Mrs. W. H. Brady, wife of the engineer of the passenger train.

MONTREAL, Dec. 23.—Thirty-nine men left Fortier's cigar factory this morning. The men say they are on strike, but Mr. Fortier says they were discharged.

MONTREAL, Dec. 23.—Montreal is suffering from an epidemic of small burglaries. The police have made many arrests, but still the burglaries continue.

Tonight Mr. Powell sent a letter to Mr. Hays accepting the arbitration of the Grand Trunk to appoint one man, the telegraphers another, these two to meet in Toronto on January 6th to select a third.

QUEBEC, Dec. 23.—The wife of Antoine Gagnon this morning presented him with triplets, two girls and boy.

OTTAWA, Dec. 23.—The city merchants say the Christmas trade has been the best on record. Yesterday after a mild spell of several days, the weather was reasonable and at times the streets were almost impassable, while the principal stores were jammed with purchasers. In the afternoon and evening Santa Claus passed through the streets on the top of an electric car, generously distributing oranges and toys to hundreds of youngsters, who were on the lookout for him. The car was ablaze of light and handsomely decorated, and citizens appreciated the enterprise of the electric railway management in furnishing this annual treat.

The official announcement of the knighting of the postmaster general by the Queen was expected from Government house today, but Major Drummond, the governor general's secretary, said tonight that there was nothing official to be announced regarding the matter. He would neither confirm nor deny current rumors.

Lord Strathcona and Mr. Chipman, commissioner of the Hudson's Bay Co., were here yesterday on business with the government.

The officers of the 15th Argyle Light Infantry of Belleville have requested the department to instruct the local office to cancel as the first letter from Belleville under the imperial rate the Christmas greetings sent by the regiment to its honorary colonel the Marquis of Lorne. The request was granted.

OTTAWA, Dec. 26.—The holiday passed off quietly. The rinks and theatres did a rushing business, as also did the saloons.

The municipal nominations took place during the morning. There are three candiates for the mayoralty—Ald. Payment, Ald. Cluff and ex-Ald. Stewart. Interest is lent to the mayoralty contest by the fact that the French Canadians claim it as their "turn" to have a representative as chief magistrate. Messrs. Cluff and Stewart are upper-town men, which will split the vote in the English-speaking portion of the city.

MONTREAL, Dec. 26.—Quieter holidays than this year are hard to imagine. Not marred by disaster or accident, nor enlivened by great social festivities. One Christmas gift announced today was Lord Strathcona's authorization to the trustees of St. Paul's church to build as grand a new organ as desired and send him the bill. The estimated cost is at $15,000.

The official announcement is made today that plans had been let for the erection of a large grain elevator at Paspebiac for the accommodation of the shippers by the new transatlantic line.

Ex-Mayor Beaugrand returned today from Paris and states he has positive information from government officials that Dreyfus's imprisonment is not so hard as was Napoleon's at St. Helena. England's interference in the case is one of the causes for the prospective French continental alliance.

ALBERT CO.

Special Christmas Services in the Churches.

HOPEWELL HILL, Dec. 25.—The marriage of Miss Ella Moore, eldest daughter of the late L. R. Moore, and Lorenzo Chapman, M. D., of Albert, formerly of Amherst, was celebrated on Friday at the Methodist parsonage, the pastor, Rev. Chas. Comben, officiating. Only immediate friends of the contracting parties were present. The bride was attired in a travelling suit of brown, with hat to match, and was unattended. The newly married couple will spend a few weeks in Nova Scotia, after which they will take up their residence at Albert.

The Riverside public school gave a successful entertainment on Friday evening. There was also a school concert at Harvey.

The Christmas services today in the different churches were largely attended. The services in the Church of England were held in the morning, the celebration of Holy Communion taking place at ten a. m., and the special Christmas service, with morning prayer, at eleven. Special music was furnished by the choir, including the Christmas carols, Sing We Merry Christmas, Gently Falls the Winter Snow, and Carol, Sweetly Carol; the Te Deum Laudamus, and Venite, and the hymns, Hark, the Herald Angels Sing and O Come, All Ye Faithful. Rev. Mr. Smithers preached an able and appropriate sermon from St. John 1:14: "And the word was made flesh." The church was prettily decorated for the occasion with illuminated mottoes and evergreens. In the afternoon Rev. Mr. Colwell, pastor of the Baptist church, preached, and the choir sang When Shepherds Watched their Flocks by Night, Hark the Herald Angels sing, and the anthem, Oh Come Let Us Sing. The Methodist church was well filled in the evening, when the pastor, Rev. Chas. Comben, occupied the pulpit. Appropriate music was rendered by the choir. Rev. Mr. Smithers held service at Hillsboro in the afternoon and at New Ireland on Christmas Eve.

Walter Tingley was struck by the limb of a falling tree in the woods a day or two ago and badly injured.

The departments of the public schools gave an excellent entertainment in the school building at the Hill last night. Refreshments were served at the close of the concert.

Wm. Pugsley, Q. C., and C. N. Skinner, Q. C., leave for Ottawa today to appear in the Colpitts' case before Judge Burbidge.

CHRISTMAS GIFTS.

Ven. Archdeacon Brigstocke and Rev. James Crisp Remembered.

Many Evidences of the Good Feeling That Exists Between Employers of Labor and Their Employees.

(From Monday's Daily Sun.

On Saturday the help of the Royal hotel presented the proprietors, Raymond & Doherty, with a handsome bronze ornament, which adds not a little to the attractiveness of the ladies' parlor. LeBaron Sharp, the genial clerk of the house, received a gold-headed stick from the help. Messrs. Raymond & Doherty gave each of their employes cash presents.

W. Finson, Wm. Blair, Thos. Nairn, H. Turner, W. A. Porter, John W. Wetmore, R. Belyea, B. C. B. Boyd and other guests at the Dufferin presented the proprietor, Mr. Willis, and Mrs. Willis with a handsome bronze vase and a pretty table. J. J. McCaffrey, the clerk, was also remembered by the guests. Mr. Willis was presented by M. A. Finn, the agent of the Buchanan concern, with a blanket for use on Mr. Willis's horse, Special Blend. Mrs. Harriet Gibson, the Dufferin cook, was the recipient of a watch from a friend. The help gave Mr. and Mrs. Willis a basket chair.

The employes of D. W. McCormick, proprietor of the Victoria hotel, presented Mrs. McCormick with a lacquered brass lamp. It is an immense thing—in fact, a handsomer gift is seldom seen. Mrs. McCormick was also the recipient of a pretty vase. Mr. McCormick got a gold-headed umbrella. The help of the house were not forgotten by Mr. McCormick.

D. D. Glassier & Son presented their employes with turkeys.

The employes of McLean & Holt, City road, each received a turkey from the firm.

The St. John Railway Company gave each of their employes, over 100 in all, a turkey.

J. I. Noble, messenger of the Customs House, was made glad by being presented with a purse of money by the customs employes.

At the closing in the Albert school, Friday, the teachers presented Miss Carrie Young, who has resigned and will shortly be married, with a half-dozen handsome silver spoons.

James Ready presented each of his employes with a turkey or a goose, according to their preference.

Messrs. Tapley Bros. have presented each of their employes with a useful gift in the shape of a fine turkey.

The employes of Unger's laundry and dye works, through Miss Lena Dibblee, presented their foreman, Jos. P. Laskey, with a very handsome meerschaum pipe and tobacco pouch and also a pearl-handled knife.

Daniel Coughlan, janitor of the City Hall, wishes to thank W. A. Quinton for a handsome pipe.

Chas. Macdonald, who assists Mr. Henderson at the police court, was given a gold headed cane by a number of his friends.

GIFTS TO ARCHDEACON BRIGSTOCKE.

In the vestry room of Trinity church on Saturday afternoon, the Venerable Archdeacon Brigstocke was, in recognition of his twenty-five years' pastorate, presented with a rich sterling silver coffee service, consisting of coffee pot, cream pitcher, sugar bowl and tongs, spoons and salver. The presentation was made by James H. McAvity, senior church warden, in behalf of past and present members of the vestry. Archdeacon Brigstocke made a very feeling reply to the address, which was as follows:

To the Venerable Archdeacon Brigstocke, Rector of Trinity Church, Parish of St. John:

Dear Sir—Twenty-five years having having elapsed since you took charge of this parish, we the undersigned now serving and having served with you in the management of the temporalities of Trinity church, beg to testify to the wise and efficient manner in which you have acted as a member of the vestry and its presiding officer, thereby rendering the business we have been called upon to transact a pleasure as well as a duty.

As members of your congregation, we do, with much gratification, bear witness to your zealous, able and loving care over us as our rector, and to the harmony that has prevailed in the parish during your pastorate. As a slight token of our appreciation of the great and good work you have done, we ask your acceptance of the accompanying gift, on the attainment of what we venture to call your silver jubilee as our rector, and that you may long be spared to continue your valuable services to the church is our earnest hope.

Wishing you and Mrs. Brigstocke a very happy Christmas and New Year, we are

Yours faithfully,

PRESENTATION TO REV. JAMES CRISP.

Rev. James Crisp, pastor of Carmarthen street church, was presented yesterday with a handsome gold watch, a guard and a large gold piece. Mr. Crisp was taken by surprise, but managed to murmur his deep felt gratitude at this mark of love and esteem. The address, which was read by Charles McCristall, and was signed by Mrs. John Hughes and Mrs. Henry Carr on behalf of the committee, was as follows:

I have been requested by a committee composed of members of this church and congregation to perform a duty which I trust will meet the hearty approval of all present. Whilst it may differ from the first part of the service, it is in keeping with the season which we have entered upon, and which I trust we may all be permitted to enjoy.

In the performance of this duty I am called upon to couple the name of our esteemed pastor, and it is to show in a small measure that esteem and respect which we feel it is our duty to one who has labored so faithfully for the advancement of the Master's kingdom and the church over which he presides.

Trusting that this small token of our appreciation will be accepted, I therefore on behalf of the church and congregation take much pleasure in presenting you with this timepiece and accompanying articles.

Extending to yourself and family the seasons' greetings.

PRESENTATION TO J. E. WILSON.

John E. Wilson presented each married man in his employ with a turkey and every man with a pair of gloves. The employes presented Mr. Wilson with a handsome carbuncle ring, accompanied by the following address:

ST. JOHN, N. B., Dec. 24.

John E. Wilson:

Dear Sir—The employes of your establishment desire at this festive and joyous season to congratulate you on the very large and growing business which you have built up by your untiring industry and ability, and to express to you the very high esteem in which you are held by us for your fairness and impartiality as an employer, and the exertion and push you always make to keep up the work and keep us employed. We respectfully ask you to accept this gift from us, not so much for its intrinsic worth but as an expression of the very high respect and esteem we have for you. We sincerely trust you may long enjoy health and strength and have very many happy returns of this joyous season. We wish you and Mrs. Wilson and children a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Signed—F. R. Whipple, S. Nelson, A. Winchester, E. Evans, J. O'Brire, J. Mitchell, Wm. Moore, P. McCourty, H. Apelley, J. Wilson, E. Gilson, Wm. Whipple, E. Taylor, J. Taylor, W. Case, B. Case, T. Ferrie, H. Lake, J. Donley, E. Ross.

CHILDREN'S DAY SERVICE.

Children's day was observed in the Waterloo Street Free Baptist church last evening. James Patterson, superintendent of the Sunday school, presided, and the church was completely filled. The following programme was carried out: Singing by the school; opening address by the superintendent; responsive reading, Mathew, 2nd chapter, led by the superintendent; prayer by the pastor, Rev. J. W. Clarke, and Lord's Prayer by school; singing by members of the infant class; Christmas carol, by J. Harold Patterson; address, by the pastor; singing, by choir and school; recital of the Ten Commandments by members of the infant class; singing by Gordon and Stella Smith and Annie Gibbs; Scriptural recitation by John De Mill; singing by infant class; address by Wm. Peters, who was superintendent of the school for over thirty-seven years; singing and benediction.

The Christmas music rendered by the choir of this church at both morning and evening services was of an exceptionally high character.

LOSS OF THE PORTLAND.

Attorneys of the Company File a Petition for Limitation of Liability.

PORTLAND, Me., Dec. 26—Attorneys of the Portland Steamship Co. have filed in the United States district court a petition for the limitation of liability in the loss of the steamer Portland. The petition is filed under the limited liability act, and sets forth that the loss of the steamer was caused "by reason of a collision with the four-masted schooner King Philip or some unknown vessel, or else by reason of the great violence and fury of the gale, that all the baggage and freight on board was lost; that all her passengers and crew were drowned, but that the place of foundering was unknown. The petitioners also state that the loss of life and property occurred without the knowledge of the petitioners, and "occurred by the act of God and by peril of the sea," and without fault on their part.

The petition refers to the two suits already brought against the company for loss of life, states that other suits are about to be brought, and prays:

1—That the court appoint a trustee to whom the steamer Portland, her appurtenances and freight there pending may be transferred.

2—That a commissioner be appointed to receive proofs of claims.

3—That a notice be issued to all persons claiming damages to appear before the commissioner and prove their claims.

4—That those who have already brought suits be enjoined from proceding further.

5—That the court will adjudge the company not liable for any claim in consequence of the loss of the Portland, or if any liability ever existed that the company be discharged therefrom by the surrender of the wreck of the steamer and the freight pending.

The hearing on the petition will occur before Judge Webb in a few days.

FREDERICTON.

A Handsome Present to Father Casey and His Church—The Improvements to St. Dunstan's Church.

FREDERICTON, N. B., Dec. 26.—A lady residing in this city yesterday presented Rev. Father Casey, pastor of St. Dunstan's church, with $500, to be used in placing a stained glass window in the church.

The Fredericton curling rink was opened for skating tonight. There was a very large atetndance.

Two games of curling were played in the rink today between the presidents' and vice presidents' rinks. In the morning the former won, but the result was reversed this afternoon, the vice presidents' team winning by a wide margin.

The repairs on St. Dunstan's church which have been going on for some time past, are now nearing completion and the edifice presents a beautiful appearance. The painting of the interior of this church, which was under the direction of M. Louis Rosa, a Swiss artist and a church decorator of vast experience, is certainly ahead of anything of its kind in the province. At the Christmas midnight mass, the acetylene gas was used for the first time as an illuminant and materially aided in showing to the best advantages the elaborate changes which are being made in the church. Rev. Fr. Casey is receiving congratulations on all sides on the manned in which he has carried the work through, and he has certainly shown rare judgment and business ability.

There was some lively brushes between local horses on King street today. Some of the competitions were very exciting and were witnessed by an immense crowd of people.

The third annual meeting of the Kings Co. S. S. Institute will be held in the Free Baptist church, Sussex, opening on Thursday of this week at 10 a. m.

THE HOLIDAY.

The Rinks and the Opera House Liberally Patronized.

While Large Crowds of Skaters Thronged the Lakes in the Vicinity of the City.

(From Tuesday's Daily Sun.)

The weather yesterday was all that could have been desired for out-door winter enjoyment, and the holiday was consequently highly appreciated by thousands of citizens. From the crowds that patronized the rinks and the throngs that covered all the lakes in the immediate vicinity of St. John it appeared as if almost every man, woman and child in the community possessed a pair of skates and knew how to use them. The ice was in prime condition, and that, coupled with the absence of wind, make skating a delightful pastime outdoors as well as under cover.

Apparently most of those who did not skate took advantage of the fine weather to visit the five steamers, including the large steamships, the Scotsman and the Manchester City, all loading at Sand Point, and to generally inspect the extensive work that is now going on there. Others, again, spent the day in the curling rinks in keen enjoyment of their favorite game. The street cars did a good business, carrying hundreds of people to and from the rinks and lakes, in addition to their regular routine traffic. The only class in the community who did not fully enjoy the day were the horse owners, but even they were cheered up by the fact that the winter is still young and that snow will fall ere it ends.

As usual, the inmates of the public institutions in and around the city were duly remembered in the matter of Christmas gifts and good cheer, the dinners being all that could be asked for.

The commissioners of the Alms House, accompanied by a number of invited guests, paid their annual visit to the institution yesterday, the coaches leaving Worden's stables, Princess street, at 2.15 and 2.30 p. m. The occasion was an enjoyable one to the inmates, who will long remember the day and the rare good cheer that it brought into their lives.

Two Christmas trees, laden with generous presents, were the chief feature of the Christmas celebration at the Protestant Orphan Asylum. The Christmas dinner at the Wiggins Male Orphan Asylum was highly enjoyed by the boys, who will have their annual Christmas tree early in the new year.

The annual Christmas treat to the children of St. Peter's church Sunday school was given yesterday afternoon in the basement of the church. About one hundred prizes were awarded to scholars for good behavior, while every one of the over five hundred children received a bountiful supply of candy, nuts and fruit.

VICTORIA RINK.

The Victoria rink has seen many Christmas days, but never just such a day as yesterday proved. From early morning until ten o'clock at night thousands of tireless, energetic skaters enjoyed the splendid accommodations of the Victoria. In the morning the school children to the number of one thousand five hundred took advantage of the kindness of the management to enjoy a free skate, and to say that they were a well pleased lot of youngsters would only be stating it mildly. In the afternoon and evening the Vic's own band was present, and on each occasion between twelve and fifteen hundred skaters, besides a goodly number on the promenade, enjoyed the excellent music. Director McIntyre is certainly to be congratulated on his success as a leader and selector of rink music. Tonight is regular band night.

THE QUEEN'S RINK.

Good ice and the music of the Artillery band attracted a large crowd to the Queen's rink, which, under Mr. Tufts' new management, is fast securing a goodly share of public favor. The building has been very tastefully fitted up, and the alterations made this year are of the kind that add to the comfort as well as the attractiveness of the rink.

PRICE WEBBER AT OPERA HOUSE

Big houses ruled at the Opera house yesterday, both matinee and evening. Mr. Webber has a very capable and clever company, who are fully up to the requirements of their different roles. Miss Grey was welcomed heartily, and she showed herself to be the same pleasing and able actress she has always been, and which has won for her the esteem and respect of our citizens. Of Mr. Webber's talent as a comedian it is hardly necessary to speak, as he is so well known and so well liked. His timely local hits were very keen and greatly appreciated. Everett King is a good actor, while Messrs. Bedell, Thomas, Chase, Hill, McMillan, Miss Cadmen and Mrs. and Miss Clifton were all very well placed. The performances were smooth and even. Harrison's orchestra rendered fine incidental music.

On Monday next, Jan. 2nd, the company will play a return engagement, producing the new comedy Won at Last in the afternoon, and in the evening the charming play of Fanchon, the Cricket.

THE THANKFUL UNDERTAKER.

The race of Mr. Mould is as yet by no means extinct. A few days ago, in response to an appeal that was made by a certain vicar in the interests of the East London Church fund, an undertaker sent in an especially generous donation as a thank-offering for the fact that "the death-rate had lately been exceptionally high."—London City Press.

Advertise in the "Semi-Weekly Sun."

CHRISTMAS MISERY.

The joys and happiness of Christmas having been instilled into our being for centuries past, it is a hard thing to believe that there can be such a thing as Christmas misery, but it is true nevertheless, and may be that many of the readers of these lines have been even this year in the same slough of despond when we have felt that we would prefer to sleep through the merry Christmastide and awake when the cold work aday world appears again. It is sad of course that misery should exist on the anniversary of the earth's greatest happiness, but it is there in abundance just the same. It is a good thing for the most crushed heart to try and smile so as not to be a wet blanket on his fellow mortals, but more especially let him keep his gloom and misery from the children. It is their own particular time and it should not be spoilt by even the semblance of sorrow on the faces of their elders. On Christmas eve I wandered aimlessly round and round the city, gazing on the happy faces of parents with their little ones. Their round, bright, wide awake eyes taking in every ray of Christmas joy. One dear, bright little blue eyed lad made me for the moment enjoy his happiness almost as much as if his happiness had been my own; he was almost commanding his mother to buy him a whole show window full of toys "tos he had been so dood." As I watched him I had a day dream which was as quick as a flash light, but I saw myself standing on almost the self same spot, with a loving little hand laid lovingly in mine and a pair of bright blue eyes looking up at me, and the little fellow making an almost similar request. I smiled in my misery at the "had been" and the little fellow smiled back in return. I was roughly brought back to myself by the voice of an acquaintance, who jovially and with beery breath wished me a merry Christmas, and the old hereditary smile came up unbidden. He proposed to take a drink across the way. I declined, as I did not wish to drown my merry Christmas, much as I would have liked to have forgotten things for a time. I would very much liked to have asked him to give me the nickel instead, for had he done so it would have solved a problem in arithmetic that so far I had been unable to do. I suppose it was pride that stopped me from doing so, just as pride demanded me to keep a nickel to put in the offertory of the church when I had made up my mind to hear the Christmas carols next evening, and my little problem in figures was how I could get ten cents worth of beans on Christmas day and yet spend half of it in church. That was a day or two back, and the problem easily evolved itself. I went and heard the music and found out why that part of the city is called Paradise row. I enjoyed the wonderful soul feast and thereby forgot about the beans, or at any rate tried my best to do so, and succeeded fairly well in believing that it was a merry Christmas. These rude, tough times are not always brought about through the fault of the persons who suffer. There is always a warp of misery running with the woof of happiness, and it is unfortunate when the warp comes uppermost at this season of the year. It is better suited to the Lenten season. Thank heaven that hope does spring eternal in the human breast and let us miserable ones cry "Kismet" and hope that next year will have brighter things in store for us. It may after all be some small crumb of comfort to us that we have tried our best to keep our long faces hidden for the time being under a stereotyped smile, and to all appearances we gaily pass the dear old chestnut.

A MERRY CHRISTMAS.

AT THE ASYLUM.

Spirited and Jolly Christmas Festivities at the Provincial Institution.

The inmates of the Provincial Lunatic Asylum had a good time Saturday evening. At an early hour the whole lot of them—300 in number—were taken to the amusement hall, where two large Christmas trees had been arranged, containing useful articles for the inmates. The articles consisted chiefly of wearing apparel, such as dresses, slippers, gloves, etc. The trees were on the platform, and the wall at the back of the same was prettily decorated with bunting. Then on a large table between the two trees there was a large assortment of goods for presentation to the patients. It was surprising to see how well the patients behaved. There was not the slightest cause for complaint in that regard. Dr. Hetherington, the superintendent, and his staff were kept busy for some time in the distribution of the gifts. There were a few visitors, who lent valuable assistance to the staff. Sergt. Charlton, the instructor of the 62nd Fusiliers, did a good act in the club swinging line; John Woodland gave a smart drum solo, and Mr. Dixon a song. There was some good instrumental music. During the evening refreshments were served and the patients seemed loath to leave the room where they had spent such an enjoyable evening. Dr. Hetherington desires to thank the following for donations towards the trees: Scott Bros., W. C. R. Allen, T. McAvity & Sons., J. F. Watson, Scovil Bros., W. C. Pitfield & Co., O. H. Warwick, F. A. Jones, J. & A. McMillan, Macaulay Bros. & Co., J. V. Russell, Manchester, Robertson & Allison, Mamm Bros, W. J. Cornfield, A. A. Morrissey, Barbour Bros., T. Collins & Co., Thos. Dean of the country market, and Dr. James Smith.

ANOTHER FASHODA COMING.

France would seem to be preparing industriously for another Fashoda humiliation by the course she is taking in Newfoundland. By-and-by England will get it into her head that somebody is trying to take advantage of her desire for peace, and there may be suddenly expected another peremptory notice to quit, with every possibility that it will be obeyed, unless the River Dee is looking for a fight.—Boston Herald.