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1885.

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IRE,

first-class workmen,
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of various designs,
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ES, WASHSTANDS,
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silverware,

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YEAR'S!

Clothing

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ONALD

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othing 4 lb Good Tea.

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Vases, For \$10.00

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ing Stationery, in

ES, CARDS,

USING NOTE

and ENVELOPES, &c.

ASZARD,

THE SIDE QUEEN SQUARE

The Old Year and the New, 1884-5.

The old year has passed like a mist of the moon.

When the stars bright in the east;
And many hopes died while many were born
With the throbs of his quivering breast.

He had birth in the cold, stormy breath of the north,
And his cradle was cushioned with snow,
Old Boreas rocked him when first he came forth.

With frost crown encircling his brow,
His youth passed the tender foliage of green
All over the boughs of the spring;
He twined the young buds in the sun's golden sheen.

While nature was spreading her wing,
While musical waves from fetters set free,
West leaping away through the dale,
To hang dewdrops, pendant from every tree
To glisten o'er blossoming vale.

With summer he gambled in Phœbus' sight,
Or slept in the heart of the rose,
To awake with Aurora, the goddess of light,
From her fragrant bed of repose.

He outlasted sweet flowers with liberal hand
Over mountain, valley and plain,
While glorious beauty waved over the land
To harvest of rich golden grain.

Maturing with autumn, in vigor he brought
To ripeness the fruits he had given,
And showed to mankind what woe was wrought
By the realm of nature and heaven.

The old winter returned just as at its birth,
With snow wreaths to circle his hair,
And he fell asleep, 'midst the joyous mirth
That hailed his successor and heir.

And now a new monarch his scepter must
Wield o'er the world of mortal men,
For mystery hangs like a pall day by day,
The which only time can dispel.

Will be pierced with the arrows of woe,
And eyes that now beam with health
Be despoiled, ere he leaves, of their glow.
And joys will be born and pleasures will die,
For this New Year has compassed his round.

While dawning hopes, all lowly must lie,
As monuments thrown to the ground.
Well! our joys and sorrows alike silently
And when they'll awake we don't know,
So let us take life as it comes, and not weep
O'er mere shadows, and fancy them woe.

(Written for the Herald.)
CHRISTMAS WITH THE LEPERS.

BY A. M. P.

You happy families of Charlotte-
town whose idea of Christmas is
associated with bright homes, tempt-
ing shops, cosy firesides, and the
laughing rosy faces of healthy,
bonnie children, come with me to
another Christmas scene, and then,
if it be that you have ever crumpled
rose-leaves under your feet, if some-
daintily be wanting to your family
feast, some luxury to your fashion-
able toilet, or some novelty to your
collection of bric-a-brac, bear the
trifling annoyance with heroism, or
better still, forget the imaginary
presence of the real.

Up on the wild north shore of
New Brunswick, where the Gulf of
St. Lawrence lashed into wild fury
by the December gales, broke un-
lenned against the bleak Gloucester
cast, stands a dreary and isolated
dwelling. It is shunned by man-
kind, unnoticed, and almost un-
known, the home of lepers, the
Lazarus of Tracadie. Let us ask
the good sisters, who tend these
gruesome patients, if we may enter.

A smiling assent is given, the door
is opened, and after traversing a long
corridor, we find ourselves in the
men's ward. Here are eleven men
and boys all more or less bitten
by the fearful plague, yet, strange
to say, they seem bright and happy.
The women in the ward above
seem also this morning to have lost
the gloom which sometimes over-
shadows them. A little feminine
vanity is noticeable even here. They
are joyously donning their new
bonnets and hats, a present sent a
few days previously by the good
Sisters of Charity of Halifax, and
which are to be worn for the first
time at the Christmas Mass, for
which the bell is just now ringing.

The man have received their
Christmas box too—a large case of
tobacco from Mr. W. C. McDonald,
the philanthropic millionaire of Mon-
treal; and there are various small
gifts provided by other kind
friends, all of which are received
with pleasure and gratitude.

And now the last bell has rung
we must come into the tiny chapel,
where we kneel with reverent awe,
for it is so tiny that our knees
nearly touch the steps that lead to
the dwelling place of the Holy of
Holies.

At our left, behind a close white
lattice, the Sisters of the *Hôtel Dieu*
are chanting their rules in choir, to
our right is what seems to be a wall
of glass, screened at the back with
wooden shutters. As the priest com-
es out upon the Altar the wooden
screen rolls back, disclosing in the
lurid daylight the leper's ward,
where kneel about twenty-four of the
sufferers. Not all of them, for some
are so far gone in their dreadful
malady that they are deprived of the
great happiness of assisting at the
sacred Mass. As the echoes of the
Domine *non sum dignus* die away,
the server opens a sliding
panel in the glass partition and
throws a white linen cloth over the
ledge. To this altar aperture come
one by one these sorely stricken be-
ings, and with reverent mien and
earnest faith, receive the Body and
Blood of Him whose birth they cele-
brate in the golden dawn. How
fervent are they as they kneel with
their eyes fixed on the Tabernacle,
Christmas has come to them. After
Mass, when the low, sweet singing
of the Sisters dies away, and the
curtain falls across their cloister,
we rise and go out, leaving the priest
kneeling in earnest thanksgiving and
prayer for those poor sufferers com-
mitted to his charge. What a life
is his, that good, that devoted pastor,
and the sisters, picture their sacrifices,
exiled for life, from their dear land
of Quebec, and shut up with incur-
able patients, afflicted by the most
loathsome disease. And yet, when
in the afternoon of Christmas we
visited the ward, we saw happiness
enough, simple but real. By this first
of the most feeble of the patients
dressing nuts and candies and
relating, as they were something to
the poor ones' mouths. A little way
off an amateur violinist was drawing
some inspiring sounds from an old

fashioned fiddle, and such of his
audience as were able, danced gaily.
An old woman was petting a kitten
that, strange to say, seemed to have
contracted the disease to the detri-
ment of its furry coat. In another
part of the ward one of the good
Sisters was reading to a poor sick
being, an indescribable mass of dis-
ease whom God has since mer-
cifully called home. All seemed to
be imbued with a spirit of resigna-
tion, and of true Christmas peace.
When the ringing of the Angelus
announced the hour for evening
prayer, and the great shutters rolled
back disclosing the little Sanctuary,
we took our leave, impressed, beyond
the power of words to tell, with our
Christmas in Tracadie Lazaretto.

Should any of our readers wish to
brighten the season for those poor
lepers, they can do so by addressing
any little gift to the Hospital of St.
Joseph, Tracadie, Gloucester County,
New Brunswick.

(Written for the Herald.)
YEAR ITEMS.

The Egyptians, it is said, were
the first who fixed the length of the
year.

The Jews usually employed the
era of the Seleucids until the 15th
century, when a new mode of com-
puting was adopted. They date
from the creation which they con-
sider to have been 3,760 years and
3 months before the commencement
of our era. To reduce Jewish time
to ours, subtract 3,760 years. The
Jewish year consists of either twelve
or thirteen months of 29 or 30 days.
The civil year commences with the
month Tishri, immediately after the
new moon following the autumnal
equinox; the ecclesiastical year be-
gins with the month Nisan (March).

The Roman Calendar was intro-
duced by Romulus, who divided the
year into ten months, comprising
304 days (73 B. C.). That year was
of fifty days' less duration than the
lunar year, and of 61 days less than
the solar year, and its commence-
ment did not correspond with any
fixed season. Numa Pompilius, 713
B. C., added two months; and Julius
Cæsar, anno 45 B. C., to make it more
correct, fixed the solar year at 365
days and 6 hours, every fourth year
being bissextile or leap-year. The
365 days and 6 hours comprised, as
they thought, the period from one
vernal equinox to another; the six
hours were set aside, and at the end
of four years, forming a day, the
fourth day was made to consist of
366 days. The day thus added was
called intercalary, and was placed a
day before the 24th of February, the
sixth of the Calends, which was
reckoned twice, hence called *bissextile*
or *sex dies*. This added day with
us is February 29. This arrange-
ment makes the year nearly three
minutes longer than the astronomi-
cal year; to obviate this, 1700 and
1800 were not, and 1900 will not be
leap years, but 2000 will be one.

The solar or astronomical year
was found to comprise 365 days, 5
hours, 48 minutes, 51 seconds and
10 decimals, anno 265 B. C. The lunar
year (twelve lunar months, or 354
days, 8 hours, 48 minutes, 11 sec-
onds, was found to be 11 minutes
less than the solar year, and was
used among the Chaldeans, Persians
and Jews. Once in every three
years was added another lunar month,
so as to make the solar and lunar
years nearly agree. But though the
months were lunar the years were
solar; that is, the first month was of
thirty days and the second of twenty-
nine, and so alternately; and the
month added triennially was called
the second Adar. The Jews after-
ward followed the Roman manner of
computation. The sidereal year, or
return to the same star is 365 days,
6 hours, 9 minutes, 11 seconds.

The Jews dated the beginning of
the sacred year in March, and civil
year in September. The Athenians
began the year in June; the Mac-
edonians, on the 24th September; the
Christians of Egypt and Ethiopia on
29th or 30th August; and the Per-
sians and Armenians on 11th Au-
gust.

Nearly all the Christian nations
now begin the year on January 1st.
In France the Merovingian kings
began the year with Christmas, 25th
December, and sometimes with Eas-
ter, which being a movable feast,
led to much confusion. Charles IX
of France, in 1564, published an
arret, the last article of which ord-
ered the year for the time to come
to be constantly and universally begun
and written on and from January 1st.

The beginning of the year has
been reckoned from the birth of Christ,
celebrating the birth of Christ, Decem-
ber 25, His circumcision, January 1,
His conception, March 25, and His
resurrection, Easter.

The English began their year on
the 25th of December until the time
of William the Conqueror. This
giving having been crowned king,
the first of January, gave occasion to the
English to begin their year at that
time to make it agree with the then
most remarkable period of their
history.

Until the act for altering the style
in 1752, when the year was ordered
to begin on January 1st, it did not
legally and generally commence in
England until the 25th of March. In
Scotland at that period the year be-
gan on 1st January.

The difference caused great prac-
tical inconveniences; and January,
February and part of March some-
times bore two dates, as we often
find in old records, 1745, 1746, or
1745-6 or 1744-5-6. Such a reckoning
often led to chronological mistakes;
for instance, we popularly say the
"revolution of 1688," as that event
was happening between February, 1688,
according to the mode of computa-
tion then in vogue, but if the year
were held to begin as it does now,
on January 1st, it would be the
revolution of 1689. What is called
"The old and new style" is explained
as follows:—Pope Gregory XIII
in order to rectify the errors of the
current calendar, published a new
one in which ten days were omitted,
the 5th of October 1582 becoming
the 15th of October.

The new style was adopted in
France, Italy, Spain, Denmark, Hol-
land, Flanders, and Portugal in 1582,
in Germany in 1584, in Switzerland
in 1583 and 1584, in Hungary in
1587 and in Great Britain in 1751.
In 1752, eleven days were left out
of the calendar—September 3 being
reckoned as September 14.

The difference between the old
and new styles up to 1699 was 10
days; after 1700, 11 days; after 1800,
12 days.

In Russia, Greece, and throughout

the East the old style is still retain-
ed.

The Czar, Alexander II was born
on the 17th April, 1818 old style, and
the 29th of April new style.

The year of the Northern regions
of Siberia and Lapland is described
in the following calendar given by a
traveller.

Snow melts June 23; by July 1 all
gone; July 9, fields quite green; July
17, plants at full growth; July 25,
plants in flower; August 2, fruits
ripe; August 10, plants shed their
seed; August 18, snow.

The snow continues upon the
ground from 18th August of one
year, till the 23rd June of the year
following, being 309 days out of the
365, so that while the three seasons
of Spring, Summer and Autumn are
together only sixty-six days or eight
weeks, the winter is 44 weeks in
these countries.

The plonic year, was the period
of time which the equinoxes take to
finish their revolution at the end of
which the stars and constellations
have the same place with regard to
the equinoxes that they had at first.
Tycho Brahe says that this year or
period requires 25,814 common years
to complete it. Riccioli computes
it at 25,920, and Cassini at 24,800;
at the end of which time some im-
agined that there would be a total
and natural renovation of the whole
of creation.

The sabbatical year was a Jewish
institution, anno 1491 B. C. (Exodus
XXIII). During every seventh year
the very ground had rest, and was
not tilled, and every forty-ninth
year all debts were forgiven, slaves
set at liberty, and estates, etc. that
were before sold or mortgaged, re-
turned to their original families, etc.

In 1792, the French nation adopt-
ed a calendar professedly founded
on philosophical principles.

The first year of the era of the
Republic began at midnight, between
21 and 22 September, 1792, but its
establishment was not decreed until
the 4th Frimaire of the year II, 24
November, 1793. The calendar ex-
isted until the 10th Nivose year of
the republic, XIV, 31st December,
1805, when the Gregorian mode of
calculation was restored by Napoleon
I. The year of our Lord, anno
Domini or A. D., of Grace, of the In-
car nation, of the Circumcision, and
of the Crucifixion (Træstionis.)

The Christian era commenced 1st
January in the middle of the 4th
year of the 194th Olympiad, the
753rd year of the building of
Rome, and in 474 of the Julian
period. This era was invented by a
Monk, Dionysius Exiguus or Denys
le Petit, about 532.

It was introduced into Italy in
the 6th century and ordered to be
used by bishops by the council of
Chelsea in 816, but was not generally
employed for several centuries.

Charles III of Germany was the first
who added "in the year of our Lord"
to his reign in 879. It is now held
that Christ was born Friday, 5th
April, B. C. 4.

GOOD THINGS

—FOR—
Xmas and New Year

—AT—
The City Steam Bakery.

WE have in stock, and are man-
ufacturing daily, the following
GOODS!

Plain, Fruit and Citron Cakes, Tart-
s, Pies, Jelly, Squares and Rolls,
Patties, Vanilla and Wine
Cakes, Buns, &c.

Soda, Wine, Sagar, Lemon, Fruit,
Butter, Ginger, Water, Seville,
Hermit, Diamond, New York,
Fruit and Family Biscuits.

Can mix any of the above Biscuits in
10 or 20 lb. boxes for housekeepers.
CONFECTIONERY, from 20 cents per
pound, retail, upwards.

JAMS, JELLIES, &c., very cheap.

NUTS—Almonds, Brazil, Hazel and
Walnuts.

Raisins, Currants, Citron and Lemon
Peel, Biscuits, and other
confectionery, Silver and Gold Orna-
ments, &c., &c.

JOHN QUINN,
Proprietor.

Charlottetown, Dec. 24, 1884.

LIST

OF SOME OF THE ARTICLES

Now on Show at Taylor's,

Next to Watson's Drug Store,

Cake and Fruit Dishes,
Breakfast and Dinner Cruets,
Biscuits (Willow and Japanese
patterns),
Monte Carlo Caps and Saucers,
Sugar and Cream Dishes (colored),
Toast Racks, Knife Rests,
Napkin Rings (designs new and
old),
Ink Stands (in blue and silver),
Knives, Forks and Spoons, Nat-
ural Crackers,
Carved Oak Barometers, Gold Spec-
acles, Nickel Alarms.

A lot of Gold and Silver Goods, in
handsome cases suitable for presen-
tation.

We have not space to enumerate
half, but ask all to call and see.

E. W. TAYLOR.
Queen Street, Dec. 24, 1884—31

NO POISON!

For your little ones and your-
selves go to the

"Star Confectionery,"

GREAT GEORGE STREET.

—AND TO THE—
"Bijon Restaurant,"

Right around Beales' Corner,

—FOR—
Pure Confectionery,

from 16c. to 40c. per lb. retail.

Most of the imported candies are
substantiated and colored with poisonous
ingredients.

We make our Candies of Pure
Sugars, and flavor with the purest oils
and essences.

VATCHER, MURPHY & CO
Charlottetown, Dec. 25—31

GIFTS. GIFTS.

Children's Fancy Chairs, Cradles, Cots, Sleighs, &c.

CHEAPEST.

Mirrors & Looking-glasses, English & German.

VERY LOW.

Our Stock of Gilt and Walnut Picture-frame Mouldings
is the largest in the Lower Provinces, unrivalled in quality
and variety, and made to suit all kinds of pictures—the
cheapest in the city.

PARLOR & CHAMBER SUITS.

Examine our Magnificent Parlor and Chamber Suits,
which we are selling at cost.

Chairs—Parlor, Chamber, Office, Children's and Kitchen
Chairs, cheap. All kinds of Upholstering Work, Paint-
ing, Varnishing and Gilding.

Bedding and Mattresses—Feather, Hair, Flock,
Fibre, Excelsior, Wool, Straw—Cheapest in the city.

Bedsteads, Lounges, Tables, Sideboards, Bookcases,
Chiffoniers, Washstands, &c.—Cheapest.

JOHN NEWSON.

Charlottetown, Dec. 24, 1884—31

MILLER BROTHERS.

Charlottetown, Dec. 24, 1884—31

REMOVAL.

THE undersigned begs leave to thank
his numerous customers for their
patronage, and to inform that he has
removed to a more commodious Store
on Sydney Street, opposite H. J.
Callbeck's Tryon Woolen Mill Agency,
where he is better than ever prepared to
make up clothing in the latest styles.
Perfect fit and promptness in the ex-
ecution of all orders guaranteed.

D. NICHOLSON,
Tailor.

Oct. 18, 1884—31

N. J. CAMPBELL,

ACTIONEER AND COMMISSION MERCHANT.

WHOLESALE AND RETAIL DEALER IN
Groceries, Fruit and Seeds,
UPPER QUEEN STREET,
Charlottetown, P. E. Island.

Agent for P. E. Island for the Com-
mercial Union Fire Insurance Com-
pany of London, England; the British
Empire Life Assurance Company of
London, England.

Correspondence and Consignments
solicited. Returns promptly made.
Oct 8—17

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