

## CHRISTMAS IN THE GOOD OLD DAYS.

By REV. B. T. HOLDEN, M.A., Queen's Road Congregational Church.

**I. Britain, A.D., 390 (chron.)**

THINGS are not what they used to be" grumbled the patrician general Lucius A. Cotta, coming into the dining-room of his villa at Eboracum (York) one wet evening late in December. "All the good old customs are being changed and if ever we leave this barbarous island and return to Rome, we shall find it a vastly different place." What has happened now?" asked Poppaea. "I have just had a letter from the Pontifex Maximus and he tells me that the temples are being deserted; the common people are meeting at night in cellars and even in the catacombs like rats! They are mad over the new God they call Christus who is no God at all and has no statue in the Pantheon." "What must be the Jesus Christus I heard some of our soldiers discussing" replied his wife. "They said half the legion were Christians." "I suppose it is a good enough religion for slaves and common people but I hear that some of them are wanting to abolish the games because Christus does not like them, forsooth!" "Well, I think that might be a good thing after all. It does seem cruel to watch the gladiators killing each other and sometimes I feel quite sorry for the poor women with babies in their arms, when the lions tear them to pieces." "Pooh, they are only barbarians. I believe you are becoming soft yourself like these Christians! We shall have you deserting the gods of our fathers next." "I am not sure that would be so dreadful. I did hear that the Emperor's daughter was a Christian at

heart." "I can't believe it, though the Empire is going to the dogs. They will be setting free our slaves next, or expecting us to invite these Britanni into dinner! Give me the good old customs and the Gods of our Fathers."

II. York, Dec. 25th, 1850, A.D.

Wish we had the good old Christmas!" said Poppy Cottar one foggy Christmas Eve. "I Christmases they used to have. We never get the snow Father used to have when he was a boy. He had such fine snowballing and skating. Do you think England is getting warmer?" "I don't know my dear, but I shouldn't like to have the Christmas I had when I was about your age. It was much too cold for us when we had only half a sack of coal and bread for two days if we were careful." Didn't you get any turkey and plum pudding then mother? "No, indeed we had no pudding at all, let alone meat; wages were so low that even with Lucy's shilling a week we only had fifteen shillings and there were eight of us to live on it." "How old were you Mummy?" "I was seven and Lucy was eight and she had to go down a coal mine and open the door for the pit ponies. She only saw the sunshine on Sundays and Christmas Day and then she was too tired to enjoy it. She was killed before the next Christmas by a chain breaking and letting her fall 400 feet in the cage." "How dreadful Mummy." "Yes," said her father coming in. Those were the Good Old Times that people want back. Of course some people were better off. My father was a farmer and

he made plenty of money out of the Corn Laws. He and his friends used to have Christmas dinner in style but he wasn't sober for a week afterwards." "Why didn't they make a law against drink Father?" "Oh those were the good old days when nobody talked about Temperance and a man wasn't considered a gentleman if he didn't go to bed, drunk as a lord."

III. St. John's, Christmas, 1890, A.D.

GRANDPA, why don't we go to Mexico for Christmas, or have an air trip to Australia like the Noseworthys? It is so dull staying in St. John's."

Old Luke Cottar looked up at his discontented grandson "Well George," he said "Someone must stay here and look after the power stations. Even if the factories are closed the people in Newfoundland must have electricity or how would they cook their Christmas dinner? Besides you can't grumble; you had a week-end in England in November. As for it being dull you should have tried one of the Christmas days I spent in France in 1917; you would not want any more excitement for a while. Our plum pudding was just put on the table when one of Fritz's shells blew it into next week." "How thrilling," said George, do you think we shall have another war soon? "No, thank God, the League of Nations and the Washington Conference have put an end to that."

"Yes," chimed in Granny's voice "you can be thankful for that. I wasn't at the front; but we had hard times in England."

How would you like to live on 1 oz. of butter a week and 4 oz. of sugar and not be able to get any bacon for months, to say nothing of being short of coal."

"Coal! What is coal Granny?"

"Oh that was what we made fires of before electricity became so cheap. It was a black mineral, men used to dig

out of the earth and of course when it burnt it made a lot of dust and smoke. Every morning I used to spend half an hour lighting fires instead of being able to switch them on."

"I think electricity is much better than that Granny!"

"Yes," chimed in old Luke. "And it is electricity that has made Newfoundland one of the richest countries in the world. To think that in the Good Old Days they let all our water run to waste and had to import hardware and clothes at prices that made us think twice before buying them."

## Carol Service in the Kirk To-Night.

The following is the programme of music for the Carol Service by St. Andrew's Choir to be given in the church to-night at 10.30:

1. Carols—(a) "The Shepherds left their sheep"—Hollins; (b) "The moon was cold and clear"—Adams.
2. Quartette—"Adore and be still"—Gourdon; Misses M. Johnstone, I. Glenhennig, G. Clouston and R. Calvert.
3. Solo—"O Holy Night"—Adam; Miss Marguerite Mitchell.
4. Recit. and Air—"Comfort ye, my people!" (Messiah)—Handel; Mr. S. R. Steele.
5. Chorus—"And the glory" (Messiah)—Handel.
6. Air and Chorus—"O Thou that tellest" (Messiah)—Handel; Mrs. A. V. Barnes.
7. Offertory (in aid of Choir funds).
8. Solo and Chorus—"Hear my prayer"—Mendelssohn; Mrs. E. Campbell.
9. Quartette—"Tis the Birthday of our Saviour"—Vincent; Mrs. C. F. Garland, Miss A. Ledingham; Messrs. A. Lawrence and W. M. Mawer.
10. Anthem—"There were Shepherds"—Foster; Solos, Messrs. A. R. Stansfield and D. McIntosh.
11. Carols—(a) "O Star of Peace"—Adams; (b) "There is a Blossom"—Adams.
12. Chorus—"Hallelujah" (Messiah)—Handel.

## The Newfoundland Sporting Annual.

At various times in the past, so-called sporting annuals have made their appearance, but nothing has ever been published here to equal in any way the "Newfoundland Sporting Annual," which is just off the press. The publishers and editors of this work are Messrs. E. J. Goodland and A. H. Thomas, which fact is in itself, sufficient guarantee that the contents of the annual are well worth reading. Within the eighty large, clearly printed pages will be found an account of every game that has been played here, and the complete records of the most important athletic events of the year are included. Every article and poem is written in a racy style, and by authors who are fully conversant with their subjects. Nothing is forgotten in the way of sport, for there are articles on Curling, Rugby football, Cricket, Tennis, Golf, Basket-ball, Horse-racing and Gymnastics. The volume is fully illustrated, and is published under the auspices of the Newfoundland Amateur Athletic Association. The publishers deserve not only the congratulations, but the thanks of the whole sporting public. Their Annual should find a ready sale.

## Newfoundlander Prominent in Maynard

The Maynard Weekly Enterprise of November 23rd gives an interesting and lengthy account of a bazaar held under the auspices of the Maynard Council, K. of C. in which a native of St. John's, Mr. Patrick McGrath figures prominently.

The bazaar opened with a street parade on Wednesday evening when about 500 K. of C. members from Marjboro and Hudson Councils and Thomas Maley, deputy grand knight of Maynard council. As aides, Richard MacSweeney, district deputy, led a division of service men of Maynard council, who marched in uniform. Headed by the Maynard Brass band, the parade marched through the business section and along Main St., to the corner of Sudbury where they counter-marched back to Colonial hall. Cheering crowds along the sidewalks gave the K. of C. paraders on their first appearance in Maynard a tremendous ovation.

The bazaar ran for four nights and though starting as a K. of C. affair, it developed into a community affair. At its close Grand Knight McGrath, in a brief address said: "Starting Wednesday night with a deficit, a big programme and hope, this bazaar has developed until it can well be termed a grand success. This could only be through the generous whole-hearted support of all the people of the community. Maynard Council appreciates and is thankful for this whole-hearted, generous assistance and will not forget."

Maynard is in Middlesex Co. Mass., on the Assabet River.

You can get the neatest and most dainty BOXES, LADIES' HANDKERCHIEFS, put up in 3's and 6's at DOWNING'S. Nothing more appropriate for Xmas Gifts—dec29,31,ed

## FIVE HUNDRED WORDS ON CHRISTMAS.

By REV. C. H. JOHNSON, B.D., Cochrane Street Centennial Church.

THIS, readers of the Telegram, is what the editor asked for the Christmas Eve issue. It would be easy to obtain five hundred sent like quotations from the famous of all the ages and to limit the selection to writers whose greatness of natural ability was enhanced by the adornments of grace. Hallam characterizes the newspaper "as a safe-guard tantamount to all the rest together." Carlyle savagely attacks newspaper readers as "twenty seven millions, mostly fools." We agree with the former, not with the latter, and having also some idea of the exigencies of the press, hasten to comply.

WE need to remind ourselves first of all that December 25th, is not the anniversary of the birth of Jesus. That date has been lost to us and it is better so. December 25th, is, however, the day upon which the Holy Catholic Church in all its alphabetical divisions Anglican, Baptist, Congregationalist, etc., bows unitedly joyous before the wonder and motive of the doctrine of the Incarnation. Time is once bounded by what we name Creation. It ends second with what we loosely describe as the General Resurrection. These Births of Ages, have any significance only, as they are

interpreted by the implications and sweep of those historically, economic words "He was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary." For little children:—In our humanity's major hemisphere (the Northern), there is associated with the Christmas celebration, a real though often unrecognized element of gladness, due to the return of the gradually lengthening days. For some time the school teachers have noticed in every classroom an unusual buzz, as when in spring the apiarist hears the hum of the approaching swarming. Custom, based on worthy instincts, has made Christmas a children's festival. The world of play and light and order, song and taste, glad surprise of dreams come true, in which our children live at this season, need be no more real than that world built in their imaginations, as lighted only by the leaping flames of the grate, the story is recalled of the star and the wise kings, the shepherds and the angels.

THE little Lord Jesus asleep in the hay, and the gifts of gold and frankincense and myrrh. As their sympathies are roused by the story of the child so can their love be aroused for the child now grown to be a man who stands with

extended hands calling, "Suffer the little children to come unto me." What a day for the boys and girls who love the White Gift Service of their Sunday Schools, to make a gift also of their hearts to the Saviour at Christmas. For older boys and girls, who are commencing to work and think and know, as men and women, the tasks and problems and wonders of life here is the clearest atmosphere under the heavens, thro' which to follow the Almighty Father's plan that generation should follow generation, for here the all wise and All Holy adopted another plan for another purpose, but there was the same wisdom and holiness in both plans. In the same story are deep truths of sacrifice and the ties that bind families together and the providences of God that surround all our paths. What a day for full confidences between all parents and all children and forgiveness for all past wrongs. For the sick and the dying . . . ah, yes, they are with us to-day tho' it is Christmas. Perhaps they are braver than we are and urge us off to join the children in their harmless joy. And we are fain to get away from their sides to weep tho' they read out guilt as we return and grieve that we are grieved. Why should they not rejoice at Christmas? Is not the Son who was born Jesus, in Bethlehem, born again in the heart of those that love him? "And as the Son never laid aside the humanity which he put on, will he not also as the first-born of Many Brethren, receive us in whom he has been incarnated. (Incarnate means in the flesh) to himself. Have we not pointed out in

this brief column that birth and life are nothing, unless there be refection, and that the resurrection assured from the day of the Jesus; for men are born to die, was born that we might have life, said so: "I have come that ye may have life."

## Christmas Music.

The following musical selections will be sung at George Street Methodist Church on Xmas Day, the choir and soloists having trained specially for the rendition:—Anthem, "It came upon the midnight clear"—J. Stainer; Carol, "Sleep Holy Babe"—Bantry; Messiah, "And the Glory of the Lord"; Hallelujah Chorus—Handel; Solos by Mr. H. Gordon-Christian and Mr. H. T. Courtney.

## At St. Patrick's.

Rev. Dr. Kitchin of St. Patrick's Church, Riverhead has made special arrangements in connection with the Midnight Service, which begins at 11.45 p.m. There will be a procession followed by High Mass. The Choir has also a pleasing selection of carols for the occasion.

The rarest of bargains are being given in Toys and all Xmas Gift goods at BISHOP'S to-day. Teddy Bears are fifty and eighty cents each. Values up to two dollars and fifty cents each.

## CHRISTMAS--Here We Are!

Loads of Joy--Bringing Gifts Dear to the Hearts of Men



Joy! Joy! Hear his glad shout, see his happy smile. Christmas presents piled about, each vying for his approval—Your Gift opened with glad eagerness, the centre of his attention. A Smoking Jacket, a Bath Robe, or a beautiful Silk or Wool Scarf—how such Gifts catch his eye, master his approval, and make his Christmas a Merry one! To every man the Gift of Something to Wear is filled with happy recollections. Make your choice now, at this Store where all men buy.

## NECKWEAR!

Every man would welcome one or two good ones.  
75c. \$1.00, \$1.25, \$1.50, \$1.75, \$2.00, \$2.50, \$3.00.

## SOCKS!

Welcome! Thrice Welcome!  
Jaeger Wool—\$1.50, \$1.75, \$2.00  
Silk—\$1.50, \$2.00, \$2.50.

## COLLARS!

A half dozen or a dozen of his favorite style; he buys them here \$4.00 Dozen.

## SHIRTS That Will Long Outlive Christmas

Beautiful Striped patterns, with good looks backed up long wear, sound worth. Timely because he needs one. All famous labels. Emery Shirts, Eagle Shirts, Tooke Shirts  
\$1.50, \$2.00, \$2.50, \$2.75, \$3.00, \$3.50, \$4.00, \$4.50.



## Here's the Very Thing! GLOVES, Nothing Better!

One of many useful Gifts. More appropriate, more lasting, because they come from this Store. Dent's & Perrin's, nationally known Lined Gloves . . . \$3.00, \$4.50, \$6.00.  
Tan Cape . . . \$2.50  
Jaeger Wool Gloves \$2.50, \$3.00, \$4.00, \$4.50

## EVERY MAN LIKES TO BE COMFORTABLE-- GIFTS THAT APPEAL BY THEIR COSINESS

WARM WOOL MUFFLERS with the Jaeger Label \$2.50, \$3.00, \$3.50, \$4.00, \$4.50, \$5.00, \$6.00.  
SILK MUFFLERS \$7.00, \$10.00, \$15.00.

COSY JAEGER WOOL SLIPPERS  
A Gift that will warm his heart and entice his feet.  
\$4.00, \$4.50.

A SWEATER COAT or a WOOL VEST  
The Jaeger Label will gladden his eye. Cold days are coming; get him one now.

## A JAEGER BATH-ROBE

The Gift of Gifts. Here's a Gift of which he won't get a duplicate. It will keep him company Christmas after Christmas.

No Smoker's outfit is complete without a SMOKING JACKET.  
Every time he lolls back in his chair, puffing contentedly, will bring your Gift to his mind.  
\$15.00 and \$35.00.

Kearney's

## Red Ball Rubbers!



We have just received a shipment of these famous rubbers.

Red Ball Black. Red Ball Vac.  
Red Ball Black Stormking.  
Red Ball Vac Stormking.

Double wear in every pair. Mail orders receive prompt attention. Special prices for case lots.

F. Smallwood, The Home of Good Shoes.  
218 and 220 Water Street