## THE TRUE WITNESS AND CATHOLIC CHRONICLE.

# SOME IRISH ECHOES THAT OHRISTMAS BRINGS

By Mary Locks.

There was never a day in the stretch of years, That has dawned and died since I left thy

My land of the manifold trials and tears, That some thought of thee was not wated o'er Old Gesah's tide, to my throbbing heart, From the rural hannts where the hawthorns

bloom, Where lovers loiter, so loth to part, In the lingering twilight's favoring gloom.

To-night, from Memory's silent deeps, Scenes from my youth's old home arise.-Fair pictures from Fancy's highest steeps Are thronging before my tear-dimmed eyes; While I sit and muse in my dreamy way, Of that dear Green Isle, and her matchless

charme. I curse the hand and the despot sway That have forced me out of her folding arms

For all the lands on this fair, wide earth, With their countless beauties of sea and sky, The one that cradled and gave us birth Should be ours to live in, and there to die. But, alas !! for that long-afflicted land, Whose rich-loamed fields such treasurer hold She's still the prey of an alien band,

Who turn the fruit of her womb to gold.

No spiritless hours filled my girlhood's daya; O'er steepest mountain, through deepest glen, Rang echoes of swiring rebellious lays, When the land was alive with stal wart men,-

Men with the quick, hot pulse of youth, Bound by the ties of brotherhood's vows With each of honor and hearts of truth, Daundies bosome, and Godhke brows. Nos theirs the blame it the effort failed ;

They fought against desperate odds and fate; The right west under and the might prevailed, But they kindled the fires of a stubborn hate. They woke the land from her languid trance, And quickened the pulse they found so low, And taught her to gaze with a sharpened glance Square in the face of her panting foe.

Now cast with the rest of our scattered race. Found far and wide under blue of heaven,

Still eager as ever the fos to face, Is that veteran remnant of Sixty-seven.

And some in death's cold, dreamless sleep Are laid in this friendly soil to rest;

And some were come back over the deep To their long last home on Ireland's breast.

Oh, wonderful land by the wind swept ses,-My first true love in the long ago, Made dear by many sweet bonds to me Are the hedge rimmed haunts where wild

roses blow .---Thou hast strivers now of the purest mould,

Though lacking the fire of that Fenian time, And under their guide, untiring and bold, May Liberty's bells ring their cheeriest chime.

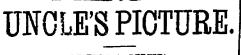
'Tis Christmas night while I build my dream

Of a future bright for our beauteous isle, And paint her fields and her flowing streams Illumined by the light of Freedom's smile.

That the yule log's glow with the conflict's C0380 May find on her features no trace of tears ;

And her Christmas times, with good cheer and

peace, Be blithe as they were in her happiest years.



BZ BLLA A. BERTIE.

t was Christmas Eve, and the streets of the great metropolis were crowded. The foct passengers justled each ether in their hurry, while those in carriages grew impatient as they were stopped by the crowd, which often rendered it impossible to proceed. Many of the chilly night. Among the most important of these was that of Mrs. St. Clair, Without the night was coldand windy, while coasionally a snowfiske descended, hearalding the approaching storm. Within all was warmth and gayety. The great salons were lighted by chandellers, while the warmth of a

soft arms were thrown around his neck and a aweet voice said : "Dear uncle, how glad I am to see you ! Do not grieve at what mother said, for I love | frame. But where was this nourishment to

yon. The old man turned, and, with melstened eyes and tremuleus voice, said : "So yeu have not forgotton the old man,

How you have grown ! I should ohild. hardly know you for the same rosy checked, remping girl that gladdened the old farmhouse three years ago." "And almost teased the life out of you and

Mrs. Hudson. Eh, uncle ?" said Minnie, with a misshievous smile.

"No, no child-not quite," said the old ab. "But," ho added, mournfully, "I man. must go now." "Oh, uncle. I wish I might keep you here

this bitter celd night."

"The time may come, child, when even your mother, cold and proud as she now is, bless you."

And the old man started down the street on his way to his friend Jenkins, while Minnie, went back to the gay company, happy in spite of the frewning faces of her mether and ather.

The old man continued on his way and soon stopped before a neat two-story house. He wos met at the door by a man who said : ( "Come in Jabel, come in, I knew how it would be, and so have been waiting for you."

woman she is before she hears about my think of his going so far as that in his odd legacy. Dear little Minnie," he added, after fancies. a moment's painful thought. "Uncle Jabel will not forget your welcome and kindness, and the time may come when he can repay

He had unconsciously spoken aloud, and, looking up in his friend's puzzled face, he hastened to explain what had happened at Mrs. St. Olair's.

"She was ashamed of Uncle Jabel, the poor farmer. I wonder if she would have always remembered wish love by all. Litaire.

### And he smiled grimly,

Caristmas eve.

Minnie is the beloved wife of William Rathburn, a young physician of some note, and has removed to one of our thriving Western villages. A cheerful fire burns in the wide, eld fashiened fire-place, and sheds a faint, glimmering light through the cosy sitting room.

A step sounds in the hall and a cheerful voice nim.

exclaims : "What ! in the dark, my pat ?" And Dr. Rathburn bent over his wife's shoulder and mprinted a kiss on the rosy cheek. "Come, Minnie, I have something to show you." lit the lamp and drawn the easy chair up to herself by his side, There was a pine bex, about a foot and a half square, upon the table,

directed to herself. Dr. Rathburn proceeded to remove the lid, and Minnie watched him with a woman's curlosity. The lid was removed and Minnie, no longer able to restrain herself, exclaimed : "What is it, William ?"

"I don't know; but we will see in a minman and I brought it up,"

disclosed a large oval frame containing a the up-town mansions were abiaze with light portrait of Uncle Jabel. The frame in itself and streams of sweet music floated out into was worth a great deal; but as the old man's kindly face beamed forth, Minnie burst into a transition from wealth to poverty ; she beflood of happy tears, and, seizing the picture, she gazed at it long and silently.

"Dear Uncle Jabel," she murmured, "good old man, so you have not forgotten me, as I but the loving helpmate of her husband. feared you had ?"

She laid the picture gently on the table and miles from the city, and Mr. St. Clair accept.

that all her husband needed was wine or something to infuse strength in his weak A Presty Little Sketch of her Native Land by

come from without money. She rose from her seat and, passing into the next room, teak the old man's picture down from a nail at the head of her bed and carried it back into the dimly lighted kitohen.

The kindly face seemed to smile out at her from its costly frame. A struggle took place in her falthful heart, and then her face lighted up. Why had she not thought of it before? She could sell the frame and keep the picture still. And with the proceeds of the by all, young and old. frame get a little wine for her husband and In the morning the men have been abroad frame get a little wine for her husband and have some left to get the children some little dainties for the morrow.

So laying the now sleeping child down on its little bed, she preceded to remove the back. This was soon done, and with a sign of relief she laid it over the little pine table. may be glad to do Uncle Jabel a favor. But enough of this," he added. "Here we are at the door. Good by, child, and Heaven broke from her lips, and the picture slipped from her nerveless grasp to the foor. She ast a moment as if stupsfied, and then stooping she mechanically picked up the picture frame, and with it some pieces of paper. The picture was not broken, and as he went nearer to the light to examine the

poper, she found that there were ten five bundred dollar bills which had been placed between the thin back and the picture itself by Uncle Jabel more than ten years before. Sas could hardly believe the evidence "Yes, John, Mary pretended she did not of her senses, for although she knew that known as Aunt Desis [Doily] She reached the know me. I am glad I know what kind of a the old man was whimsical, she did not

Hastily arising, she aroused her husband and told him, at the same time showing him the bills.

Great was the joy, and loud the rejolcings on the morrow in the little cottage, and it was a happy household that gathered around the wellspread beard.

Wm. Rathburn finally recovered both his health and practice, and Uncle Jabel was been ashamed of Uncle Jabel the million | the had he thought that his Obristmas present would prove so great a blessing in time of need.

And where were Uncle Jabel and Mrs. Two years flew swiftly by, and it is again St. Clair during this time, that they did not fly to the relief of their darling, in this her great trial ?

Uncle Jabel still lived in his old farm house, although if he had wished he might have built a palace, for he was wealthy enough to afford ; it but he was born and raised in the old farmhouse, and it was endeared to him by many a happy childhood Mianle is recliking in an easy chair, with tie. He lived contented and happy, doing her eyes fixed dreamily on the blazing coal. good to all and beloved by all who knew

One morning he did not rise at the usual time, and a servant being sent to call him found him with his hands clasped above his uoble heart, and a smile upon his face sirep-Minnie, I have something to show you." Ing the sloep that knows no waking. His She returned the carese, and then, having death was as peaceful and happy as his life had been. There was no will to be found, the table, she brought his elippers and ceated | and so his brother, a hard hearted man of the ( Christ world, came into possession of his immense wealth.

Mr. St. Clair could not stand the constant drain made on his purse by his fashionable wife; his face began to assume a cureworn expression; he withdrew from society and his time seemed entirely taken up by his business. One evening, about five years after Minnie's marriage, he came home and told ute. It was left at the office by the express his wife that they were beggars ; he had stood out as long as possible, but his creditors would The wrappings were soon taken off, and wait no longer. Their beautiful home was disclosed a large oval frame containing a sold, together with the splendid furniture to

satisfy the oreditors' demand. Mrs. St. Clair could not stand the sudden came very ill, and when she arose from her sick bed, it was with changed feelings; she was no longer the gay butterfly of fashion, They removed to a small cottage about two the situation A norkkeener at a moderate

Mme. Helena Modjeska

W zlobie lezy. Ktoz probjezy. Kolendewao mafemu [He lies in a manger. Let us hasten to offer Gifts to the Babe. ]

It was Christmas Eve in the Polish country. The meal is over. The household is gathered around the Christmas tree. Quaint carols of the olden time, like the verse I have quoted, are sung

shooting game for the dinner of the follow-ing day, or eatching fish under the ice for the only meal that is partaken of on Christmas Eve. The ladies have been arranging the presents, concealing them in bags, stockings, corners of the chimney and in every piece of furniture.

When the greb star of evening appears the bell is rung to gather every one in the dining room. The family and the servants mingle together. All are in holiday guise-the picture que garb of the provinces—the masters in their kon-toos and jupans, the servants in livery and peasant attire.

The heads of the household go around to all the assemblages and break a wafer with them, The wafers have been blessed for the cccasion. Wishes of "Merry Christmas" and "Dully's

Age" are interchauged. What is "Dolly's Age ?" In centuries past there lived in Oracow an old lady, generally age of one hundred and twenty and was famous for having danced at ninety and for never having lost her temper. So everybody hopes that everybody else may live to be as old and as jolly as Aunt Dolly. By this ceremony all quarrels are allayed. If

any members of the family have been at odds they kiss and make friends. Under the table is a bundle of straw and s

bundle of hay in memory of the Babe Christ's otell. The meal begins with a soup known as "Nothing Soup." It is made of milk and

almonds, and gets its name from its lightness. Then follow eight or nine dishes of fish. Each fish is different. The dishes are accompanied

with flour and poppy. The meal, garnished with abundance of sweets, is more odd than eatable. After the dinner is over and the carols have been sung, the search for the presents begins. With screaming and shrisking and uproarious laughter, the bankerchiefs, gloves, stuffs for dresses, bonbonneries, toys, and little jewels are uncarthed. Each present bears the name of the person for whom it is destined. Confusion ensues when the presents get mixed. And sometimes a love-match springs from the fun.

I once saw a strippling jolt against a pretty girl. His figger was put out of joint and her lose bled. When next I met them they were married.

After the excitement you hear a ring at the bell. Three or four regamuffine are introduced, carrying a theatre of marionettes, brilliantly illuminated with gilded wax candles and repreto be men and women of all nations, even nations that were unknown at the birth of

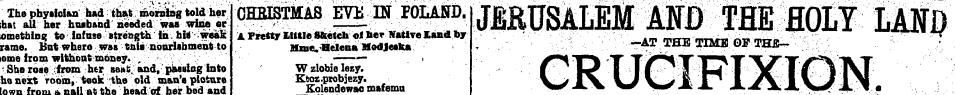
One nation, however, is excluded. No German marionette would be received without a If there is one, he is made the clown of biss.

the show and is speedily kicked out with ignominy by St. Joseph. The second scene represents a room in the palace of King Herod. The personages are Herod, a Devil, the Three Magi. A Jewish peddler is the comedian of the scene and gathers the pence from the audience. Death appears and chops off Herod's head. The Devil dances a wild step with the Jewish peddler to conclude the performance.

Sometimes there are other scones representing pisodes of patriotism or love. The dialogue is often witty and briek, Inter perced with quaint old songs alluding to the Nativity and making the funniest confusion of races and epochs.

Here is an excerpt : "The angel announces to the sheperds that to the joy of earth the Lord is born. "The shepards run, kicking their heels, blow-

ing their horns. "They bring with them their best gift, a new



The grandest work of Art in America, pronounced by the clergy of all creeds, and by the thousands of people who have visited it, as unequalled anywhere for magnificence of conception, beauty of colore, harmony in composition, and so LIFE LIKE that one feels actually as if on the sacred ground. THE CRUCIFIXION scene is a marvelous work, alone worth coming many miles to see, apart from the CITY, Mount OLIVET, MORIAH, MIZPAH and ZION. This grand PANORAMA to be seen at the OYCLORAMA, corner St. Catherine and St. Urbain streets, Montreal. Open every day from morning till 10:30 p.m., and on Sundays from 1 to 10:30 p.m. Street cars pass the door.

## THREE LITTLE MAGL.

#### By Marion A. Taggari-

Mamma sao upstairs sewing busily, with her chamber door sjar, that she might catch the first sound of little fene approaching. From down below there came up to her a tremendous noise of the beating of a drum, blowing of a horn, and the shull screaming of children's voices. On any other day of the year mamma fels that she could not have endured it; but it was Obristmas Eve, and she had still the last touches to give to the doll that she was dressing for little Minnie, and all the candy bags to fill, so that she gratefully put up with any amuse ment, how-ver noisy, that kept the children away from her just then. After a while, though, the racket became unendurable ; and, as grand ma was lying down, that she might be well rested before the Christmas tree was dressed, mamma rose, and laying her work aside. crept softly to the stairs and, leaning over the balustrade, looked down.

A small procession filed past her as she looked -Jack ahead with the drum, Hugh next, as-tride of his hoby-horse, with a tin trumpes; little Minnie last of all, bearing a big gun, dragging her toy horse after her, and screaming lustily to make up for her lack of aninstrument; while Don, the dog, ran sometimes before and sometimes behind the band, barking wildly, Mamma called to them softly. "Children, children," she said, "you must not make so much noise. Cannot you play something more quiet?"

"Ob, mamma," Jack said. with a sigh, "you tears in her eyes to how they had played that they were the Wise Men, and Don the star, and how he had led them to the baby. "It is a special Providence," said mamma, "and Aunt Mary, I am sure, will think so." don't know anything about it. It's awful to play anything on Obristmas Eve when you know there's going to be a tree right after suppar. You don't seem to be able to mean anything you play; you want to keep going into the dining-room to look at the clock. And we've just got interested in this. We're the Three lost her own little baby, and Jack, looking at mamma, guessed of what she thought. Inter-ested in the baby, the children found that the Wise Men, and we're journeying."

Mamma laughed ; she had not forgotten the impatience and excitement that she had felt on Christmas Eve when she was a little girl.

"I am sure," she said, "no wise men ever made such a dreadful noise as you were making just now. However, if you are interested in this

hew play, you may keep it up, only please con-tinue your journey out of doors." "Yes, ms'am," cried all the children gladly, and ran off to get coats and mittens. Once out of doors, however, their interest flagged, and they had some difficulty in con-

tinuing their play. "If Don would only go ahead, and not keep "I Don would only go aneau, and not keep frisking about so," said Hugh, in discust, "we could pretend he was the star, and follow him." "I am afraid that might not be just right," said Jack, doubtfully. "But, anyhow, he

said Jack, doubtfully. "But, anyhow, he won't go ahead, so it makes no difference. We might go over the hill, because we know the Wise Men did go over mountains; and when we get to the four roads we might play that was Bethlehem, and come back again.

The others agreeing to this they went on their way, till suddenly Hugh cried out :--Look at Don ! He is going straight ahead | God's own Christmas gift to man-a little child.

now, and not in this direction at all. Let's play

he's the star, Jack." "All right," said Jack, and, turning, they followed the little dog, not without considerable trouble, for he ran along very fast, with his nose on the ground, as though scenting something, and little Minnie's short legs could scarcely keep up with the rest. At last Don stopped under a tree and began

to bark, looking eagerly back to see if the chil-dren were following. "What has be found ""cried Hugh, and all

three of the small " Magi" ran as fast as they

found a bundle done up in a plain shawl lying

close to the tree. "Now, I wonder what this is ?" he said, and,

Considering that it was Christmas Eve, and

that they had been playing that they were the Three Wise Kings, it is not strange that the

children fancied for a moment that they had really come to Bathlehem when they saw lying

before them a little baby. Only for a moment,

though, for as soon as be was sufficiently recov-ered from his surprise, Jack knew that he saw

before him, not the Divine Baby, but some for-

lorn little human waif to whom he must be kind

He wrapped the baby up carefully and car-ried it home, and the children burst in on their surprised mamma with the wonderful atory of

their discovery and with the baby. Nothing helpless or unfortunate could ever be

unwelcome to mamma; she cuddled the little

thing close in her motherly arms, listened with

Aunt Mary was a widow who had recently

hours passed unusually quick till it was time

When Aunt Mary arrived and heard the

story, she did just what mamma had expected

her to do. She took the baby for her own, to fill the place of her little girl, and it was de-

cided that she should be called Theodora, which means "gift of God," and that Jack should be her godfather.

Then they all repaired to the parlor, where

the Obristmas tree was lighted, and every one agreed that they had never had such a fine tree

before. Jack was made happy by a full suit of regimentals and luts of books, and Hugh had a wonderful knifs with a corkecrew in it, which,

although he should never use it, made it much

more delightful. Minnie hugged her new doll,

just as Aunt Mary held and hugged the little baby, both blissfully happy. Then mamma

struck a few cords on the piano, and as a hymn especially suited to that particular Christmas

Eve, they all sang, "We Three Kings of Orient Are"; and as Aunt Mary kissed the children

good night she had tears of happiness in her

eyes, and she whispered to them that they had given her the best gift that could be given,

stooping down, he began to unroll it.

for the Infant Jesus' sake.

for the Christmas tree.

Jack reached it first, being the largest, and he

could to the spot.

origat house. Mrs. St. Clair stood at the head of the large reception salon, surrounded by her guests and attended by her husband-a tall, handsome man, whose distinguished bearing made him a conspicuous object. The different groups were seen broken up by Mr. St. Qlair leading the way to the dancing saloon, whither he was immediately followed by mest of the gay company. Mrs. St. Člair had two daughters. Nina

an day a

falt thronghout the

(the eldest) was a tail, proud, handsome girl, and had been the queen of the circles where-In she moved for the last four years, She had a clear olive complexion, with the faintest tinge of carmine on either oheek ; while her large, instrous, black eyes would at times flash with spirit, and again there was a dreamy, tender look in them which had driven many a poor feilow to distraction. The wavy, black hair, drawn back from the temples, and fully exposing the broad brow was the envy of many of her lady friends. Her dress on this evening consisted of a heavy black silk, trimmed with black lace, and caught up here and there by a cluster of scarlet reses. She were no jewels, but the jetty blackness of her hair was relieved by a single rose, and a trailing vine hung low at her neck.

Minnie was directly the opposite of her sister. A small and petite figure, with a com-plexion of marble whiteness, large, dreamy, blue eyes, and a small mouth that rivaled the cherries in coler, and her golden hair fell in luxuriant curls over her snowy neck. Her beauty was well set off by a robe of blue silk, made low at the neck, and short sleeves fully exposing the reund, white arm.

In truth Mrs. St. Clair might well be proud of her daughters, for they were the admired of all. Time passed pleasantly, and when, late in the evening, the conversation seemed to lag, Mrs. St. Olair, ever watchful of the enjoyment of her guests, proposed theatricals, which suggestion was halled with joy by all. A temporary stage was erected at the end of the reom, and some of the guests departed for the upper chambers to look for costumes. During the hurry and

your Uncle Jabel, come down en purpose to spend Christmas with you. I stopped at my friend John Jenkins', and he wanted me te stay there to-night, but I told him you would be awful glad to see me, and so I came right | Rathburn, en returning from a patient, late on. Where's the girls, ch?" And he looked | at night, had been thrown from his horse, and searchingly around the room.

Mrs. St. Olair did not seem to see the proffered hand or hear the eld man's quesfien, for she turned coldly away and said to the gaping servant :

"Here, John, show this man to the door. I think he has made a mistake."

for comic suits. And well they might,

constant use.

As Mrs. St. Clair spoke, he turned and looked around the room with a bewildered air, and then, while a tear rolled down his withered cheek, he turned to leave the room ; had gone for bread, until nothing was left but but but hardly got to the door when a pair of Uncle Jabel's picture.

up the p( which which ran as follows :

"DEAR NIECE : I am still living, and wishing to send you something to remember me by, I thought you would rather have the picture than any of these trifles which would so delight your fashienable mether.

May heaven bless you. "Your loving uncle, JABEL.'

The tears flowed fast and freely, and presently she raised her head from her husband's shoulder and said :

"Dear Uncle Jabel, with all his whime, he has a loving heart. This is the happlest even-ing of my life," she added looking fondly up in her husband's face,

And well it might be, for it had showed her that she held the first place in two as noble hearts as ever beat in human breast.

\*

We will pass over ten years and again take up the thread of our story. In a small cot-tage on the outskirts of the town, a man is lying upon a couch, while a fair, golden-haired woman moves noiselessly about the room, Two little girls of seven and nine years of age are playing quietly in a corner of the apart-ment, and a babe, apparently a year old, site upon the floor good-naturedly sucking its thumb.

As we come nearer we recognize Minnie Rathburn, but changed from the happy, joy-ous bride, to a pale, sad woman. She goes to the bed and gently rousing the

sick man, says :---

"William, will you have a oup of tes, now?" and, on being answered in the affirmative, she brought the tea, and placing it to the suffer-er's lips, gently raised him that he could drink more easily ; then giving the children their frugal supper of bread and molasses, she

at down by the fire. "Mother," said the youngster, " arn't you geing to eat any supper ?"

"No, Mary, mother is not hungry to-night." she replied.

For how could she tell them that there was barely bread enough left for the children's breakfast.

oonfusion an old man appeared at the door, and making his way to Mrs. St. Clair, held ent his hand to her, saying: "That impudent fellow would not let me come in, Mary, although I told him I was herself, gave way to her leng pent-up feelinge.

And this is Ohristmas Eve-so different from that happy time so long ago.

It had been nearly seven months since Dr. was found in the morning lying senseless upon the cold, damp ground. A litter was hastily constructed and he was berne home to his anxious wife. Terrible was the blow, but she bore up

under it bravely, and did all in her pewer to aid the physician who was called in.

These of the guest shat had remained in the reom had the impression that he was one of the many gentiemen who rad gone to look severe blow upon his head. He was at last brought to his senses, but fever set in and he The greater part of his face was covered had been delirious the greater part of the by a long gray beard; his clothes were old time; but he recovered from the fever, and fashioned and gave unmistakable signs of weuk have soon got well had it not been for the injury his spine had sustained.

Times were hard and they were obliged to leave their comfortable home for this lonely cottage. One by one the little mementoes

salary in one of the dry goods establish-ments. They both say that they enjoy life

better now than they did in their more prospercus days, Nina is the beloved wife of one of our lead-

ing merchants, and is surrounded by a happy family.

A \$2 Washing Machine Free,

To introduce them, we will give away 1,000 self-operating washing machines. No wash-board or rubbing required. Ii you want one, send to the Monarch Laundry Works, 25 Pacific U. 19 Avenue, Chicago, Ill. 18.13

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We hope our readers will not forget to send for the Biziar tickets, in aid of this holy and apostolic work. Tickets 25 ots each, a book of 5 tickets \$1.00, address Revd. Dean Wagner, P.P., Windsor Oat. See advertisement on the last page of this

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The disagreeable sick headache, and foul stomach, so frequently complained of, can be speedily relieved by a single dose of McGALE'S Batternut Pills.

The silent eye is often a more powerful con-queror than the noisy tongue.

Imprudence is the constant companion of that monster. ingratitude.

born lamb and a flask of whiskey. "Strange to say, the Lord was born in a Jewish country.

"And in purgatory the old patriarchs sang a Мазз.' Midnight strikes. All leave the house, wrat

ped in furs ; they get in the sleight and start for the church. The Pastoral Mass is celebrat-ed with the finest music that the community can afford. Good nights are exchanged, and so to bed. This is Christmas Eve as I knew it in Poland.

HELENA MODJESKA

CANADA'S COAL WEALTH. Enormous Increase in the Cape Breton Pro-

duction During Recent Years.

HALIFAX. December 23.-The Herald to 000 in 1879. North Sydney and Sydney shipped 460,000 tons in 1889, as compared with 140,000 tons in 1879. The growth of this important in-dustry, feeding all other branches of commerce, illustrates the great benefit of the National Policy, which has made a home market for such Policy, which has made a home market for such a large output of coal, giving employment to our people, and making them virtually inde-pendent of the New England market and the adverse American tariff which orippled our coal industry so long. Comparing the yearly coal exports since 1878, the result of the present tariff is most satisfactory. In 1878 the coal shipments from all the Cape Breton mines only aggregated 243,000 tons; in 1884, 598,150 tons, and in 1889 they increased to 749,357 tons. The abinents from North Sydney and Sydney and in 1889 they increased to 749,357 tons. The shipments from North Sydney and Sydney were 140,000 in 1879, 299,000 in 1844, and 400,-148 tons to December 15. The shipping season is not yet over, and your correspondent can only give the shipments from the several mines to date, which are as follows :-Sydney, 120,-000 tons ; International, 123,000; Bridgeport, 25,000; Reserve, 103,257; Little Glace Bay, 73,000; Port Caledonia, 103,000; Gowrie mines, 104,000 At the present time there are nine coal mines in operation in Cape Breton, and two more are opening connection with these mines. more are opening connection with these mines. Indirectly there is an army of about 4,600 to 5,000 persons employed, and a gross population of about 18,000 has settled in and about the various mining localities. About 2.550 vessels, with an aggregate tonnage of 250,000 tons, handle our coal shipment this year, with an em-ployment of 24,000 hands. Considering the em-ployment, the commerce and the number of industries affected through the development of the coal trade, the importance of the industry can hardly be overestimated."-Gazette.

Might Have Been a Triple Murder.

TOBONTO, Dec. 26.—At 339 East Gerrard street last night, shortly before midnight, oc-ourred a shooking case of what locks like the stempted murder of a widow and her two children. The widow, a Mrs. Gilbert, keeps the house and rents some rooms to James Mo-Dather and rents and his arms to James Mo-Carthy, a painter, and his partner, William Smith. Smith, it seems, became jealous of the attentions' paid to his partner, and last night, just as Mrs. Gilbert was going to bed, Smith and his two brothers, Arohas and Charles, came to the front door, smashed their way in and brutally assaulted the widow. McCarthy took the widow's part and the widow herself hit Smith on the temple with a flat iron and laid him out. The police came immediately after and the three brothers were arrested and locked up. As the Police court this morning they

were remanded, being allowed on bail, They are charged with assault.

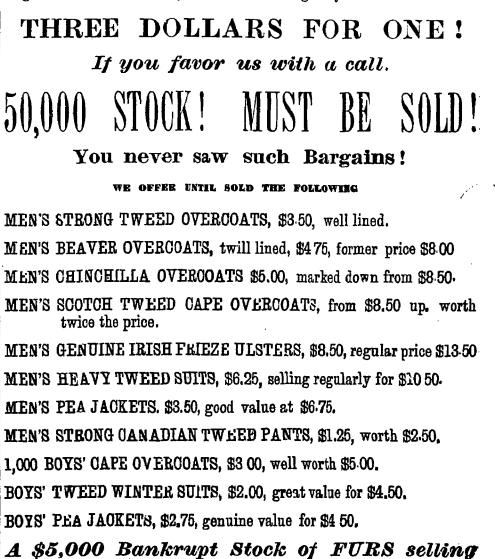
It is wrong to wish for death, and worse to have occasion to fear it.



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