

up to sing, "*Christ ist geboren*," when suddenly the outer door opened, and a real Santa Claus stood on the threshold.

He waved his hand for them to continue singing, and presently his deep voice joined in the carol. Then there was a pause, as Santa Claus advanced toward them, his eyes twinkling beneath a great fur cap. All were lost in astonishment at the beautiful presents he took from his great coat pocket and gave to the assembled guests. It was not until he started to leave, and said, in a voice mingled with emotion, "A Merry Christmas!" that Louise sprang forward, crying, "De Englisher! I know his voice."

Then they gathered around him, laughing, and the little ones pulled at the great coat until suddenly it fell to the ground; then off came the fur cap and the white beard, and, presto! there stood their friend of a year ago. "Dear friends, I cannot stay," he said, "but we will not forget what the Mutterchen once said: 'The Christ-child is everywhere.'"—*The Living Church*.

RIPON.

THE diocese of Ripon (England) had an existence in early Saxon times. The archbishop of Canterbury, Archbishop Theodore, formed it into a diocese along with other sees which he culled out from the large diocese of Northumbria.

This was as early as 679. Eadhead was its first bishop; but it soon lost its existence as a see, and became part of the diocese of York. In 1836 the ecclesiastical commissioners recommended that, owing to the unwieldy size of the diocese of York, Ripon be formed into a separate see. This was done, and thus the ancient position of Ripon was restored. Its first bishop was Charles Thomas Longley, who afterwards became bishop of Durham, archbishop of York, and archbishop of Canterbury. The second bishop, Robert Bickersteth, was appointed in 1856. He was succeeded in 1884 by the present bishop, Dr. William Boyd

Carpenter, who is one of the finest pulpit orators in England.

Ripon possessed a fine old minster church, with a good staff of clergy and an ample endowment. This church became the cathedral of the new diocese when it was formed in 1836, and the clergy became the dean and chapter. Although this edifice does not rank among the first class cathedrals in England, it is a grand building, noted for its fine proportions. Its entire length from east to west is 266 feet, the length of the transepts 130 feet, and the width of the nave and aisles 87 feet. From 1862 to 1876 it underwent extensive renovation under Sir G. G. Scott, at a cost of £40,000. The bishop's palace, a modern building in the Tudor style, is situated in extensive grounds about a mile from the city. The city itself is but a small place, though the centre of much activity and work.



THE BISHOP OF RIPON.

OBSTACLES IN THE MISSION FIELD.

BY REV. J. G. WALLER, CANADIAN MISSIONARY IN JAPAN.

(Continued.)

NOTHER obstacle is the misrepresentation of Christianity and the ignorance which believes such misrepresentation. That Buddhist priests should do this is to be expected. They are everywhere throughout the country—the smallest village having its priest. They have their newspapers

and magazines, as well as the influence which comes through family connections and through the possession of property. Nothing is too absurd or false for them to say about Christianity.

However, of late years they have become generally discredited, and although many of the old people hold to them, and mourn because their offspring do not, yet young Japan pays little attention to what the Buddhist priest says about Christianity or anything else. But when even that little is backed up by the speeches, writings, warnings, and persuasions of men high in Japan's educational and political field, it becomes of some weight; not that the objec-