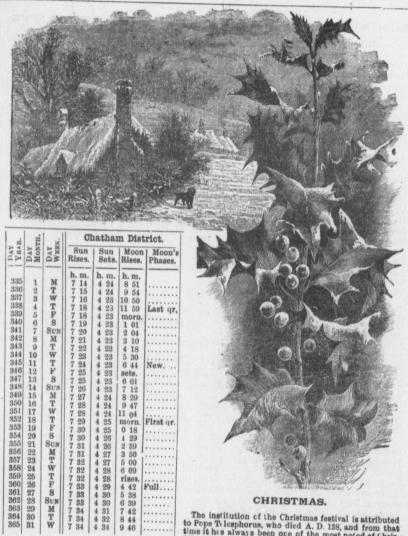
12th Month.]

DECEMBER.

[31 Days.



CHRISTMAS.

The institution of the Christmas festival is attributed to Pope Telesphorus, who died A. D. 138, and from that time it has always been one of the most moved of Christain solemnities. At first it was the most movable of the festive days, often confounded with the Epiphany, and celebrated by the eastern churches in April and May. In the fourth century Pope Julius I. ordered an investigation as to the day of Christ's nativity. The result of the inquiry by the theologians of the East and West was an agreement upon the 25th of December. The chief grounds of this decision were the tables of the censors in the archives of Rome; and, although all the fathers did not consider that the proof is were authentic or sufficient, the day was uniformly accepted, and from that time the nativity has been elebrated by christendom (except by the Greek Church) on the same day. It has also been a common tradition that Christ was bern about the middle of the night.

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