

OUR CHRISTMAS CAROLS.

In days when books were rare and readers few, the carol singer was a more important person than he is now. To the unlettered peasant, a "ballad in print" was once a thing uncounted, and they flocked round the carol-seller with wondering delight, not the least that he often sang to a very doleful tune. Village schools and village choirs have enlarged the rustic knowledge, and improved the rustic ear. Most of our country parishes now supply their own carol singers, and are less dependent on the travelling vendors of these Christian wares.

More than forty years ago, Home, the author of the "Everyday Book," said that the old carols began to be spoken of as not belonging to this century, and yet no one, that I am aware of, has attempted a collection of these "cognitive pieces." Few of the ancient carols are admitted into the modern hymn-books in common use, and so they seemed to be among the old things which were passing away. But Home, in this matter, underestimated the persistence of popular taste. With all the improvements in printing, and the progress of art, there is still a large demand, both in town and country, for the rude broadsheets which form the stock-in-trade of the carol-singer.

We have made a collection of the old Christmas carols still printed, as well as a collection of the old country parishes literature. They nearly all come from the neighborhood of the Seven Dials, where several printing-presses keep up the annual supply. Christ the Redeemer, the notorious dress of Jenny Catnach, though now bearing the name of another printer. It is in Monmouth Court, Dudley-street. Going down this busy mart of old clothes and old shoes, the entrance to Monmouth Court is on the left, about half-way from St. Giles's to the Seven Dials. Entering the court, a mark with specimens of a national ballad and cut-throat-looking stores win the place where Catnach, the "Colburn and Bentley of his day," produced his "Seven Dials Literature." Other printers of similar broadsheets and serial stories are near; but a visit to one suffices to show the nature of the trade. The waders is flimsy, the type poor, and the papers for them are almost all "illustrated" (pulpit) coarse, and the coloring wild "beyond all rules of art."

Such productions should have a large circulation in rather uneducated circles, and of educational progress; but it is so for the supply can only equal the demand. In style, the Christmas carols are printed as the less reputable issues from the same presses. Home asked Batchelor, a printer of Christmas carols in Moorfields, whether he would not exchange his old-fashioned and rude woodcuts for better and more modern designs. He said, "these old favourites, and better wold not please my customers so well." Mr. Hotten put a similar question to a Seven Dials printer, and received the like answer. The cuts were certainly old, said the successor to Pitt—of dying speech and ballad memory—but "the old people who buy these things are not here, but all the pictures were new. They would say they weren't genuine, and I might as well have printed them."

The broadsheets (in size usually about fifteen inches by ten inches) contain several carols, with a variety of illustrations. The colored sheets are hideous dubs, but their sale may give a useful hint to those who may seek to supply a better article of the class. Each sheet has a general heading for the trade. Some of these headings are as follows: "The Salvation's Garland: a choice collection of the most excellent carols;" "Divine Mirth;" "Saviour of Mankind;" "Christmas drawing near at hand;" "Harp of Israel;" "The Nativity;" a collection of excellent Christmas carols;" "The Messiah;" "The Evergreen;" carols for Christmas holidays." The last-named broadsheet we give just as it is printed, as a specimen of the whole.

God rest you, merry gentlemen, Let nothing dismay you. In these days, Let us be joyful on this Christmas day, To save poor souls from Satan's power. When a long time had gone astray, And 'tis tidings of comfort and joy.

God bless you, God bless you, Let nothing dismay you. In these days, Let us be joyful on this Christmas day, To save poor souls from Satan's power. When a long time had gone astray, And 'tis tidings of comfort and joy.

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May every blessing from on high Attend each family dear, Long life, health, and prosperity, To good joyful Christmas cheer. Now kindly for my pretty song, Enjoy butler, draw some beer, And Heaven, etc.

St. John's Day. The moon shines bright, the stars give light, A little before his day, And hark! the bellman of the night Awakes us all to pray. Awake! awake! good people all, These climes you shall see, How Christ our Lord this day was born, To be our Saviour dear.

Holy Innocence. Now cruel Herod, with wrath and anger filled, Did order that all infants should be killed, Thinking to murder our dear Saviour then, He first flowers of martyrdom, Whom, heedless of your tender age, Christ's persecutor, blind with rage, Destroyed—as Does the storm young roses in their bloom.

The next carol on the sheet may be taken as a specimen of the strange doggerel of very early times— The first good joy our Mary had It was the joy of one; To see upon her breast Her own beloved Son, Her own blessed son, God-man And beloved son, He is Both Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, To all eternity.

The next good joy that Mary had, It was the joy of two; To see her own Son Jesus, To make the lame to go, To make the lame to go, etc.

The next good joy our Mary had, It was the joy of three; To see her own Son Jesus, To make the blind to see, To make the blind to see, etc.

The next good joy our Mary had, It was the joy of four; To see her own Son Jesus, To read the Scriptures o'er, etc.

The next good joy our Mary had, It was the joy of five; To see her own Son Jesus, To raise the dead to life, etc.

The next good joy that Mary had, It was the joy of seven; To see her own Son Jesus, To wear the crown of Heaven, etc.

The next good joy our Mary had, It was the joy of six; To see her own Son Jesus, To wear the crown of Heaven, etc.

We conclude by quoting an equally plain and practical carol, which gives the title to one of the broadsheets. CHRISTMAS DRAWING NEAR AT HAND. Christmas now is drawing near at hand, Serve the Lord and be at his command, And God for you a portion will provide, And give a blessing to your soul beside.

Remember, man, that thou art made of clay, And in this world thou hast not long to stay, This wicked world will never be content With all its gifts that God hath sent. Down in the garden where flowers grow in ranks, Down on your bended knees and give the Lord thanks, Down on your knees and pray both night and day, Leave of your sins and live upright I pray.

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China, the divisions which separate the ranks of the daily intercourse of life. Those which divide the different Brahminical grades, and the gulf which intervenes between the official classes and the people, quite as much as the gulf which separates the Brahmin and Shudra classes. And in one sense the Chinese distinctions are more difficult to deal with than the Indian, in that they afford every act in the daily intercourse of life. At first, therefore, the levelling tendency of railways will beyond question produce some searchings of heart among the privileged classes. A re-buttled mandarin whirling through the country company with a parcel of rich shopkeepers would be in a position as distasteful to himself as embarrassing to his fellow-travellers, whose only attitude in the presence of so great a man would at any other time be one of humble prostration.

The necessity for punctuality also will be a thing to which many have already been accustomed to start on their journeys at any hour they please, unfettered by any time-table; and the idea of a railway guard starting a train without waiting for a last-minute approach of local magistrates would be an unheard-of want of propriety. Even in the minor question of making the time-tables plain to the people, some preliminary difficulties will unquestionably arise. The day of twenty-four hours is, according to Chinese reckoning, divided into twelve equal divisions, which are known as the period of the rat, the ox, the tiger, the hare, the dragon, the snake, the horse, the sheep, the monkey, the cock, the dog, and the boar. Each of these periods is subdivided into eight smaller divisions, and these are the smallest divisions of time known to all except the few fortunate possessors of watches. This at once opens a field for the widest confusion and strangeness of ideas to the minds of people accustomed only to reckon by the rat, the ox, the tiger, etc. and how will it be possible to get them to reckon by the hour, the minute, and the second?

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DR. MAXWELL'S AWFUL CRIME. He Forces His Four Children to swallow Poison and Three of them Die. A terrible tragedy was enacted at Springfield, Vt., recently, resulting in the death of three children of Dr. John Maxwell. About six o'clock the doctor sent his wife to a store on an errand which would not return until he had returned home. He left her with his children, leaving in age from 4 to 15. As soon as his wife had gone he called his children to a room and threatened to chastise them in case of a refusal, induced them to swallow a mixture of scotch and chloroform. Then he tied a cloth saturated with the same, round the neck of each of the children, and laid his hands on a bed. The children, after struggling for a few minutes, sank into insensibility. Maxwell then administered to each a dose of opium, and lay down by the bedside his unconscious children. In a few minutes after the doctor had swallowed the poison, Mr. Maxwell came home. Upon seeing that the children were dead, he called the police, and the bodies were taken to the morgue. The doctor was arrested and charged with the murder of his children. He was found guilty and sentenced to life imprisonment.

On the subject of the adoption of railways the Chinese have, as though indifferently, been so coldly indifferent to the promptings of active plenipotentiaries and interested advisers. For some years it has been foreseen by the most enlightened of their statesmen that the inevitable, but at the same time they have wisely determined to wait for the demand of a naturally developed want, and have set their faces against the temptation of treating the matter as a philanthropic or to the outcry of a manufactured need. In this spirit they refused on behalf of the late Emperor, the present of a railway, which was offered by the English capitalists proposed to lay down in the palace grounds for the amusement of his Imperial Majesty; and they pulled up the Woo-Sung Railway, which had been built for the purpose of stimulating the appetite of the people for railways, enjoyed a chequered course of popularity, litigation, [and financial loss for just six weeks. As though the people in advance of the age, the material of this railway was shipped to Formosa by an enthusiastic mandarin who thought it possible to regenerate his country by carrying passengers and goods about it at the rate of thirty miles an hour. He even succeeded in collecting several hundred thousand dollars to make the work he was entrusted to another scene of usefulness, and the mandarin who entered on his duties in the most arduous manner, for labor entered also into the possession. He has committed the error of not doing anything but he has been heard of the funds and the rails and rolling-stock are at this moment resting on the Formosan wharves.

But during the eight years which have elapsed since the Woo-Sung fiasco events have occurred which have educated the native mind at an unprecedented rate. One of the most awful famines of modern times visited any country has desolated whole provinces of the empire; there have been in the outlying dependencies rumours of wars with Russia and Japan, and actual crossings of swords with France. The telegraphs also, which now carry messages from Peking to Canton in a few minutes, have aggravated the growing impatience at the slowness of the means of transport from one place to another, and the natural result of these conditions is the now expressed desire to have the iron horse running through the land. Private interests are also in favor of the innovation, and Prince Ch'un, the Emperor's father, who, according to the legends of the East, is supposed to be everything foreign, has sanctioned an order for a quantity of steel rails from the Osaburck steel-works. For the last year or two the Emperor has taken an active interest in the coal and iron mines of the northern provinces, and he probably recognizes the fact that his profits might be increased to a hundredfold if the output were daily market in railway trucks rather than in donkey carts. It is doubtless in connection with these mines that the first railway will be constructed, and fortunately the undertaking the prospect of an immediate return are unquestionably certain. In Shan-se, the province adjoining the metropolitan provinces on the west, the extent of the field is incalculably great, while in the immediate neighborhood iron abounds in profusion. In estimating the effects which are likely to be produced on the country by railways, it is necessary to consider the social side of the question. Although

"Woman and Her Diseases." is the title of an interesting illustrated treatise (96 pages) sent, post-paid, for three letter stamps. Address World's Dispensary Medical Association, Buffalo, N. Y. Bad colds and sore throats that in on cool winds and by reason of thin garments. "Delays are Dangerous." If you are pale, emaciated, have a hoarse cough, with night-sweats, splitting of the bowels, and a general feeling of weakness, you are in time to lose. Do not hesitate too long—till you are past cure; for taken in its early stages, consumption can be cured by the use of Dr. Pierce's "Golden Medical Discovery," as thousands can testify. By druggists. Good thoughts are fragrant spears of green grass, even joyed after they have faded. "Yes; I shall break the engagement," the satirical folding her arms and looking defiant; "it is really too much trouble to converse with him; he's deaf as a post, and talks like he had a mouthful of mud. Besides the way he hawks and spits is disgusting." "Don't break the engagement for that; tell him to take Dr. Sage's Catarrh Remedy. It will cure him completely." "Well, I'll tell him. I do hate to break off, but for all either respects he's quite too charming." Of course it cured his catarrh. Never sit on a damp cushion, moist ground, or a marble or stone step, if you wish to avoid sore throat. Cold and influenza are certain indications of lower circulation of the blood. Dr. Pierce's "Golden Medical Discovery" cures "catarrh of the throat" and induces good health. Large bottles at druggists.

Three cases are reported to the "French Association for the Advancement of the Science of Immediate cure of paralysis" by means of hypnotic suggestion. The patient had become unable to write legibly, but when the affirmations were made to her that she could write as well as other people, she did so forthwith and retained the power after waking. M. Liebig showed specimens of her writing during and after the hypnotic sleep, and said he had obtained like results during several years of practice.

A SKEPTICAL CLERGYMAN. Throws Aside His Doubts and Bears Strong Testimony to the Truth. London. A deplorable thing, especially when it leaves the mind on a stormy sea without an anchor or hope of haven. It does not probably prevent any more in these days than it did in the past, but we hear more of it because of the publicity given by the secular press. Some minds are so constituted that they cannot accept anything without proof, and yet they do not necessarily demand that the proof shall have the stamp of highest authority. They recognize merit for itself, and accept it gladly, knowing that eventually it must gain general recognition. The legal and medical professions as well as the ecclesiastical are slow to adopt what may conflict with their notions of self-interest and right. New ideas are almost always disturbing, but eventually they become assimilated and are warmly commended.

The case of the Rev. George Waterhouse, a talented clergyman of N. B., the Lodge, Bredstone, Wiltshire, Eng., suggests these observations. He got into a desperate condition, which thoroughly unfitted him for ministerial work. He was very sympathetic with his body, became very much depressed. As the mind is so the thoughts are. He finally put himself under the care of the best London specialist for severe nervous prostration, and after ever fleeting phantoms, but at length they told him his case was beyond amendment. Still more thoroughly depressed, he grew skeptical to a degree and believed himself doomed.

Provisionally, however, he had his attention drawn to widely-reputed means of restoration in cases like his own. He re-visited his old friends, and found that the constant improvement, he eagerly perceived, and when twenty-six bottles had been used, the analyst reported that "No medical friend has ever known a case so severely tested." In other words, he exclaimed with rapture, "I was cured." He had bright disease of the kidneys. That in 1882, and from day to day he put aside his skepticism at the use of an unauthorized remedy until to-day he has been strong and well in body and mind, and contrary to the usual course of medical friends, he has no relapse. It is only fair to remark, though it may be unpopular for papers editorially to do so, that Warner's Safe Cure is the remedy which will probably be the most successful.

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My old friend, the late Thomas Wright was a victim of this terrible folly. He undertook the translation of the life of Julius Caesar, by Napoleon III., and to do it in a really short time. He fulfilled his duty by sitting up several nights successively by the aid of strong tea or coffee (I forget which). I saw him shortly afterward. In a few weeks he had aged amazingly, and became quite bald, his brain gave way and he never recovered. There was but little difference between his age and mine, and as he did not wish to leave his children to a life of poverty, which, having been the case, he had decided to take them to the grave with him.

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