

TWO CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS.

(BY EDWARD E. HALL, D. D.)

One was Christmas Day in the year 800. The other was 820 years after, in the year 1620. What will be the celebration in 2440 Anno Domini? We shall see what we shall see.

The first, which I am about to describe, was in St. Peter's, at Rome. On that great Christmas Day Pope Leo III, crowned Charlemagne as the head of the Roman Empire. The multitude shouted their applause. "It is that shout, and from that moment, Modern History begins." These are the words of Mr. James Bryce, the eminent historian of the Holy Roman Empire.

Charles the Great—who we generally call Charlemagne—was fifty-eight years old. Leo III, the Pope of Rome, had been Pope since 795. It was nearly thirty years since Charlemagne had entered Rome in triumph to spend the Easter Holidays. Since then he had shown his mastery power as a soldier and a Sovereign. Hadrian had been Pope for nearly twenty-five years. When he died, in the year 785, Leo had been chosen his successor.

With Hadrian, a strong ruler, Charlemagne had sometimes differences of great import. But they had respected each other. And when Leo was chosen, and Hadrian's successor, he sent messengers to Charles to announce his election, and to take to him the keys of St. Peter and the banner of Rome. Charlemagne had replied by a courteous embassy, and a letter in which he had said that it was his duty to defend the Holy Church by arms, and to fortify it internally by the recognition of Catholic faith. "It is yours, with hands raised to God, to help our warfare." Leo made no remonstrance, though a place so inferior was assigned to him.

For reasons not now well understood, he was—not long after—crucially attacked in the streets of Rome by ruffians. They tore him from his horse, beat him with sticks, and tried to put out his eyes and cut out his tongue. The poor Pope was rescued from them that night only with great difficulty. He escaped from the monastery where his enemies had imprisoned him, and took refuge in St. Peter's.

The Duke of Spoleto, Charlemagne's officer in those regions, had at once come to his relief with an army, and kept him safe in Umbria, in his own castle. The city of Rome itself was given over to anarchy.

What Leo might have liked to do, could he have chosen, we need not inquire. He found that he needed someone to keep him alive, if he were to reign at Rome. And to make sure of Charlemagne's protection, he had crossed the mountains in the summer of 799, and met him with great ceremony at Paderborn. At the end of his visit, Charlemagne had dismissed him with honor, and had sent him back with an armed escort to Rome.

And now, at Christmas of the year 800, Charlemagne returns the visit.

He had visited Rome more than once, but never had he come as pope. He was practically the Sovereign of Central Europe. His rule over his own Franks was undisturbed; he had beaten the Saxons; and had conquered the Lombard kings—so long the enemies of the Pope. When he was crowned King of the Lombards, years before, in that Coronation had been the first step to the title which he took now. Recognised as the Sovereign of all that Europe for which these people cared, he entered Rome at the solicitation of the Pope, it must be observed, with all the pomp of the time.

The banners of the city and the gilt crosses of the church came out in long procession to meet him, and different nationalities resident in Rome were recognised in the crowds who cheered him as he rode by. The King was on horseback, and rode directly to St. Peter's church. This is not the St. Peter's of today, but the Basilica of which the erection was assigned to Constantine. Charles sprang from his horse, mounted the steps, not on his knees this time, receiving the blessing of Leo, and paid his devotions to St. Peter's tomb.

The first ceremony of his visit—for it was little more—was the purging the Pope from all the charges made against him. It was clear enough that Leo was wretchedly unpopular in Rome; and these charges were about everywhere. But on this occasion the Pope evered to clear himself by oath from them all. The ecclesiastics said distinctly that they did not dare to judge the Apostolic See; and accordingly, it was arranged that on December 23rd, the head of the church should appear in the centre of St. Peter's with a copy of the four Gospels. He clasped this book to his breast, and then with a loud and clear voice, he took his oath: "Of all those charges which my unjust persecutors in Rome have brought against me, I declare, in the presence of God and Saint Peter, that I am innocent, since I have neither done those things whereof I am accused, nor procured the doing of them."

The principal accomplices in the assault upon him were condemned to death, but, at his solicitation, this penalty was changed into banishment from Rome. With the Pope thus cleared from suspicion, and with the Sovereign of Europe at hand, all was ready for the great Christmas celebration.

The old Basilica, which stood where St. Peter's stands now, wholly unlike most modern cathedrals—a spacious, sunny hall, with mosaics on the wall, with long rows of Corinthian columns—one on either side. The Bishop's throne—the curule chair of some old Roman officer—was placed at the highest point of the steps which led up to the altar. The chair still exists. A part of its ornament is the "Labors of Hercules."

Charlemagne's person was always dignified, and his appearance befitting a station. In compliment to Rome and to the Pope he had laid aside his usual dress—a Frankish tunic, with a blue cloak and rest of other skins—and he was now dressed as a Roman patrician. That is, he wore a long tunic with a Roman or Greek chlamys over it, and wore Roman shoes instead of Frankish boots.

He entered the Temple, and at the high altar, which marked the tomb of St. Peter, he knelt in prayer. The Pope, after he had read the Gospel for the day, then rose from his chair and advanced to Charles. He placed on the King's head a golden crown, "The Diadem of the Caesars."

The multitude shouted: "Life and

TIME'S IMMORTALITY.

Heart! Is thy grief the solitary pang Of this frail year dim-circling to its end? Doth Hope's soft voice, that erst endearing sang, Seem now the surfeit of a faithless friend? Oh must thou wait the weary negligence Of Time's dull finger, pointing where we would, And urging us toward Life's beatitude, Yet mocking at our solemn impotence; While we, like symbols of an antique chart, Are undeciphered still as in the start?

I saw a footprint 'mid the hour of Spring, Light as the fawn's, and as an infant's, small; And when bright Summer reached the welcoming, The foot had grown,—perchance a maiden's, tall. When Autumn to the merry husbandman Bequeathed the golden sheaf, the footprint there Maturely sank beneath the matron fair Who to the dairy bore the milking-pan: Then Winter o'er the earth his mantle drew, And snow quite hid the footprint from the view.

The infant,—maiden,—matron,—and the dust Inanimate,—are as the shifting-glass Of Life's kaleidoscope, wherein is thrust The soul's scant vision, which doth peer and pass Forth to the unspanned mystery of things; And we, as strangers on a stranger shore, Abide a tedious season,—pay our score, Ere doth the soul spread her immortal wings; And having here abode a meagre date, She waits her vision to a vaster fate.

Oh heart! Thy doubts, thy questionings and fears Are but the substance of the soul's desire; And all the yearnings of the passing years, But melodies that fresh from Nature's lyre Are scattered by the fervent soul's unrest: And those who coldly, 'mid our little life, Deem of our busy days, deem of the strife Of aims conflicting, as a petty jest,— May ponder that Earth's things we know and do, Partake of the Celestial and the True.

FREDERIC IRVING TAYLOR, Victoria, B. C.

than he knew—as one of his followers was to sing of the Monday after" (Christmas Day, O.S.) "The English Master of Ceremonies had sent twenty carriages and three hundred horses for his suite.

"When he came to Gravesend, the Earl of Arundel visited him on the part of the King, and led him to the Royal barge. His whole suite entered into twenty-five other barges, painted, hung with tapestry, and well adorned" (think of the poor, rusty shilling there in Plymouth Bay), "in which, ascending the Thames, they arrived in London, Friday, the 29th of December" (January 8th, N.S.)

"On disembarking, the ambassador was led by the Earl of Arundel to the palace of the late Queen, which had been superbly and magnificently arranged for him."

December 22nd. John Chamberlain to Sir Dudley Carleton. "In spite of penury, there is to be a masque at court this Christmas. The King is coming from Theobalds to receive the French ambassador, Marshal Cadenet, who comes with a suite of 400 or 500."

"What is this masque? Could not Mr. Payne Collier find up the libretto, perhaps? Was it Faith, Valor, Hope, and Love founding a kingdom, perhaps? Faith with a broadaxe, Valor and Hope with a two-handled saw, while Love dug post-holes and set up timbers? Or was it a less appropriate masque of King James's devising?"

All that we know of it is that in another letter John Chamberlain says: "A Festivity was flouted and abused in court, the masque, which was thought unseemly, considering the state of the French Protestants."

There can be no doubt that these two Christmas celebrations, if you care for results, have been the two most remarkable Christmas days in history. "The Beginning of Civilization," "The Most Important Event in Modern History"—these are the verdicts of high authorities, and, although very positively given, I know no writer who has seriously attempted to revise them.

The next Christmas which can equal them will be the Christmas Day which shows to the world the certain achievement of permanent and universal peace among the nations.

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VICTORIA CITY SOUTH WARD.

To the Electors: Ladies and Gentlemen—I beg to announce myself as a candidate at the ensuing municipal election of aldermen for the South Ward, and respectfully solicit your support. THORNTON FELL, December 17th, 1901.

To the Electors of South Ward.

Ladies and Gentlemen: I beg to announce myself as a candidate at the forthcoming election of aldermen for the South Ward, and respectfully solicit the favor of your vote and influence. F. W. VINCENT, Victoria, B. C., December 19th, 1901.

To the Electors of South Ward.

Ladies and Gentlemen: I beg to announce myself as a candidate at the forthcoming election of aldermen for the South Ward, and respectfully solicit the favor of your vote and influence. F. W. VINCENT, Victoria, B. C., December 19th, 1901.

To the Electors of the Central Ward

At the request of a number of citizens, I have decided to offer myself as a candidate at the ensuing election of aldermen for the Central Ward, and solicit your support. December 14th, 1901. A. F. LUXTON.

To the Electors of Central Ward.

Ladies and Gentlemen: At the solicitation of a large number of electors, I beg to announce myself as a candidate for alderman for Central Ward at the approaching municipal election, and beg respectfully to solicit your votes and influence. Yours respectfully, THOS. L. WORTHINGTON, December 18th, 1901.

XMAS AGAIN.

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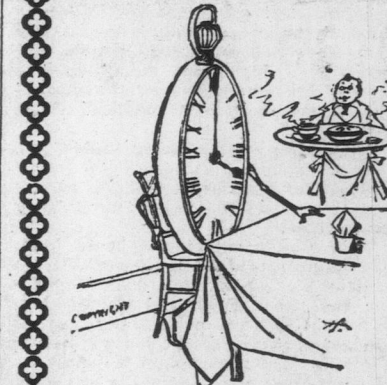
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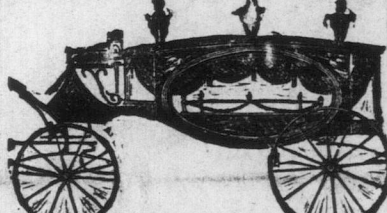


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VOL. 32.

LOOK OVER THREE HUNDRED BURGERS

THE RESULT OF LAST WEEK'S OPERATIONS

Forty-Five Boers Were Killed and Twenty-Five Wounded—Brander Captures Sixty of Enemy.

(Associated Press.)

London, Dec. 24.—Lord Kitchener in a dispatch from Johannesburg, dated Monday, December 23rd, reports the week's results as being 45 Boers killed, 25 wounded, 310 made prisoners and 35 surrendered.

Surprised and Captured. Pretoria, Dec. 24.—Lieut. Colonel Brander's force surprised a Boer laager in the Pietersburg district on December 2nd and captured 60 prisoners.

More Recruits Than Places. Montreal, Dec. 24.—Reports from various recruiting stations in Eastern Canada indicate that many more than the required quota of recruits for the militia have been made up in the last few days. The production of the 2nd Mounted Rifles of South Africa offered their services yesterday.

The De Beers Mines. Capetown, Dec. 24.—At the annual meeting of the De Beers Mining Co., at Kimberley, the chairman announced that the gross profits for the year are £2,500,000, the production being £4,500,000. The estimated life of the mines is 24 years.

Vancouver's Quota. Vancouver, Dec. 24.—The following names were selected today for the South African contingent: David Webb, A. J. Mackay, Joseph Johnson, A. J. Reid, W. P. Robinson, W. P. Williams, John Grestock, late Strathcona, Howland and Geo. Thornwell.

CHINESE COMMISSION. Work of Preparing Report Will Probably Be Completed by Middle of Next Month.

Ottawa, Dec. 24.—F. J. Deane, of Annapolis, secretary of the Chinese and Japanese immigration commission, is in town for the purpose of receiving certain data from the census bureau. Mr. Deane states that the preparation of the report is progressing rapidly and that the preliminary report will be ready for the work completed by the middle of next month.

Of the political situation in British Columbia Mr. Deane says that Hon. W. Wells, chief commissioner, who recently visited Ottawa, is reported to be framed a railway policy with the assistance of C. P. R. and Mackenzie & Mann, and upon this policy Premier Munson expects to be able to elect a supporter in Victoria and fill two vacancies in his cabinet. Only the bare outlines of the policy have been made public so far, but they indicate a perpetuation of the subsidy system, special provision being made for the further subsidizing of a railway, the property of the Premier, already richly endowed by land bonus.

OUTRAGES IN MACEDONIA. Foreign Ministers Have Protested to The Porte.

Constantinople, Dec. 24.—Assassination and the pillaging of villages and straying of their inhabitants have so increased recently in Macedonia that the usual have appealed to the embassies for a stop to such crimes, and the foreign ministers have made urgent representations to the Porte of the danger permitting their continuance.

F. R. GLOVER RESIGNS. Giving Up Position as City Clerk of New Westminster.

New Westminster, Dec. 24.—City Clerk F. R. Glover has sent in his resignation, which was accepted at last night's council meeting. He has held the position since 1898, and has received a lucrative appointment elsewhere in this city. Applications for the vacancy must be in by December 27th.

SIX BODIES FOUND. Result of Accident on Liverpool Electric Railroad.

Liverpool, Dec. 24.—Six bodies have been recovered from the Dingle station tunnel. These apparently represent the number of deaths resulting from the burning of the electric train yesterday on the overhead railway.

ANADIAN REPRESENTATIVES. Toronto, Dec. 24.—At the next meeting of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association, the principal business of trade Canada will be memorialized by the delegation to join in sending representatives to Great Britain and Ireland in the interest of Canadian industries.

ATTEMPTED SUICIDE. Vancouver, Dec. 24.—Wm. Jack, proprietor of the Centreville hotel, Chilliwack, attempted suicide by hanging this morning. He was breathing over the railing police prosecutions, in which he was charged for unlawfully selling liquor.

POPULATION OF LONDON. London, Ont., Dec. 24.—According to the number of names in the new direct London has a population of over eight thousand more than what the Dominion census showed last year.