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NEW YEAR'S DAY.

ITS OBSERVANCE PAST AND PRE-SENT.

From Heathenism to Christianity -Pagan Jubilations Succeeded by the Church's Solemuities.

Among all civilized nations New Gregory XIII for fixing the calendar so when they reach the door, they find two Evans and Tansey were foremost in ably as to know the date of events. In ancient each one, as he passes, puts on these club closed the concert programme with times there was no fixed era from which whatever his generosity inspires him to to date the years. Some people counted give of the good things he has brought from their birth; monarchs from their with him from home. Cakes and candies, the most interesting of the covening.

The cond from their winter was from their toys and trinkets and money soon fill Messrs, J. T. Twohey, H. J. Maguire, J. J. coronation; the Romans from the toys and trinkers and money soon the dishes, and these go to the poor. foundation of Rome; the Greeks from their Olympic games; the Babylonians, tian one. from the reign of Nebonassar; the Mohammedans from the flight of Mohammed; the Persians, from the A story of His Intercession Told by an rolon of Yezdegird; and the Armenians, African Missionary. from the Council of Tiben. The Hindoes have three eras to count from, the Chinese date from the beginning of the reign of their Emperors, the Jews count from the creation, the Russians, in Church matters, using the Septuagint version of the Bible, dated from the creation, but in civil affairs they date from the birth of Christ, like the other these vast excursions I lost my way, and civilized nations of the world. We can found myself wandering without the understand from these different ways of understand from these different ways of slightest idea of the locality. I could see than confession of sin.—B. Henry Suso. counting time, the difficulty of fixing the no one. It was a season of brought. No The Kines of the East came, and wealth dates of ancient times and the wisdom of rain had fallen, and my horses were the Church in adopting the method of scarcely able to drag along my cart for powerty.—Archbishop Ryan. on twelve altars, and they took the events was, however, a water dam near the solemn is sad.—Frederick Ozanam. of that day as signs of the coming year. house, and this was all drought. Approaching the moral sufferings proaching the Dutch farmer I told him har power of soothing the moral sufferings proaching the barrel is be would allow of the forlors or unfortunate.—Archbishop ing and sent presents to their friends. From that comes our "Happy New Year," and the custom of sending presents to our triends. From the time of the Apestles the Church celebrated New Year's Day, in memory of Our Lord's circumcision, eight days after his birth, as given in the Gospel. They condemned the idolatrous rites of the pagans on low-a client of St. Joseph-near death. that day, for not only the Romans, but the Druids and the Saxons sent gifts and carried out their superstitious ceremonies. The presents of the people and and exclaimed in accents of deepest of the nobles became sources of revenue of the nobles became sources of revenue gratitude:
to the kings in ancient times, and to the
aristocracy in feudal days. The creation
would be the natural time to date
before I die." from, but with the exception of the Hebrews, all other nations go back till they are lost in fable. In the sacred writings of the Hebrews there are two periods, one of the Jews, stating that the creation took place 4,004 years before Christ, the

story:

"When a boy in dear old Ireland my mother, a good Catholic, taught me to say every day, "St. Joseph, pray for me. that I may die a happy death." I have that I may die a happy death. Thave that I may be boards that we may behold mere and

OTHER OF THE SEPTUAGINT,

dates and exact times have nothing to the army do with salvation and faith, and wishing Kaffir war. of with salvation and faith, and wishing "Before leaving Ireland I went in my and changes, and calls to honor the two great versions of the Bible, uses the Septuagint manner of uniform and bid my poor old mother uniform and bid my poor old mother uniform. computations.

The pagans used to celebrate the day when this feast was commenced to be celebrated. All histories prove that it came from the Apostles. Formerly they said two masses on New Year's day, one and the other in honor of the Blessed and soon after I gave Extreme Unction Virgin, but after the thirteenth century the latter mass fell into disuse. The Catholic Church has no prayers relating to the beginning of the civil year, as the ecclesiastical year begins on the first Sunday of Advent, but we ask the people to thank God for his graces showered down on us during the last twelve months, and we ask them to be seech the months, and we ask them to be seech the last twelve months are the last twelve months. the Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. The same sentiments are found carried out in the ancient Gothic Church

mome to the honor of the Virgin, the New Year's Mass is said. It was built on the celebrated spot, where, according to the legend, a well of oil flowed from the ground in the night the Lord was to the legend, a well of oil flowed from J. Foley: Gratiano, Mr. Harry J. T. the ground in the night the Lord was Maguire; Shylock (a rich Jew), Mr. John born, bursting forth and flowing even to born, bursting forth and flowing even to the Tiber. The early Christmas saw in it a figure of the Christ that is the Auointed, for that is the meaning of Christ in the ancient Hebrew. That Church was built in the third century.

Magure; Saydock (Herrew, Mr. Thomas D. Tantsey; Nerissa, Mr. Louis E. Curran; Salarino, Mr. S. J. Murdock; Salario, Mr. Christ in the ancient Hebrew. That Edward H. Twohey; violin solo, Mr. Church was built in the third century. Church was built in the third century and consecrated by Pope Calistus. To-day it is known by the name of the Fountain

One Way of Keeping New Year's Day.

classical colleges. The rules of the house are based on the purest spirit of piety and virtue. The boys who distinguish themselves in their classes are rowarded in a way that may seem surprising to our readers. They are allowed to visit Samuel Lexicon (writing a new diction)

Cologne, December 23.—A bill will be submitted to the German Imperial Parliament, Mr. Lynx, Mr. Lyn

by the state of th

and help the poor. They do the work. St. Vincent de l'aul Society.

itself, which in France is kept as we Evers and Mr. Salvini. keep hCristmas as a home and family The "Merchant of

A beautiful custom truly, and a Chris-

ST. JOSEPH.

recently told the following thrilling story at a church festival:

"During several of the twelve years I care the sole charge of a district as large cossion. as England. Periodically I made a vistthese vast excursions I lost my way, and i counting from the birth of Christ. The want of water. At length I came to a poverty.—Archbishop Ryan. Romans dedicated the first of January to Boer farm in this, to me, unknown valley. the god Janus, offering sacritices to him The whole country was scorched. There my story, and asked if he would allow! of the forlorn or unfortunate,-Archbishop my horses to drink. Permission was Hughes. granted. I told the farmer I was a 'atholic priest. He was a Protestant.

the outhouse you will find a laborer who | Macture. is dying—he is a Catholic.

I entered there and found the poor fel-When I told him that I was the Catholic that of Jesus Christ.—St. Vincent de Paul. priest of the district of "Oudtshoorn," 150 miles away, he lifted his wasted body

What has St. Joseph to do with the

putting his birth 5,508 years from the I made my first Communion at 10, and more of the beauty and the splendor of creation, The Church, knowing that dates and exact times have nothing to the army at 21, and came out to the Godinali creatures, in all His Providence,

counting the years from creation in the martyrology and the Hebrew in all other to the formula t by sacrificing to the god Janus and to pired I was discharged and stayed by breaking up of a circle in which it seems in feasting, debauchery and badness. To warn the Christians, St. Augustin preached a sermon against these pagan rites. The Council of Four and and process of the Council of the Council of Four and and process of the Council of the Council of Four and and process of the Council of the Council of Four and and process of the Council of the Council of Four and and the Council of the Council of Four and and the Council of the Council of Four and and the Council of the them, opening with the words, "Our fathers commanded the Litanies to be said on the beautiful or the beautif said on the Kalends of January, the belis and Communion. Arrived at your house to be toiled at the eighth hour, and the Mass of the Circumcision of Our Lord to be properly celebrated." As far as we are able to see head to see head and are able to see head to see head and are able to see head to see head and the see that the see t to be properly celebrated." As far as many months. After a week I returned, we are able to go back we cannot find and here I landed yesterday nearly dying, and here is the priest to-day sent by St.

> That night I instructed him and heard his confession. The next morning I said Mass and gave him Holy Communion, and the last blessing. He then died, saying with his last breath, "St. Jeseph, pray for me that I may die a happy

De La Salle Literary Association.

coming year. To give all an example, the Pope goes to the Church of the Jesu, there to sing the "Thee, O God, we praise," to the Lord, and finishes with the Reproduction of the Registration of the Registrat

Oscar Martel; the quarrel of Brutus and Cassius (Julius Casar), Messrs. Thomas D. Tansey and Berna d Evers; "The Old Home Down on the Farm," Glee Club;

music, Orchestra. Next came "The Harvest Storm," with There is in Paris what is called a Little the tollowing cast of characters:—John Seminary, an institution like most of our Gardner (an honest farmer), Mr. John T.

ary), Mr. Louis E. Curran; Andrew Radthat is of the Aspirant Conferences of the ford (absconding clerk). Mr. M. A. St. Vincent de Paul Society. Phelan: Michael (brother to Andrew). But the most beautiful custom here is Mr. Harry J. T. Maguire; Charley Cooper observed on New Year's night. The day and Nat Lorel (two Gypsies), Mr. Bernard

The "Merchant of Venice" was very feast, is passed by the boys in their well acted for second year amateurs, the own families. In the evening they return to college full of the joys of the day, with the affectionate greetings of father and K. Cleary and T. E. Tansey. Mr. E. H. mother and friends lingering in the ears | Twohey's recitation, "The Ghost," capti-and of course loaded with good things | vated the audience. Mr. Martel's violin Among all civilized nations New Night prayers are said soon after their solo was very well rendered, and called Year's Day begins the year. Few know entry, and the signal given for retiring. for an encore. The "Quarrel of Brutus how much they are indebted to Pope Out they file from the study hall; but and Cassius" needs no comment; Messis. large dishes set out on small tables and sustaining their reputation. The glee The Old Home Down on the Farm." Foley and M. Phelan acted their parts after the style of Salvini, whilst Mr. L. E. Curran kept the house in roars of laughter writing Samuel Lexicon's new dictionary. At the conclusion of the programme Mr H. J. Magnire thanked the ladies and gentlemen for their presence, remarking that although they did not affect to be Father O'Hare of Ashbourne, England, professionals, yet he hoped they had cored a point, which they undoubtedly did. The De La Salle Association is in its second year and hopes to find a spent in Africa I had under my pastoral position in the next Fete Dleu pro-

CATHOLIC CULLINGS.

Confession of love is more excellent The Kings of the East came, and wealth,

The moment of choosing our destiny is a solemn one, and everything that if

Wouldst thou know what thou art? Thou art that to which the heart turns "Oh, then," said he, "if you go into | most frequently .- Ven. Bartholomew of

> The arrows of envy and detraction do not pierce the hearts of those to whom they are directed before first piercing

> It is the key of obedience that opens the door of Paradise. Jesus Christ has confided that key to His Vicar, the Pope, hrist on earth, whom all are obliged to obey, even unto death .- St. Catherine of

The soul cannot remain stationary; matter?" I asked him, and here was his she must advance or recede. As she advances in virtue, she abandons the im-

never for one day neglected that prayer. hearts that we may behold mere and in all the events and changes, and calls

St. Joseph.' I came to the Kallir war, the next turn of the road stands an un-When it was over and my time was ex- forseen death of some one we love, or the

> us a greater affliction than injuries or of the Salvation Army are, and ephemeral is really a very expressive piece of sacred insult.—St. Teresa.

A Crucl Deed.

Kingston, December 20.-An inquest was held to-day at Sharbot Lake, sixty miles north of here, on the body of the Indian child for whose murder Peter Sharbot, an Indian of that place, now ites in Kingston jail. The body was found yesterday as described by its mother, Sharbot's wife, who laid the information against her husband and whose evidence was taken to-day. Cectin White Duck, as she is called, testified that Sharbot had long wanted of all praise. Long before 8 p.m. the of last September. They were no sooner Queen's Hail was pretty well filled and married than Sharbot took a violent disby that hour nearly every seat in the like to the child and took to beating it. house was taken. After an overture by On the 24th, in an ungovernable jury, he The Mass for New Year's is entitled "At St. Mary's across the Tiber," for there in that Church, the oldest and there in that Church, the oldest and the child to death. Then he had been the child to death. Then he buried the body where it was found, and by terrible threats kept his wisesilent

VIENNA, December 29.-The Tagblatt says the German Government has taken the initiative towards calling a conference to consider the establishment of an international system of protection against Amarchist outrages. Among the subjects mentioned for consideration by the conference are extradition for political murders and the limitation of present rights of asylum.

Restitution.

Cologne, December 29.—A bill will be

NEED OF A ST. FRANCIS.

THE REVIVAL OF OLD QUESTIONS.

History Repenting Itself in Social Problems of the Age-The Plaglarisms of the Salvation Army.

The same old question that demanded an answer in the twelfth century, and demanded it imperiously, is occupying the attention of England to-day. And the question is, how shall the poor be saved from sinking to the level of brutes? It was answered in the twelfth century by the appearance of St. Francis d'Assisi. In the eighteenth it was answered, Roussea and Voltaire having paved the way by the fearful out-break of the poor themselves, many of whom had become as brutes.

Another question which is forcing itself on thoughtful people is, how can the people in all countries be made more Christian, more contented, more hopeful to one another? St. Francis, the merchant's son, came out of the little town of Umbria at a time when the hearts even of Christians seemed to tremble before the two Italian vices. Avarice and Revenge. Rome itself had been torn by warring rulers. But St. Francis came; the Holy Father, supremely directed, b'essed a mission which, from the human point of view, seemed hopeless. Pope innocent did not jeer at the poor man who proposed to convert the world through his poverty. And from the moment that the Father of Christendom more strongly a new force-the force of

he evangelical life. St. Francis was a poet, but he held no heories. The one great commandment fligacy and crime he went on to of Love was his sole philosophy. It comment upon the usefulness of on and him to God, it bound him to man religious societies. They were not, he and to nature. He tried successfully to do what Wordsworth and our modern of youth its already too great inclination great poets have unsuccessfully tried to to the pursuit of pleasure, but they purdo—to bring his people nearer to nature, posed merely to supply a modorate reand to teach them that to love nature creation as a means of facilitating intelwas to get nearer to nature's God. The tectual and moral improvement, Games lesson that Coleriage teaches in "The of an innocent nature, but offering a Ancient Mariner" might have been borlowed from a legend of St. Francis:

"He prayeth best who loveth best All things both great and small; For the dear God who loveth us, He made and loveth all."

But St. Francis lived his poem, though he sung snatches of it in his beloved French, and afterward in the more beloved dialect of the Italian

COMMON FOLK.

be beaten about by the winds of heaven, to be like Our Lord and to have no place on which to lay his head,—this was his ardent ambition. And this matrix ardent ambition. And this ambition made him the regenerator of the Christian world, threatened on one side by Arabic subtleties and Oriental lusts, and on the other by inordinate love of power

as their work must be, yet it has some music. The soloists were tew, but were personally. thing in it of the spirit of St. Francis. excellent. Miss Leprohon gave a selective Salvation people have realized the tion from "Carmen" in a very pleasing truth that to understand the poor, one manner, her clear voice slowing to must be among the poor. The only possible advantage that Gen. Booth's and McCaffrey and Messis, Hammid

very far from possessing it. Political conomy has failed, as it always will fail, to solve a problem which only Love can solve. It there is less caste hatred to day than there was in the time of St. The always it is because the always are the manner with which he prepared the recognition of the best of the programme. Mr. Gruenwald led the orchestra, and Mr. P. F. McCaffrey acted as conductor. Prof. J. Fowler deserves congratulations for the always it is because the always are Francis, it is because the classes are the programme and conducted the conmore indifferent to one another than
they were in the feudal days. Looking around us, only one conclusion can be drawn from experience—namely, that the Church of Christ alone can cope with the social evils of our time; and to do so she needs a St. Francis with the spirit of him of Assisi, and new methods of diffusing it.—M. F. Egan in Ave Maria.

SOCIALISM.

A Papal Encyclical to Appear on this Urgent Question of the Hour.

PARIS, December 27 .- Advices from Rome state that the Pope has finished the draft of his encyclical upon the social question. His Holiness has been workng upon the subject for over a year, and at his request the most competent economists and bishops of different countries have furnished memoranda. The Pope considers the question the greatest of the with certain cardinals and prelates on

was a white the state of the state of the was the water of the state of the state of the state of the state of

First, His Holiness will develop the general principles upon which social economy is founded and the dominant idea of distributive justice which should regulate the intercourse of men and the spread of wealth. Distributive and restorative justice is needed to prevent misery and sweating on one side and ex-orbitant riches and tyranny on the other. The second part comprises the origin and cause of the present condition of the social problem. On this point His Holiness takes a new thesis first developed in his encyclical on socialism. The third part contains the views of the Pope regarding the remedies beyond religious and moral influence to be advocated. His Holiness expresses himself again in favor of the intervention by the state within the limits previously set forth. He condemns capitalism as now organized and advocates a more equitable and just distribution of riches. The encyclical will proably appear before Easter. The Pope is convinced that the Church should lead the present social and de-mocratic movement and will appeal to all conservative forces and to Protestants to aid in securing the safety of society. The Pope's physician says His Holiness may live for some time yet, as he has a robust constitution and is suffering from no infirmity.

C. Y. M. S.

The Monthly Meeting Held Last Sunday

The religious monthly meeting of the Catholic Young Men's society was held on Sunday afternoon in their rooms. The usual New Year's visit to Rev. P. Dowd was endorsed unanimously. Rev. James Callaghan took advantage of the dessed Francis of Assisi, the world felt large attendance to formulate his views on Holy Communion in conjunction with Catholic associations, in which after deploring the evil results of prosaid, intended to increase in the heart proximate occasion to the violation of God's sacred law, ought to be abolished at any cost. Young men's halls were not constructed as decoys to lead away innocence from the practice of virtue, or as mere pretexts, having a coloring of righteonsness, but in reality acted as meeting places whence issued almost upon arrival a special knot of dangerons looking personalities who took their leave for refuges of gambling, intoxication or He made himself poorer than the poorest. His brown robe was all he had. To be the poorest of God's creatures, to

St. Patrick's Choir Concert.

The concert given on Monday night in plans can have comes from the fact that his missionaries will be of the poor and with the poor.

The spirit of St. Francis alone can bring peace to the world; and these Salvationists are groping toward it, but they are drived and some from the poor is the post of the post of the programme. The programme is the post of the post of the programme.

A Gladstonian Celebration,

LONDON, December 29.—At Hawarden astle the 81st birthday of the Rt. Hon Ewart Gladstone was celebrated with great rejoicing. Telegrams of congratu-lations and large numbers of presents arrived during the early part of the day from all parts of Great Britain. There were also received several congratulations from the United States. Nearly the whole of Mr. Gladstone's family was present at the castle and the village was crowded with visitors.

The old Church of Saint Severni, at Paris, was the scene of an interesting ceremony recently, when its organ was blessed by Mgr. Soule, of the Chapter of Saint Denis, in presence of a good number of the Paris clergy. This organ dates from 1358, and was the list instrument present time. The encyclical will be the crowning act of the Pope's work in this direction. The date of its publication has not yet been fixed. The Pope will consult cure of the varish, the Abbe Castelneau. Hence the ceremony of its reconstructhe main passages, but the associated tion. Singers belonging to the Opera press correspondent is enabled to say the and the Conservatoire took part in the encyclical will review and expand the musical portion of the ceremony. The a central station in New York city to whole question affecting wage workers. sermon was by the Dominican orator, Pittsburg by a gang of Italians employed. The document will comprise three parts. Pere Ollivier.

THE IRISH QUESTION.

THE WEEK PASSES WITHOUT GREAT AGITATION.

The Conference in France the Question of the Hour-Not Much Prospect of a Compromise-Rumor that the McCarthyltes may have Parnell, Arrested.

Duman, December 27. - Dr. O'Donnell, Bishop of Raphoe, in a letter to the Irish Catholic, says he regrets that the Irish people did not immediately place the blame upon Parnell for his offence against morality instead of giving him a handle with which to ruin the party and the country. John Pinkerton, M.P., for Galway, a supporter of Parnoll, announces that he will resign his seat if his constituents desire him to do so because of his allegiance to Parnell BOULOGNE, December 26.—Thos. Sexton

in an interview to-day said he considered Parnell's insulting reference to his colleagues an insuperable barrier to his resumption of the leadership of the Irish party. He was quite certain that had Parnell consulted the party in regard to Morley's alleged offer of a place every man would have rejected indignantly the idea of sacrificing in any degree the independence of the party by an acceptance of the offer. Regarding the effect of the possible passage of the Land Act, Mr. Sexton said he thought it would render the farmers more independent, energetic and enterprising, but the measure of their success might be the measure of the aborer's discontent. In order to meet the just claims of the latter Mr. Sexton said he looked to the extension of the system of the Act of 1883 to be inaugurated by authorizing the boards of guardians to levy rates to be used in the construction of laborers' cottages, At present the boards have to pay 4 per cent interest and provide a sinking fund on the money advanced by the treasury and cannot let houses with a half acre of walled garden under one pound, or one pound three shillings weekly, as the horses must be fixed according to fixed specifications from Dublin. This and specifications from Dublin. This and the expense of inspection would increase the price of a house and garden to £120, which the rental is not sufficient to cover. Mr. Sexton hopes to change this system and get smaller houses built under local supervision at such reduced cost as to render the present rents profit-

London, Dec. 27.-The News says as Mr. Sexton was supposed to be less decided in his opposition to Mr. Parnell and more inclined towards a compromise than many of his political friends, his frank and clear declaration is important and valuable. Paris, December 27.—Messrs, Gill and

O'Brien are staying at the house of M. Raffalovitch. They are reading up the newspaper files, and posting themselves on the events which have happened since and place. Machiavelli was not far the Queen's hall by St. Patrick's choir, in they left America. O'Brien enjoys exwrong when he said that without St. aid of St. Patrick's Church, was an implementation of the events which may employee amountees Francis and St. Dominic religion in mense success, both financially and that after the meeting between Parnell Europe would have become alm st extinct.

To-day the world is rushing rapidly toward a condition of things not unlike that which called for St. Francis. The attempt of Gen. Booth in London to rescue the poor from a degradation worse than death has reverled placenessors was approximated by core of the poor from a degradation worse than death has reverled placenessors was approximated by core of the poor from a degradation worse than death has reverled placenessors was approximated by core of the poor from a degradation worse than death has reverled placenessors was approximated by core of the poor from a degradation worse than death has reverled placenessors was approximated by core of the poor from a fermion of the two suade himself that any one can do him wrong. What a thought! that He Who is our Creator bears with so many injuries from His creatures, and we are wounded by a word! It matters little if we are esteemed or not, whether good or we are esteemed or not, whether good or the leader and the degradation worse with an appearance of health? It was a second panied by one of the leadership, the sections of the Irish party, based on the best orchestras heard at an ateur concerts, and rendered the different choruses in a masterly way. The choruses chosen were that his plans will do more than glaze all pretty and bright. Special mention must be made of an "Ave Maria," the with O'Brien for a meeting. The paper that the civilization of an "Ave Maria," the further says that O'Brien does not exsections of the Irish party, based on the temporary retirement of Mr. Parnell evil is said of us. Honors should be to Mistaken in many ways as the members composition of Professor Fowler, which further says that O'Brien does not expert to discuss the position with Parnell

(CONTINUED ON FIFTH PAGE.)

A Private Chapel.

The new private chapel in Promier Mercier's residence on St. Denis street will be blessed on New Year's day by Vicar-General Marcchal, in the presence of the Premier and his family. The chapel is upon the upper flat of the house and is tastefully decorated.

A Sudden Donth.

The Church has suffered a great loss by the sudden death of the Rev. Father O'Donohue, of Perth. which occurred last week. The Rev. Father was generally beloved, and his death leaves a great blank in the clerical roll of the diocese of Kingston.

The Gaulois announces that at the next consistory the Pope will create Father Monsabre a cardinal. Father Monsabre belongs to the Dominican

It is stated at Paris that the negotiatians in connection with Newfoundland are for the time suspended. Lord Salisbury is said to be considering what to offer as compensation in exchange for the French shore. M. Ribot never treated the suggestion of the St. Pierre council seriously regarding the cession of Burfn Peninsula. If the whole of the British Gambia is offered M. Ribot, it is thought, will consent to enter into negotiations.

A gigantic conspiracy to flood the United States with counterfeit silver dollars has been unearthed at Pittsburg, Pa. Nineteen persons are already under arrest, and one thousand one hundred of the spurious coins are in the hands of the police. The money was brought from