

THE HOLY NIGHT.

By VIRGINIA McSHERRY.

Shepherds on the plains of Judah... O'er their flocks their night watch keeping...

When a heavenly light beams round them... Fills the silent plains with glory...

Entering in the humble stable... Shepherds there their offerings bring...

Let us bend our knee and offer... What gifts we have—none are too poor...

An Infant God, the world's Salvation... Evermore be childhood blessed...

CHRISTMAS;

Its Origin and Meaning.

By Mary E. Smyth, in Annals of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart.

This is a long mooted question—Is the 25th of December the anniversary of Christ's birth? I cannot answer...

Again I see that another historian says that it was owing to the feelings of delight after December 21...

And of course, it is inferred from these writings and accounts, that the young of both sexes must have been very prone to celebrate Saturnalia...

And over in Britain the Druidical rites were almost the same as pagan Rome...

In England the burning of the Yule-log still takes place. In the feudal times we read that the bringing in of the ponderous block...

Then I turn over page after page, chapter after chapter, and I see Rome of the Caesars spreading far over the world...

the Yule-log reflects faces that have been absent for a year or years, and joy begets pleasure and mirth.

Christmas! The beggars are fed, the sinner is consoled—his nursed passions leave him; the righteous are hopeful...

A MARVEL OF THE CRIB.

By E. DE M., in Annals of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart.

Never had there been a merrier or more joyous Christmas Eve in the town of Chartres than that on which occurred the events which this little story will recount...

Two years had sped away this Christmas Eve since her cherished babe had been taken from this downy nest and laid in his tiny white coffin...

This evening the Cathedral was a splendid and gorgeous sight, for Midnight Mass was about to be celebrated. Hundreds of wax tapers gleamed amidst fragrant flowers on the high altar...

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... IT IS THE BEST.

escaped every moment from the golden censers, as if bearing to the highest heaven the prayers and homage of the prostrate crowd.

Amid this multitude of people was a poor unfortunate widow named Gehendrine, who carried in her arms her only child, a beautiful, fair, rosy boy...

For some time the poor mother remained prostrate beside the Crib, then she tremblingly arose to seek her child. She put out her hands and seized hold of the babe nearest to her...

The old clock in the steeple had just struck five, when gentle Lady Margaret de Barnainville took her misal and repaired to the Aurora Mass at the first flush of dawn...

Madame de Barnainville feared at first that it was all a dream, then she smiled backed at the child, murmuring as she did so: "O my God! how much he resembles mine!"

ORANGE BIGOTRY IN IRELAND.

The Orangeman in his native lair is as much of a religious and political bigot as he is when transplanted to the free shores of America.

in Ireland presents so flagrant an exhibition of religious bigotry. In Dublin, Cork, Limerick and other large centres of population where the Catholics have as large a majority as the Orangemen...

A strong and effective effort is, just now, making to correct the scandalous abuse of numerical power in Belfast. A committee representing the Catholic minority has held several meetings...

Eventually, we feel confident, the brutal and liberal policy will be reversed. The Orangemen will be forced to recognize the justice of the Catholic claims and the justice of their own course...

FATHER BOULAND'S VIEWS

What He Thinks of Father Hyacinthe and His Attitude With Regard to the Jesuits.

The Rev. Leon Bouland's submission to the Roman Catholic Church, which he abandoned seven years ago, was published exclusively in the Herald on Tuesday, December 1.

Father Bouland expressed his appreciation of the Herald's article last week, but added there were two important points upon which he might be misunderstood.

"The Herald quotes me as saying: 'As to Father Hyacinthe, I believe he is honestly sincere in his convictions. But the French people are not ripe for such religious reform as he would give them.'

"This is the very contrary of my ideas concerning him and the French people, for, if I feel bound in charity to entertain nothing but sentiments of compassion, and even tenderness, personally toward every fallen sinner...

"After having lately passed two years in assiduously examining the religious wants and the aspirations of France, I have come to the conclusion that, despite all the efforts that have been and will be made to un-Catholicize my beloved native France...

ADMIRE THE JESUITS.

"I am also quoted as saying: 'I believe that the Catholic Church is the supporter of the American constitution, not in a Jesuitical way, as some would have you believe, but honestly, sincerely, patriotically.'

"The Jesuits, as all other religious communities assembled loyally around our Holy Father, have no other end in view, no other ambition here or elsewhere, than valiantly to aid the Church in carrying out its divine mission among men...

and that great interest was taken in the matter is shown by the fact that 16,728 votes were recorded. 'A Night on Crook-back,' by Dus (Mrs. R. S. Smellie, Toronto) received 4655 votes...

The French Seminarians and the Military Laws.

Every year, at this time, the seminarians all over France are obliged to interrupt their studies, exchange their cassock for the soldier's uniform...

Every year, at this time, the seminarians all over France are obliged to interrupt their studies, exchange their cassock for the soldier's uniform, the college for the barracks...

thinness

The diseases of thinness are scrofula in children, consumption in grown people, poverty of blood in either. They thrive on leanness. Fat is the best means of overcoming them.

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FATHER KOENIG'S NERVE TONIC. A Cheap Life Saver.

FOSTER'S MEADOW, N. Y., July, 1888. I was afflicted with nervousness for twelve years, so that I trembled all over, could not sleep and had severe pains in the back and head every day...

STREATOR, Ill., July, 1888. I suffered eighteen years from epilepsy, and was cured of it by Pastor Koenig's Nerve Tonic. I took twelve bottles of it. May God bless the medicine so that others will be cured by it as I was.

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Teacher: Define "gentleman." Boy: Gentleman is a grown-up boy not used to mind what his mother says.

He: Nicodog—very. Have you taught it any new tricks since I was here last? She, sweetly: Yes; it will fetch your hat if you whistle.

Landlord: I'll have to raise your rent. Tenant: For what? Landlord: They've changed the name of this street, and it's now an avenue.

Master to class: "Now, Frederick, tell me how many seasons there are." Frederick: "Two." "Only two? Name them." "The cricketing and football seasons."

"Professor," said a graduate, trying to be pathetic at parting, "I am indebted to you for all I know." "Pray do not mention such a trifle," was the not very flattering reply.

Caller: Is your mistress in? Maid: Did you see her at the window as you came up the walk? Caller: No. Maid: Well, she said if you hadn't seen her to say that she was out.

A Sea View.—Passenger: Captain, how far are we from land? Captain: About two miles. Passenger: But I can't see it. In what direction is it? Captain: Straight down, sir.

Servant to hotel manager: The old gentleman in No. 35 fancied he saw a ghost last night. Manager: All right. Charge him 10s. extra on his bill. We can't supply apparitions for nothing.

Economy.—Mrs. Isaacs: Vake up, Isaacs; a burglar is trying to get in. Mr. Isaacs: Well, wait till he opens der window, und den I shoot. Mrs. Isaacs: Vy don't you shoot now? Mr. Isaacs: Vat! undt break a bane ov glass.

Thoughtful—Very.—Judge: You say you went into the room at night quite unintentionally? Why, then, had you taken off your boots? Burglar: Because, your Lordship, I heard there was somebody lying ill in the house.

George: I say, Gus, what's happened? You strut along the street as if you owned the whole city. Fallen heir to a fortune? Gus: No, but I've been dodging my tailor for eighteen months, and to-day I've got the money in my pocket to pay him.

A teacher, having requested each of her class of small boys to bring in three items of information about the Thames that they could prove to be facts, received from a bright seven-year-old the following: "I have lived near it. I have sailed over it. I have fallen into it. Facts."

A RUN DOWN CONSTITUTION. "I suffered great weakness and was in a run down condition after having the grip and I began taking Hood's Sarsaparilla and found it to be just as recommended. My son has been relieved of rheumatism by using Hood's Sarsaparilla." Mrs. R. Meyer, Zephyr, Ont. HOOD'S PILLS cure biliousness, indigestion.