

was sometimes called "The Christmas Prince," consisted in presiding over the Christmas festivities. In some families and at Court he was called the "Abbot of Misrule" (the French, *Abbé de Liesse*), implying merriment. These lords began their revels at Hallowe'en and continued the same until the day following the Feast of the Purification, February 2nd. The Court spent large sums of money upon these masquerades and sports. The office of lord of the revels was usually filled by a poet or by a citizen of repute. Such, for example, was George Ferrers "in whose pastimes Edward VI. had great delight." These revels frequently led to abuses (as many Christmas observances have done and *do*), and they were frowned upon by the Puritans.

"Mummers." Mumblings are without doubt a relic of the old Roman *Saturnalia*, and they are so called from the Dutch *mumme* (a mask). The mummers were disguised by a mask; and those who could not procure a mask rubbed the face with soot, or even painted it. In Yorkshire the mummers were known as "Bletherheads"; in Cornwall as "Guisers," and in Sussex they were dubbed "Tipteerers." A special form of mumming was that known as "hoodening"; and it is still found in some localities. It consisted in a procession of young men, and sometimes maidens, through the village streets, bearing a hoodening horse—a rudely carved figure of a horse's head with a movable mouth which was furnished with two rows of hob-nails for teeth. The mouth was so contrived as to open and shut by means of a strong cord. Another form of mumming was "jannying," somewhat similar to the hoodening, but with the additional feature of a visit to the houses of the village where refreshments were demanded, and, usually,—procured. The refreshments were not necessarily a great tax on the buffet, as they consisted of "sweet loaf" and some harmless beverage. This custom still obtains in some settlements in the island of Newfoundland and it affords abundant amusement to the young folks who are less fortunate (or unfortunate, perhaps) than their city brethren who can while away the gay hours of Christmastide with theatrical performances.

"The Pantomime." Theatrical amusements have always been an outstanding feature of Christmastide since the days of the Middle Ages, though in the latter period they were usually rendered under the auspices of the Church. They had not then degenerated into the questionable vaudeville. The theatrical performance originated in the XIIth century with the introduction of miracle plays. These were of rather peculiar form and com-