

mother "brought forth her first-born child and laid him in a manger." And on nights like this, in Southern climes, the stars are said to shine more softly and, not in imagination, but in very truth, heavenly echoes are heard in the valleys, as if the angels had come back to sing the old song of gladness, *Gloria in altis-simis Deo!*

At the midnight mass, the temple was lighted to the apex of the dome. Flashing for a great distance through the exterior darkness, many of the pious pilgrims who hied thitherward, exclaimed in pious transport, like the Eastern seers:

"It is the star of Bethlehem!"

The service was conducted with extraordinary solemnity. The altar was illuminated and bedecked with dazzling ornaments, the vestments of the pastor gleamed, and on the edge of the communion stair arose a huge *pain béni*, in pyramidal glory and surmounted by little flags. The custom of blessing and distributing bread at service was a commemoration of the *agape* of the primitive Christians, once universal in Europe. At this service, too, was sung the *Adeste Fideles*, the appropriate song of the season, ever old and ever new in its pathetic simplicity, but in our day sadly vulgarized by being made a funeral march in the British army, and a drinking song among German students. In a side chapel lay the *enfant Jésus*. This was a rude representation of the stable of Bethlehem, in which stood a manger filled with straw, and the new-born Saviour extended upon it. The legend inscribed beneath it was that of Francesco d'Assisi: *Parens Dominus et amabilis nimis*. The Virgin mother knelt in adoration beside it, while in the background Joseph tended the kine, whose breath was the sole warmth of the naked babe. Beside the crib there was an urn, in which the faithful were invited to drop a few cents for the relief of helpless infants.

On the return, after mass, the party immediately seated itself around the table to partake of the *repas*, a copious lunch, where the appetites were good and the gaiety was boisterous with anecdote and song and laughter. It was generally during this meal that bodies of men, in odd disguise, went around among the wealthier families to gather alms for the most needy of the parish. Their approach was signalled by the chant of one of those *Noels*, so famous in the ballad literature of France. The quaint roundel opened with these words:

"Bon soir, le maître et la maîtresse,
Et tous les gens de la maison."

And wound up with the modest request:

"Si vous voulez nous présenter
Votre fille à nous embrasser."

There were similar ancient celebrations of New Year and Twelfth Night, with mutual presents, and the joyful extraction of the bean from the huge pound-cake.

M. Paladine entered into these sports with juvenile vivacity. Ory informed me she had never seen him enjoy himself so well. More particularly did he take pleasure in reading to me, from his collection of old French books, detailed accounts of these and other queer customs observed by our forefathers at the different festivals of the ecclesiastical year.

Thus passed one of the most remarkable winters of my life.

Toward the end of January, I received a letter from Bonair, dated at New York. He gave no account of himself. He made only one request, that I would assure his father of his repentance, obtain his pardon and permission for his return. I immediately hastened to The Quarries with the intelligence.

"I am well now," murmured Ory, pressing my hand.

"And I am happy," said M. Paladine. "Write to the boy to come at once. All is forgotten."

(To be continued.)

HEARTH AND HOME.

"LOVE HATH ITS SEAT IN REASON AND IN JUDICIUM."—We prune our trees, we cut back our vines and our roses, we pinch off the excess of buds on our floral pets, having in view all the time the highest development of the plant; to let it have its own luxuriant way would often be to cultivate its ruin. In the same way we watch our children, checking a propensity here that may lead to vice, killing in the bud a trait that may develop bitter fruit by and by, cutting off branches that mar the symmetry of the whole, and watching continually to keep the thing straight till it is firmly rooted in the soil and can bear the east winds without bending.

ENNUY.—We pity those who do not and never have "worked." Ennui and satiety sooner or later are sure to be their portion. Like the child who is in possession of every new toy, and who has snapped and broken them all, they stand looking about for something—anything new and amusing; and, like this child, they often stoop to the mud and the gutter for it. It is an understood principle for a human nature that people never value that which is easily obtained. Bread which has been purchased with unearned money has never the flavour and sweetness of that which is won by the sweat of one's brow.

SELF-CONFIDENCE.—There is no one element in a man's character that contributes more to his success in life than confidence in his own ability. A faint-hearted man is unstable, and will never excel. Faith in the endeavor to will

and to execute is as important in a successful business career as is the keystone to the arch. A man possessed of a bold, daring, and resolute will may be modest in revealing his powers, but will be determined in performing what he conceives to be right. To men with this never-dying faith there is no such word as defeat, and, when obstacles present themselves in their path, it only results in their putting forth a greater effort to accomplish their purpose.

SECRET SORROW.—It is not that which is apparent, not that which may be known and told, which makes up the bitterest portion of human suffering, which plants the deepest furrow on the brow, and sprinkles the hair with its earliest gray! They are the griefs which lie fathom deep in the soul, and never pass the lip. Those which devour the heart in secret, and that send their victim into public with the wild laugh and the troubled eye. Those which spring from crushed affections and annihilated hopes; from remembrance, and remorse, and despair; from the misconduct or neglect of those we love; from changes in others; from changes in ourselves.

HEADACHES.—Whatever be the plan of treatment decided upon, rest is the first principle to inculcate in every severe headache. Rest, which the busy man and the anxious mother cannot obtain so long as they can manage to keep about, is one of the first remedies for every headache, and we should never cease to enforce it. The brain, when excited, as much needs quiet and repose as a fractured limb or an inflamed eye, and it is obvious that the chances of shortening the seizure and arresting the pain will depend on our power to have this carried out effectually. It is a practical lesson to be kept steadily in view, in that there may lurk behind a simple headache some lesson of unknown magnitude which may remain stationary if quietude can be maintained. There is a point worth attending to in the treatment of all headaches. See that the head is elevated at night, and the pillow hard; for, if it be soft, the head sinks and becomes hot, which, with some is enough to provoke an attack in the morning if sleep has been long and heavy.

MISREPRESENTATION.—A great proportion of human suffering arises from the misrepresentations of others. Many of the most painful moments of our lives might have been spared, had we ceased to have judged, and others to condemn. The blast of calumny has too often withered the fairest flower; and the smooth stream of domestic felicity has been too often ruffled by unhallowed interference. Had the time wasted in idle curiosity upon the affairs of others been devoted to personal investigation, we should have found but one delinquent—namely, Self; and should have been too much absorbed in the recollection of our own irregularities to have found time for idle speculation or intemperate animadversion. Too eager a desire to be made acquainted with the concerns of those around us is a prevailing evil; and some dispositions are made continually unhappy, because a veil of obscurity hangs over certain circumstances which their most strenuous exertions cannot remove. Our stores of knowledge, if they are only derived from such unhappy sources, will become rather burdensome than useful; for we shall be continually employed either in avoiding circumstances which are painful to our recollection, or in gaining information which will expose us to contempt.

THE DUTY OF HUSBANDS.—The first duty of husbands is to sympathize with their wives in all their cares and labours. Men are apt to forget, in the perplexities and annoyances of business, that home cares are also annoying, and try the patience and strength of their wives. They come home expecting sympathy and attention, but are too apt to have none to give. A single kindly word or look, that tells his thought of her and her troubles, would lift the weight of care from her heart. Secondly—Husbands should make confidants of their wives, consulting them on their plans and prospects, and especially on their troubles and embarrassments. A woman's intuition is often better than all his wisdom and shrewdness; and all her ready sympathy and interest is a powerful aid to his efforts for their mutual welfare. Thirdly—Men should show their love for their wives in constant attention, in their manner of treating them, and in the thousand and one trifling offices of affection which may be hardly noticeable, but which make all the difference between a life of sad and undefined longing, and cheery, happy existence. Above all, men should beware of treating their wives with rudeness and incivility, as if they were the only persons not entitled to their consideration and respect. They should think of their sensitive feelings, and their need of sympathy, and never let the fire of love go out, or cease to show that the flame is burning with unabated fervour.

A WELL-KNOWN figure has passed away in the person of Mr. Stockdale, who for more than twelve years held the office of Porter to the Great Seal. This official has the charge of the Great Seal during the day, and upon him rests the responsibility of guarding against the recurrence of the calamity which occurred in 1784, when this important regal emblem was stolen. He has also charge of the wax required for the seal, which Mr. Stockdale, in his evidence before a recent Commission, estimated to amount at that time to "about four-hundred weight a month."

THE GLEANER.

THE French Government will not allow Methodist ministers to preach to the soldiers.

LARGE quantities of oysters are being shipped from Prince Edward Island for Quebec and Montreal.

SOME 2,000 Americans have settled in the British-American Province of Manitoba this season.

THE population of Ireland at last census was 5,412,377, of whom about 4,500,000 were Catholics.

A BLOCK of ground on St. Catharine street, Montreal, was sold last week at \$4 per foot, being a considerable advance on former rates.

WHEN the new Stormont mill is finished there will be eight first-class cotton mills in Canada. A ninth is contemplated at West Farnham.

MR. P. J. SMYTH, M.P., has written advocating the celebration of another centenary in 1882, namely, the calling out of the Irish Volunteers in 1782.

THE Christian Young Men's Associations in various countries now number 2,123. The one association in London has a membership of 1,600 young men.

LORD BEACONSFIELD, like many other speakers, finds it difficult to bind himself down to the MS. of the speech which he has given beforehand to the papers.

MR. ROBERT P. CROCKETT, the only surviving son of "Davy" Crockett, has a farm near Granbury, Texas, and is the keeper of a bridge across the Brazos River at that place.

THERE is some probability of the present Mikado of Japan will shortly throw aside the seclusion which has surrounded his office for centuries, and pay a visit to this and other European countries.

THE live stock reports of the United States for the fiscal year 1879 show an increase of 100 per cent. on the exports for the year 1878. Nearly three-fourths of the total went to Great Britain.

CAPT. CAREY is credited with a desire to leave the army and enter into holy orders. He has taken no steps, however, which confirm this report.

THE Queen of the Belgians will present to the future Queen of Spain a wedding veil of Flemish lace of the choicest workmanship, which is now being made at the girls' orphanage at Ghent.

IN the great farming States the monthly stipend, with board, is from \$14 to \$15. In New England, \$11 to \$12 is the current rate, and in New York, \$13 to \$19. All along the Pacific slope the farm labourer can earn double that wage.

FRANCE has the largest wheat area, in proportion to population, of any country in Europe; but while Britain's average wheat yield is from 28 to 30 bushels per acre, that of France is only 15½. An increase of one bushel an acre there would amount to 16,000,000 bushels.

MR. GOUGH, the temperance orator, told his London audience on the 5th inst., that he signed the pledge thirty-seven years ago, but that the appetite for drink, once obtained, never wholly forsook men. It would come to them with maddening force, and they must pray, not to be kept from drunkenness, but to be kept from the appetite for drink.

BERLIN will have the first exhibition that there has ever been of any real consequence or value. Europe will be represented, only Spain and, of course, France having thus far failed to signify their intention to participate. From the Western hemisphere the United States, Canada, Costa Rica, San Salvador, and Brazil will early send exhibits. China, Japan, India and the Malayan Archipelago are expected to make curious and rare displays.

THE magnificent catalogue of the library at Chatsworth, which Sir J. Lauda has compiled, is now finished. It occupied four volumes. A fifth is to be devoted to the Duke of Devonshire's dramatic rarities. The initial letter of each division is adorned by a quartering from the duke's coat of arms, and a vignette stand at the head of each section representing a scene at Chatsworth.

As we have often been told that there is nothing new under the sun, it will, perhaps, excite little astonishment to learn that M. de Lessep's plan of a Panama Canal is found to have been anticipated by one projected over identically the same route 300 years ago. A paper on the subject in a Vienna magazine details various schemes for cutting through the Isthmus since 1551, when the three routes surveyed last year were pointed out by a Spanish writer.

A FRENCH geographical paper, the *Exploration*, has received from Lisbon startling tidings of an English scheme for a railway from the river Zambesi, through Livingstoniana, "a Scotch town," to the northern coast of Zanzibar. Mr. Stanley started the idea; Manchester merchants have taken it up; the Government approve it, and a company with two millions is about to be formed. Central Africa and its treasures, hails the *Exploration*, are about to share the fate of India and Australia, while the French Sahara railway scheme hangs fire.

M. MENTIER, the chocolate manufacturer, has conducted some interesting experiments in ploughing by electricity, in his park at Noisiel.

The motive power was supplied to the plough by a Gramme machine, itself set in motion by water power, which is abundant on M. Menier's estate, and the plough, which was one of Fowler's with six shares, did about the same work as if it was drawn by four oxen. The motive power was supplied to it by a wire at a distance of 700 metres. To an unscientific on-looker it was amazing to see a plough propelled by an unseen agency without teams or steam.

A HUNTING costume ordered by a lovely American lady is worthy of description. The skirt, of beige-coloured velvet, is completely plaited lengthwise, and reaching only to the ankle, so as to reveal a pair of tiny boots, made exactly like men's boots, and which are as coquettish as their fair wearer can desire. The corsage, and habit "garde française," is lined with tobacco-coloured faille. The gilet, revers, pockets, and collar are all made of this faille, the gilet being remarkably long. But what adds a touch of eccentricity to this costume is the series of dark mother-of-pearl buttons which adorn it, and on each of which is painted, by some celebrated artist, the head of a different animal or bird.

OWING to recent feasts *carpes à la Chambord* have frequently been mentioned. It is a very costly dish, and one that the imperial gluttons of ancient Rome would never despise. It is the most expensive *plat* in modern cookery, and shows how far we are from the fowl in the pot, which Henry IV., hoped every Frenchman would be able to have weekly. Much depends upon the fish; those were most in request that were formerly fattened in the flat-bottomed boats on the Ill, near the Rhine. They cost, as much as 800 francs a piece, and one was brought from Strasburg to Paris and back again, unable to find a purchaser at the price fixed. The carp was kept alive in the boot of the mail coach by means of bread dipped in wine. Among the fifty good things that enter into the *garniture* of the dish are truffles, mushrooms, hearts of artichokes, cray fish, anchovy butter, champagne, cocks' combs, &c.

BURLESQUE.

THE STORIES OF THE TWO SAILORS.—Yesterday afternoon a man sitting on a barrel of North Carolina resin at the foot of Griswold street was approached by a chap who seemed to want all that any one could give him, and who opened the ball by saying:

"Stranger, I want to ask a favour of you. I'm a sailor, and I'm just ashore after being knocked overboard by the mainsail-boom and swimming twenty-one miles on a staaght line. I don't ask for money to buy food, but I'd like to get some hot rum to prevent the rheumatiz from settling in my joints."

"Go right away from me!" exclaimed the man on the barrel. "I'm a sailor myself, and I expect to be arrested every minute for killing the captain, mate, cooks and two men, and scuttling the vessel!"

"But you didn't swim twenty-one miles," persisted the other.

"That's so; but I was tangled up in a fish-net for three days, and that's just as bad! Go on; I won't give you a cent until after I'm tried and sentenced!"

SOME NATURAL HISTORY.—THE EDITOR.—"What ferocious-looking animal is this?"

"That is the editor."

"Indeed! Are they very dangerous?"

"Sometimes. When cornered up they have been known to be quite combative, and again they have been known to go through a convenient back window. Generally they are mild and passive."

"When are they most dangerous?"

"When intruded upon by a book-agent who wants a forty-line local for a seventy-five cent book, or by a poet with verses about gentle spring."

"Are editors cross to each other?"

"Only when separated by several blocks of buildings."

"Do they often have fearful combats with each other?"

"Occasionally: when they go out in opposite directions, and come upon each other by accident."

"Are editors ever cowhided?"

"Sometimes the small ones are, but the big ones are very rarely molested."

"Do editors eat?"

"They do. It was formerly supposed that they ate at long intervals and upon rare occasions, but it is now a well authenticated fact that they can eat a great deal when they can get it."

"What kind of food do they like most?"

"They are not very particular. While they won't refuse quail on toast, fried crab or roast turkey about Christmas time, the have been known to make a hearty repast off a dish of cold turnips and a consumptive herring."

"Can they eat concert tickets?"

"We believe not. Some people have gained this continuous impression from false teachings in early life, but no authenticated instance of such a thing is on record."

"Do editors go free into shows?"

"They do when they give a dollar and a half local for a twenty-five cent ticket."

"Are all editors bald, like this one?"

"No; only the married ones are bald. But let us pass on, the editor does not like to be stared at."