

The Union Advocate

NEWCASTLE, MIRAMICHI, N. B.
Christmas, December 25, 1893.

CHRISTMAS.

Christmas 1893.

SALTER BRICK STORE.

The Subscriber has on hand his usual large assortment of

Ready Made Clothing,

Dress Goods,

Boots and Shoes,

Rubbers and Overshoes,

Hats and Caps,

Groceries,

Hardware.

These are our chief lines, and it would be impossible to fully enumerate the immense assortment of goods in these various departments, and will but call attention to a few leading lines:—

Men's and Boy's Reefers, Suits, Men's Overcoats in Fur, Cloth and Melissa.

Hats and Caps in Fur of various kinds, Cloth, Plush and Astracan.

In Dress Good I have an infinite variety of material in all the new shades and styles, with trimmings to match. Also a full and complete stock of

Gents'

FURNISHINGS,
in linen, flannel and flannellette shirts, collars, cuffs, neckties, braces handkerchiefs, cardigans, gloves, mits, mufflers and scarfs.

Christmas without GROCERIES

would be like winter without fuel, there would be no cheer to it, hence you will find

my stock comprises everything needed in these lines.

All the above will be sold during the holiday season at a considerable

REDUCTION

from usual prices. All I ask is an examination of my goods and prices.

John Ferguson.

Newcastle, Dec. 12, 1893.

season of the year. Not only at home, but to every land that he has gone to and settled, the Englishman has kept Christmas and entered fully into its spirit. In the days of the English Commonwealth the Puritans did all that they could to abolish the Christmas festival by turning the feast into a fast. All their efforts in this direction, however, were in vain, as the act for this purpose passed by the Long Parliament in 1644 was imperfectly enforced and was shortly after removed from the statute books of the country in consequence of the great mass of the people being opposed to the abolition of this good old time honored custom of their fathers. The Puritans in the new world also made an effort to abolish the custom, but they did not succeed owing to the traditions of the race having associated the day with the love of domestic enjoyment, of social merriment and good cheer. And while everything which has been devised to supersede Christmas has failed, the feast of the Nativity, with its English accessories, is constantly growing stronger in the favor and affection of the race.

In addition to what we in Canada have learned of Christmas and its observance from our English ancestors, we are also indebted to other countries for many of the customs that have made the day so revered and loved by our people. From Holland comes Santa Claus, whose annual visit our children would not willingly dispense with. From Germany we get the Christmas tree, whose fruit is as acceptable to the children of the family as the visit of the old Dutch saint during the dark watches of Christmas eve. We also might add that it is to the fertile and versatile pens of Scott, Dickens, and other writers, who, during the present century, have enriched our literature with their incomparable Christmas poems, tales and legends, that has made the day so beloved and revered by all classes of our people.

Hope that the spirit of "Good will towards men," that the herald angels proclaimed on the plains of Bethlehem may at this season reign in every heart, the ADVOCATE wishes to one and all its readers a MERRY CHRISTMAS and a HAPPY NEW YEAR.

CHRISTMAS.

ITS UNIVERSALITY—ITS FIRST CELEBRATION—THE GROWTH OF ITS CHARITIES—FAMILY REUNIONS—THE TRUE SPIRIT OF THE DAY.

Another Christmas season is upon us, and one more will soon be added to that long roll of wondrous anniversaries which reaches down through the length of nearly nineteen centuries. The celebration of the birth of Christ, the most important event in human history, is looked upon as a duty by Christian communities all over the world. Not only in the countries of the Old World and in the older settled communities of the New, but everywhere; in every land that the foot of Christian man has touched there will this day be held sacred as a day of thankfulness and joy. It was the poet Montgomery who sang, in lines that can never be forgotten:—

"For He shall have dominion
On river, sea and shore,
Far as the eagle's pinion
Or dove's light wing can soar."

The celebration of Christmas is only limited by the boundaries of the Christian world, and these boundaries we know shall be extended until they embrace the whole earth. The selection of the 25th of December as the true date of the nativity seems to have been made about the beginning of the fifth century. It is not pretended that this is the exact date, and there are certain reasons connected with the climate of Judea which would seem to make it impossible that any day either in December or January could be the proper date. But that is a matter of very small consequence as respects the festival itself, which is intended to commemorate an event, and not merely a particular day. And whether absolutely correct or

not the present date has the usage of nearly fifteen hundred years to justify its claims.

It is impossible to revert to that distant age when men first began to celebrate the birth of Christ without recalling the changed conditions under which it is celebrated now. Then the Christian religion was hardly tolerated even in Rome, and the whole world, with the exception of a few scattered communities of Christian converts, was pagan. All that was great in art, and nearly all that was great in literature, had been the work of men who either knew nothing of Christianity or who hated and despised it. It was pagan Rome whose arms had conquered the world, and which still held it in subjection with a scarcely relaxed grasp. How should Christianity, which originated in a distant and but little valued province of the Roman empire, make its way against the thousand influences gathered to oppose it? Yet in a comparatively brief period Christianity became the belief of the whole civilized world, and its missionaries from that day to the present have marched in the van of human progress. Christian art and Christian literature have supplanted and surpassed the masterpieces of the pagan world, and the sceptres of the great empires of the earth are in Christian hands. Civil and religious liberty, the best triumphs of science and philosophy, the noble humanitarianism that distinguished this age, the care of the poor, the sick, and the distressed, all these are parts of the noble work of a triumphant and ever active Christianity.

In these later ages, and particularly within the present century, the character of the Christmas celebration has materially changed. Originally it replaced such old heathen festivals as the Saturnalia, and not unnaturally some of the old heathen ceremonies clung to it. In the middle ages the Christmas celebration, both in England and Scotland, largely partook of the nature of a revel, and was a season of great and sometimes excessive festivity. In England, at Court, and in the houses of the wealthy, an officer named the Lord of Misrule was appointed to superintend the revels; and in Scotland a similar functionary was appointed under the title of the Abbot of Unreason, till the year 1555, when the office was abolished by Act of Parliament. The Lord of Misrule survived in England to a much later period, and perhaps might still be found in some old-fashioned country houses there. Christmas has lost nothing in joyousness by his retirement, and it has gained much in propriety as well as in Christian feeling. The decoration of the churches, the holding of Christian services, the singing of Christmas anthems and carols, all these are duly remembered, and form a part of the observances of the day. But these services, although undoubtedly important, are overshadowed in a measure by other Christmas customs, some of which have attained their highest development within a comparatively recent period. The tendency of all these customs is to make Christmas a day not only of rejoicing but of charity, and kindness to all. "Peace on earth good will to men" is the noble sentiment which proclaims the coming of the Saviour, and to give this sentiment a practical application is the aim of the modern Christmas festival.

The scattered members of the family, which during the whole year have been separated by the exigencies of business, or from other causes, are, as far as possible, gathered together for the Christmas feast, to exchange kindly greetings and mutual good wishes. If causes of estrangement have arisen it is here that they should be removed, and the old relations of affection and harmony restored. If death has invaded the family circle the vacant chair and the whispered regret not less than the unbidden tear will recall the memory of the loved and lost one. Nor do people at Christmas confine their sympathies to those of their own household, or their own blood. As the festival is essentially one which recognizes the common brotherhood of mankind, so its celebration embraces good will to all mankind. The hearty greeting which comes from a kindly heart is for our neighbor as well as for those nearer to us, and at this season old animosities, if they

exist, are forgotten, and old causes of dislike removed. But the noblest work of the modern Christmas festival is its care for the poor. The wealthy and well-to-do can always command what they require for their comfort, but the position of the poor is very different. To remember them, at Christmas is, therefore, a duty on the part of those who can afford to help their poorer neighbors and this duty, to the honor of humanity, is seldom neglected. No one man, perhaps, ever did more to stimulate this Christmas generosity to the poor than Charles Dickens, by the publication of the "Christmas Carol" forty-two years ago. That beautiful little story, presented with unequalled eloquence the impressive lesson of charity and humanity at the Christmas season, and all England listened and obeyed. Thousands of hearts that have grown indifferent to the claims of others upon them were touched by the affecting story of "Tiny Tim," and the family of the happy but impoverished "Bob Cratchitt," and by the change of heart which "Scrooge" experienced on that memorable Christmas eve. The result was a distinct revival of good works at Christmas all over the world, a revival that has never experienced a check to this day, and which is never likely to be checked while the "carol" and other Christmas tales are read by millions of readers. No man can estimate how greatly the cause of humanity has been advanced by the kindly and charitable Christmas usages.

To the young Christmas is a delightful period, because it brings presents from loving relations and friends, and all those "pleasures of hope" which are connected with stockings to be filled. At such a time the rich bestow valuable presents on those they love, and those whose means are limited gifts whose value is perhaps small. But it is not the costliness of a present that is the real estimate of its worth, but the spirit in which it is given, and the good wishes which accompany it. Were it otherwise the wealthy would have a monopoly of the joys of life, and only they could realize its finer affections. Happily, however, this is not the case, and even the extremely poor are not wholly shut out from the common joys of humanity. To enable them to share these joys as far as possible should be the aim of every one, who is in a position to help them, at this Christmas season. Still will they best realize the true spirit of Him whom they thus commemorate, as beautifully expressed by the poet—

He shall come down like showers
Upon the fruitful earth;
And lox, joy, hope, like flowers
Spring in His path to birth.
Before Him on the mountain,
Shall peace the Herald go;
And righteousness in fountains
From hill to valley flow.

SELECTIONS.

Saved by the Cattle.

(Continued from 1st page.)

"I guess they weren't used to cattle like ours. Father's old black and white bull was running the affair that night, and he stood facing the attack. The wolves never halted, but with their red tongues hanging out, like fox-traps, they gave a queer nasty gasp that makes my blood run cold to think of, and sprang right on to the circle of horns.

"We heard the old bull mumble something away down in his throat, and he sort of heaved up his hind quarter and pitched forward, without leaving the ranks. The next thing we saw, one of his long horns was through the belly of the leader wolf, and the animal was tossed up into the air, yelping like a kicked dog. He came down with a thud and lay snapping at the grass and kicking; while the other four, who had been repulsed more or less roughly, drew back and eyed their fallen comrade with an air of disapproval. I expected to see them jump upon him and eat him at once, but they didn't; and I began to distrust the stories I had read about wolves. It appeared, however, that it was not from any sense of decency that they held back, but only that they wanted beef rather than wolf meat, as we found a little later.

"Presently one of the four slouched forward and snuffed at his dying comrade. The brute was still lively, however, and snapped his teeth viciously at the other's legs, who thereupon slouched back to the pack. After a moment of hesitation the four stole silently, in single file, round and round the circle, turning their heads so as to glare at us all the time and looking for a weak spot to attack. They must have gone round us half a dozen times, and then they sat down on their tails, and stuck their noses into the air, and howled and howled for maybe five minutes steady. Teddy and I, who were now feeling sure our 'critters' could lick any number of wolves, came to the conclusion the brutes thought they had too big a job on their hands and were signaling for more forces. 'Let 'em come,' exclaimed Teddy. But we were getting altogether too confident, as we soon found out.

"After howling for awhile the wolves stopped and listened. Then they howled again, and again they stopped and listened; but still no answer came. At this they got up and once more began prowling round the circle, and everywhere they went you could see the long horns of the cattle pointing in their direction. I can tell you, cattle know a thing or two more than they get credit for.

"Well, when the wolves came round to their comrade's body, they saw it was no longer kicking, and one of them took a bite out of it as if by way of an experiment. He didn't seem to care for wolf, and turned away discontentedly. The idea struck Teddy as so funny that he laughed aloud. The laugh sounded out of place and fairly frightened me. The cattle stirred uneasily, and as for Teddy, he wished he had held his tongue, for the wolf turned and fixed his eyes upon him, and drew nearer and nearer till I thought he was going to spring over the cattle's heads and seize us. But in a minute I heard the old bull mumble again in his throat; and the wolf sprang back just in time to keep from being gored. How I felt like bugging that bull!

"I cheered Teddy up, and told him not to laugh or make a noise again. As the little fellow lifted his eyes he looked over my shoulder, and, instantly forgetting what I had been saying, shouted: 'Here comes father and Bill.' I looked in the same direction and saw them, sure enough, riding furiously toward us. But the wolves didn't notice them, and resumed their prowling.

"On the other side of the circle from our champion, the black and white bull, there stood a nervous young cow, and just at this time the wolf who had got his eye on Teddy seemed to detect this weak spot in the defence. Suddenly he dashed like lightning on the timid cow, who shrank aside wildly, and opened a passage by which the wolf darted into the very centre of the circle. The brute made straight for Teddy, whom I snatched from his perch and dragged over against the flank of the old bull. Instantly the herd was in confusion. The young cow had bounded into the open and was rushing wildly up the interval, and two of the wolves were at her flanks in a moment. The wolf who had marked Teddy for his prey leaped lightly over a calf or two, and was almost upon us, when a red mooley cow, the mother of one of these calves, butted him so fiercely as to throw him several feet to one side. Before he could reach us a second time the old bull had spotted him. Wheeling in his tracks, as nimble as a squirrel, he knocked me and Teddy over like a couple of nine-pins, and was on to the wolf in a flash. How he did mumble and grumble way down in his stomach, but he fixed the wolf. I pined the brute down and smashed him with his forehead, and then amused himself tossing the body in the air; and just at this moment father and Bill rode up, and snatched us two youngsters on to their saddles.

"Are you hurt?" questioned father, breathlessly. But he saw in a moment we were not, for we were flushed with pride at the triumph of our old bull.

"And be they any more wolves, so? I kin git a shot at 'em," queried Bill.

"Old Spot has fixed two of 'em," said I.

"And there's the other two eating poor Whitey over there," exclaimed Teddy, pointing at a snarling knot of creatures two or three hundred yards across the interval.

X'MAS

X'MAS!

X'MAS.

As the X'mas season has arrived we wish to draw your attention to the fact that E. LEE STREET has received the largest supply of X'mas Presents ever seen in Miramichi.

From Ricksecket and Seely,

the two largest perfume manufacturers in America, and Lyman Sons Co., the largest in Montreal, he has received a magnificent supply of the best quality and put up in large decanters, pitchers, Fine glass bottles, plush lined boxes and baskets.

They range all the way from 10c. to \$10.00 per bottle so they are within the reach of all.

This stock of Fancy Goods lacks neither in beauty nor quality the love mentioned.

They are made of Plush, Leather, Wood, Celluloid, and Silver, and consist in part of the following:—

Brush and Comb Cases

Ladies Work Boxes,

Manicure Sets,

Travelling Cases,

Cuff and Collar Boxes,

Writing Desks,

Fairy Lamps,

Photograph Albums,

Handsome Olive Wood Cases,

Silver and Marble Clocks,

Scissors in Cases,

Glove & Handkerchief boxes

of all kinds,

Fine China Tea Sets,

Feather Fans,

Card Cases,

Whisk holders,

Jewel Cases,

Handsome Plate Glass Mirrors with Silver frames,

Some fine Celluloid articles such as Card Cases, Glove

Handkerchief Boxes, Napkin Rings, Photograph Frames,

Letter Holders, Calendars, Blotters, etc., etc., etc.,

and a lot of useful and fancy articles too numerous to mention.

These goods are of the lowest possible prices and suitable for Old and Young, Rich and Poor, so don't forget to call and inspect the Holiday presents

at the Newcastle Drug Store,

E. LEE STREET,

PROPRIETOR.

Also a supply of celluloid in sheets on hand.

Newcastle, Dec. 4, 1893.

HOLIDAY GREETING.

Another year has nearly gone by and I again greet you. As we grow older we should grow wiser, and to prove this old and quaint saying to be true I want the people of Newcastle and the country generally to read this

Christmas Advertisement,

and see what I propose doing for my customers. I am sure you are interested in what I am about to offer. It would take a whole newspaper to enumerate a list of my

VARIED STOCK

of goods suitable for the season, but it will pay you to carefully read this advertisement, and then give me a call and get a share of the

WONDERFUL BARGAINS

I am offering in every line.

Groceries.

My stock is new and comprises almost everything found in a first class grocery store, such as—Fresh Raisins, (16lbs Valencia Raisins for one dollar,) also Valencia layers in 14lb boxes, put up expressly for family use at \$1.35 per box, Currants, (18lbs. Currants for one dollar, new stock,) Canned Corn, Tomatoes, Peas, (3 cans of either or sorted for 25cents, new stock) and Canned Goods of every description. New Turkish Figs, 15c. per lb., Candied Citron, Lemon and Orange Peel, Spices, Dates, Apples in Bishop Pippins, Baldwins, and Greenings, Oranges, Lemons, Grapes, choice Malaga 20c. per lb., Purple 10 cents, 16lbs. Cape Cod Cranberries, by the pint, quart or gallon. Choice Tea, only 30 cents per lb., Coffee, bean and ground, Sugars in lump, pulverized, granulated, and bright yellow, Barbados Molasses, Golden Syrup, 60c. per gallon. White Wine Vinegar, Sage, Summer Savory, evaporated and dried Apples, Beans, Rice, Flavoring Extracts, Cheese, Crackers in variety, Toilet and other Soaps in all the favorite brands, so numerous to mention, Surprise Soap 6 cents per lb. for the holiday season, old Soap 4 cents per lb.

OYSTERS.

I keep constantly on hand and serve at short notice Oysters—dressed and on the half shell, also by the pint, quart or bucket.

PROVISIONS.

I keep in stock a supply of Hams, Rolled Bacon, Fresh and Salt Pork, Fresh and Salt Beef, Lard in tins and tubs, Cottoiline in tins and tubs, Hopkins' Sausages, Finnan Haddies, Onions—6 lb. for 25 cents, dried Codfish, Smoked and Salt Herring. Daily expected a large supply of—

Turkeys, Geese, Ducks and Chickens

and a half ton of Choice Creamery Butter.

Flour, different grades, Rolled Oats, Cornmeal, Buckwheat Flour Graham Flour, etc., American Kerosene Oil.

McDonald's Tobaccos, different brands of cut smoking tobaccos, Old Chum, Mastiff and other brands, Cigars, Cigarettes, and Fancy Pipes.

Crockery, Glass and Chinaware, an infinite variety for household use as well as suitable for Presents, and in individual gift Cups and Saucers, Mustache Cups, fancy Cups and Saucers for adults and children, and Fancy Goods suitable for presents, which must be seen to be appreciated, Handsome decorated Lamps, cheap Lamps, Chimneys and burners of all kinds.

TOYS!

TOYS!

An infinite variety ranging in price from 5 cents up to \$5, with books, Fancy Stationery, Bibles, Prayer and Hymn Books, Drawing Companions, etc.

CONFECTIONERY.

A most choice assortment ranging in price from 10 cents to 50 cents per pound.

Everybody is invited to call and examine for themselves, my prices will be found low and quality of the best. Thanking them for past favors and soliciting a continuance thereof.

THOMAS RUSSELL.

Newcastle, Dec. 4, 1893.