

Cable News.

Special to Evening Telegram.
LONDON, Dec. 22.
The condition of the Rt. Hon. Sir Charles Tupper, Bart., is not satisfactory, the recent improvement in his condition showing signs of check.

Special to Evening Telegram.
CHRISTCHURCH, N. Z. Dec. 22.
Parties are evenly balanced as a result of the recent elections, and the only possible way out of the deadlock seems to be for the ministry to ask for a vote of confidence as soon as Parliament meets. Many members favour another dissolution immediately.

Special to Evening Telegram.
ALEXANDRIA, Dec. 22.
The Italian cruiser Pugga to-day seized the British steamer Menzies, of the Khedival Mail Steamship Graving Dock Co., with \$150,000 gold on board for payment of the Turkish troops in the port of Hodeina, in the Turkish province of Yemen, in the Red Sea. A flotilla of Italian cruisers is keeping a sharp look out for vessels touching Turkish ports on the Arabian coast of the Red Sea.

Special Evening Telegram.
MANCHESTER, Dec. 22.
A commission of the Lancashire Cotton Spinners' and Manufacturers' Association at a meeting this afternoon decided to lock out the whole of the workers in the mills belonging to members of the federation, beginning on Dec. 27th. The lockout is to protect them against attempts by trades unionists to force weavers not belonging to the unions to join their ranks. One hundred and sixty thousand operatives are involved.

Special to Evening Telegram.
GIBRALTAR, Dec. 22.
Fifteen of the crew of the London (bank steamer) Chesapeake, which was burned in mid-ocean recently, were landed here to-day from the German steamer Adam Sturm. The second officer of the Chesapeake and thirty-two Chinese seamen are still missing. According to the reports of the rescued men, the Chesapeake caught fire on December 6th. The crew were forced to abandon her and took to the boats, two of which were picked up by the Adam Sturm. Two other boats, containing the remainder of the crew, have not been since heard of.

Special to Evening Telegram.
ROME, Dec. 22.
Negotiations between the Powers, with a view to inducing Italy and Turkey to conclude peace, are now progressing rapidly, and hope is entertained that hostilities will cease in a relatively short time. Pressure from Germany on Constantinople has been so strong that the Porte consented to conclude peace on condition that the sovereignty of the Sultan over Tripoli should be maintained, and that Italy should pay Turkey an amount corresponding to that portion of the Ottoman Public Debt that concerns Tripoli, and the value of the buildings and other properties owned by the Turkish Government in Tripoli and Cyrenaica. Italy has absolutely refused the first condition, which she considers incompatible with her official proclamation of the annexation of Tripoli. Efforts of the Powers are now being directed with a view to convincing Constantinople that it is useless to continue a war which would result in the loss of indemnity which Italy is still ready to pay.

And now the mummers have gone, regaled and rewarded, to give place to the carollers, and to the waits, who distend purple cheeks almost to bursting point in their efforts to extract the last blatant ounce out of their frozen instruments. And what weird instruments they are! One is a brass affair carried round the musician's neck; the fiddle is much in evidence, and there is another curious article, a kind of coach horn bugle.

Banqueters and revellers, Lords of Misrule and mummers, have long been dust. But how they did live in their day!

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Phosphorol restores every nerve in the body to its proper tension; restores strength and vitality. Premature decay and all sexual weakness averted at once. Phosphorol will make you a new man. Price \$3 a box, or two for \$5. Mailed in any order. The Scotch Drug Co., St. Catharines, Ont.

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Store Open till 10 O'clock
To-Night.

If you need anything for to-morrow or
Monday for yourself or your friends, come
in to-night.



"The Boar's Head in Hand Bring I."

About Old-World Christmas Revels.

How the pulses beat to the lift of the old-time Yuletide revelry, "when England was Merry England," and "Twas Christmas broached the mightiest ale;

"Twas Christmas told the merriest tale."

Close your eyes on drab to-day, and you can see the fire "with well-dried legs supplied" leaping and roaring up

the wide chimney of the baronial hall; the huge table gorging under its burden of lusty brawn, of boar's head "crested with bays and rosemary;" the huge sirloin, the plum-porridge and Christmas pie, and the wassail "in good brown bowls garnished with ribbons."

We watch the merry masquers pouring into the hall, and laugh aloud at their frolics and antics, and from the snowy wastes without our snug sanctuaries we hear the carols "roared with blithesome din."

Our Host.

And our host. Was ever man so ruddy of visage, so large of heart? Like Sir Roger de Coverley, his prototype, he loves to "rejoice the hearts of the poor at this season, and to see the whole village merry in his great hall." For twelve days he sets his "small beer running to everyone that calls for it," and mountains of cold beef and mince-pies vanish before the lusty appetites of tenants and villagers alike.

But his proudest moment is that which ushers in the boar's head, as prelude to the great Christmas Day feast with which he regales his guests. Heralded by a flourish of trumpets, borne aloft on a dish of gold or silver, and escorted by doughty knights and fair ladies, it makes its stately entry into the banquetting hall to the strains of "The boar's head in hand bring, I. Render praise to God on high!"

In the wake of this lordly dish follows the peacock, "food for lovers

and meat for lords," with gilt beak and gay-coloured plumage, carried by the fairest lady guest, with her routine of singing ladies, little less fair than herself.

And these are but the heralds of the feast, which includes geese and pheasants, capons, and pies of carp-tongues, hams and sirloins—and so on, through the long and succulent list of Christmas fare to furbury, plum-porridge, and mince pies of gargantuan proportions.

Lords of Misrule.

And now, the feast ended, the last toast drunk, and the last song sung, the "Lord of Misrule"—and the "Master of Merry Disports"—takes up his sceptre, and under his rule fun and jollity reign supreme. The mischievous pranks of himself and his satellites keep the hall in jovial disorder and uproarious gaiety until sides ache with laughter, and the coming of the mummers is hailed as a relief. Here they come, streaming into the

Per S.S. "Stephano,"

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