

Ye say she has left us, but ye are mistaken;
The sinless and virtuous soul cannot die;
And she was not one that would leave us
forsaken.

I never before felt her presence more
nigh

Than when there with closed eyes and
sealed lips on the bier.

Ah, closed eyes and sealed lips can only
relate

To the things that pertain to this earthly
career,

To the outward; the soul is not bound
to such fate.

The spirit lives on, and the soul is
immortal,

And does not forget, although dwelling
above,

The loved ones it left; and the heavenly
portal

Is open to spirits on missions of love.

And oft when desponding they steal in to
cheer us,

And oft in our struggles they help to
achieve;

More oft than we think they are hovering
near us,

And in our dull brain their bright
thought they inweave.

And to Emily, heaven itself were not
heaven,

Not the adequate goal, or the con-
summate end

Of living this life, if to her was not given
The infinite blessing of blessing a
friend.

EDGAR M. ZAVITZ.

CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS.

Read by Lucy P. Allen at the Y. F. A. Meeting,
held at Eaton, N. Y., 1-8-'99.

Eight or nine centuries ago, when wars were so common, that hardly two countries could be found living at peace with each other, when the public highways were unsafe for travellers unless they went armed and in large parties, some holy men tried to bring about a better state of things, and all fighting was forbidden from Advent to Epiphany—that is, about the 1st of Dec. until the 6th of Jan., the day when the Christmas holidays cease.—For they said when the Prince of Peace came among men all strife and bitterness should end.

In England many of the old Christmas customs are still kept up. The bells are rung for hours every day and evening during the holiday season, the children sing the old Christmas carols which were composed for the people of centuries ago.

At one of the colleges in Oxford, the chief dish on the Christmas dinner-table is a wild boar's head. It is brought into the dinning-hall by a procession marching to music and singing an old song, half English, half Latin. This has been the custom for hundreds of years; it is said to have been at first in honor of a student of the college who killed a fierce boar which attacked him one day as he was walking alone. He had no weapon but the Greek book he was reading, which he pushed into the boar's mouth and so choked it.

Yule was the old name of Christmas and the Yule-log was a great stick, the trunk of a tree, which was brought into the house for the Christmas fire. It needed many men to bring in the Yule-log, as it must be large enough to be kept burning through the holiday time, but it was not to be all burnt out, the last little piece was carefully laid away to be used in helping to kindle next year's Christmas fire. In those times there were many strange fancies connected with Christmas. Ignorant persons thought that bread made then might be kept a. ny years without moulding. It was said that bees sang in their hives, and cattle knelt in their stalls.

But to go back still further, many of our Christmas traditions come from a time long before the birth of Christ. The Christians of earliest ages found it was not wise to entirely forbid all the pagan celebrations, to which their recent converts were attached by use, history and tradition. In ancient Rome, Saturn's claim to notice was honored each Dec. by a feast of seven days, called Saturnalia. During these days the order of Roman society was reversed, the masters and slaves changed