

known him come up stairs into his room, that he at once got up, fully impressed that some extraordinary thing had happened or was about to happen. First patting the faithful old animal, he gently awakened his wife, and hastily explained what had taken place; telling her to keep perfectly quiet and on no account to strike a light, he next went to his sons' room and shaking them gently told them he was sure something was wrong, and asked them, as quickly and silently as possible, to get up and dress themselves.

*To be continued.*

#### NOTES BY THE EDITOR.

IF there be one people more than another, by whom the import of the cheering salutations "Merry Christmas" and "Happy New Year" should be fully realized, it is the people of Canada. Peace and plenty reign in our midst; prosperity is manifest in every part of the Dominion; and, if such, a thing be possible, there is even a more sincere appreciation of those institutions, which our country possesses, and which our forefathers cherished, and for which in their day they manfully strove. Doubly should we *now* be thankful for all this: for, while we live and thrive under the sweet reign of peace, war, rapine and famine are laying waste the fairest places of the old world. To *la belle France*, her proud spirit humbled, her homes desecrated by the hands of an enemy, her people perishing by hunger and sword there is no "Happy New Year." Germany indeed wears the victor's laurels but "New Year" brings but poor consolation to those parents or sisters who view the "vacant chairs" doomed never to be filled by those they most cherished. And, while we must feel grateful that our country is so blessed, may we not forget the sorrows of those afflicted by war and famine; and, tendering our aid to alleviate in some small degree their present distresses, let us pray for the speedy coming of that time that shall usher in the fulfilment of the promise which Christmas day recalls of "Peace on earth and good will towards men."

WE commend to the attention of our readers the article entitled "Man,—whence is he?" by F., as one that will well repay a careful perusal. The doctrine of "gradual development" as promulgated by Dr. Darwin, and upheld by Mr. Wallace, is there fairly stated as well as the *very* strong arguments against the theory. Transmutationists particularly will be interested to know that a new work entitled "On the Genesis of Species," profusely illustrated and from the pen of St. George Mivart F.R.S., will shortly appear in England.

THOSE of our city population who regard the country merely as a "good place" to spend pleasantly the "leisure hours" of Summer, or when the fields and orchards in Autumn abound in their choicest fruits, to enjoy these bounties in all their freshness and variety will be glad to know that it possesses still another attraction. Hear what a now happy father, who recently escaped from the associations and turmoils of the city says:—"It is a good thing to have children in the country. Children in the country are regular old-fashioned boys and girls, not pocket editions of men and women as they are in town. In the city there is no representation of our species in the tadpole state. The word "lad" has become obsolete. Fast young men and fast young women repudiate the existence of that respectable antique institution, childhood. It is different in the country. My eldest son does not call me "governor" but simply Father; and although in his ninth year, still treats his mother with some show of respect. Our next boy (turned seven) has prematurely given up smoking cigars; and our four-year-old is destitute of both affectation and dyspepsia. As for the present baby, his character is not yet fully developed, but having observed no symptoms of insipient depravity in him up to this time, we begin to believe the country is a good place for children.

"ANTIPODEAN REMINISCENCES."—The third paper under this caption will appear in the February number of the JOURNAL. Graph's easy and interesting style of narration, as he pictures his journey from Melbourne to the interior of Australia, has made him a favourite among our readers, who will be glad to know that his articles, beginning with the February number, will appear in each successive number until completed.