JANUARY 4, 18:0.

CHRISTMAS IN CATHOLIC POETRY.

The custom of halling the nativity of Our Saviour with music and celebrating its festivities by the singing of carols is drawn from the very first ages of the Uhurch and appears to have mingled with the religious observances. It had its origin, no doubt, in the Gloria in Excelsis, -the anny with which the avgels hailed the rengrout that the Gloria in Excelsis, --the song with which the augels hailed the birth of the Redeemer in the fields of Bethlehem; --that celestial music which Milton desclibes in his "Hymn to the Nativity:" "Such music (as'its said) "Such music (as'its said) "Such music (as'its said)

"Such music (as 'its said) Beiore was never made when of old the sons of morning sung, While the Creator great His constellations set."

The practice is found in most of the countries of Europe-the nosis of France are of the same character as the Christmas are of the same character as the Christmus carols of England and resemble the music of the *pifferari*, or calabrian shepherds, who come down from the mountaine, at this season, and wander through the Italian cities, saluting with their nill music the shrines of the Blessed Virgin and Infant Jesus which adorn the stream. streete.

Although gradually decaying the beau Atheory and the state of the st universal. It was extingulahed, along with other Christmas practices, in Scotland by John Knox and his Paritan companions, and does not appear to have ever been restored.

There are numerous hymns and carols for the Christmas season scattered through our old poets-some of which are very beautiful, but we will merely cull a few selections from some of our principal Catholic posts. The following is the beginning of a

poem on the Nativity by Gower, who flourished in the end, of the fourteenth century :

"Rorate, Coeli desuper ! Heavens distil your baimy show'rs For now is risen the brinkt day star For the Rose-May. flow'r of flow'rs, The clear sun, whom no cloud devours, Surmouting Pho-bus in the East is coming of his heavenly tow'rs; E: noois puer natus est."

The "Burning Babe," by the martyr Jeault pricet, Father Southwell, is said by a recent English writer to be the first really fine child-poem in our literature:

really fine child-poem in our literature:
"As I in hoary wenter's night stood shiver-ing in the snow,
Surprised I was with sudden heat, which made my heart to glow;
And lifting up a faarful eye to view what fire was near,
A pretty Babs all burning bright did in the air appear;
Who, scorched with excessive heat, such floods of tears wild shed.
As though His floods should quench His flames which with His tears were fed:-"Alas!" quoth He, "but newly born, in fiery heats I fry,"
Yet none approach to warm their hearts or feel my fire but I:
My faultless breast the furnace is, the fuel, woulding thores;

would be the solution of the second s

defield soul, For which, as now on fire I am, to work them to their good. So will i melt into a bath to wash them in my blood in 'th tul 't' vanished out of sight, and "tealght I called unio mind that it was Christmas Day." And

The following i e hymn, "In the Nativity of Ot Pr by Richard Lishan :

Poor world (said I), what wilt thou do To enter tain this starry stranger? Is this the best thou canst bestow? A coid and not too cleanly manger? Contend, the powers of heaven and earth, To fit a bed for this huge birth!

Proud world, said I. cease your contest, And let the mighty Babe atone : The pbcoalx builds the phcaix' nest, Love's arcuitecture is its own. The Babe whose birth embraves this morn Made His own bed ere He was born.

I saw the curled drops, soft and slow, Come bovering o'er the prince's head : Offering Him whitest speets of show To furnish the fair Infant's bed : Forbear, said I, be not too bold, Your ficece is white, but 'tis too cold.

I saw the obsequious Seraphims Their rosy fisece of fire bestow, For well they now can spare their wing Since Heaven itself is here oclow Well done, said I; but are you sure Your down so warm will pass for pure?

Towards the blessed city Quickly their course they held, And in a lowly stable Virgin and Child beheld.

Beside a humb'e mangar was the Maiden Mother m. And in her arms her Sou civine, A new-born lifant, smiled. No shade of future sorrow From Calvary then was cast; Only the giory was revealed— The suffering was not passed.

Now we that Maiden Mother ibe queen of Heaven call; And the Child we call our Jesus, saviour and Judge of all. But the star that shone in Bethlehem Bhibes still and shall not cease, And we list-n still to the tidings Of giory and of peace.

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SCHOOL TEACHERS HONORED. Miss J. F. Saillvan, having tendered her miss J. F. Sallivan, having tendered her resignation as teacher in the separate school of Port Coloorne, the pup is presenten ner with a very meatry worded address accom-panied by a number of very Valuable pre-sents. The presents were maie oy Miss Jennie Murray, Master James Madden, and Miss Katle Early. The address vas read by Miss Neihe Twoly. Miss Sullivan maie a vecy touching really, replete with gool com-mon sense as well as goden advice to the endidth who had been under her care for boune time past. Miss Sullivan has proved a very successful teacher, and muon regret was expressed when it became known that she had tenaered ber resignation. On the 20th December, the pupils of the

she had tengered her resignation. On the 20th December, the pupils of the Separate School, Sombra, presented their teacher, alss Maggie East, with a very fattering address was signed by Lizzie Hurley, Minnie Hinsegan, Maggie O'Leary, Mary calt. Fred O'Leary, Frank Sweeney and James Gailogly. Miss Egan has proved to be a most competent teacher, and the expressions of regard made in her behaif were richly deserved.

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YOUR CATHOLIC PAPER FIRST.

GOOD WORDS FROM THE BISHOP OF

GOOD WORDS FROM THE BISHOP OF GOULBURN. The Bishop of Goulburn, New South Wales, speaking lately at a barquet, asid that it was his desire to see a Cath-olic home throughout his diocese. It was cally in thoroughly Catholic journals that all events and circumstances con-nected with our religion and our institu-tions, and the general progress of the Church were fully and accurately chronicled, and, while he did not wish to ofter a word of complaint about the local press, he certainly wished it to be known. press, he certainly wished it to be known. and wished it to be published, that it was the duty of every Catholic who could possibly afford it to take a Catholic paper and pay for it.

It was necessary, even for the purpose of religion itself, that they should have a Catholic press in their midst, so that the affairs of the Church in the Colonies should be placed properly before the world. He did not object to Catholics taking good papers of any kind; but he would repeat his opinion and give it as a piece of estness advice as their Bishop, that they should take a Catholic paper and pay for it His Lordship emphasized the justice and necessity of Catholics paying regularly for the Catholic paper when they receive it. It was necessary, even for the purpose when they receive it. It was unreasonable to expect that

they could go on reading and profiting by their Catholic paper without paying by their Catholic paper without paying the bills when sent to them It was right that the Catholic press should be supported, for it was doing a great work, and every man that took a Catholic paper should make a point of honestly dis-charging his financial obligation to those charging his financial obligation to those who publish that paper, so that the Catholic press might flourish and prosper as it deserves.

PROFESSOR GALLAGHER AND THE DEVIL

Professor Gallagher, the great cele-brated Irish ventriloquist, falling into company with an itizerant preacher, who was a furious bigot, the latter attempted to prove from Scripture (Book of Samuel that all ventriloquists were descended from the devil : "For," said he, "when Saul applied to the witch of Endor Saul applied to the witch of Endor about bringing up Samuel, it was not Samuel, who spoke, but the witch, who was a ventriloquist—ergo, all who profess that power, and you among them, young man (addressing Gallagher), are des-cendants of the witch, who was the devil." "Well," replied Professor Gal-lagher, "are you, then possessed of the devil," "Well," replied Protessor Gal-lagher, "are you, then, possessed of the devil ? For I suspect you are." The preacher flew into a rage (the very thing Gallagher wanted) and protested most loudly that he defied the devil and all bismuths. "On hoursessed his works. "Ob, ob, you're not possessed, aren't you ?" continued Gallagher, and locking quite simple-like into his an-tagonist's face, he added, 61'd like to know who's that singing in your stomach?" At the same time everyone in the room distinctly hears a voice, as if it wersinging a stanza of a song out of the unfortunate preach-r's food reservoir The preacher roared like a wild bull, stamped and raved, and ran about the spartment, and then ran and raved and camed again, and at last, amid shou's of laughter, he darted from the room, heap ing all sorts of imprecations on the professor. Had the matter ended then, it would have been all well enough, but it did not, for next day the poor preacher had an attack of English chotera, and he protested most lou ily that the devil ban been in his stomach, sure enough, but that it was Gallagher who had introduced him there.

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No, no! your King's not yet to seek Where to repose dis royal head; See see! how soon His new bloomed chee 'TwixU's mother's breasts is gone to bed Sweet choice! said we, no way but so, Not to lie cold, yet sleep in snow.

Oar next piece is from a poet of our own day, Anbry De Vere :

A Christmas Carol.

Primeval night had repossess'd Her empire in the fields of space; Calm lay the kine on earth's dark breast, The earth lay calm in heaven's embrace.

That hour where shepherds 'tept their flocks From God a glory sudden feli ; The spendour smote the trees and rocks, And lay like dew along the dell.

God's angel close beside them stood : "Fear naught," that angel said, and then "Behold, I bring you tidings good: -"The Saviour Christ is born to men."

And straightway round him myriads sang Loudsong again, and yet again; Till all the hollow valley rang "Glory to God, and peace to men."

The she herds went and wondering eyed, In Bethlebem born the heave aly Stranger Mary and Joseph shelt beside : The Babe was cradled in the manger!

The following beautiful "Christmas Oarol" is by Adelaide A. Procter :

The moon that now is shining In skies so blue and bright, Shone ages since on shepherds Who watched their flocks by night. There was no sound upon the earth, The same air was shill, The sheep in quiet clusters lay Upon the grassy bill. The sheep in quiet clus Upon the grassy hill.

When, lo ! a white winged angel The watchers stood before, And told how Christ was born on earth For mortals to adore; He bade the trembling shepherds Listen, nor be afraid, And told how in a manger The glorious Child was laid.

When suddenly in the Heavens Appeared an angel band, Appeared an angel band, (The while in reverent woulder The Syrian shepherds stand,) And a i the bright host chanted Words that shall never cease— Giory to God in the highest, On earth good will and peace !

The vision in the Heavens Faded, and all was still, ind the wondering shepherds left their flocks To teed upon the hill;

If You Have a Cough,

Do not neglect it. It should be loosened as soon as possible, and to do this nothing as soon as possible, and to do this nothing excess Hagyard's Pectoral Bassam. Ob-stinate coughs yield at once to its expec-torant, soothing and heating properties, while colds, hoarseness, whooping cough, asthma, etc., are promptly relieved by its perfect action on the throat and bronchial tubes.

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Weil Pleased.

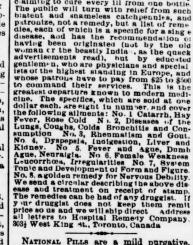
DEAR SIRS-1 can recommend Hagyard's Yenow On as a sure cure for rheumatism. I had it for some time and was cured by two bottles, and I must say it is the best thing I can get for general use as a pain renever. J. MUSTAND, Strathavon, Ont.

TO OUR SUBSCRIBERS.

The SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT which apbeared in our column some time since. nouncing a special arrangement with Dr. B. J. KENDALL Co., of Euosbargh Falls, Vt., J. KENDALL Co., of Eussburgh Falls, Vt., publishers of "A Ireatise on the Horse and is 5 lieedses," whereby our subscribers were enabled to obtain a copy of that valuable work FAEE by sending their address to B. J. KENDALL & CO., (and enclosing a two-Cent stamp for mailing same) is renewe-for a innited period. We thus tail will avail themselves of the opportunity of obtaining this valuable work. To every lover of the Horse it is indispensable, as it treats in a simple manner all the diseases which afflict this noble anima. Its phenomian transda, make is stand of autoority. Men-tion this paper when sending for "Treatise."

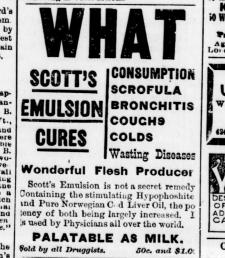
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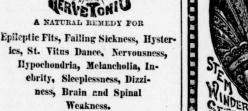


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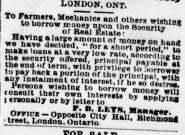


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