

wars, chief among which was the disastrous Sudan campaign, in which, so much time and money was expended, so many reverses met, and so many English bodies left to liech on the burning sands of Egypt. This is one of the darkest pages in the history of our Empire that of which, the veil of oblivion is only too closely drawn. Other scenes have been at the gates of India, and the outbreak of the Boer war is imminent. And thus, the year has led to the Black Year.

The other nations have also had a share of the trouble. France has suffered many humiliating reverses in Tongkin and Madagascar. She has dismissed her colonies and is now vainly struggling to retain a third. Spain has shed much blood and revelation is everywhere, and is now trying to march forward. There are also the Eastern questions, the Balkan, Bulgarian, Roumelian, and other, which threatened to involve the whole of Europe. Spain has lost her old King, and has been devastated by the cholera. And Austria is on the verge of war with Russia. Our cousins across the border have also seen stirring times. The first Democratic President for 24 years has been elected. The vice-President, and General Grant have died, and even Vanderbilt's millions could not save him.

Looking at all these facts we see that the past year has been the most exciting throughout the world, for a considerable time. And it is but fitting that we should be very thankful that things have not turned out

any worse. So let us take a good view of matters, and as we can to the inevitable, let us hope for brighter times in the present year.

CHRISTMAS.

NO more has Christmas come and gone, and now we only have the recollections of the good festival.

Of all the festivals of the year none is as expressive or commemorative, and even of more importance as Christmas, and this is but right, for whatever can even be compared with the advent of Christ.

Almost from the beginning of our lives, we are taught to look at Christmas as the great festival of the year. But at this stage, we take notice of the turkey and pumpkining them of the reason of the celebration. But with advanced years, we see not this side but the true and real meaning of all this rejoicing.

The custom of giving presents on this day is very appropriate. For as 'unto us Christ was given,' so also do we give presents to our friends.

There is nothing in Christmas that is unharmonious or out of place. All that took place on the first Christmas, the appearance of the angels, the adoration of the shepherds, the star of Bethlehem, tends to show one thing: that Christianity is the only true and lasting religion.

What's a student's apartment without "The Academy"