

CHRISTMAS IN OLD ENGLAND

Will Be Merry, Though the Metropolis is a Very Dull Spot.

The Fashionable World Has Invaded the Country Houses—Revival of Odd Old Customs, Including the Dance in Servants' Hall—Mr. W. R. Hobbs and the Furniture Company—Mrs. Maybrick's Case.

[Special Cable Letter.] London, Dec. 22.—There will be a merry Christmas in England, though in consequence, London is already one of the dullest spots in the United Kingdom. The fashionable world has inconspicuously deserted the metropolis and sought refuge in the country places.

REVIVAL OF OLD CUSTOMS. There will be such a round of house parties as has been unknown for several years. They will be accompanied by the revival of the queer, old customs which, a century ago, made the season the occasion for unrestrained merry-making among rich and poor alike.

ROYAL GATHERINGS. At Osborne, the Queen will be surrounded by the Duke and Duchess of York, the Princess of Battenberg and several of her grandchildren.

At Sandringham, the Prince of Wales will entertain the Duke and Duchess of Devonshire, the Duke and Duchess of York, the Princess of Battenberg and several of her grandchildren. At Sandringham, the Prince of Wales will entertain the Duke and Duchess of Devonshire, the Duke and Duchess of York, the Princess of Battenberg and several of her grandchildren.

At the Duke and Duchess of Devonshire's, Earl and Countess Spencer's, the Marquis and Marchioness of Londonderry's and other places of the nobility, Christmas eve will be marked by the strange spectacle of butlers dancing with duchesses, footmen with countesses, and grooms with the daughters of belted earls, while ladies' maids, chamber maids, and cooks will hang on to the arms of cabinet ministers and other male heads of illustrious lines. The ancient practice of the landowners enjoying the servants' quadrille had almost lapsed, except in the case of a few families.

CAUSE OF THE REVIVAL. The revival is, perhaps, no little due to the increasing necessity for pampering the British servant. The Onlooker says the householders now have to study the comfort of their domestics as much as their own, and quotes the country house where a set of rooms is especially allotted to them for recreation, comprising a ballroom, music room, library and billiard room, in which a marker is kept for the servants' sole use.

MRS. MAYBRICK. Once again Mrs. Florence Maybrick spends an unhappy Christmas in her prison cell. In spite of the various reports her chances of liberty are no brighter than last year. Secretary Hay has forwarded to Mr. Choate

was not successful from the critics' standpoint. "Mr. and Mrs. Davenport" continue to attract fashionable audiences. The Prince of Wales witnessed the performance Thursday.

A DISASTER AT TURKEY CREEK.

Raymond Reams Finds His Three Little Children Drowned—Fell Through a Hole in the Ice.

Windsor, Dec. 21.—Three children were drowned at 5 o'clock yesterday afternoon in Turkey Creek, below Ojibway, five miles down the river from here. They were the children of Raymond Reams, a farmer whose property is on the river front.

The little ones were playing with a hand sleigh and drawing one another on the ice in the creek. Under a bridge they ran into an air hole and all were drowned. Mr. Reams noticed the disappearance of the children, and finding their sleigh in the creek, he at once recovered the bodies. Dr. Sampson, of Windsor, quickly responded to a call for aid, but the children had been in the icy water too long to make resuscitation possible. The children were Julia, aged 8; Frances, aged 6, and Eugene, aged 4.

CALLED AWAY

Death in England of Dean Lauder—Germany's Oldest Field Marshal Dead.

[Special to The Advertiser per C.P.R.] Ottawa, Dec. 22.—A cable was received this morning by Rev. Mr. Loucks, of Christ Church, stating that Dean Lauder died this morning at New Brighton, England. He had been ill for some time.

A VETERAN GONE.

Berlin, Dec. 22.—Count Von Blumenthal, the oldest field marshal in the German army, died last evening at his estate at Quetendorf, Duchy of Anhalt.

ENGINEER A. C. MUIR.

Victoria, B.C., Dec. 22.—A. C. Muir, chief engineer of the Esquimaux graving dock, is dead.

Merely Mentioned.

The Ontario Government has appointed George R. Van Zant, of Markham, governor of Toronto jail, in succession to the late John Green.

Chief of Police Powell, of Ottawa, who recently secured control of boxing matches, says that prize fights will be no longer in order in that city. Sir James Grant, of Ottawa, has been elected president of the St. John Ambulance Association in Canada, in place of the late Sir George A. H. Macdonald. The marriage of Rev. Donald Macdonald, principal of St. Andrew's College, Toronto, to Miss Parfitt, of London, will take place in Montreal on Wednesday, Dec. 26.

Mrs. A. Price, wife of the C. P. R. superintendent at Toronto, has disappeared, and her friends are in great distress over her absence. She has been nervous and ill-spirited of late.

The Farmers' Co-operative Pork Packing Company, employing about 30 men, has commenced operations in Brantford. The factory is a magnificent one, and prospects for a busy season are exceedingly bright.

W. James Cooper, a retired real estate agent, aged 72, while crossing Sherbourne street, Toronto, at mid night Friday evening, and fell, striking his head heavily on the pavement. He died before medical help could be secured.

George S. Bliss, Windsor, agent of the Singer Sewing Machine Company here, has been arrested at the instance of the district manager of the company on the charge of being short in his accounts. Bliss says he has offered to pay \$200 of the shortage over to the Singer Company, and to give security for the remainder of the amount, but that this offer has been refused.

FIRE THAT DID MUCH DAMAGE.

Two Stores and a Dwelling Destroyed at Dorchester.

Serious Losses at Hanover and Toronto—A Baby Fatally Burned in Brooke.

Dorchester, Dec. 22.—Fire broke out yesterday in the building occupied by Mr. G. B. Birch, over the general store kept by him on the south side of the principal street. About 7 o'clock he went into the cellar and attended to the furnace, and also to the fires in the house and store, which took all appearances were in their usual condition. About twenty minutes afterwards the place was all ablaze, starting from a fire in a drain in one of the rooms upstairs. So quickly did the flames spread that Mr. Birch was unable to save any furniture, and the goods in the two stores, brick and frame, one of which was underneath the Oddfellows' Hall, and the other facing the main street, were all lost. Birch's dwelling was over both stores. The door of the safe in the store was defective, and \$15 in bills in a tin box, valued at about \$400, insurance, \$18,350. The injured, who are in the hospital, are doing well. Those hurt were: Fred W. Hitchcock, 312 Ontario street, west, leg injured; John Stevens, Jeremiah Lynch, W. F. Wilson, Howard McMillan, C. Tremblay, Patrick Moroney, F. Cook, Michael Mulholland, Chas. Landon, and James Armstrong, were injured less severely. James Davis, 61 Jersey avenue, had his back badly sprained, and is now at the Emergency Hospital in serious condition. All except seven of the men were able to leave the hospital after treatment.

AT HANOVER. Hanover, Ont., Dec. 22.—The loss as a result of the fire here Thursday night is lower than at first estimated, but is still very heavy.

Knechtel Furniture Company, on building machinery and stock, \$150,000; insurance \$30,000. Graff & Wepler, drygoods and groceries, loss \$5,000; insurance, \$3,500. B. F. Abrams, hardware, \$1,000; insurance, \$3,500. Thos. Poelman & Co., flour and feed stores, \$2,000; insurance, \$500. Peoples' grocery store, and dwelling, \$2,700; insurance, \$1,500. Greutznar Furniture Company, retailers, \$3,500; insurance, \$1,000. E. H. Greutznar, undertaker, \$1,000; insurance not known. H. Greutznar, electrician, \$600; insurance not known.

H. Masour, blacksmith shop and wagon shop and show rooms, \$2,000; insurance, \$1,000. R. G. Vincent, lost a machine used for manufacturing the diamond bed spring, which he had spent ten or fifteen years in completing. Loss \$500. No insurance.

The residence of Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Atkinson, west half of lot 3, con. 13, Brooke, was totally destroyed by fire Friday night. The father of the child, and as a result one child has since died and two others are in a very critical condition. Mrs. Atkinson was seen to fall from the house and went to the barn to clean up some grain. He had only been there a few minutes when the dwelling was seen to be in flames. The father of the child, and as a result one child has since died and two others are in a very critical condition.

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JOTTINGS FROM NEAR-BY PLACES

Meirrose Methodist Sabbath school held their anniversary services on Dec. 23. Rev. S. Knott, of Alfa Craig, will preach morning (10:30), and evening (7:30). An open session of the school will be held in the afternoon at 3 o'clock; also on Monday evening, Dec. 24, a grand concert will be given by the school. All are welcome.

While feeding a corn-husking machine at Drew's farm, near Shelburne, the other day, John McHattie, a young farmer living three miles west of Newbury, met with an accident, which resulted in the loss of his left arm. A mill he was wearing caught in the rollers, and hand and arm were drawn into the machine, being so badly mutilated that the arm had to be amputated three inches from the shoulder.

Tuesday afternoon Mr. John Healy, of the fourth line, Adelaide, next to the house of refuge, son of Councilor Healy, of Stratford, was feeling a 5-horse power engine-box, and got his right hand in the knives and the entire hand was cut off clean just above the wrist. Two doctors found it necessary to amputate the arm about halfway between the wrist and elbow.

A bill has been prepared for introduction in the Georgia Legislature providing for the use of the Australian ballot at all future elections.

JOINT NOTE NOT SIGNED

Delay Due to an Objection From Washington.

Minister Conger Says That Foreign Military Control Is Worse Than Chinese Government—Emperor Said To Be En Route to Peking.

London, Dec. 22.—Dr. Morrison, in a long dispatch to the Times from Peking, dated Dec. 20, gives extracts from the joint note. After a long preamble, recounting and condemning the outrages, he proceeds to quote the demands, which are virtually identical with the ten set forth in the dispatch to the Associated Press from Tien Tsin, dated Dec. 14.

NOTE NOT YET SIGNED. A Peking dispatch of the 21st says: Once more there is a pronounced hitch in the proceedings. The preliminary joint note has not yet been signed.

BLAMES WASHINGTON. London, Dec. 22.—"The delay in signing the preliminary joint note," says the Peking correspondent of the Morning Post, writing yesterday, "is due to an objection from Washington. Mr. Conger, however, has telegraphed his government, urging a speedy settlement on the ground that foreign military control is worse than Chinese management."

SICK OF SIAM FU. "Prince Ching says that Emperor Kwang Su and his empress dowager are both anxious to leave Siam Fu, as the accommodation there is poor, and their environment unfavorable. He points out that the private and government property seized in Peking is quite equivalent in value to the indemnity demanded by the powers. Sir Robert Hart saw Prince Ching yesterday and advised him against dallying with the powers in regard to the punishment of the guilty officials. Prince Ching thought the execution of two or three possible and the life-long imprisonment of Prince Tuan quite certain.

BOUND FOR PEKING. A dispatch from Tien Tsin to the Frankfurter Zeitung, dated today, says: Prince Ching, interpreter, asserts that Emperor Kwang Su, accompanied by the Empress Dowager, left Siam Fu, Dec. 19, bound for Peking.

SMASHING THE BOXERS. A dispatch from Field Marshal Von Waldersee dated Peking, Dec. 19, says: General's column, marching from Shan Hai Kuan, successfully encountered a force of Boxers Dec. 14 at Yung Ling, near the eastern imperial tombs. Fifteen Boxers were killed. One thousand Chinese regulars, under Fang Du Ling have been driven out of Lu Tai. They fled to the mountains, northwesterly, on Guedell's approach.

NOTES. Grave fears are felt regarding the health of Li Hung Chang, owing to a severe cold that he caught recently. It is generally believed that the Chinese got their information as to what is done at the meetings of the Boxers through some one connected with the Russian legation.

The Kilties' Band.

The members of the 48th Highlanders' Band of Toronto must have been somewhat disappointed at the size of the audience at the Auditorium, comparing as it did with the thousands who everywhere greeted the band on its recent tour through the United States. What the audience lacked in number, however, it made up in appreciation, which it expressed so heartily, and which Bandmaster Slater so graciously responded to, that the programme embraced fully double the original numbers. The performance of the band was as much a revelation to the London audience as it must have been to the citizens across the line, showing as it did that Canada possesses a musical organization that is second to very few bands on the American continent. Not only does the band particularly excel, as might be expected, in the rendition of Scottish music, but its work in the "Masaniello" overture and the "La Benediction des Poignards" from "Des Huguenots" enabled it to rank in high-class concert work with the other well-known touring bands. The Scotch dances of Pipe-Sergeant Johnston, champion Highland dancer of the world, and the pipe-playing of Pipe-Major Beaton, champion bagpiper of the world, were essentially gratifying features of the programme to the large Scotch element in the audience, while the unaccompanied male choruses by the choir of the band were as pleasing as they were unique and novel. The programme was as follows:

Scotch reel in costume..... Pipe-Sergeant Johnston, Musicians Di- been, Garner and Clark. Overture—"Masaniello"..... Aubrey Reminiscences of Scotland..... D. Godfrey March—"Frangese"..... Cornet solos—"The Children's Home"..... Flaw Gently, Sweet Afton..... Coven Musician Herbert Jackson Flumerfelt. Scotch dance—"Highland Fling"..... Pipe-Sergeant Johnston. Fantasia Militaire—"Die Leibarde"..... Unseier Kaiserin..... Lehnhardt Male chorus, unaccompanied—"The Boys of the Old Brigade"..... "Scots Who Rise"..... "Annie Laurie"..... Selections on the great military Bagpipes by Pipe-Major Beaton. Grand Scene des Huguenots—"La Benediction des Poignards"..... Meyerbeer March—"Husarenritt"..... "Salome"..... Scotch dance—"Word Dance"..... Pipe-Sergeant Johnston. Male chorus (unaccompanied)—"Ye Hanks and Braes"..... "Dixie"..... "My Love She's but a Lassie Yet"..... March—"With Sword and Lance"..... Descriptive piece—"A Hunting Scene"..... The concert given by the band in the afternoon was well attended, and the programme rendered was equally enjoyable as the evening's. The band left this morning for Toronto, where they give a concert in Massey Hall this evening. On Jan. 3 they leave on another tour through Eastern Ontario, thence to Boston, New York, Philadelphia and Washington, down through the Atlantic seaboard states to Florida, and west again as far as Kansas City.

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Out of our two large carloads of the above we have only 10 cases Delaware Holly, and a small assortment of the balance left. SATURDAY AND MONDAY we will dispose of the balance of the finest-colored, best-bred.

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to posterity as the greatest of the century now about to close. Come in the forenoon if you can, but be sure you come. Store open Saturday and Monday Evenings.

THE CRYSTAL HALL.

W. J. Reid & Co.

ILDERTON. Iderton, Dec. 22.—The teachers and pupils of Grace Church, Iderton, are busy preparing their programme for the concert they intend giving on Christmas Eve, in the Oddfellows' Hall. A cantata entitled "The Old and the New Santa" will be rendered in up-to-date style. Dialogues and recitations are included in the programme. The most important event of the evening's entertainment will be the revealing of the secrets of the Christmas tree. All are welcome.

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