CHRISTMAS EVE.

om the Christmas Chant of the Broton Peasants)

Then, in concord, perfect, sweet Tones of youths and maidens meet; And they gladly sing together, This auspicious hour to greet: This auspicious hour to greet : Sing to-night for Christ is born! Lo, on high the stan of morn! Aed it shall not fade forever. Nor its brilliancy be shorn. Sing! deliverance from our woes, By the blood that overflows nd renews the son of Adam, He no longer burdened goes. Sing! because it is His feast; Join the Princes of the East, Bring Him gifts amid rejoicing-He will smile upon the least! Sing! while Christmas crowns ye weave : On the cross a garland leave. Lo, the world's one Virgin-mother Heals the hurt that came of Eve!"

[For THE POST and TRUE WITNESS.] GLAD MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR.

list to the bells how they're gloriously ringding g'ad music o'er mountain and hill: ut from the Church-towers and belfries swing-

ing,
s if with delight they could never be still. lark! hark! 'tis the morning most blest and in-

viting,
Then Jesus was born in cavern so drear;
h! well may the heavens and earth be uniting, "a glad Christmas and Happy New

o-day where the wayward are sumptuously here the world's void splender is glitt'ring on

way in the haunts of the weak and despairing, here from mis'ry and wretchedness dark e matter what votaries vice may be winning,

ome old man or child, or bright angel is near, scheck for a second the scoff and the sinning. "glad Christmas and Happy New

m the pure stainless snow that round me lies gleaming, om the winter birds perch'd on you high leafless tree; om the faces that pass me so rad'antly beam

ing, sleighs that go by me so swiftly and free m palace and cottage where kindly looks erever I pause 'neath the frosty skies clear : same cheery voice sounds to comfort and

greet me, lad Merry Christmas and Happy Ne

ad better than all when my eyes quietly clos-

ing, a back to that first wond'rous Christmas of

nd see the sweet Child in the manger reposing, Ville Mary and Joseph kneel by and adore; rout on the hills 'neath a star-begemmed

th the shepherds, the angels' hosannas I hear they tell us a Saviour to earth has been given, and wish to the world "A Happy New Year."

beautiful Babe, make us humble and faith-

h us to seek and to trust Thee alone: or Thy infinite love to be fervent and grateful, nd give Thee, at least, in return our own.

Il at least through thy mercy the fair pertals

gaining, enter where cometh not sorrow or fear; here Thou art in glory and majesty reigning, and Eternity's ever "A Happy New Year."

SOUVENIE

Jorea mieral a ari The Christmas Rose.

There is a tradition, dating from the period the Crueades, respecting a wild rose bush at had been seen near the spot in Bethlem of cur Lord's nativity. Marvellous les were told by returning pilgrims conrning it-to wit, that its roses bloomed rennially, and that its thorns never stung.
was called the Rose of Jericho, and was eserved as a precious relic in the churches. hen this flower was placed in a vase of ly water during Christmas night service, it owly opened its petals and revived into a auty and fragrance strongely sweet, and en it returned to its faded condition. The ater used in this mysterious operation was od to heal the sick. The first of these ses, again, is said to have been formed from drop of the Saviour's blood, and its seed to we been carried by the wind to the berders Jaricho, where it took its name.

n enteral here percent also (1) (1) (1) (1) (1) (1) Santa Claus. (2) (2) (2)

Santa Claus was one of the oldest ideas of le Celtic west in pagan times, as he was of to pagan cast before. In Christian times he

cave at Bethlehem were brought to Rome. Some one asserted that the transfer was made in the year 352; but the learned Pope Benediet XIV. proved that it was not until the fifth century, at the time that the Saracens, had taken possession of Jerusalem, in the ing 2,940 drafts drawn; while the pre-year 653. St. Jerome, who was buried in sent shows \$40,224 for 3,120 drafts. From monk there, telling him to carry the crib and his remains to Rome, which he accordingly did. The crib, considered one of the most precious relics in the city of Rome, is now kept Maggiore, also known by the title of Our Lady of Snow and Our Lady of the Crib. To the right side of the main altar is a very beautiful and spacious chapel built by Pope Sixtus V., in the year 1586, in honor of our Saviour's crib. In the centre, directly underneath the cupola, is a precious altar, where the Blessed Sacrament reposes. On both sides of the altar are two stairways of stone, leading to a little chapel called the Chapel of the Crib. Formerly the holy crib was taken here, but now only a few pieces of wood taken from it remain on the altar. The main part of the crib is preserved in another side chapel, enclosed in a magnificent silvermounted crystal reliquary. surrounded by a gilt iron railing. Every year, on Christmas night, these relics used to be carried in solemn procession to the main altar of the where they remained during three church, days, for public veneration. Old and young, beggars, and princes, may be seen during these days, like the shepherds and kings of old in Bethlehem, hastening to Santa Maria Maggiore to visit the holy crib.

Ohristmas in Spain

There is no civilized nation on earth in which children are not made happy by the promise of the coming Christmas. But in every country the festival is called by a different name, and its presiding genius is painted with a different genius is painted with a different costume and manner. You know all about our jelly Dutch Santa Claus, with his shrewd twinkling eyes, his frosty beard, his ruddy face and the bag of treasures with which he comes down the chimney, while his team of reindeer snort and stamp on the icy roof. The English Christmas is equally well knews, and the wenders of the German miracle tree, the first night of which no child ever forgets. But you are perhaps, not so familiar with the blessed season of advent in southern Europe, and so I will tell you some of the pleasures of the Spanish Christmas. The good cheer which it brings everywhere which they conduct from door to door, making the dim old streets gay with their scarlet wattles and noisy with obstreperous gabbling. But the headquarters of the marketing in these days is in the Piaza Mayor, where every variety of fruit is sold. There is nothing more striking than those vast heaps of fresh, golden oranges, plucked the day before in the groves of Andalusia; nuts from Granada and dates from Africa; every flavor and color of tropical fruitage; and in the stalls beneath the gloomy arches, the butchers drive their flourishing trade. All is gay and joyous, chaffering and jesting, greeting of friends and filling baskets. The sky is wintry, but the ground is ruddy, and rich, with the fruits of summer. At night the The youth and maiden of the poorer class go, treoping through the town with tam-bourines, castanets and guitars, singing and dancing. Everyone has a different song to suit his own tasts of mind. The women sing of love and religion, and many of the men can sing of nothing batter than politics. But the part which the children take in the testival bears a curious resemblance to these timehonored coremonies we all remember. The associations of Christmas in Spain are all of the Gospel. There is no northern St. Nick there to stuff the stockings of good children. with rewards of merit. Why, then, on Christmas eve do you see the little shoes exposed by the windows and doors ! The wise kings of the East are supposed to be journey ing by night to Bethlehem, bearing gifts and homage to the Heavenly Child, and out of their abundance, when they pass by the houses where good children sleep, they will drop into their shoes some of the treasures they are bearing to the baby prince in Judes. This thought is never absent from the rejoicing of Christmas tide in Spain. Every hour of the time is sacred to Him who came to bring peace and good will, to the world. The favorite toy of the season is called the "Nativity." It is sometimes very elaborate and costly, representing a landscape under a starry night; the shepherds watching their flocks; the Magi coming with wonder and nwe, and the Child in the stable, shedding upon the darkness that living light which

as clubs were in pages times, as he was a pages can be decreases that living light, which is a pages can be decreases that living light, which is a page can be decreased to the world.

In the company of the pages of the day, if it would have been allowed to the pages of the day of the world. The pages of the pages of the world. The world will place it would be paged to the world.

Old Folke at House.

Old

the crib and a few pieces of rock from the Irish exchange business for nearly half a century. His figures show that last season ex-celled this one in amount, but the present is ahead in the number of drafts forwarded. The first eleven days of December last year showed \$41,591 sent by him as represent-Bethlehem, appeared three times to a pious this it is evident that an increased number of persons have sent remittances. As the steamer sailing on the 13th of this month is regarded as the latest that reach the old country in time for cashing the drafts before in the magnificent basilica of Santa Maria Christmas, the present may be considered the summing up of the Christmas remit-tances. A large number are, lowever, sent to meet rents that come shortly after New Year's day. The Scotch people, especially, are partial to the latter day, and send the bulk of their drafts with a view of reaching the old country then. It is also stated that the number of persons taking trips to the British Islands to spend the season is unusually large this year on account of the reduction of rates in pas-sage, by which a round trip can be had for \$30. As such persons carry their Christmas remittances with them there is naturally a reduction in the amount of drafts. One of the noteworthy things in this line of ex-change is the tendency of large banking houses to enter it. The Maverick Bank, which four years ago was made the custodian of the Irish League funds, has estab lished an extensive business in sending drafts, varying in amount from £1 to £10. payable at sight, free of discount. The two latter characteristics belong to all drafts of this class as distinguished from the large commercial bills of exchange. Another advantage given to the small sender is that of a receipt which is held in this country to be used in securing a new draft if the first should miscarry. They are payable at the large banks of Great Britain and at the numerous branches, and also at the principal stores in small towns. There are many suggestive and affecting incidents to be noted by these who watch the throngs of humble, selfdenying doners who will not let the heliday seasen pass without sending to gladden the hearts of family and friends at home substantial tekens, which, to paraphrase the words of Henry Giles, are "messengers to the cot where they were bern-the hills, the streams and mountains of old Ireland."

Christmas in Ireland. In no land under the heavens is Christmas celebrated with such fervor, joy and unity as in Ireland. Let every other day in the year The good cheer which it brings everywhere is especially evident in Spain. They are a frugal people, and many a good Spanish family is supported by less than the waste of a household on Murray Hill. But there is ne sparing at Christmas. The Castilian farmers drive the turkeys into Madrid in droves, till midnight on Christmas eve, in order to of the public schools." Every Catholic is join in the devotions at that hour. We directed by the letter to make a Christian agree with Gerald Griffin that "few marriage a bounden Christian duty. The ceremonies of religion have a more splendid and imposing effect than the morning Mass. which, in cities, is celebrated soon after the hour alluded to, and long before daybreak." On this eve a candle called the Christmas light (previously blessed), is lighted at sun-set. Griffin alluded to it:

"The Christmas light is burning bright In many a village pane,
And many a cottage rings to night With many a merry strain.'

It is considered a kind of implety to touch, snuff, or use this Christmas light for aught save religious purposes after. 'On Christmas day the Irish people exchange Christmas boxes any gift being termed a box but de-riving the title from little boxes of turned wood stained red, which are given to young people and dependents with a coin to rattle

The houses are decked with holly branches interwoven with ivy leaves. The holly has come down to us from the remotest past as a favorite among the evergreens, and as being allegorically typical of the Redeemer's mission. The following is quoted from an old broad-sheet of a century and a half ago :

"The bolly and the ivy Now are both well grown; Of all the trees, that grow in wood,

The holly bears the crown. The holly bears a blossom

As white as the lily flower-And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ To be our sweet Saviour.

The holly bears a berry As red as any, blood-And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ To do poor sinners good.

The holly bears a prickle As sharp as any thorn, And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ On holy Christmas morn."

All the relatives of an Irish family assem ble at the house of the "head," or sometimes at that of the "most well to do" member,

THE COUNCIL'S PASTORAL.

EXTRACTS FROM THE LETTER TO THE CATHOLICS OF THE UNION.

Education of the Priesthood and the Laits -Dangers from Evil Books, Sabbath Breuking, Loose Divorce, and Liquor selling.

The pastoral letter of the members of the Baltimore Plenary Council to the Catholic clergymen and laity of America was made public yesterday. It is over thirteen columns long, and embraces the entire range of "religious improvements" which Pope Leo XIII. last year invited all the Archbishops in America to go to Rome to discuss with him, and which he desired should be put into practical operation in the United States.

The first improvement suggested in the letter is that the Catholic seminaries of the country extend and enlarge their present cur riculum, so that candidates for the priesthood may have a wide acquaintance with every department of religious learning before they assume the duties of their calling. The faith ful priest, the letter declares, must expect to be a student all his life, and he will have no leisure hours to spend in miscellaneous reading if he is to follow the desire of the head of the Church. The letter recommends the priests to make the increase of the seminary fund one of their most important tasks, and urges wealthy laymen to found scholarships either in their own dioceses or in the Ameri-

can College in Rome. The letter recommends Catholics to pay up all outstanding church debts as soon as possible, in order that the money regularly swallowed by the payment of the interest on the debts may be saved and devoted to educa-tional work. In this work the popular education of the laity, the letter declares, should be made as important an element as the education of the clergy. Religion and morality must be made the groundwork of such popular education. The interests of civilization require that religion shall not be divorced from instruction in the schools. "To shut out religion from the schools and keep it for heme and church is, legically, to train up a generation that will believe the dangerous lectrine that religion is only good for the church or home, and not for the practical business of real life."

To insure perfect education of the Catholic young, the priests are directed to multiply and improve the parochial schools autil every parish is thoroughly equipped to give every Catholic child a complete education with re-

ligion as a basis.

The letter emphasizes the value of marriage as an element calculated to insure that Christian home life that will be a perfect aid among a few parcels lying on the floor. From in "counteracting the dangerous influences there it spread with surprising rapidity. It custom in most Catholic families to sit up in "counteracting the dangerous influences letter reiterates the Catholic doctrine that marriages are to be absolutely indissoluble, and deplores "the havor wrought by the divorce laws" of the United States. These laws, it says, are fast loosening the foundations of society. Parents are exhorted to have prayers and

Bible readings at least once a day. They are likewise exhorted to hang the walls with pictures of saints and the great and good men of the earth, so that the minds of the children may be kept pure by such surroundings. This is what the Bishops and Archbishops say :

No indelicate representation should ever be tolerated in a Christian home. Artistic merit in the work is no excuse for the danger thus presented. No child ought to be subjected to temptation by its own parents and in its own home. But let the walls be beautified with what will keep the inmates in mind of our Divine Lord and His saints, and with such other pictures of the great and good as will be incentives to civic and religious virtue.

Immoral, vulgar, and sensational nevels must also be rigidly excluded from the home. The history of the United States ought especially, the letter declares, to be made the subject of home reading and seminary study by the young. No home should be without a copy of the Bible, and the head of the family should subscribe for one or more Catholic periodicals to aid in supporting and widening the scope and influence of the Catholic press. The lefter deplores the growing neglect of

the Sabbath, and urges Catholics to use all their influence against any movement tending toward a relaxation of the reverent ob-servance of the Lord's day.

Even when the pretence put forward is popular convenience or popular amusement, the clamor for larger liberty does not come so much from those who desire the convenience or the amusement as from those who hope to enrich themselves by supplying it. Now, far be it from us to advocate such Sunday laws as would hinder necessary work or prohibit such popular enjoyments as are consistent with the sacredness of the day. It is well known, however, that the tendency is to rush far be-

soon as they can the dangerous traffic, and to embrace a more becoming way of making a

And here it behooves us to remind our workingmen, the bone and sinew of the people and the specially beloved children of the Church, that if they wish to observe Sunday as they ought they must keep away from drinking places on Saturday night. Carry your wages home to your families, where they rightfully belong. Turn a deaf ear, therefore, to every temptation; and then Sunday will be a bright day for all the family.

The letter fires another bombshell of disapproval against the Masonic societies and the other secret societies. It forbids priests, however, from condemning any society merely because it is secret, without first finding out that it deserves to be under ecclesisatical ban. They should assist all Catholic temperance societies, on the other hand, and induce Catholics to join them. The letter also urges the increase in number and membership of beneficial societies designed for the wolfare of Catholic workingman. .

The letter especially commends to the at tention of the clergy and the laity the de-mands of the Cathelic missions among the Indians and Negroes.

The letter refers to the great interest that l'ope Leo has always manifested in America, and repudiates the assertion that Catholicism is opposed to American institutions. It

To be a true American the Catholic has no need to lay aside a jot of his devotion to his Church and his religion. To maintain the in-heritance of freedom which America's founders have left us, should it ever-which God forbid-be imperilled, our Catholic citizens will be found to stand forward, as one man, ready to pledge anew "their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor.'

THE DYNAMITE SCARE.

NERVOUSNESS IN ENGLAND-THE WINDSOR FIRE-A FIND AT HALIPAX.

LONDON, Dec. 22.—Every suspicious occurence in the present nervous condition of the public mind is converted into a possible dynamite outrage. About midnight last night two men threw a parcel ever the bridge at Glasgow and made their escape. It is believed the intention was to blow up the bridge.

THE WINDSOR STATION FIRE. The parcel room at the Windsor railway

tation, in which the fire occurred on Saturday, adjoined the covered way over which the Queen passed on Wednesday when she started for Osborne. The fire first appeared is unknown how long the dangerous parcels had been in the room. It is possible the machine was deposited there before the Queen's departure. Search in the debris was continued to-day and several iron caps similar to those used in the making of cartridges were discovered. A box was also found filled with sawdust saturated with a strongly smelling liquid, and in the sawdust were fragments of a bottle made of white glass like the one found on Saturday. The managers of the Great Western Railroad assert that the fire was purely accidental and not due to Fenian agency. They declare no infernal machine has been found and that the illsinciling liquid was horse medicine. The home secretary has ordered an increase of the guards at Windsor Castle to double the present number and that they be armed with rifles. A thorough search of the grounds surrounding the castle has been ordered. Extraordinary precautions are taken at Osborne where the Queen is sojourning. All the public buildings and railway stations are

closely guarded.

Later.—A careful examination discloses the fact that the mysterious wheels found in the debris, and supposed to belong to some deadly infernal machine, were simply parts of somebody's fishing tackie.

A FIND AT HALIFAX.

HALIFAX, Dec. 22.—On Saturday afternoon a man walking along Dresden road had occasion to gc into a yard, and while there observed a package seemingly hid away near his feet. He kicked at and uprooted it. Discovering it to be dynamite, he carried the package to Detective Power, who says the stuff is similar to that found in the possession of the dynamiters last winter. The first time they were here a package weighing four pounds, wrapped up in a piece of shirt was found in the yard of the place where they had resided, and this package is similar in every way, the piece of shirt and weight of package being exactly alike. The place where this package was found is within 100 yards of the Artillery park and near where several military officers are residing.

"THE GERMAN FLAG"

EUROPEAN EVENTS

The Ferecious Instincts of French Society-Plunder by Petition-The Rising Wave of Anarchy

PARIS, Dec. 9 .- The correspondent of the Liverpool Catholic Times writes :-

Its if a bad sign that all the French papers praise Madame Clovis Hughes as a heroine ecause under deep provocation she deliberately shot her supposed traducer Morin. It is very questionable whether her victim is guilty of any greater offence than of being the clerk of one of those infamous amateur detective offices of which France is full and of which the accomplices may be counted by thousands. Even the French Government subsidises and tolerates many of these agencies for its own purposes. Morin, though brought to the Ho-

speechless when tel Dieu, finally wrote a line declar-ing his innocence and asking for the priest. Madame Clovis Hughes has undoubtedly laid herself open to suspicion by her use of the revolver. Morin had already been condemued to two years' imprisonment for defamation, and he was entitled in common with every other French citizen to the right of appeal. There are not wanting those in legal circles who say that fear of the revelations likely to be made by her victim made her a murderess. But sentiment in France always takes the place of cool-headed justice, and Madame Clovis Hugues will now rank with Charlotte Corday as another "angel of assassination." This is the second attack made by the wife of the poet deputy for Marseilles, for she endeavoured to force her way into the dying chamber of Madame Lenormand who employed the agency for which Morin worked. The ferocious inatincts of French society seem latterly in the ascendant. The worst phase of the Clovis. Hugues incident is not the woman's inordinate vengeance, but the applause which greets one who has defied the law at the very threshold of one of its highest tribunals, and who will probably be acquitted by a sentimental jury amidst the cheers of the people in court. The moral is that human life will be cheaper in France, that anger will more speedly resort to firearms or the knife, and that the pelice will skulk away, as indeed they de now, when they see a wayfarer attacked by a murderous thief or enemy. M. Clovis Hugues, who is an atheist, declared to the correspondent of the Pall Mall Gazette that his wife respected the sanctity of the marriage tie, although she believed in no other superstition. This belief is as incoherent in a disbeliever in supernatural sanction as the disregard of human life evidenced by her rash and vindictive act in monstrous. With a generation of women like Madame Clovis Hugues the world would become an unsafe habitation and she will find plenty of imitators.

THE NEXT ANARCHIST MEETING. On Sunday next the Communists and other members of the Revolutionary party will meet at the Salle Favić in the turbulent Belleville district of Paris and as the convocation of the meeting is signed by the chief labor syndicates of the French capital it is not improbable that there will be a renewal of the riotous proceedings of the Salle Levis. Jules Ferry is probably desirous of a miniature insurrection which he can easily crush, and by so doing not only earn some cheap glory, but put of the evil and inevitable day of the social revolution. Secret meetings are, however, taking place nightly at the offices of the Cri du Pouple and olsewhere, and if only the revolutionaries could agree amongst themselves am insurrection might be possible. The anarchists boast that they have adherents in every barracks in Paris and in other large towns. Making allowance for exaggeration it must be confessed that the French soldiers of today take an undue and dangerous interest in politics, and that their favorite theories, judging from the newspapers they read, are subver-sive ones. It is stated that Jules. Valles, the ex-Communist, is seriously ill. but there are plenty of chiefs ready to selze the first opportunity to provoke disorder. The police count upon the traitors in the ranks of the Anarchists themselves, it being a known fact that several of them are in the pay of the

insurrection but revolution. PLUNDER BY PETITION. The Municipal Council, of Paris have hi upon a new expedient, for the secularisation of the churches. A petition has been sent round amongst the inhabitants of the district, the demolition of the beautiful church of St. Laurent, and the laying out of a public square on the site. The petition is signed by those outside the parish who happen

Prefecture. A jury of honor has even been

called, and five well-known aparchists bave

been denounced. One thing is certain. The security of M. Jules Ferry and of every other

French Government is a false one. The ele-

ments of an outbreak exist, and when these

outbreaks become confluent they mean not