



CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL.

CHRISTMAS EVE.

From the Christmas Chant of the Breton Peasants) Then, in concord, perfect, sweet, Tones of youths and maidens meet...

GLAD MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR.

list to the bells how they're gloriously ringing, peeping 'd music o'er mountain and hill; Out from the Church-towers and bellies swinging...

from the pure stainless snow that round me lies gleaming; From the winter birds perch'd on you high leafless trees; From the faces that pass me so faintly bearing...

The Christmas Rose. There is a tradition, dating from the period of the Crusades, respecting a wild rose bush that had been seen near the spot in Bethlehem...

Santa Claus. Santa Claus was one of the oldest ideas of the Celtic west in pagan times; as he was of the pagan east before. In Christian times he has still regarded with religious reverence...

The Crib of Bethlehem. The crib and a few pieces of rock from the cave at Bethlehem were brought to Rome. Some one asserted that the transfer was made in the year 329...

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Christmas 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...

Christmas in Ireland.

In our land under the heavens is Christmas celebrated with such fervor, joy and unity as in Ireland. Let every other day in the year witness a pall of misery hanging over the land...

How Irish Americans Remember the Old Folks at Home.

One of the most interesting features of these days of present giving is the annual flood of small draughts through Boston houses to needy relatives in Great Britain and Ireland...

Irish exchange business for nearly half a century. His figures show that last season exceeded this one in amount, but the present is ahead in the number of drafts forwarded. The first eleven days of December last year showed \$41,581...

THE COUNCIL'S PASTORAL.

EXTRACTS FROM THE LETTER TO THE CATHOLICS OF THE UNION.

Education of the Priesthood and the Laity—Dangers from Evil Books, Sabbath Breaking, Loose Divorce, and Liquor Selling.

THE DYNAMITE SCARE.

NERVOUSNESS IN ENGLAND—THE WINDSOR FIRE—A FINE AT HALIFAX.

LONDON, Dec. 22.—Every suspicious occurrence 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 over the bridge at Glasgow and made their escape.

THE GERMAN FLAG.

RUSSIA URGED TO SEIZE COREA.

TRYING A PRAYER CURE.

REAPING THE FRUIT.

THE CATHOLIC CHURCH.

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EUROPEAN EVENTS.

The Ferocious 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 because 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...

The letter especially commends to the attention of the clergy and the laity the demands of the Catholic missions among the Indians and Negroes. The letter refers to the great interest that Pope Leo has always manifested in America, and repudiates the assertion that Catholicism is opposed to American institutions. It says: 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 inheritance 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."

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