CHRISTMAS TIME IN THE FRENCH

CHANTECLAIR TALKS OF FASHIONS, ART AND GOSSIP-COMPLAINT ABOUT CANADIAN DUTIES ON STATUARY

Paris, Dec. 15 .- To all my reader friends—if so I am permitted to call them—a very happy Christmas, and a truly bright New Year! Granted there no abnormal vagaries on the parts letter should be exactly in time to greet them so long as they are worthy of a reading. If one week they are dull try to believe the next will be better! of course, by no recognized rule of literature or nature (I should have put nature first) should a correspondent have moods; he should not write one day in a merry vein, the next in plaintive strain (that is very nearly poetry!), or be one time instructive and the next fivolous and babble-ous, if there be such an adjective. No, he should sail along on an even keel, over a fair summer sea, and allow no extraneous incidents or circumstances to influence the direction of his pen's steering. A "corresponding" journalist is not a free-lanee, as are other authors or letter-writers; they write when in the mood, when the spirit moves them, and circumstances favor them; if they have nothing to say, why, they don't say it! But chroniclers of daily news and passing fashions must be on the treadwhele for regularity, and while doing their level best to unearth items of interest and moment, only, must not miss the mail while waiting, like our Dickens friend, "for something (better) to turn up." Procrastination really is the thief of time you know, if even it is indulged in from a laudable motive. All this is leading up to a sort of excuse, feminine if you will, for the chronicles of Chanteclair being of variable worth or interest; some weeks new fashions are reluctant to show themselves; startling or amusing incidents are conspicuous by their absence, or may be the rigor or general disagreableness of the weather makes things seem deeply, darkly blue and dull. Then the silver lining peeps out again, and all goes well once more. Just now there is a big bit of silver showing, and everyone is wearing rosy spectacles, for finot taking a hand themselves in the preparations for Christmas and the jour de l'Au, which, as in Scotland, is the more important festival in this Latin land, people cannot feel the spirit of Christmas-tide in the air. This year even more than usual it seems the children's hour. Nearly all the posts them so long as they are worthy of a reading. If one week they are dull try

The Genius of Toyland

Is a clever sprite, how such marvels of ingenuity are thought of and perfected is a constant puzzle to me. Of course, there is the usual quotam of topical toys, motors and chauffeurs in every guise and disguise, royal personages which spring out at you unexpectedly, like Jacks in the box, and are easily recognized by their caricatured noses or beards, or garments, for the visitors who have recently been in our midst. The new motor-omnibus and taximetre cab, also the airships of latest build, are favorite mechanical playthings, as are the cake-walking negroes and the Spaniards balancing in the newest of new dances, the Matchiehe. Yes, the toys are wonderful—the doils as lovely as live baby princesses, the animals as realistic as any who make vocal the Zoo.

At most of the shop-bazaars there is barely breathing room, and wise in their generation were those who laid in their hoard of gifts before the rush began. There is music in the air, indeed, for each shop has its automatic orchestra, its Guignol or Punch and Judy show, very fascinating to those who have serious business on hand, for the buyers and sell, ers just now seem in league to prevent your moving at more than a snail's pace, The Genius of Toyland

business on hand, for the buyers and sell-ers just now seem in league to prevent your moving at more than a snail's pace, or getting close enough to examine your purchases. Most of the shops are beau-tifully illuminated at dusk with gar-lands of flower-lights, making a fairylands of flower-lights, making a fairy-land very enticing to human babies, big or little. In the boulevards the baraques or pavement stals are fast appearing. They also make pedestrian locomotion a difficulty, and nowadays the stock they effer is far from tempting to passers. They want a London County Council to make a clean sweep of them. The great event of the last quinzaine has been the vermissage or opening of the Automobile Exhibition in the Grand Palais, for which I had invitations. M. Loubet came at 10, with a modest retime, and seemed very cheerful, as usual, rice old man, Certainly the two big republies are lucky in the present Presidents. Of the exhibition of motors, I can not speak as a connoisseur, and any way it would take too long, even to make the comparisons which are proverbially odious. What will ever remain in my memory as the most fascinating feature of the exhibition is the wonderful display of illuminations. Never before has the electric lighting been done in the big palace on such a gigantic, artistic and original scale, everyone is wild over the loveliness of the scene each evening, and even outside the building, right

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Down the Champs Elysees, there are chains of lights crossing and recrossing the road, and festooned among the trees. There were some lovely toil-ettes seen at the opening, but the crowd was great, and you just caught a peep of a pretty personage and them—dream-like—she vanished. Velvet gowns were distinctly in the ascendant, and made most often with the effect of one long continuous line from neck to hem, very much widening out towards the feet; that is, there were few distinct bodices for short coats) and skirts, the mode being rather in favor of the Princess, moderinized Empire, or long redingote. A few Princess dresses had short little extra boleros, reaching just under the arms, a sort of mixing-up of the periods being the fashion just now. The gorgeous furs took the form of stoles and muffs, rather than coats, and really with the comfortable velvet dresses these give sufficient warmth for the sort of win-



ients, carried out on various shapes, dainsburgh, melon-crown, toquet, what ever is most individually suitable, or, you may have fine silk-felt and flowers, silver and gold roses being the chie of the kind I see painted with the moment, or else colored metallie or and indexent indexent indexent indexent. No. 2 consisted of a set of little round menu stands in silver, set on tiny half feet. In the centre of each disc was an emblem of good luck in colored enamels: the states and emblem of good luck in colored enamels: the states are also the flowers, but their shape, by that a lone can you botanize them! Maidenhair is all the rage. I saw a love; pig, lady bird, white heather, horseshoe, etc., etc. These would make a Fascinating Wedding Gift.

All are not merry this Christmastide. The Rochefoucaulds are, of course, put indead bronze-brown hair, a large mount of buds, roses, and fern. It was worn with a dress of white cloth, made with a long supple skirt and a draped waist much trimmed with the new white it the bands of brown fur enfraing the galon which was put on in wreaths. The galon which was put on in wreaths. The galon which was put on in wreaths. The galon which was put on in wreaths, and a pillow miff with a bunch of sable tails at either side of it. Her veil was just the shade of the sable on the hat-crown. As a beautiful dress worn by an a mind of some which was put on in wreaths. The galon which was put on in wreaths, the shade of the sable on the hat-crown. As beautiful dress worn by an amount of some which was put on in wreaths, the shade of the sable of the hat cover, pig, lady bird, white heather, bird, but the shade of the sable on the hat-crown. As a beautiful dress worn by an an usual on some clever and important new pieces of work, the "plots" of which the course of the streets; prominent statesman to dea derive and somewhat storus and emblem of good like in colored enamels: Christmastide. Agunt-Home Rule for England, Irc. All and the course was a memblem of good like in colored enamels: Christma

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quacks and their trades. Funnily enough, in the preliminary list of subjects to be mooted, I see no mention to Christian Science or Faith Healing, but no doubt this will come under some head. The meetings should be instructive and amusing, if the speakers are, bright and well up in their subjects.

Some evening dresses I have seen paraded on pretty models at a famous dressmaker's are worthy of being described as the bonne bouche—"A Woman's Last Word."

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One was in Empire green crepe of China, the softest, tenderest grey green, like you see on young willows: It was Empire shape, very long and graceful. but not "floppy," for it was mounted on a tight, boned, foureau or slip of white silk, with innumerable frills to set it out round the feet. On the bodice and short puffed sleeves were some wonderful white silk passementerie, a newer idea than gold, silver, or spangles, and to go in the hair there was a little wreath of oak leaves, like you see on the heads of antique statues. Another dress, which was for a girl "in the sweet of her year," was in white silk muslin, also Empire-wise, embroidered round and up the skirt with a trellis of silver spangles and thread, through which crept in and out little roses of crumpled white panne, with soft green leaves and diamond dew drops on them. The lovely little bolero, just to the armpits, was in white panne, with an embroidery done in silver and pearls. The balloon sleeves were of the silk chiffon and for the hair, dressed in Empire curls, there was a little white rose wreath. This dress was not trained, it looked so pretty and "young," showing the dainty "lace" stockings and satin shoes, sandalled with narrow ribbon in Empire style. The wearer had a most diminutive white gauze fan. with silver sequins on it, and from it dangled a quaint Empire mirror, with a slender handle.

And now the mail hour has arrived, and the silver sequins on it, and from it dangled a quaint Empire mirror, with a slender handle.

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And now the mail hour has arrived, and 'this letter hath ending,' as friend Shakespeare would say. So, once more, A Merry Christmas, and "God Bless Us,"

"OLD MOORE'S" PROPHECIES. Home Rule for Ireland, England and Scotland Next Year.

H "Old Moore's" predictions come true 1906 will be a year of absorbing interest. Some of the more remarkable propheseies are as follows:
January—A series of railway and shipping disasters.
February—Disasters to vessels of war and "large floating city."
March—Reduction in income tax on two-wheeled foot exercises, presumably bicycles.



LABOR NOTES

The arsenal and dockyard workers' strike in France has collapsed.

There were 372 strikes in Italy in 1904, involving about 158,000 people.

About 500 waitresses in Boston, Mass., have recently been taken into the Waiters' Union.

smiths, of the United Kingdom, is of an encouraging character. This is evidenced by the decreasing list of unemployed members of the society, the proportion having fallen to 2.2 per cent.

Shipsmiths at Dundee, Scotland, have applied for an advance of one shilling per week, but the employers have, so farrefused the request. It is expected that a conference will soon take place, with hopes of a settlement.

During the year ending Oct. 1, 1905, strikes in unions affiliated with the American Federation of Labor involved 107,268 men, of whom 63,350 were benefited and 52,028 worsted. The strikes cost the unions in loss of wages \$2,617, 291.

The convention of the National Founders' Association in New York has con-

The convention of the National Founders' Association in New York has condemned the rules of trades unions which restrict the training of apprentices and recommends that every apprentice be given work which will develop him into a mechanic.

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he given work which will develop him into a mechanic.

The assessment which the American A. Federation of Labor levied upon the members of its allied unions to aid the laternational Typographical Union in its fight for the eight hour day will amount to \$80,000. It was decided to assess each of its 2,000,000 members 1 cent a week for four weeks.

At Cleveland, O., the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, in secret session, recently, considered plans for reducing the hours of labor for members of the order. The sentiment prevailed tat the hours of locomotive engineers are at times unreasonably long, and that there should be an adjustment of time limitation.

Much satisfaction is being expressed in trade union circles over the action of the Burlington road in signing a schedule with the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers after opposition to that organization for twenty years.

Some of the brightest minds in the labor movement in Los Angeles, Cal.

The home office statistics of the pro-The home office statistics of the proceedings under the worknen's compensation act and employers' liability act during 1904 has been issued. During the year 1,730 cases were taken into court in England and Wales — the largest number yet recorded—whilst 705 cases were settled out of court or disposed of in such a way as to allow of results being recorded. One thousand two hundred and seven cases were decided in favor of applicants, and 261 in favor of respondents.

Winner of the Big French Lottery Again

The Piece of Purple

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ceivable.

But the whole battle, as watched from Nelson's standpoint, and judged by the part Nelson played in it, is in the loftiest key. It moves with the stateliness and even with the solemnity of a Greek drama. Nelson goes into the battle with a certainty that it is his last, "God bless you, Blackwood," he says, as he parts with his favorite frigate captain, "I shall never speak to you again." He dresses himself for death as for a feast. He insists on wearing his medals. "In honor." members of its allied unions to aid the International Typographical Union in its fight for the eight-hour day will amount to 880,000. It was decided to assets each of its 2,000,000 members 1 cent a week for four weeks.

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Some of the brightest minds in the labor movement in Los Angeles, Cal., are predicting that the membership of trades unionists in that city will be doubled the coming year. The outlook for a thoroughly unionized and closed ahop town was never so bright as at