

CHRISTMAS

CHRISTMAS, OR I. H. S. IN THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH, has a more significant meaning than is usually ascribed to mundane things, because it links together the present and the future, and reveals to the light of the true religion, which makes man a sinner by nature, redeemed only and finally by the sacrifice of the blood of the Son of God...

On Christmas eve the bells were rung; On Christmas eve the mass was sung; This day is bright in all the year...

THREE DAYS' SUSPENSION

There will be no paper issued from this office before Thursday morning. This is a suspension of only three working days making a hiatus of three days. When the commencement of the printing business is taken into consideration and the fact that our hard worked representatives in Congress take nearly two weeks this time it is full short. A rest of three days will it be hoped inspire all to fresh effort to make THE OBSERVER attractive.

Ever since the discovery of the electric light in 1876, the subject of the invariability of private telegrams has been the subject of public comment. It has again been brought forward by a decision of the highest court in Missouri. The Supreme Court of that State holds that telegrams are not beyond legislative or judicial control except to the extent that in the demand upon the companies for their production, the dispatches sought for must be clearly and distinctly specified. In other words, it is not permissible in a legislative or judicial body to ransack the contents of a telegraph office in the hope of finding something which might aid it in its investigations. The question is one of very great importance, to the commercial community and it would be well to have it settled and regulated by national legislation. The right of Congress to legislate in the matter has been recognized by the Supreme Court.

It is gratifying to know that Mr. Edison is still perfecting his electric light. He has had a visit from the Mayor and common council of New York City, and has been able to demonstrate that his light is just what is wanted to drive the gas companies out of the metropolis. Of course there is a banquet with a magnificent display of glass, brought up the mountain of Vesuvius and in Rome, saluting the ships of the virgin mother with their wild music, under the poetical notion of cheering her until the birth-time of her infant at the approaching Christmas. In a picture of the deity by Raphael, the babe introduced a shepherd at the door playing on a sort of organ. Appropriately to Christmas the bells are rung at midnight throughout England and the continent; and after the solemn celebration of the mass, for which the churches in France and Italy are magnificently adorned, it is usual for the revellers to partake of a collection (veillée) thereby may be better able to sustain the fatigue of the night. Among the revels of the Christmas season were the so-called feasts of fools and of asses, grotesque satiricals, which were sometimes termed "December liberties," in which anything serious was excluded, inferior persons being tolerated, and which illustrate the progress of man to occasionally severe the order of society, and rid of its deceptions. In the Protestant districts of Germany and the north of Europe, Christmas is often called the "children's festival," and Christmas eve is devoted to giving presents, especially between parents and children, and brothers and sisters, by means of the so-called Christmas trees. A large variegated wreath in one of the parlors, lighted with tapers, and hung with manifold gifts, sweetmeats, apples, nuts, playthings and ornaments.

Each of these is marked with the name of the person for whom it is intended, but not with the name of the donor, and when the whole family party is assembled the presents are distributed around the room according to their destination. A more, more, and more, each of these is marked with the name of the person for whom it is intended, but not with the name of the donor, and when the whole family party is assembled the presents are distributed around the room according to their destination.

Mother Shipton's prophecy, "the world to an end, and that come in lightning hurried and slight; give ye only a week for accumulating grace to meet the calendar, and perchance say perhaps usually deal in metaphoric language, the good old has referred rather to the discovery of the end of the world in the shape of the North Pole, than to its destruction. The fact that one or two exploring expeditions are at this moment struggling in the interests of science with the ice fields of the far North, lends some color to the theory that the world will be annihilated by a change of climate of this kind.

REPRESENTATION OF RAILROADS

Ordinarily we do not approve of legislative interference with the management of a railway, but in the case of the most part impracticable and useless. But a government which does not protect the lives, liberty and property of its citizens is unworthy the name. Such accidents, as the one which so recently occurred on the Carolina Central Railway, are assuredly the fault of some one and the railroad company should and doubtless will be made to suffer for it, through the instrumentality of the courts. But the application of punishment of this sort makes somewhat of the nature of the law suggests the boiling of a steaming locomotive and the hooping has been stolen. It is not a day could be so long as his time than by devoting attention to the creation of a system of inspection, not only of bridges, tracks, and like, but of the boiler and engine work on our public railways.

In the particular case of the Carolina Central, it has not yet been made known whether the train was defective in its boiler, in its engine, or in its cars, or whether it was brought down by the cars jumping the tracks which is possible, but even in the latter case the railroad company is certainly in fault; for it is well known that care to not have the train, which it is in very bad condition, such as surely should not exist on a public railway.

The sudden and unexpected death of five innocent persons is a matter to be passed over lightly, especially since it appears that the number of deaths can almost be said to have been limited only by the number of passengers aboard the train. Individual carelessness would in measure relieve the railroad, for while it is the duty of every public carrier to use its best efforts to insure faithfulness and efficiency on the part of its employees, it would be manifestly unjust to hold it responsible for an overt act of carelessness on the part of any one of them. But, here the employees were diligently attending to their duties, and it is even well established that the engineer was not exceeding the prescribed rate of speed at the moment the accident occurred.

We have no practical remedy to suggest, and are not prepared to elaborate any system by which such accidents could be averted, but we do insist that the matter is one which demands the attention of legislators. A preventive is what we want and it must be had, whatever the cost. It has been clearly shown that the fear of punishment does not act as such.

WE PUBLISH ELSEWHERE

We publish elsewhere an editorial from the Mooresville Gazette suggesting the possibility of the proposed North Carolina Midland Railroad being extended across the country from Mooresville to Gaillard, Wooten's or some other point on the Air Line Railroad. It is difficult to believe that the company would undertake to build a line, which would give Charlotte the go-by, and hence we are not disposed to attach any special importance to the inspection of the route by the engineer and his assistants. Charlotte is too important as a competing point for the Midland to pass it by. The policy which would suggest any such action as this is too short-sighted to be adopted by any railroad company of the present day, especially since our people are most kindly disposed toward the new company, looking to it for relief from some of the heaviest burdens we have been made to bear through lack of effective competition. It is understood that the Midland company and the Atlantic, Tennessee & Ohio Railroad cannot agree as to the terms of lease or rental of the latter, and hence the trouble. We would much more readily believe that a new track would be built from Mooresville to Charlotte, than that the road would be projected to the Air Line at some point twenty miles below.

Any now, Sparks and Weaver, the belligerent congressmen, have become more and more antagonistic to the proposed extension of the Air Line.

WINE OF CARDUI

WINE OF CARDUI makes weak checks and clear complexion. It is sold at 60c per bottle by Dr. J. C. Smith.

MARKETS BY TELEGRAPH

DECEMBER 24, 1899. BALTIMORE - Flour, medium, 11.00; wheat, No. 2, 1.00; corn, No. 2, 0.65. BOSTON - Flour, No. 1, 11.50; wheat, No. 2, 1.00; corn, No. 2, 0.65. CHICAGO - Flour, No. 1, 11.00; wheat, No. 2, 1.00; corn, No. 2, 0.65.

Wheat, No. 2, 1.00; Corn, No. 2, 0.65; Flour, No. 1, 11.00. Cotton, No. 1, 11.00; Lard, 1.00; Sugar, No. 1, 11.00.

London, Dec. 24 - John of Cornwall publishes an open letter to John Bright, Chancellor of the Exchequer, protesting against the latter's speech at Birmingham on the 10th of November.

PETERSBURG, Va., Dec. 24

The Petersburg Herald publishes an article in which it complains that the state of Virginia has done nothing to the credit of the country to the rejection of the proposed extension of the Air Line.

DANVILLE, Va., Dec. 24

At Danville, Va., last night, the telegraph office, passenger depot and express office were burned. A large quantity of express was consumed.

LONDON, Dec. 24

The firm of Funck & Co., wool merchants of Roubaix, France, have failed.

WE HAVE TAKEN SPECIAL PAINS

TO MAKE OUR PURCHASES OF BOOTS & SHOES. THE FALL TRADE TO THE WANTS OF ALL CLASSES OF THE COMMUNITY BOTH IN THE CITY AND SURROUNDING COUNTRY.

Our stock, now being received, will be found very attractive, full and complete. Our stock of LADIES' FINE BUTTON SHOES & CONGRUOUS GAITERS, etc., are GENUINE HAND-MADE, and MACHINE-MADE GOODS, BOOTS, CONGRUOUS GAITERS, etc., are GENUINE HAND-MADE, and MACHINE-MADE GOODS, BOOTS, CONGRUOUS GAITERS, etc.

McSmith on the Home Stretch. BADLY MISGUIDED, BUT STILL IN THE RING. CASH PRICES WITH THREE MONTHS' CREDIT. DURING THE MONTHS OF AUGUST, SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER WE WILL SELL PIANOS AND ORGANS AT LOWEST CASH PRICES.

PIANOS AND ORGANS. SPECIAL OFFER FALL, 88c. CASH PRICES WITH THREE MONTHS' CREDIT. DURING THE MONTHS OF AUGUST, SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER WE WILL SELL PIANOS AND ORGANS AT LOWEST CASH PRICES.

FOR RENT. THE House on West Trade street, now occupied by Westcott & Whitcomb. Also, that corner of Trade and Pine. R. BARRINGER.

Young, Smyth, Field & Co. NOTIONS, Philadelphia. Occur this day their MANAGER, NEW YORK, Mr. J. B. Young, will be in the city. Philadelphia, Dec. 22, 1899.

PIANO FOR SALE. An administrator of Mrs. Mary Elliott, will sell her late husband's piano. This is said to be the largest piano in this line in the country. Philadelphia, Dec. 22, 1899.

HO! FOR CHRISTMAS. -- JUST RECEIVED -- FIFTY bbls. Choice Apples. FIVE bbls. Celery, fresh and crisp. TWENTY-FIVE bbls. Select Florida Oranges.

BOARD WANTED. A GENERAL MANAGER to manage a large hotel in Charlotte. Apply to J. B. Young, 100 North Tryon Street, Charlotte, N.C.

Something New and Useful. SIGNAL INSTRUMENT. THE AMERICAN SIGNAL INSTRUMENT CO. has introduced a new and improved signal instrument.

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Advertisement for RANKIN & BRO. featuring a large illustration of a woman sitting at a table. Text includes 'FURNITURE, BEDDING, & C.' and 'Cheap Bedsteads, AND LIVING, Parlor & Chamber Suits.'

Advertisement for BURGESS NICHOLS, 'THEY KEEP IT.' Text includes 'FURNITURE, BEDDING, & C.' and 'Cheap Bedsteads, AND LIVING, Parlor & Chamber Suits.'

Advertisement for 'Groceries' featuring 'CIGARS! CIGARS!' and 'LARGEST AND BEST ASSORTMENTS OF KEY WEST & DOMESTIC CIGARS.'

Advertisement for 'SPRINGS & BURWELL' featuring 'NEW ORLEANS MOLASSES' and 'WHOLESALE OR RETAIL BACON, FLOUR, HAMS, LARD, STARCH, SUGAR, COFFEE, TOBACCO, SYRUPS, HEAVY & FANCY Groceries.'

Advertisement for 'PIANOS AND ORGANS' featuring 'SPECIAL OFFER FALL, 88c.' and 'CASH PRICES WITH THREE MONTHS' CREDIT.'

Advertisement for 'CROCKERY AND GLASSWARE' featuring 'HOLIDAY PRESENTS' and 'In Greatest Variety and at Lowest Prices.'

Advertisement for 'CHINA PALACE' featuring 'JOHN BRUNFIELD & CO.' and 'BARGAINS IN CHINA WARE.'

Advertisement for 'FLOUR' featuring 'MAYER & ROSS' and 'At Bottom Prices.'

Advertisement for 'JOBING TRADE' featuring 'R. M. Miller & Sons' and 'We guarantee the above brand of FLOUR to be the finest in the city for Jobbing Trade.'

Advertisement for 'SKATES! SKATES!' and 'FOR RENT' featuring 'TURKEY, TURKEYS, EGGS' and 'MISS ADA GRAY.'