

THE OLD-TIME CHRISTMAS.

E. P. Postell in New York Independent. The Christmas of 1847 was a simple and tender affair, consisting mainly of Santa Claus and well-filled stockings. The presents were handsome, with a few added sweetmeats and toys. Think of the changes! An orange was a sight more rare than custard-apples are now. A banana I do not remember having seen before 1850. Farmers used old flint locks to shoot the squirrels for the Christmas pie, or what we used to call the "Queen's arms." These were British muskets, captured during the revolution. The first breach loader was patented in 1836, but they were not in common use. We went in thick stoga boots because rubbers were barely known, and I don't think a rubber boot was in existence. What we had were a sort of Indian moccasins imported from Brazil, capable of wearing for ten years. The first Goodyear patent was taken out in 1835. About the same time the first machine was put in operation for making pins, while for pens we used goosequills. It was, however, a peculiarly inventive period. All the knick-knacks that are most familiar to us were then novelties and costly. A bunch of pins in a Christmas stocking was not despised. If a box of matches could have been had it would have been a welcome gift from Santa Claus. The stockings were hung up by the huge old fireplace, where great logs burned and coals were covered up at night. In rural sections we had never seen a scuttle of coal, and had only heard of it as an effort to burn black stones. Whale oil lamps marked the advanced line of progress in lighting streets and houses. There was no dream of canned fruits and cocoa and chocolate, although we had plenty of tea and coffee. It was impossible to give a sewing machine or a photograph. Daguerreotypes were not devised until 1839, and the first were taken in America at least a year later. I remember when Avery, who took the first sun picture west of Albany, carried it up and down the streets, flushed with his first success, and ran into house after house to exhibit it. It was a ghostly affair, but after all it was the beginning of a great art. The presents were fuller of affection because home-made. The whole family had been at work for weeks planning and executing little gifts. The boys made boxes and toys and hand sleds. The women made stockings and mufflers and dainty caps, while the girls made slippers, and the fathers made shoes. A home was a word that meant great things in those days; for both the women and men had trades, as well as a knack and a knowledge of land culture. It is interesting to note that some of our best observers and social students prophesy a large reaction from our present fast and uneasy age to the quiet and calm of those earlier days of the century. Of course we should not give up our inventions; but with them we may lose our boyish excitement, and react to another period of reconsideration. This has been the history of the past. Eras of restless aggression have been followed by periods of reflection. We could do all that is necessary for a happy social state with less of wear, and less of nerve friction. Will electricity help us in this direction? We believe it will. The most delightful part of these old-time holidays was the sports, pure and free from every guile. Ourevenings were always at home; and in the one great family room, which was the dining-room and the kitchen in one, we gathered before the high fire of logs and had that sort of unadulterated fun which can be had only where the whole family is united. We parched our home-grown corn, and made our candy of molasses, and played simple games, in which no one joined more heartily than the father and the mother. The evenings lasted from candle lighting until nine o'clock. No child was ever permitted to absent himself from the household after dark without the direction of his parents.

STATE NEWS.

To-day at Island Ford, in this county, Miss Elizabeth S. McDowell, daughter of the late Col. John L. McDowell, and Mr. Edward Harris, of Cowpens, S. C., were married by Rev. J. B. Carpenter. The county of Alexander owed the State \$13,000 for labor of convicts in building a railroad. It put up its bonds with the Treasurer. Each year it pays \$1,000 and takes up a bond. It has made the eighth payment. Caldwell county now has five roller Mills in operation. Mr. G. W. Conley started his out at the old Conley home-stead near Henderson last Thursday. It does fine work, we are told and has a capacity of 40 barrels per day. Lieutenant Richmond Pearson Hobson, who is just now receiving so much attention from the press, sent \$75 to his aunt, Mrs. Mary Pearson Davis, and \$25 to his cousin, Mrs. Mary Davis Boyden, of Statesville township, as Christmas presents.—Mascot. The consecration of Rev. Junius Moore Horner, as Bishop of the missionary jurisdiction of Asheville, occurred at Trinity Church, Asheville, December 28. The church, which was filled to its capacity, was handsomely decorated with Christmas evergreens. Raleigh News: The past year has been one of progress in Raleigh. Nearly thirty miles of sidewalk have been graded, curbed and paved and a far greater number of new buildings has been erected than has ever before been known in a corresponding length of time. The payment of pension warrants by the State Treasurer began only fifteen days ago, but already over one-third of them have been settled for. Up to date \$45,000, in round numbers, have been paid out for pensions. The total amount, it will be remembered, is \$120,000. The biggest day so far was Tuesday, the payments that day amounting to \$9,288. J. W. Albertson, of Elizabeth City, was appointed special referee in bankruptcy for the bank of Guirkin & Co., of Elizabeth City. Some of the creditors made objection because he was a debtor of the bank. Judge Purnell today decided that Albertson is eligible. He holds that the fact that a referee owes a bankrupt is not a disqualification as referee under the statute. Salisbury correspondence of The Observer, 28th: Mr. E. C. Casey and Ernest Harris, the latter a mere boy, were fired at from ambush near the Vance Mill last night and both were quite painfully wounded. It is thought they were mistaken by a negro for two other white men against whom he had sworn vengeance. The negro suspected has not been apprehended. Greensboro correspondence of Charlotte Observer: It is said that nearly 100 dwellings are now in course of construction in this city.—Dr. McIver reports his school to be in flourishing condition.—Mr. D. F. Caldwell, until recently president of the Bank of Guilford, but resigned on account of his health, is critically ill from paralysis at his home on West Market street. He is over 80 years old and retains perfect control of his faculties. He is one of the men who helped to make North Carolina history. Rutherfordton correspondence of The Observer, 28th: Intelligence is received here of a murder in Polk county a few days ago. One Lad Edwards, a white man, shot and killed a negro near Mill Spring. The shooting was done in self-defence. The negro was a dangerous character and is the third brother to have been killed in the same locality in Polk county (on practically the same spot). Edwards is hiding out, evading arrest, but it is not believed that any prosecution will ever be entered against him, as the provocation was so apparent. William H. Day Was born in Halifax county August 25, 1843, and is therefore in his 56th year. He was educated at Bingham School and at the University of North Carolina. Volunteering in Lee's army at the age of 18, he served through the war, rising from a private in the ranks to captain of his company.

Criminal Courts.

The State Supreme Court on Friday handed down a decision in the case of State vs. Hinson, which is of much general interest, as it defines the status of the present criminal circuit courts of the State. * * * No appeal can be taken from a criminal or inferior court direct to the Supreme Court. The appeal must be taken to the Superior Court and thence to the Supreme Court. "Recurring to the main question, Was the defendant entitled to a trial de novo in the Superior Court?—our conclusion is that the defendant was not entitled to a trial de novo in the Superior Court, but only to a review of matters of law or legal inference found in the case on appeal from the Criminal Court. Under the broad provisions of the Code, section 809, the cause goes from the Criminal to the Superior Court by appeal as it does from the Superior to the Supreme Court. The appeal should contain a concise statement of the case, as in appeals to this court from the Superior Court." The Law for the Protection of Children. In view of the fact that so many children are left alone by their parents, we deem it proper to publish the law, ratified February 2, 1893, which forbids parents to expose their children to this danger: "The General Assembly of North Carolina do enact: "Section 1. That it shall be unlawful for any person or persons in this State to leave any child or children, of the age of seven years or less, locked or otherwise confined in any dwelling, building or enclosure, and go away from said dwelling, building or enclosure, without leaving in charge of the same some person or persons of the age of discretion, so as not to expose said child or children to danger by fire; and any person or persons so offending shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and shall be punished at the discretion of the court." Nat Macon Philosophy. The Courier will continue to urge that the next Legislature not only reduce its own expenditures in every possible way, but should reduce the fees of the county officials in every county in the State. Every useless office should be abolished. Let the State expenditures be cut down on every hand. The Legislature of 1871 cut down the expenditures over half, and the Legislature which meets in Raleigh in January would do well to do the same thing. The members do not need so many to wait on them; again, there is no reason or sense in paying the clerks \$5 per day for their services when the members themselves receive a much smaller amount. There must be rigid economy and reduction of fees, taxes and salaries all round, for Democrats have promised it. As to Appointments at the Penitentiary. "Oh, yes," remarked Captain Day, "I have already hundreds of applications for positions. I wish I could give every good man a place, and I know they are all good men, but I have turned this matter of appointment over to Mr. Tillery and Mr. Arendell. Mr. Tillery will make the appointments on the farms and Mr. Arendell will make all those at the central prison. My only requirement will be that they organize an efficient, strictly business force, and my only further suggestion will be that they select honest, competent and deserving Democrats. "My only purpose will be to run the penitentiary on strictly business principles, with honest, conscientious and competent men, to the very best interest of the institution and the State." McKinley is sticking to Ewart and has again sent to the Senate his appointment to be district judge of the western district of North Carolina. It will be remembered that Butler bitterly opposed Ewart's nomination at the last session of Congress and that the appointment failed of confirmation at that time. It remains to be seen whether or not Butler will renew his fight.—Newton Enterprise.

MR. BRYAN IN OMAHA.

He thinks it Difficult to Say What Relation Imperialism Will Bear to the Money Issue in 1900. Omaha, Dispatch, Dec. 28. Wm. J. Bryan arrived in Omaha to-day from Chicago. He called on friends in the city during the morning, and this afternoon left for Lincoln. When asked if he thought the question of imperialism would overshadow the money issue in the campaign of 1900. Mr. Bryan said it was difficult at this time to say what relation these subjects would bear to each other then. He thought if Congress would adopt a resolution pledging this government to keep the Philippines only as a trust for their people as we do Cuba, until a stable government is established, the expansion issue would be at an end. If, however, the question is not settled in some such way as this, he said, it would continue to be a matter of discussion until it was disposed of and would thereafter remain one of the issues before the people. With Porto Rico, Mr. Bryan said, the situation could be simplified easily. He believed the people of the island should first be permitted to vote whether they desired annexation to this country, or the formation of an independent republic. Get out of the Mud. Lenoir Topic. We believe the wisest and best investment that could be made by the people of this county at this time would be to issue bonds to the amount of \$100,000 and put it on the roads. Let the people ask the Legislature for the right to hold an election on the question. In the first place, the distribution of \$100,000 among our people for building 100 miles of road would be a great help to business, and then the saving to the people in the next fifty years in the item of hauling and travel would be incalculable. The truth of the matter is, if it is looked at from the proper standpoint, the county can't afford to longer put off an investment for better roads. An Echo from Clark-Kilgo. Lenoir Topic. A little incident occurred in the proceedings of the North Carolina Conference that surprised and mortified us. That body tabled a resolution condemning the use of cigarettes. It is possible that the preachers of the eastern conference did this because Mr. Duke has been so lavish in his gifts to Trinity? If so, a thousand times better that Trinity had never been reared. Accept the money, but, like the old lady who prayed for bread, and told the mischievous boys who threw it down the chimney—"The Lord sent it, if the devil brought it." Let evil be condemned in any and all forms, though no institutions of learning receive large benefactions. Ambassador Romero, of Mexico, Dead. Washington Dispatch, Dec. 20th. Senator Don Matias Romero, the Mexican ambassador to the United States, died at the Embassy here at 4:10 o'clock this morning. On Wednesday an operation for appendicitis was performed upon the ambassador, and although the operation was entirely successful the resulting shock proved greater than he could bear. Up to 1:30 o'clock this morning, however, it was thought that he was in a fair way to recovery, but at that time a high fever set in, and he sank rapidly until his death. The Legislature and the Fees. Chatham Record. The State Constitution (in Sec. 15 of Art. III.) prohibits the Legislature from diminishing the salaries of the Governor and other executive State officers during the term of which they are elected. Therefore the salaries of our present State officers cannot be reduced, even if our Legislature should wish to do so. But it is otherwise with the fees and salaries of our county officers, for by Sec. 18 of Art. IV. of the Constitution the Legislature is expressly authorized to regulate them. Few Over Fifty Years. Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup has been used for over fifty years by millions of mothers for their children while teething, with perfect success. It soothes the child, softens the gums, allays all pain, cures wind colic, and is the best remedy for Diarrhoea. It will relieve the poor little sufferer immediately. Sold by Druggists in every part of the world. Twenty-five cents a bottle. Be sure and ask for "Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup," and take no other kind. Dec 20-97 17

SHADOWS ON THE WALL.

When the room is tidy Toys are growing sleepy. Sides are turning gray. Comes the children's clamor As they round me throng. Fairy lore's exhausted, Song each nursery song. In the mellow lamplight Hushed their voices all. Whilst they watch me making Shadows on the wall. Through the happy silence Rings their laughter low As upon the wall there Shadows come and go. Frown, unsmiling, unshed, Watches from the door, Whilst the children's voices Flood for just one more! One by one they leave me. Till I sit alone. Seating in the twilight Shadows of my own. Long forgotten fancies, Dreams in older guise, Till from heart to eyelids Tears, unbidden, rise. Happy, happy children! Time has joys for all: Only some are feeling Shadows on the wall. —London Mail. HOW HE GAINED COURAGE. General Chaffee's Way of Giving a Recruit Confidence. A youth of 18 who was in the trenches at El Caney carrying a gun was so badly frightened under fire that he went flat on his face and was roundly kicked by his companions. General Chaffee came along and called to him. "Well, you're a fine soldier!" Then he looked at the boy's face of the kid, and his face softened. "I suppose you can't help it," he said. "It ain't so much your fault. I'd like to get hold of the fellow that took you into the army." By and by he put his hand on the boy's shoulder. "There isn't so much danger as you think for," said the general. "Now, you get up and take your gun and fight, and I'll stand here by you." The boy got up, shaking like a leaf and fired his first shot pretty near straight into the air. "That's pretty high," said the general. "Keep cool and try it again." In three minutes that kid was fighting like a veteran and cool as a cucumber, and when he saw it the general started on. "You're all right now, my boy," he said. "You'll make a good soldier." "God bless you, sir," said the youngster. "You saved me from worse than death." And he was pretty close to crying when he said it. After a while the order came to retire from the trench, and soldiers had to coil that kid and haul him away by the neck to get him to retreat with his company. And at that he'd got a bulge through the fleshy part of his shoulder an hour before. In the rest of the fights there wasn't a better soldier in the company.—Chicago Journal. Theatrical "Props." Props comprise all the portable articles required in a play. Guns and pistols—which too often fail to go off at the critical moment—are props; leaves of bread, fowls, fruit, all made of a rough paper mache, are also props. We may also include those wondrous gilt goblets, only seen on the stage, which make such a nonmetallic thud when they fall and bounce upon the boards, as among the achievements of the property man. But it is at pantomime times that that individual is at his busiest. Big masks and make believe messages and vegetables, without which no pantomime would be complete, are mingled with fairy wands, garlands of artificial flowers, basket work frames for the accommodation of giants and other articles too numerous to mention. How the right things are forthcoming at the right moment is one of the mysteries only known to property men. Had one of these useful members of the theatrical world the ability and inclination to write a book what an entertaining volume could he turn out!—Chambers' Journal. Original if Not Accurate. This, says The Scottish Leader, is a genuine extract from a schoolboy's recent "Essay on Nelson": "Oh! Harding, kiss me again," were the butefull words of a heroic mortal who won a grate battle with one eye and a wooden leg. Before the bloody context this motto was uttered by him. "The queen expects every man to do his duty." When he died the queen met him in a boat and he went to St. Paul's, and was buried. This is a marvelous lesson to me and all schoolboys. Do your duty to your pastors and masters and then even with a single leg you can say, "with this simple thing I will do my duty." As Nelson himself said, "Even though you are only man you can do your duty." Senator Pritchard's Health. Asheville Citizen. The Citizen has reasons for believing it to be the fact that Senator Pritchard is far from being a robust man, though to the casual observer he appears the picture of health. It is known to not a few that Senator Pritchard came near collapsing in Raleigh in the fight he made for re-election in 1897. Lunar Influence. Charlotte Observer. About this appointment of Captain Bill Day as superintendent of the penitentiary—wonder if the eclipse of the moon didn't have something to do with it? A Wonderful Discovery. The last quarter of a century records many wonderful discoveries in medicine, but none that have accomplished more for humanity than that sterling old household remedy, Brown's Iron Bitters. It seems to contain the very elements of good health, and neither man, woman or child can take it without deriving the greatest benefit. Brown's Iron Bitters is sold by all dealers.

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