

Christmas!

It is many years since bright-eyed anticipation called to us to hail "Merry Christmas" as the day of days. We cherish the same kindly feelings, but alas, the enthusiasm of youth has departed, and only do we find in the delight of the young that pleasure once ours also, in common with other joyous children.

The gladdest time of all the bright Old Year is with us, and all Christendom rejoices to-day that a Deliverer has set free the bondsman and opened the gates of the future "to all believers." Nineteen centuries of thanksgiving has not dulled the popular heart or made less precious the story of the Wondrous Child whose birth we celebrate.

Pure in life, and ever humble in manner, the Man who has been exalted above the mightiest of the earth, teaches us the sublimest lesson of Creation.

We will not moralize; our mission is not to infringe on the domain of the religious instructor, and save when religion touches nearly our social life—it is the highest wisdom of the journalist to avoid all reference to matters of faith.

The story of the old time ages we repeat to-day, and around our common National altar let us all gather as "little children" and as such "love one another."

The "Post" greets its many friends with many kind wishes to-day, and offers a rich addition to their Christmas feast. The wealth of literary talent so kindly furnished to its conductors to fill our Christmas columns, we know will be fully appreciated and fondly cherished.

OUR NEW YORK LETTER.

Christmas at the Great Metropolis—How it is celebrated—A Graphic and Interesting Account—A Day of Glorious Festivities.

NEW YORK, December 23, 1899. "Christmas comes but once a year." The above quotation from Tasso, New Yorkers "realize" to the fullest extent, and when I say "realize," 'tis the name some New Yorkers have for getting tipsy.

In the first place, the first thing that meets the stranger arriving in New York on Christmas Eve, as he will invariably arrive in the lower part of the city, is the extraordinary number of palm, and evergreen piled up in myriad mountains opposite every store, on most every street, for miles and miles around.

The following is the new census bill as it passed. We give our readers the main points: "An Act" to provide for taking the ninth census of the United States.

Having purchased, he selects a spot on the sidewalk, or buried in the snow ankle deep in the street he yells out to the top of his voice right lustily: Christmas trees! Christmas trees!

And as he is patronized by some kind purchaser, and is readily sold out he replenishes his stock by some grasping German farmer who has a stand near by, who sells by the wholesale, he commences again, and thus from morn to night in the week preceding Christmas, this is the trade of thousands in this city.

A tree, say of three to four feet in height, will bring from 50 cents to \$1.50 according to freshness, and firm bearing. And others, larger, in proportion. Probably over a million dollars is spent in this branch of traffic in New York alone, in this one week, prior to Christmas.

The trees are chiefly used, as you may infer, for home decorations. And indeed barren is the home, sad the countenances, and sorrowful the eyes of the inmates of a New York home, without these sweet reminders of joy and happiness.

It is something to be marveled at by the general reader, that although as before stated every one celebrates Christmas in New York, no two nationalities celebrate alike.

Celebrate it, by boisterous singing, musical parties, terpsichorean exercises, large doses of weiss beer and lager, and in fact general hilarities. The week intervening the jolly Teuton seldom cares for labor, and very little can be secured, until "der Neu Jahr" is ushered in.

This portion of the population the predominating foreigners in this city, by dominant right we presume, and chiefly Catholics observe this holiday from dusk on Christmas Eve, until the break of day Christmas morning by devout worship in their churches. Indeed

Present a grand, grave and solemn scene on the night of Christmas Eve. Let us look in at St. Peter's Church, in Barclay street. The stars are just peeping from their azure beds, and tearing away the veil which obscures their vision of earth, as if they too must see the observance below. The air is cold and keen, and each male pedestrian paddles along through the crystal covered snow, looks like a miniature steam man, as the feathery puffs of warm air issue from the nose and, forms fantastical shapes on his moustache—if he happens to have one—if not, his overcoat is sure to receive the icy draughts of air, congealed into miniature icebergs.

Well here we are in St. Peter's. Around the altar are hundreds of persons to whom the mass of to-morrow is "a lecture too airy set"—always about 5 o'clock, A. M.,—and therefore feast their eyes on the wax figure of Jesus in the manger, and the Holy Virgin attending, with the glimmering sheen of gold and crystal that go to make up the attractions of the Catholic Churches on this evening.

These early masses of the church all Catholics attend, and then by a somewhat remarkable sequence, the following hours are given up to debauchery; consisting of whiskey drinking, skull beating, "shin-digs" (dances), and copious blasphemy. The Police returns proving in the morning that nineteen-twentieths of the arrests are Irish, and most of these in the Fourth and Sixth wards.

The native New Yorker, be it to his honor said, celebrates this day with less pomp, glorification, and "hurrah," than any other element in the city.

In the morning, to the sound of "glad-some bells" he is seen in calm, thoughtful mood, walking to church, dressed "neat, but not gaudy." This is of the regular Sunday hour—10 o'clock. No matter whether he be Baptist, Congregationalist, Presbyterian, Episcopalian, or what-not—every body goes to church. Here an appropriate sermon is selected and eloquently preached. There is no attempt at ostentatious decoration. Probably a few flowers adorn the pulpit, kindly placed there by some friend of the pastor. The sermon is ended; the congregation retire; friends call in the afternoon. They are entertained generally by an invitation to "stay to dinner," or "stay for tea," and sometimes.

In the evening, parties, or receptions are given, and most every house is gladdened by Christmas games, or enveloped by the strains of instrumental music set to saltatorial exercises.

And this is but a slight and immature sketch of Christmas as it is spent in New York. In my next I will give a description of "How New Years Is Spent in New York," which associated with that original New York custom, New Year's calls, will no doubt be interesting.

The following is the new census bill as it passed. We give our readers the main points: "An Act" to provide for taking the ninth census of the United States.

That there shall be established in the Department of the Interior, an office to be denominated the Census Office; the chief officer of which shall be called the Superintendent of the Census, whose duty it shall be to under the direction of the head of the department, to supervise and direct the taking of the ninth census of the United States, in accordance with the laws relating thereto; and to perform such other duties as may be required by law.

Sec. 2. And be it further enacted, That the Superintendent of the Census shall be appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, within ten days after the passage of this act, and his term of service shall continue for the term of three years and no longer, and he shall receive an annual salary of five thousand dollars.

Sec. 4. And be it further enacted, That within thirty days after the appointment of the Superintendent of the Census, the Secretary of the Interior shall appoint, in each congressional district, and in each of the Territories of the United States, and in Alaska, and in the District of Columbia, one district superintendent of the census, whose duty it shall be to cause all the inhabitants to be enumerated, and to obtain, or cause to be obtained, the other statistical information within his district, in the manner provided for in this act; and a reasonable allowance, not to exceed four dollars per day for each day actually employed, for clerk hire may be made to any district superintendent, the amount whereof shall be determined by the Secretary of the Interior, whenever, in his judgment, the necessities of the service shall require it. Provided, That the enumeration herein provided for shall be so taken in the several districts as to show the whole number of Indians not taxed in each.

Sec. 6. And be it further enacted, That each district superintendent, immediately after receiving his appointment and taking and subscribing the oaths hereinbefore prescribed, shall proceed to divide his district into as many subdivisions, to be known as enumeration districts, as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this act and to complete the enumeration within one month after the date fixed for taking the census; and he shall employ one enumerator in each enumeration district thus formed, and shall, without delay, transmit to the Superintendent of the Census the name and post office address of each enumerator, together with a description of the subdivision assigned to each, and as near as practicable the number of square miles contained therein. The formation of enumeration districts, and the employment of enumerators, shall be subject to the approval of the Superintendent of the Census.

Sec. 24. And be it further enacted, That the Superintendent of the Census shall prepare for submission to Congress, at the beginning of the next December session held after the date of the census, a preliminary report, embracing statistics of the population of the United States, by States, Territories and counties or parishes, sufficiently full for the equalization of representation of the several States in Congress. He shall, as soon thereafter, as practicable, and within three years from the date of his appointment, prepare a carefully digested report, embracing full tabular statements of all the statistical information furnished by the census, with comparative tables, showing the changes from former censuses, and such other tables as may be necessary to exhibit the results of the enumeration.

Sec. 24. And be it further enacted, That the Superintendent of the Census shall require and obtain from every railroad corporation, or the lessee or receiver thereof, in the United States the following facts, so far as they respectively possess the same, to exhibit the condition of such company on the first of June, eighteen hundred and seventy, and at the date of the last annual report made since June first, eighteen hundred and sixty-nine, to wit: The name of the corporation or company with corporate name of lines leased; the number of miles of its roads projected and the terminal points of the same the number of miles completed; the number of miles leased; miles of double track exclusive of sidings; capital stock allowed by the charter; amount paid up; number of mail stations; highest grade, including curvature in each division operated; total cost of road and equipment, and cost of purchase of other lines of road and telegraph; the total amount of debt, exhibiting separately the funded and unfunded debt, and in what country payable; the number of acres of land derived from public grants, remaining unsold; the amount of rolling stock, exhibiting separately, serviceable locomotives; passenger cars, express cars; mail, baggage, and express cars; box cars; stock cars; freight and coal cars. Also, total number of trains exhibiting, separately, the number of conductors, station masters, ticket agents, brakemen, engineers, firemen, flagmen, and gatemen, mechanics and laborers. Also, the total receipts of the corporation, exhibiting, separately, the receipts from passengers; from freights; from expresses; from mails; from miscellaneous sources. Also, the total expenditure of the corporation, including, separately, the kind and cost of fuel; the amount of national, State, and municipal taxation; interest on bonds and other debts dividends paid within the year in stock; repairs of track and bridges; repair of rolling stock; other repairs; damages to freights payments for personal injuries; telegraph expenses and repairs; new structures and other permanent improvements. &c. &c.

Sec. 25. And be it further enacted, That the Superintendent of the Census shall require each district superintendent or enumerator to obtain from every publisher, proprietor, or editor of a newspaper, magazine, or other periodical, published within the district a copy of the number bearing the date of the first day of June, eighteen hundred and seventy, or of the date nearest thereto, and also a statement of the number of copies published. And he shall require the copies thus obtained to be forwarded to the Census Office at Washington for classification and preservation. And he shall require each district superintendent to procure from the State and municipal and other corporate authorities within his district, excepting towns and cities with a less population than three thousand, such information as he may be able to procure, relating to the amount of debt of each State, county, or other municipal corporation, and for what purpose such debt was incurred, the amount and rate of taxation, and the rate of valuation for taxation of real and personal estate, respectively, as compared with the cash value, and the various purposes for which the tax was levied; the number of criminal prosecutions in each State and municipal government, the number of arrests, convictions, and acquittals; and for the purpose of carrying into effect all the provisions of this section the Superintendent is required to prepare and issue all necessary instructions and such schedules as are not provided for by law.

SPECIALS. TO THE PEOPLE.

I PROPOSE, FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE masses, to sell for the next thirty days, to my friends and customers, all kinds of

DRY GOODS,

THIRTY PER CENT. CHEAPER

than the same quality of goods can be bought at any other store in the city.

I shall forever fight on the true line of LOW PRICES.

SUPERIOR GOODS, FULL MEASURE, POLITE ATTENTION, AND CASH PAYMENTS.

On this line I have determined to achieve success, and expect the PUBLIC to sustain me. I am now offering

CAROLINA SHEETINGS, Yard wide, 12 1/2 Cents. BLEACHED SHEETINGS, 10 Cents.

LADIES' HOSE, 10 Cents. KENTUCKY JEANS, 16 Cents.

NORTH CAROLINA CASSIMERES, 50 Cents and upwards. With every variety of

DRY GOODS, At Bargains.

REMEMBER, I offer FIRST CLASS GOODS only, and at lowest prices. Give me a call at the

BANNER STORE, COR. MARKET AND SECOND STS., JOHN J. HEDRICK, Agent.

SPECIALS. OFFICIAL. IN BOARD OF ALDERMEN. WILMINGTON, December 20, 1899.

The following named persons are hereby designated as Registrars and Inspectors of Elections in the coming Municipal Election, and will comply with the requirements of the following Ordinance:

FOR THE FIRST WARD: ALLEN EVANS, JOHN H. BROWN, JOHN DYER.

FOR THE SECOND WARD: JAMES LOWREY, ROBERT MOORE, STACY VANAMRINGE.

FOR THE THIRD WARD: WASHINGTON HOWE, JOHN G. BULLCKEN, CHAS. H. ROBINSON.

FOR THE FOURTH WARD: H. B. KILERS, JAS. MCD. FRENCH, WM. McLAURIN.

The following ordinance concerning Registrars and Inspectors of Elections was then passed: AN ORDINANCE CONCERNING REGISTRARS AND INSPECTORS OF ELECTIONS.

Be it Ordained by the Board of Aldermen of the City of Wilmington, as follows: Sec. 1. All Registrars and Inspectors of Elections to be appointed as provided in the Amended Charter of the City of Wilmington, ratified by act of General Assembly, Dec. 18, 1898, shall open their books for registration, and register all the legally qualified voters in the several Wards of the City, that have not been previously registered, during such hours of the day, set apart by law for registration, as the Board of Aldermen may by order determine.

Sec. 2. The City shall allow compensation to the Registrars for registration of voters, the sum of three (\$3) dollars each per day for each and every day such registrar shall serve.

Sec. 3. A majority of the Board of Registrars or Inspectors in each Ward shall be competent to declare and register in open Ward meeting, by causing the names of the persons voted for and the number of votes given for each to be written in words at length in the returns made to the Mayor and Aldermen, and their ballots or votes cast shall then and there be properly sealed up in an envelope and returned with the returns.

Sec. 4. All the votes given in for officers designated to be voted for shall be sorted, counted, declared and registered in open Ward meeting, by causing the names of the persons voted for and the number of votes given for each to be written in words at length in the returns made to the Mayor and Aldermen, and their ballots or votes cast shall then and there be properly sealed up in an envelope and returned with the returns.

Sec. 5. The books shall be kept open for registration of all the legally qualified voters of the city, during such hours of the days designated by law as the Mayor and Board of Aldermen shall determine, and the Registrars shall daily, during said days, make a certified copy of the registration list, and return the same to the City Clerk within two hours after the time designated for closing the books on that day, provided however, that on the day of election the books of registration shall be returned to the City Clerk, together with all check lists used by said Registrars, within one hour after declaring the vote as provided in a subsequent section, and the returns of the votes for the person or persons voted for, shall be made to the Mayor and Aldermen as hereinafter provided together with such warrants or notices as they shall receive from said Board of Aldermen.

Sec. 6. All Registrars and Inspectors shall be sworn to a faithful discharge of their duty before any Justice of the Peace or other officer duly qualified to administer oaths.

Sec. 7. It shall be the duty of the Mayor and Aldermen to meet in session on the Tuesday next following the first Monday in January of each year, at their room in the City Hall, at 12 o'clock noon, for the purpose of receiving the returns from the several Wards, and they shall remain in session for one hour longer if they deem it necessary; and the Inspectors of elections shall then and there make their returns to said Mayor and Aldermen.

Sec. 8. Any person appointed as Registrar or Inspector of Elections, under provisions of the act of the General Assembly, entitled "An act to amend the Charter of the City of Wilmington," and ratified December 18, who having qualified as Registrar or Inspector, shall refuse or neglect to discharge the duties imposed by this ordinance, shall be subject to a penalty of one hundred dollars, to be recovered as penalties are now recoverable.

Sec. 9. All ordinances or parts of ordinances conflicting with or repugnant to the provisions of this ordinance are hereby repealed.

Passed by Board of Aldermen December 20, 1899. JOS. H. NEFF, Mayor. BENJAMIN DUREE, City Clerk.

SPECIALS. AN ORDINANCE CONCERNING THE DONATION OF CITY BONDS TO THE CAPE FEAR AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATION.

Be it Ordained by the Board of Aldermen of the City of Wilmington, as follows: Section 1st. That the Mayor be and he is authorized and instructed, and he is hereby directed, to subscribe and pay to the Cape Fear Agricultural Association, the sum of Two Thousand Dollars in bonds of the City; to be paid from the bonds of the City payable in five years from July 1st, 1899, bearing interest at the rate of six per cent. per annum, payable in gold.

Sec. 2nd. That at the next city election the question, "Shall the City of Wilmington donate to the Cape Fear Agricultural Association Five Thousand Dollars in bonds, payable in five years, with interest at six per cent. per annum, payable in gold?" shall be submitted to the voters of the City for their decision.

Sec. 3rd. That if the vote shall be decided in the affirmative, the Two Thousand Dollars in bonds donated in the first section of this ordinance shall be deducted from the Five Thousand Dollars in bonds, mentioned in the second section, and the Mayor shall require from the officers of the said Association an obligation to return at the end of one year from their delivery, the two thousand dollars in bonds, in case the vote of the people shall be against the donation of the five thousand dollars in bonds as aforesaid.

And you will notify the citizens to state on their ballots as follows: "If voting for the donation as specified in the ordinance above recited, the ballot shall state 'For the donation to the Cape Fear Agricultural Association.'" If opposing the donation, the ballot shall state "Against the donation to the Cape Fear Agricultural Association."

Herein fail not, and have you then and there this Warrant, with your doing thereon. Witness, JOS. H. NEFF, Mayor of said City of Wilmington, this twenty-first day of December, in the year of our Lord, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-nine.

By order of the Mayor and Aldermen: BENJ. DUREE, City Clerk. MARSHAL'S OFFICE, WILMINGTON, N. C., Dec. 21, 1899.

To the citizens of Wilmington—Greeting: In accordance with the above warrants, you are notified to comply with the requirements specified.

W. P. CANADAY, Marshal City of Wilmington. dec 23 1899

Marshall's Office, CITY OF WILMINGTON. THERE IS IN CUSTODY OF THE UNDER-

signed one stray, brindie COW, apparently about 4 years of age. White spot on forehead, on back, and the upper portion of the tail; four feet tipped with white.

Can be procured at this office by proving property and paying expenses. W. P. CANADAY, City Marshal. December 18th, 1899. 385-34 dec 19

COLLECTOR'S OFFICE. CITY OF WILMINGTON, N. C., November 30th, 1899.

Tax Notice! Tax Notice! THE TAX BOOKS FOR 1899 ARE NOW OPEN. The taxes are on Real Estate, Personal Property, Income, Lawyers, Physicians, Artists, Carriages and Horses, and Pools.

Must be paid before the 1st of January, the usual course will be taken. The office will be open from 9 to 5 o'clock, (Sundays excepted). BENJAMIN DUREE, City Clerk. dec 2 Journal and Star copy.

NEW ADVERT. PROCLAM. TO ALL WHOM IT MAY COME:— WHERE ON THE MORNING OF December, the body of A DEAD MAN

Was found in the City. At the inquest held satisfactory showing that a want of eating my food was the cause of HIS DEATH. Now, therefore, I, J. M. Wise, Mayor of the City of Wilmington do issue this my proclamation commanding all persons to assemble at my stand at the Market House, on any of the days intervening between Christmas and New Years, and there see the effect of not eating my OYSTERS. Therefore fail not, and have you then and there my Oysters on your New Year's table. Witness, my hand and seal the day and year above mentioned. J. M. WISE, Mayor of City of Wilmington. dec 25

GRAND BALL, AT THE CITY HALL. ON MONDAY EVENING, January 3d, 1876. COMMITTEE OF ARRANGEMENTS: I. B. HUBBARD, J. B. BAGLES, N. NIXON, YORK WIGGINS, S. STEWART. Tickets, \$1.00, to be had at Arnold's "Cosmopolitan" at Wm. Toomer's Grocery, at the door on the evening of the Ball or of any member of the Committee. dec 25

LOST. A POCKET BOOK CONTAINING \$3.00 and one note made by Bloodworth & Burdoo, for \$7.50, payable to Jesse Rogers. The finder will please leave it at the residence of A. F. Bridgeman, on the corner of Ninth and Market streets. dec 25

Pianos Pianos. KNABE'S Stein's & Grottenstein's Pianos for sale at HEINSBERGERS. 30 Market Street. nov 2

SCHOOL BOOKS. SPELLERS, READERS, GEOGRAPHIES, ARITHMETICS, GRAMMARS, HISTORIES, BEES SYSTEM OF PENMANSHIP. For sale at HEINSBERGERS Live Book Store.