So I had before me about two hours | lul" and a half of daylight, and I was trying to decide whether to utilize it by riding out to the tennis club and having afternoon tea, or walking to the park to hear the band play and see the Spanish dignituries. The native clerks in the outer room had dusted up and now came gliding in with bare, splay toed feet, like black headed ghosts in American resident in the place. their white clothes, to bid me "buenas noches' and a happy Christmas, and incidentally to receive each his holiday ing a little English kept his shirt tucked inside his trousers and wore embroidered sandals, down to little Nito the "Christmas feeling" anyway, and assofreezing.

cooly" was stealthily watching take up my jacket, the signal for his departure, when the tramping of sounded without, and with a produgious | leaving the beggars to philosophically into my sanctum stalwart Captain Hale of the good hip Monlegan, arrayed in | "Charity, for love of heaven, charity!" snowy linen and crowned with a broad pith helmet, accompanied by stout and

'Good evening, sir," they both callain't it hot!" subsiding into the bamdisapproving grunt.

on my 'count. Stop it," shaking her umthis for a signal to go faster still, and the big fan flapping madly back and

for a month past under charter to me for Boston, and was now cleared and ready to sail the next day. I had spent An old native woman, like a grotestee their good old Yankee forms of speech. The very sight of their healthy faces, browned by the sun in many seas, did me good in my weary exile, and their presence seemed to diffuse an atmosphere of the breezy pines and wind swept shores of Maine. And how good er months of awful Spanish cooked din-

And now the sound of their hearty voices seemed to give the earthquake rent, dingy walls of the old office buildsaid the captain, "we kinder thought we'd drop in and give ye the good wishes of the season 'fore goin round to do our Christmasin. Fact is," he added, smiling, "the old lady can't lasked. ret on without celebratin Christmas, no matter where she is, and she's almy crew, and if we're in port like this she hunts up poor folks and of a while."

Senses a bit soon. Ye'd better bide awhile." to 'em, heathens and all. Ain't that so,

Mrs. Hale nodded, "That's a fact. father," she said. "Why, 'twouldn't seem the least mite like Christmas if 1 couldn't give presents, whether I be home in Boothbay or not. As for heathens, that don't make a bit of difference. It's Christmas jest the same, whether they know it or not, and it tickles 'em jest as much toget presents, like gunpowder."

and me to give 'em. And you're jest the same, John. You know you be." "Well, I don't know but what I be, tion, like a wretched savage, nursed by Maria," acknowledged the captain, and an ignorant old barbarian only for the they went on to tell of their queer ex. sake of the money she knew we would periences while "Christmasin" in out of give her, more terrible as time went or, the way Chinese and African ports with churches and peals of laughter that set their childish, unintelligible chatter. Pedro grinning by force of example, Oh, for a bit of ice or anything to cool though he couldn't understand a word.

"And speakin of that, Mr. B., " said cool there, nothing but death. Mrs. Hale, "I thought maybe I could make it a little more rice Ohristmas to

you and them other young men here and haggard, which must have been away from their own folks, so I made strong and handsome in health, and the you this." And with that she extracted from her basket the very grandfather of all Christmas plum puddings—the first and gave medicine, while the old hag one I had seen for three years. "Maybe 'tain't jest what you'd get at home," she said, holding it out with both hands while the cartain tout with both hands while the captain towered beside her, so or not. Outside the brown people so is teet or genuine delight at my surprise. "Convex I didn't have in the chattered and laughed in their freedom 'cause I didn't have just the from care, now and then peering in with right fixin's, but I guess it'll go down pretty well. There, take it and don't bother to say one word." And I knew lother to say one word." And I knew lother to say one word. The present lother to say one word. the kind old soul saw that for the moment I could as easily have flown as

uttered the thanks I felt. 'Trust the old lady to know what boys like," said the captain. "We had a boy once ourselves. He'd be jest about your age now," he added in a lower tone, glasicing at his wife. "We've got him now, John, as I've always said and always will," said Mrs. Hale quietly, rearranging her bas-

The captain went on in answer to my wondering look: "You see, our poy run off when he wa'n't more'n 15. He'd been kind of wild, as boys be, and I'm afraid I was a little harsh to him Any. way he went off without a word, and wo ain't never heard of him since. I feel pretty sure he's dead, but mother here sticks to it he ain't."

and I'm goin to stick to it, John, till I know for sure." And then with a cheery smile at me: "It kind of does me good to keep lookin forward to seein Rufe again some day. Now, come along, John; it's gettin late."

I slipped on my jacket, whereupon Pedro vanished, and accompanied the worthy couple down to the door of the building. On the stairs Mrs. Hale turned and whispered to me: "John talks as if he didn't care much about Rufe's goin off, but now he really does, Mr.

B. If he could find our boy, twould take ten years off his age and mine too. I did not doubt it, and I refrained from saying that I thought it would probably add ten years to Rufe's it !could realize the sort of mother and father he had left so many years ago.

So I bade them good night, promising to see them in the morning and with ness, and watched them as they trudged remind me of the day, no frost on the away toward the native quarters, their lev crowd of natives and Chiname who thronged the narrow street and

they could be, and the steady swinging filled the air with their uncouth gabble I sent my groom home with the pre cious pudding, and, mounting my pony, threaded my way around to the English somewhere about latitude 14 north, in club. There I found McGregor, the old the faraway Philippine islands, where | Scotch doctor, standing in the doorway the great, beautiful flowers have no per- and amusing himself by tossing copper fume and the wonderful birds never one at a time to a crowd of lame, halt sing, where the southern cross glitters and blind beggars, who as each coin fel over the land at night and the great instantly became an appalling tangle of

"Hello!" said he as I drew up. was just coming round after you. "Su (get away) to the beggars, who were plucking at various portions of his raiment, and, like metamorphosed Oli ver Twists, asking for more. "Aren't you acting American consul just now?'

he inquired. During the temporary absence of the consul I had undertaken his not very arduous duties, being the only other

"Well," continued the "medico, "I have a fellow countryman of yours very bad with fever down in Malacanan gift of one or perhaps five big silver dol- (native quarter), a sailorman, only just lars, according to his station, from Jose, out of the Spanish jail for thumping a the half breed chief clerk, who on the guardia (policeman) last year. I have strength of his dignity and of his speak- my doubts of his lasting long, and you'd better come down if you will."

Of course I would come, consul o not. In these hidden corners of the errand boy, hardly more than a savage world any one in trouble, vagabond of the wilderness. They had the sailor, "beach comber" or unlucky clerk out of employment, is as sure of help ciated it with the mercury's ranging from more fortunate fellow countrymen from 80 to 105 degrees, as we New Eng- as if he were in his native land-surer landers do its rambling from zero to perhaps, unless he happen to be a Chinaman, in which case his friends let him die unmolested and then pay the had been said, and the last clerk glided expenses of burying him in China, a out, and the gray headed old "punkah | backhanded sort of philanthropy, very o see characteristic in John Chinaman.

So the doctor jumped into a public carriage and rattled away toward Maunmistakable and evidently stout boots | lacanan, while I followed on my pony squat down around the club doorway and resume their everlasting wail of

Poor old McGregor's story was a sad one. Long years before, as a young man. jolly Mrs. Hale, carrying a big basket he had come to the Philippines on a and a brown gingham umbrella, with pleasure trip with his wife, and here her cheerful face beaming from the she died suddenly of cholera, that terdepths of a real old fashioned sunbonnet. | rible scourge of the east, which then was claiming its victims by thousands, and ed out, and Mrs. Hale added: "Wish for 20 years the doctor had never left you a merry Christmas, Mr. B. My, the island where she lay, among the tall palms in the little English cemetery boo chair which I had placed for her on Santa Ana hill. But many others under the punkah, with a "pica, hom- had reason to bless the cause that kept bre" (faster, man), to old Pedro, the Dr. McGregor among them. From the cooly, who redoubled his efforts with a proudest Spanish official in his palace to the humblest savage in his bamboo "Good gracious, Mr. B.," exclaimed hut the doctor's time and skill were al-Mrs. Hale, "don't, for pity's sake, make ways at their service. And many a that poor old feller work so this hot day | youngster fresh from home had been saved from going wrong in that land of brella vigorously at Pedro, who took wild and lawless life by his kindly words of counsel and advice.

We stopped at last before a miserable forth till I called, "Despacio" (gently). hut on the outskirts of the town, and The Monhegan had been in the bay giving the pony in charge of a passing native I followed the doctor in. The in-

many a pleasant hour on board with the | image, was squatting on the bamboo captain and his wife, rejoicing in the floor beside a heap of "nipa" leaves omelike feeling it gave me to hear and pieces of matting, on which lay a white man, tossing, turning and babbling with delirium, in the full grip of the jungle fever-a young man evidently, his once powerful frame, fearfully reduced by illness and confinement, covered by the ragged and grimy shirt and trousers of a sailor. He became quieter their primitive, shipboard food was aft- 18 McGregor raised his head and drank the medicine given him, but began muttering again as the deater L

"He was a wee bit more rational this afternoon," said McGregor, "and told ing a pleasanter aspect. "You see, Mr. | me a bit of his story, but he couldn't or wouldn't tell his name. I found him just outside on the grass and brought him in here for want of a better place. "Was there nothing in his pockets?"

"Nought but these," showing a few centimes, at which the old woman giared greening. "He may come to ni-

"Is he past hope, Mac?" I asked "Can't we do anything-take him to a better house, I mean?"

The doctor shook his head. "If w could get him up north now. I'd say he'd get well with the constitution le has. It's the heat of the place that keep him down. The poor lad's made like one of our ain collie dogs-strong and well in the cold, but when taken by fe ver in this climate-whish! burns up

It was terrible to see one of my own race dying thus in the lowest degrada-

So we sat in silence, I with my hel met fanning the flushed face, so drawn doctor ever and anon raised the heavy cronched in a corner and mumbled to chattered and laughed in their freedom curious faces and running away with was theirs for enjoyment of life. Never mind tomorrow.

Suddenly the tumult seemed to increase and concentrate farther down the road. Then it began to approach, the screams and happy laughter of children mingled with the clearer tones of a foreigner's tongue, and as the crowd reached the but I suddenly heard a familiar voice saying: "There, little boy, don't you be so greedy. Let that little girl have some. Ain't it nice, John, to see how they enjoy it?"

McGregor looked up in wonder, and I rose and went to the door. There I found Captain Hale and his wife, surrounded by a perfect horde of delighted children, he tossing coppers about from a canvas bag and she distributing candy, penny whistles and numerous odds and ends from her huge basket, both their faces perfect pictures of the honest pleasure which changed to such pro-found amazement at the sight of me that for a moment a combined assault by the native infantry on their basis of supplies was almost successful, only prevented by a vigorous use of the captain's bamboo stick and Mrs. Hale's

gingham umbrella. I started to explain why I was there, but before I finished Mrs. Hale, with an exclamation of, "Why, the poor fel-low!" gave her basket a whirl which

sent\* its contents flying in every afrection, thereby creating a scene of riot which those peaceful tropic shades had never witnessed the like of, and then trotted straight into the hut, followed by her husband, who bent his tall form nearly double to enter the door.

The doctor rose and bowed with com tesy of 50 years ago as the motherly old lady bent down by the sufferer's side erying: "Oh, the poor, poor fellow! Just see him. John!"

I moved in from the doorway, and the light of the setting sun fell on the invalid's face, and suddenly a cry went up that rang through the tiny hovel and far above the noisy clamor outside -a cry from the depths of a mother's heart: "John! Father! It's our Rufe, our own boy! Oh, Rufy. Rufy, after all

Step out softly, kind old doctor. Come with me and watch the sun go ing down in all its tropical glory behind the great volcanic range, if you can see it, for I cannot. It is all a blur to me. But I can see this - a noble ship at anchor in the bay with all sails bent, ready to sail tomorrow and bear away from this burning land one fever strick en to the cool breezes of the open sea and sure recovery under his own mother's care.

And hark to the bells of vespers this Christmas eve as they ring the warning from church and gray cathedral, of the glorious word they will tell tomorrow to men of every faith and creed. "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men!"-Charles Bryant Howard in Short Stories.

CHRIST CHILD LEGENDS.

Beasts and Birds Have a Prominent Place

In Christmas Lore. The story of the hunting of the wren in the isle of Man every Christmas is well known. She is known as Our Lady's hen, God's chicken, Christ's bird, because she was present at Christ's birth, brought moss and feathers to cover the Holy Babe and made a nest in his cradle. In France the cuckoo was believed to

have flown from a Christman 102 A Latin poem of the midgle ages tells that the crossbill hatches ner eggs at Christmas and her young birds fly off in

their full plumage at Easter.

The Mohammedans have many leg ends of Isa, or Jesus. One tells that when he was 7 years old he and his companions made birds and beasts of clay, and Isa proved his superiority by not a bad fellow at all, if he can only making his fly and walk as he commanded.

In the Tyrol they say the ravens used to have snow white plumage, but one or under the ground. Although he is day Jesus wanted to drink at a stream, and they splashed and so befouled the water that he could not, so he said, your snow white feathers, but they shall become black and remain so until the judgment day."

Christ lay in his manger the horse ate the hay from under his bed, but the ox | sult. would not and brought back on his iorns to replace what the horse ate. The Britons believe that the ox and

o'clock every Christmas eve. In Germany the cattle kneel in their stalls at that hour. Another version says they stand up. The ass and the cow are sacred be-

in his stall. The ass is the most sure footed of anily to Egypt by night. He has had a

cross on his back ever since. Old women used to sprinkle holy water on the ass and the cow to drive away

disease.

Bees are said to buzz in their hives twice their usual amount of milk. In at the exact hour of our Saviour's birth. In north Germany the version of the Christmas eve a peasant greatly desired garden he stole from his neighbor. Just as he filled his basket the Christ said, "Because thou has stolen on moon with thy cabbage basket." And few cases he has been seen there he still sits.—Philadelphia Ledg-

Christmas In Denmark.

The tree is always lighted on Christ mas eve in Denmark, and the family all meet together then. The older people get their presents on a plate at their places at the table, and the children's gifts are on the tree. Roast goose is always the chief feature of our Christmas eve dinner and a dish of rice is eaten on Christmas eve before dinner is serv-

ed. Apple fritters are caten instead of plum pudding. Christmas day itself is observed strictly as a religious festival, but the day before and the day after Christmas are holidays. The theaters are open, and the young people give dances. Our little Danish children do not know about Santa Claus. They have instead what they call a Nissen, meaning a Christmas brownie in the shape of a little old man with a large gray beard who is supposed to live un der the ground. Another Danish superstition is that at midnight Christmas eve the cows in the stable rise and low in salutation, and on Christmas eve young-maidens tell their fortunes by breaking the white of an egg into a glass of water and watching the shapes

ing for "Happy Christmas!"-Selected.

Christmas In England. I fancy an English Christmas is too well known to need much description. English novels have described it fully and the Luglish illustrated papers at Christmas time give a good idea of the festivities. Every one who has a coun try place goes there for Christmas There is generally a large house party, and dancing and skating help to pass the time. The houses and churches are decorated with holly and greens, and 'mistletoe hangs on the castle wall. The tree is almost as universal an insti tution in England as in Germany, and the evening is given over to amusing the children, who play blind man's buff, snap dragon and hide and seek. The proverbial English Christmas dinner always includes roast beef and plum pudding. Every self respecting English man goes to church on Christmas morning, and in some country parishes the 'waits" still sing their carols from house to house on Christmas eve. In other respects it is kept very much as the American Christmas. -- British

Consul in Chicago Tribune. where the carth is Dead How cheerless is the wind that sweeps The hills of Galilee, Where, murmurless, the Jordan creeps Down to the deep Dead scal

O'er barren rocks the dead vines trail And by dead tendrils cling, And on the hill and in the vale There is no breath of spring. The dying glance of Christ the King Seems to have staid and stilled

The veice of every living thing Where Christ the King was killed

The brooks, the birds that sing with Have long since passed away.

And all about Jerusalem

The earth is dead today. -Cy Warman in New York Sur CHRISTMAS CAROL.

Hosanna! Hosanna! A Saviour's born to you.

The star may led the way
To a manger filled with glory,
Ring out, ye Christmas bells!
Death's power hath passed away,
And heaven ings with this glad theme
Man is redected today. Hosannat Hosannat Let heaven and earth repeat.

Join scraphim and cherub
In hemage at his feet.

Hosannat Hosannat

Twas shepherds told the story— The star had led the way

With angel's anthem vie,
For unto God the sweetest sound Bring roses, sweet roses!

Bring roses, sweet roses!

For unito you is given
A ransom from the grave,
A passport into heaven.

Swing wide, ye pearly gates!
Let anthems have full sway.
The King of Glory left his throne.

#### -William E. Sheffield in Brooklyn Eagle. NORWAYANDSWEDEN

YULETIDE CUSTOMS IN THE LAND OF THE VIKINGS.

Superstitions Regarding Nissen, the Scandinavian Santa Claus-Pranks of the Hired Men-Legend of the Brothers

The peasantry of Norway and Sweden renerally build their homes as near each other as convenient. Often five to seven families live adjoining, constituting a miniature village. After the first day has passed the enjoyment commences Dancing is the principal enjoyment for the youth, while the old people and the children stay at home and rehearse tales that are replete with orgies and "Nissen," or "Tomtegubben," as he also is called. The latter is a miniature being that corresponds in many respects to the Scotch brownie, but is quite Santa Clauslike in general appearance. The tales that are told have been handed down from generation to generation, and were at one time believed, and even in some districts considerable credence is still given to what is stated about these unnatural beings.

Nissen is the being that is of the greatest interest to the young. He is have his way. Where he lives no one knows. It is supposed that he spends the days sleeping in some of the hills small, he is possessed with super natural power and can do much to shape the fate of a person, either good 'Ungrateful birds, you are proud of or bad Great care is therefore exercised to do what is known will please them from among eminent educators, Nissen. Special attention must be given him Christmas eve. Should be come A Russian legend tells that be horse around after midnight and his favorite flesh is considered unclean because when dish, romegrod, has not been placed outside near the door, trouble will re-

When the people awake in the morn when the people awake in the morning, they can expect to find their cattle of the operations of the institution. in a terrible condition. Nissen generally vents his vengeance on the animals other institutions of learning such co-of the farm. They will be tired the operative relations as are deemed adthe ass talk together between 11 and 12 | ly vents his vengeance on the animals next day, showing that Nissen has been playing some prank with them, thereby keeping sleep from them. Articles in the barn will be found topsy turvy. cause they breathed upon the Hely Babe | while the horses have been turned around in their stall, but if the dish has been placed out for him he is han mals because he carried the holy fami- | py. He shows his gratefulness in deeds. When the hired man in that case goes out to the barn Christmas morning, he may expect to find all his chores done The horses have been curried so they look fine as silk, while the cows give

many cases the wood has been split. Many superstitious people on this ocman in the moon is thus told: One casion bar the door with a piece of steel. They are afraid of him, and steel is thing that Nissen has no power over. He has often been known to have entered the house and stolen food. Many Child rode by on his white horse and a hired girl can vouch for the fact that she has heard him climbing about on the shelves of the legical and the shelves of the shel Christmas eve thou shalt sit in the the shelves of the larder, and even in a

> The youth still in a manner retain the habits of their ancestry. At eventide they gather together from the small villages and visit their neighbors. As a rule, the ground at this time of year is heavily covered with snow, and the trip has to be made on skis. This is one of the most delightful features of the celebration. The ski is the national article bration. The ski is the national article of locomotion, and the boys and girls a guested in 1869 by the National are adepts in the art of standing on them in the deep declines and rugged hills. The young people go from neighbor to neighbor gathering more of them. They have often no particular destina tion, but know they will end some where. When they come to some particularly large farmhouse, they drop their skis and go inside. Here everything is strikes up his merry tunes, and those present are hurled into a vortex of mer-

In most parts of the country this feature is in no way marred, and the dance goes on until late in the morning, when the young go home, only to meet some where else the following night.

In some of the primitive parts of Norway, as Guldbrandsdalen and Voss, fights were indulged in in years gone by. This custom has not entirely chang-"Glagelig Jul!" is the Danish greet ed, but the fatalities that were so com mon then do not exist now. Then when a couple went to one of these dances the girl would generally take her lov er's funeral gown along, fully expecting that he would need it before the

night had gone. In the southern part of Sweden, Yullotta, a custom that is very beautiful, is recognized by the peasantry. The early morning mass at 4:30 Christmas day is attended by nearly every one. The members of the congregation have often as far as seven miles to walk through the snow. They come from all directions in delegations, each carrying a long pole upon which a piece of pitch is burning. As the surroundings are still in darkness, the sight of those moving lights toward one center is imposing. The hired men in this part of the country have a rather peculiar joke that they try to play upon each other Christmas morning. It is to try to get up early and go over to the neighbors and perform the chores of the hired man there before he gets up. Great de-

light is taken in the perpetration of this trick.
In the early part of the century it was a belief that on Christmas eve all the unnatural beings joined together in a grand carousal. They were led by Thor, the god of the elements, and they flew through the air, creating a terrible norse and otten damage. Johan Welha ven's poem "Asgaardsreien" tells of a deed that was committed by this flock. It was Christmas eve, and a wedding was being celebrated. The bride was of the fairest and the bridegroom the worthiest. Many had been invited, and the general enjoyment was enhanced by the free flow of liquor. When every one was in a sleepy condition from its superfluons use, the doors flew of an, and the brothers Grimm and Ulv entered. Ulv had recently been refused by the

bride, and be was out for revenge. attack was made. The women huddled together, while the men tried to raily The brothers had seized the bridegroom and Ulv was about to plunge his dag ger into his breast. Then a terrible errsh was heard, and it seemed as if 10,000 demons were on the outside. The brothers stood as if transfixed. They knew it was Asguardsreien, and the faltered. The doors flew open, and Uly was seized by the throat and dragged on the outside. Then the people rathered in the house heard a shrill whiz, as of something flying through the air, and then all was quiet, but Ulv was never seen again. His brother Grimm was badly hurt, but recovered, and on Christmas evenings in years thereafter he told to the children the wedding festival that was visited by Asgaardsreien.

—Minneapolis Tribune.

Royal makes the food pure.

THE RETURN.

A CHRISTMAS STORY BY G. T. FELRIS.

[Copyright, 1897, by the Author.]

letter from her son Paul. He had been a

wanderer for eight years and now wrote

from South Africa. The same feeling

haunted Kate Lockwood's fine eyes, though

she bit her lip at the conscious revelation.

But Mrs. Martin did not see. Her eyes

were blurred And murmuring, "What

could have happened to change his mind?

as if it were the presage of some greater

"I'd give a few 'sparklers' to be with

you on Christmas, as I had planned But

a fellow can't always fulfill his own wish

es. It's better to have everything wound

up before leaving. South Africa has treat

ed me pretty well up here in its diamon

its clutch a little longer. I shan't be so:

ry to leave this furnace behind. When my

letter reaches, Jack Frost will be abroad

with you in Vermont, clad in ice and

snow, but here a man will be baking a 96 in the shade. I'm burned as black a

any Kaffir in the mines, so that you and

Kate would scarcely know my swarthy

phiz By the way, you may tell that young

goings on with the Swinton man. Didn't

she promise to wait for me? I shall have a word to say to her about her faithless

ness " And so Paul's letter rambled o

in a semichafling tone. Kate's face had darkened to angry scarlet when Mrs. Mar-

tin looked up and said: "Why, my dear you mustn't take Paul's jokes so hard You know what a 'tease' he was from a

That was precisely the trouble Paul

had always been joking, Kate feared.

distant cousin and reared in the family

hood a more tumultuous sweetness had

mingled with the calm affection she has

once felt for Paul even as she had for his

away, she was only 17, and keenly she had

quivered with the pang of parting Year after year had slid by, and the rolling stone found no rest and the girl's sore

heart had certainly found no balm in the

absent Paul's jocose phrases. Yet she had

sometimes fancied a thrill of sentiment

lusions. At all events suitors had lacked

fuel for their fire, and ber friends rallied

the young schoolteacher that the only men

folk she liked were the lads, with whom she could be 'jolly good fellow' in a most fascinating way Her latest admirer, the

head of a prosperous factory and much liked by the Martins, had no better luck

tinued in reminiscent mood as she laid

down the letter, "when I hoped you and

Paul would come together some day: but

was filled with dismay as he suddenly en

varied comment of the old couple, escaped

root than ordinary miscarriage of hope "I'd ruther looked to Paul's help of the

gage on the place has never been easy

like some danged ole hyeny, and then he said he hope! there wouldn't be any delay this year 'bout the mortgage money or somethin might turn up, and then he outs with another snicker. Confound his hide,

it's as heartless as his sheepskin books, fer I had allus reckoned him a friend afore."

Though Christmas did not promise an

appetizing sauce for its turkey and mine

"WHAT A TEASE!"

pie, active preparation went on as usual for Will and his children would be there

and their hearts must be gladdened with Christmas sunshine. Arlingford had in-deed always kept the day with more fervor

than is the wont with most New England country towns. It was the day before Christmas and the farmer was returning

from the woods, whither he had gone to select the Christmas tree. The crisp, sweet air was musical with sleighbells, for the earth was sheathed in dazzling white. As ne turned into the main street, his boosical linest callided in the main street, his boosical linest callided in the main street.

almost collided with a fast cutter spinning

homeward from Chester. It was Squire Barber returning from the county seat

some eight miles distant, where his lay

office was located.
"Merry Christmas, if it isn't too early!

half rotten apple tree in the upper or

chard." And he held up a sprig of it with its yellow leaves and whitish berries shin

ing like crusted silver in the winter spark l

The old legend says it brings good

luck," answered the lawyer. "I'll drop in this evening and see it hanging, for the

chance of kissing pretty Kate under the

mistletoe, unless winton gets ahead ome." And he chuckled heartily to himsel

as he drove on.
The Martins had attended the early

service in the church and were now gathered in the big parlor where the Christmas

tree was set loaded with presents and the

children were all agog with eagerness

for an age. '

of the sun

you know, you're good lookin"-and

than predecessors

and tenderness quickening his sportive a

elder brother Will. When he had got

ever since she had emerged into wom:

woman from me that I don't half like

blow, she went on with the reading

Frustrated hope threw its blight on the

In a note following some quotations regarding Christmas and winter weather the author of an old London publication says, "These prognostics of weather, etc., I look upon as altogether uncertain, and were they narrowly observed would as often miss as hit." Besides being quoted as above the proverb is varied as follows: "A hot May makes a fat churchyard" and "A green winter makes a fat churchyard." To the latter proverb is added this note, "This proverb was sufficiently confuted in the year 1667, when the winter was very mild, and yet no mortality or epidemical disease ensued the summer or autumn following."-Philadelphia Ledg-

#### THE UNIVERSITY OF THE UNITED STATES. TO LEAD ALL THE WORLD.

The Idea Was Originated by George Washington and Has Come Down to the Present Day.

The bill to establish the University of the United States has again been infields, so I shouldn't kick if it keeps me in troduced in both houses of Congress The bill in general terms provides for an institution of the highest possible type, for the graduates of accredited colleges and universities only nal recearch and investigation in all important fields of inquiry. The gov-crument is vested in a board of regents and a university council. The board of regents embraces the president of the nited States, the Chief Justice of the Inited States, the Commissioner of Clucation, the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institute, the president of the National Academy of Sciences, the president of the National Educational Association, the president of the University and nine other citizens : appointed by the president by and with the advice and consent of th no two of them shall be from the same State. The University Council is to have immediate charge of the work of instruction, research and investigation It consists of the regents and twelve other members, to be appointed by with a like impartial distribution. Al courses and officers of instruction and

of descriming by the coancil, also if regulations governing the inter-al management of the institution. Neither sectarian nor political procreaces in any form are to be allowe-Authority is given to establish with vantageous. Provision is made for the use of what is known as "University Square," the site set apart by Washington for university purposes and lately occupied by the Naval Ob-servatory. Congress is now asked for but enough means to enable the beard A regen 8 to organize and practical, naugurate the institution

Gifts and bequests are to be deposited lackaday, that's all done with. understand the girls nowadays. I s'pose n the United States Treasury in trus you ain't afeared of bein left an old maid, ad invested in bonds of the Unite states bearing five per cent. interes Mrs. Martin peered quizzically at Kate over her glasses—"but still you might never have such a good offer as Mr. Swin-The present bill is the outgrowt. of our than 100 years of agitation. The thought of a national university first ton—plenty of money, not too old, and as good as gold. As for Paul's stayin away came to Washington while commanding the revolutionary army. another year"-

Subsequently as president he repeatedly urged its establishment and in his last will and testament left \$25,000 in stocks as a first endowment, the interest to be compounded. Had Contered the room. "That scapegrace of ourn oughter be thrashed ef he's a goin to disgress fostered the plan this sum would appoint us ag'in." So Mrs. Martin aga country was also indorsed by Presidents John Adams, Jefferson, Madeson, Mar for a hearty cry.

Farmer Martin's gloom had a deeper roe, John Quincy Adams and Jackson, and in more recent years by President' Grant and Hayes. During all this tim the measure was advocated by men the wust comes," said he to his wife, "fe Will's got all he can shoulder. The mort most distinguished for learning and most distinguished for statesmanship, but owing to the lack of organization fort nothing practical meet—what with poor crops and low prices. I met Squire Barber jes' now, and I told him we expected Paul. 'Fer sure, said he, and laughed with his 'Ho, ho! was accomplished.

The more mouern movement in this Educational association, after an appeal from Dr. John W. Hoyt, of Wisconsin, at the close of his educational tours of inspection in all the countries of Europe and in the American States, by autho i y of the government. That great a sociation thrice unanimously indorsed the university proposition, and through its committee, a bill was introduced and unanimously reported in the in readiness for them in the way of House in 1873. The measure continued food, drink and music. The fiddler to receive the indersement of leading scholars and statesmen from time to time, and in 1890, a university bill was introduced in the Senate by Mr. E. nunds, of Vermont, and upon his me tion, referred to a select committe with Senator Proctor as chairman The present general movement was begun at the Pan-remble congress 1891, by the appointment of the committee of promotion to be enlarged in the discretion of its chairman, ex-Gov. John W. Hoyt, which committee, by steady growth, became what is known as the National University Committee of One Hundred—a committe now grown to several hundreds, embracing e presidents of all the state universities and some 200 other leading in stitutions, the superintendents of public instruction of all the States but one, and many of our most distinguished statesmen, scholars, scientist and men of affairs. In 1892 ex-Gov Hoyt presented to the Senate a memorial giving a complete history of the efforts already made for a national university, with the arguments therefor of which several editions have been printed. In 1893 Senator Proctor' committee unanimously reported the bill, Senator Hunton, of Virginia, suc-ceeded Senator Proctor as chairman. and the committee was made the stand ing committee it now is. It likewise

reported unanimously in 1894 and the bill was ably discussed in the Senate. With the approval of the national university committee, patriotic women of the country, under the lead of Mrs. Ellen F. Richardson, of Boston, assuming the early establishment of the in stitution, have organized the George Washington M morial committee for auxiliary, though independent work, their purpose being to raise by popu-iar subscription \$250,000 for the erec tion on University Square of a first university building. The ladies engaged in this work are of such character and influence as to give great hope of the success of their undertaking. More-over, distinguished friends of art are planning for national art galleries to be established in connection with and as a part of the University of the United States. It is the intention of the national university committee that the government and the people shall co-operate in the establishment of the proposed university, and it is intended that the bill shall be pressed to early passage so that July 9, 1899, the one hundredth anniversary of Washington's bequest, shall witness at least the practical beginning of what should become the leaning university of the world. ed university, and it is intended that

though not much to Kate's pleasure. The tree had been almost stripped of its burden amid the jubilation of the youngsters, and even Paul's absence couldn't quite quench e glow of the old folk 'Ow I 'ood like to see Santy Caus hissef 'en he comes down the chimley to-night!" said little May Martin, her mouth

gorged with dripping sweets. Just then a tremendous clashing o bells rang out as if a whole caravan o sleighs were coming up the road. Louder and louder chimed the silvery music till it stopped before the door amid the pawing

horses' hoofs. 'Who can it be?'' they all said to each other. "Perhaps it is Santa Claus," whis pered Kate to little May. The child caught



HOW THE OLD MOTHER CRIED AND HUGGE

at the entraneing thought and rushed to the front door. They heard a scream of terror, and May darted back, gasping and white, to hide her face in her father's lap Santa Claus indeed had come to the child's invocation. Framed in the door way and seeming almost to fill it stood a great, fur clad figure, looking like a glgantic bear on its hind legs. met covered the whole face, with goggles in the eyelet holes, and on the furry arm hung a big basket with bulging contents Amid the breathless silence and wonder the uncouth figure stalked to the Christmas tree and crowded its empty boughs with such a largess of parcels as to bend them low. As the pantonime went on Mr. Martin nodded to his wife and Kate and then toward their guest as if to say "This little comedy is the plea prise of a rich man's wooing." I ton's eyes were bent on Santa Claus with a queer look of dread and expectancy could they have gauged his thought

Not a word was uttered till the fur clad image had closed his task, when a hoarse rumbling voice, as if it had been made issued from under the fur hood, calling them by name and summoning them to transforms sickly, nervous, fretful, despondent, came first. The children's turn came first. The trembling youngsters helpful, amiable wives and mothers. Over came first. The trembling youngsters came first. The trembling youngsters were loaded with such gorgeous and won derful toys as they had never dreamed could exist. Will Martin got a box containing a sealskin cap and gloves. The wonderful fur cloak which Santa Claus threw around Mrs. Martin was fit for the treatment of obscure physicians, who selden the santa claus threw around Mrs. Martin was fit for the treatment of obscure physicians, who selden correctly diagnose these troubles. All shoulders of a queen, as she stood there quivering with curiosity and a dumb presage that feared to name itself and stammering thanks that choked in the throat In the farmer's hands was placed a large sealed envelope, and he blinked and peered as if he would unravel some clew to the Impassive mystery which faced him. He inched to tear open the envelope, but wait | Dr. Pierce's Common Sense Medical Ad

her trembling limbs could scarcely carry her forward. A little box was snapped open and a superb diamond ring blazed like a star. She grew dizzy, for a blinding flash of intelligence came even before that furry mask was torn off with a swift ges ture and the bronzed face of Paul, twitch ing with emotions of joy and tenderness appeared to them. How the old mother cried and hugged him till her arms were weary; bow the men folk wrong his hand overwhelmed him with broken, eager questioning, and how the children made shy acquaintance with the unknown unch Santa Claus need not be recounted. "And has my Kate no greeting?" Pau

She came forward with cheeks of flame from where she had stood aloof. It wildered with a rush of feelings. gazed at her shining eyes, and her heart leaped at the lover's deep look. Then he happened to notice the twisted vine of leaf and berry that swayed over her head, the time honored symbol of a thousand sweet LAURENS, SOUTH CAROLINA mysteries "Under the mistletoe, too," he laughed

"What's that about Paul's not comin home?" Mr. Martin's jolly red face, now He was the same old teasing Paul is as it should be." And he took his privi-lege then and there, drawing her sweet face to his and kissing her on the lips be fore them all "Look," he whispered, "at the inner read the letter aloud, while Kate, amid the

circle of the ring," and there Kate saw en graved, "From Paul to the woman h loves," and that was Paul's proposal, an swered to his satisfaction by one flashing glance, veiled as quickly by the modest collections

"I've been ringing and hammering at the outer door for five minutes, and no one came, so I walked in," said a new voice as Squire Barber entered. "I suppose you've got everything fixed to your wishes

now, and that the wistletoe brought good "You old fox, you knew all about it," burst forth the farmer, and with a sudden thought he opened the envelope and saw it was a "mortgage satisfaction" paper. it was Paul and you that put up this

Christmas joke."
"Yes, dad," said Paul without a bit of remorse. "I think we did it in pretty good style too. I started from South Africa at the same time I posted that letter as a blind and landed more than a fort night since. The rest was easily fixed and I determined to shake you all up with a big surprise And I have proved such a successful Santa Claus that a certain young woman has concluded to let me play Santa Claus to her for life."

"Where's Mr. Swinton?" said the farm-er, with a keen recollection of incivility, for in the agitation of the scene all had forgotten him Love is sometimes very selfish Their guest of the early evening had unobtrusively slipped away. He knew he was one too many.

-Mrs. Elizabeth Covington died at Whitney on Sunday, 12th inst. She was between 100 and 105 years old. -- Newspapers and bootblacks polish the understanding of their patrons.

### SAVE THE BABY!

A mother will risk her own life many times over, to save her babe own life many times over, to save her babe from the horrors of hydrophobia. There are graver perils from which a mother should protect her child. A mad dog is a rarity, but thousands of children die daily because of the seeds of disease implanted in their little bodies before birth.

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strong and healthy in a womanly way during the period of gestation. Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription cures all weakness and disease of the delicate and important organs that sustain the burden of maternity. It makes them strong healths. maternity. It makes them strong, healthy, vigorous and clastic. It banishes the squeamish spells of the expectant period and makes baby's introduction to the world easy and nearly painless. It rids maternity of peril. It insures the newcomer's health and an ample supply of pourishment. It dom correctly diagnose these troubles. All medicine dealers sell it, and Dr. Pierce will cheerfully give free advice to ailing women who write him.

Scores of women who have been perma nently cured of obstinate and dangerous diseases by this great medicine, have permitted their names, addresses, expe-This book is free and contains too Kate Lockwood's name was called, and er trembling limbs could scarcely carry her forward. A little box was snapped pen and a superb diamond ring blazed like a star. She grew dizzy, for a blinding the superbulance of the grew dizzy, for a blinding the star of the grew dizzy, for a blinding the star of the grew dizzy, for a blinding the star of the grew dizzy, for a blinding the star of the grew dizzy, for a blinding the star of the grew dizzy.

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### Saw and Grist MILLS.

We are Headquarters for each shouted the lawyer, pulling up. "What have you got there? Holly, and as I live mistletoe too. I haven't seen any before in their respective lines. "Yes," said Mr. Martin, "it comes and goes in a curious way. I hain't found is growin fer ten years till I got this from Write us.

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