MERRY CHRISTMAS

AND A BRIGHT AND

HAPPY NEW YEAR.

The North Star.

CHATHAM, N. B., DECEMBER 25, 1880.

THE SPIRIT OF LATEST DES-

PATCHES.

The Poncha chiefs have held council with Secretary Schurz at Washington.

At Derrygonelly the police and the infantry protected a League meet-

The 97th regiment, at Gibraltar, is now ordered to Natal. instead of Ireland, and will leave to-morrow.

The Land Leagues have passed resolutions thanking the United States Congress for its sympathyand Americans present said that 'Ireland would find friends in America who would assist her in ridding the

Island of landlords. At a meeting of the Land League Davitt stated that if the Government prohibited all League meetings the executive would sur mon all its branches to meet every fortnight, and as that would mean 400 meetings every second week, it would be interesting to calculate how many troops would be required to suppress those gatherings.

Since the Stellarton disaster the means such as endeavoring to stifle Prince William in York County dragthe flames and flooding the pit having ging logs from morn till noon of a failed, it was decided to inject car- Christmas Day. bonic acid gas into the pit. Carbonic acid gas does not support combustian and if they can manage to fill the pit family, and it our wish were worth with it the fire will die. But in doing this they must exclude oxygen. The managers hope to soon resume work.

CHRISTMAS, 1880.

in the East, a few simple shepherds the resolve to travel in a better road; in a lonely dell stood watch through to bury enmity and ill will, to do to the night-" a night so dark that their neighbor as they would have they knew not where their sheep their neighbor do to them, and to might be." Of a sudden the dark show by the record of the new year sky was filled with a flood of light as if coming that the resolutions so record the gates of heaven had ed were not written in ice. been opened and immediately there followed the most delightful minstrelsy through the air. Thousands ot heavenly voices in sweetest harmony chanted and sang a joyous song, ringing from earth to heaven, and filling up the lonely place. And one angel above the rest sang thus:-

Fear not said he for mighty dread Will seize your troubled minds, Glad tidings of great joy I bring To you and all mankind. This day in David's town, is born And born of David's line, A saviuor who is Christ the Lord, And this shall be the sign : The heavenly Babe there you shall find, To human view displayed. All meanly wrapped in swaddling bands, And in a manger laid.

The shepherds were sorely puzzled as to what they then might do, but their breasts were filled with a holy joy and peace that they had never felt which were sung not only in the before. These simple shepherds had heard from the priests the prophecies in the scriptures telling that Redeemer was to come to save the nations-and being humble of heart, and not puffed up with their own pride and knowledge they believed these latter were also called wassail They rose straightway up, went to Bethlehem and in a rude manger Normans, who were of a most conresting on its Mother's lap, wrapped vivial nature. No Christmas enterusually from the center of the approval. But the Herald has since in. Its swaddling clothes, found the Intant as the angels had told them. In simple faith they fell down and worshipped-and hailed the Redeem

er of mankind.

In those days, far away in the East there lived the Magi or wise men who too having read in the scripture of Christs coming, were waiting for Then all clapped their hands and shouted of gold, frankincense and myrrh to a JOHN R. MALTBY the long promised event. But when the promise came to be fulfilled there rose in the East a beautiful star, that shed its light all over the heavens. It stood still in the sey and full of faith, and a new born joy and peace supper, to sing a carrol, or song, and Among these savage Britons there the Magii set out in the direction of to command the other gentlemen were p gan priests called Druids. the star to see and adore the Heavenly Babe whom they now knew had been born. They journeyed on for many a mile, till they came to a place over which the star stood still. It was Bethlehem a small village or town to which at this time the people in the last century: had flocked at the command of the sovereign to enrol their names. a wretched stable, and there they found the Child meanly wrapped in

swaddling clothes lying in the arms of His Mother. Bowing themselves down to the earth they worshipped the new born Son of God, and having stood up they presented Him with the choicest offering of their country. of gold of frankincense and of mirrh.

festival, the season is one calculated Uqi? Ubi?-where? The sheep belief in Christ, retained many of

to fill the upright with a holy peace. bleated out, Bethlehem-Bethlehem In olden times at Christmas tide old A voice from heaven sounded, Gloria fends were forgotten, and new in excelsis-glory be on high. quarrels ended. Those who had lived Christmas Eve, and as the Yule log Divine Intant: burned, and the Christmas tree glistened in the light of the blaze, they shook hands, filled their horns and drank to the peace and prosperity of one another-for "A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year." In the old countries Christmas associations will never die, and many of the in American soil, flourish there In northern countries when Christmas tide arrives Father Christmas or old Boreas comes from the north in a coat of shaggy fur, his icicled whiskers hanging down upon his breast. There is a huge hump upon his back, and it is only those who treat him kindly he treats kindly in return. It they play tricks upon him he catches the offender, and with his assistants shaves him with an iron boop, and whale's blubber.

Down in more southern countries Santa Claus appears, but he is mostly invisible. villages and country places they leave open their doors, to save him the trouble of coming in by the chimney. In many places the "Twelve Days" are celebrated, but on St. Stephens Day -the day after Christmas-the festivity is highest. We should be sorry ever to see these charming old associations forgotten, but year by year in new countries the charm is wearing away from Christmasthat he who has seen them celebrated as "they used to be" feels the tear start to think of the change. Indeed in many parts of New Brunswick Christmas is not observed at all, and the writer has stood in disgust to look given et fed kirkegaarn." This cage pit has been on fire. Every at the natives of Queensbury and

There is plenty of room for improvement everywhere in the human anything it would be this:-that those who have trod in doubtful ways during the year just passed, and who cannot look back upon their deeds with pride and pleasure, will, that the New Year is coming, and now in NEARLY two thousand years ago, this season of joy and peace, make

CHRISTMAS CAROLS.

Carol is said to be derived from cantare, to sing, and role, an interjection of joy. That quaint writer, Jeremy Taylor, observed that "glory to God in the highest; on earth, peace and good will to men." which the angels sang at the birth of Christ, was the first Christmas carol.

In Shakespeare's time carols were sung in the streets at night during Christmas by the waifs, who expected to receive gratuities for their singing. The "wakeful ketches on Christmas eve" are mentioned by many a writer of old times and customs. There were two kinds of Christmas carols, those of a religious nature churches, but also through the street, from house to house, on Christmas eve, and, after that, morning and evening until twelfth day; the others are of a livlier character, and adapted to the revel and the feast. Some of songs, and originated with the Anglo tainment was considered complete ceiling, spreading over a large space thence came the old motto: "No dodging or much kissing. song, no supper," for everyone at the table was expected to join in the mistletoe is not known; but carol. Says an English squire at his we do know that more than eighteen Christmas teast:-

Not a man here shall taste my March beer, Till a Christmas carol he does sing,

Till the ball and the parlor did ring. From a quaint old work we clip the following: "The antientest man- savages, who wore garmets of skins NOT &RY PUBLIC, ner of the revel is, after dinner and present to sing with him and the These priests were a mysterious folk, OFFICE :- Over the store of James companie."

queer titles enough, and they seem to have referred to all sorts of subjects. Here is the dedication prefixed to one

sacred carol, which, like tea that is groves, the priests, it is recorded in Guided by the star the Magii entered perfectly good and fine, will be most history, offered their sacrifices and Notary Public, Conveyancer, &c grateful and useful and useful all the in some manner not known, they year round, from Christmas to employed the mistletoe. But al! Christmas forever. Humbly address- mistletoe was not sacred to the ed to Queen Caroline and the Prin- Druids. They would have none but cess Caroline and the Royal Family. that which clung to the trunk and NEWCASTLE. N. B. By Frances Hoffman, London, Eng.,

A curious piece of antiquity is the old Christus natus cst; it was some ties, would be a worthless and com- BARRISTERS, ATTORNEY, Dec22-13i thing in this manner: The cock mon thing. croweth, Christus natus est-Christ When, in later centuries, England Christmas is a season of joy and is born. The raven asked, Quando? was taught the Christian religion by gladness, for apart from the associ- -when? The crow replied, Hec priests who went thither from Rome, John Willet. ations that twine about this ancient vocte-this night. The ox cryeth out, the people. though professing a Rich'd F. Quigley, LL. B., B, C. L.,

Another earol represents the blessed at enmity all the year before met on Virgin contemplating the birth of the

> He neither shall be clothed In purple nor in pall, But all in fair linen. As were babies all ; He neither shall be rock'l But in a wooden cradle That rocks on the mold.

Carol singing continued in all its vigor until the close of the last century, since wh n it has gradually old forms that have not taken root declined, except in the schools or churches, where the sweet Christmas

carots are chanted by young voices. But in the Northern part England they still sing carols; and even in the great metropolis, London, some solitary veteran, who had not forgetten the merry customs of the good old days, may sometimes be heard upon Christmas eve. singing. in a plaintive voice, 'God rest you, merry gentlemen."

CHRISTMAS PROVERBS.

"Christmas comes but once a year." This is a glorious, hearte old proverb, full of generosity and permission to go to the full length's enjoyment. If the children scream more loudly than usual with delight-it boys and girls dance and frolic more wildly -- if the pater familias purchase a present which is a little too extravagant-never mind it, for once: 'Christmas comes but once a year!' Forget and torgive, good folks, and we will forget and forgive in turn.

"Christmas is talked of so long that it comes at last."

"A green Christmas makes a fa

churchyard." A Danish proverb: "Ep gean jua merely the old sanitary and weather theory, that unseasonable weather is unwholesome. When it is warm in winter, imprudent people expose themselves to the damp, unhealthful air, or become impatient of too much warm covering, and are caught in "a cold snap to their sorrow." In the old times, when most people dwelt in badly-warmed, badly constructed houses, such changes in the weather were of much greater significance than at present.

"An old bit of a truthful rule -A Christmas green a churchyard full."

Closely allied to this, but without its terrible warning, we have the German proverb:

"Is des wetter um weighnacht gelind, So freut niehe mann, Weeb, und kind."

"Is the weather at Christmas mild,

Which in English means:

It is joy to man, and wife, and child." "Christmas is a good time to bleed horses in." This was an old superstition, and was closely tollowed The horses were run up and down until in a sweat, and then bled. As Truser sings: -

"Ere Christmas be passed, let horses to be let blood."

"A green Christmas, a white Easter." "Gruene weignacht, weisse ostern"

German, of course. The same has another form :-

"Weignacht in klee, Ostern in schnne."

If Christmas be in clover, Easter with Snow'll he heaped over."

Among other saws and proverbs which may be cited in brief, is:

"A Christmas box with five nails in it."

MISTLETOE AT CHRISTMAS-TIDE.

THE hanging of the mistltoe is a cause of much frolic and laughter in the house. It is the rule that whoever is passing under the mistletoe. bough must submit to being kissed Government or any other Governthen and there by whosover chooses ment could do. He therfore exto take that liberty. As a bough pressed upon its terms an unqualified Parish Returns and County produce a clear and distinct enunciation. without the singing of carols, and it follows that there must be much

The origin of this use of the hundred years ago, when theglad shep editorial chair to them. herds sang together over the manger in Bethlehem, and men brought gifts young child in the peasant mother's arms, England was a chill, mistcovered island, inhabited only by and lived in huts of mud and stone. who lived in dense woods far away Some of these Christmas carols had from other men, and who in the gloomy solitudes of the torest, performed strange secret ceremonies. The "sacred groves" as they were called, were of oak; for the oak was a divine tree according to the Druid. James "Christmas carol on 'Peko Tea'-a ical religion. Within these sacred was nourished by the sap of the divine oak. To them, the apple-tree August, 30th. 1880. mistletoe, which modern England uses so freely in her holiday festivi-

their heathen rites and customs. changed from their original meaning and purpose. At any rate from the Druids has come the modern usage of the mistletoe bough.

WHIPPED HOUNDS.

It is surely the privelege of the whipped hound to whine and and no one grudges the animal the bought and will be sold at bottom prices. scant relief he gets from such complaining. The spokesmen for the deteated faction in this county cry like whipped curs on every occasion and fair play and all this kind of thing from a Government which they opposed, and stupidly and perversely set themselves in defiance to. We begrudge them not their whinings, but we have precious little sympathy for their pains. They have made for themselves a bed of thorns. and it is meet and proper that they thould now lie upon it. The misortune is that the opportunity does not exist to lay on the whip in such a way that they might feel it well: for the worthy and the unworthy are so mixed up that in striking the one, you cannot avoid the other.

In this county once upon a time there was a man who made himself felt when he went to Ottawa. In his place now we have a nonentity: a man who does no honor to himself nor any credit to his county. It is he the folly, led into the wiles by deceiving cries and luring lights, have now in place of the other who stood among, the foremost of our Canadian statesmen. If those bringing about of this absurd change were to feel the whip, who have they to thank for it but themselver. But they do not feel the whip,-or if here and there they do, they do not get a twentieth of what they ought. Even now the very man whom they rejected for the degrading nenentity that mis-represents them for two or three days of the session at Ottawa, is working in their interests, and asking for them considerations to which they are not entitled. The good they get they do not deserve, it punishment they received, 'tis richly they would deserve.

Another horrible case of political persecu'ion comes to light, that ought not to be tolerated. A certain lum berman in Chatham, has a gang o men employed, on a certain par, of the Miramichi cutting and hauling logs. The road there, which is used only by this man's lumbermen, is very bad, and they have an extremely difficult task to get out their logs. The cheaper article than can be obtained else-Local Government of course is attacked, and Hon. Michael Adams is abused for neglecting the poor people there in the matter of roads!!! They deserve to be abused They ought to make Jabez Snowball's lumber roads for him-of course they

BOYCOTTING.

The Grits of Montreal have Bovcotted Mr. George Stewart Editor of the Herald. The Herald is a Reform paper, and Mr. Stewart was its to fill orders promptly at lowest prices. Editor. When the terms of the bargain with the Syndicate became known, Mr. Stewart like an honest man expressed his opinion frankly upon it. Though opposed to the Government on principle, on principle likewise he approved the contract as the very best thing this wheeled round, and is out now in the fiercest language denouncing the contract. Outsiders have got into the sanctum and like an honorable man Mr. Stewart has resigned the

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Accounts.

All Parish Officers who have not yet made their returns and all persons having claims against the County are hereby required to render the same to my office forthwith. Dated at Newcastle, December 21st, 1880.

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