RELIGIOUS IN MELLIGENCER.

Loetry.

CHRISTMAS SONG. BY MISS BUELL.

SHINE Christmas stars ! Ring Christmas bells ! Your light is hope, your music tells The sweetest story ever sung, The gladest music ever rung ; " The sons of sinful men may be The sons of God in unity With Christ, the living Head." O happy mother, by God's love, All other women blest above, Calm 'neath the shadow of his wing You bide secure, and softly sing A lullaby to Christ the King, Born to-day in Bethlehem.

From Bethleham to Calvary's cross, The way is tears, and pain, and loss, To Son of God whose sorrowing-Complete in chiefest suffering-To sons of men brought endless gain By blood that cleanseth every stain, And buys a vast inheritance.

O shepherd watchers, we repeat The song you sang in words so sweet : " Peace on earth, good will toward men! A child is born in Bethlehem."

> CHRISTMAS. BY THE EARL OF DUFFERST. 'Tis Christmas Dar To one another I hear men sy-Alas! sy brother, Its winds blow bitter, our Christmas suns No longer glitter As former ones ! If this be so, Then let us borrow From long ago Surcease of sorrow ;---Let dead yules lend Their bright reflections, Let fond triends blend Their recollections, Let Love revive Joy's ashen embers, For Love is Life

The fireside.

-Canadian Montly.

CHRISTMAS IN NORWAY.

Peculiar Customs-Yule-Its Origin-Odin-From Heathen

BY PROFESSOR R. B. ANDERSON. Each country has its own peculiar customs and The Norsemen are proverbially conservative. manners, and these appear perhaps in nothing more strikingly than in the various ways in which the

Since Love remembers.

SOLEMN VOWS WERE MADE, for it was necessary to achieve something in the of the worn carpet, and thinking course of the coming year,—it was necessary to distinguish one's self especially in some viking ex-Little Kitty, flitting head him with eager WHITE, BLUE, RED, ORANGE AND GREEN. pedition, in order to furnish the skalds, or poets. face full of sunshine mintal of Christmas plans, with themes for their songs.

eyes. Her head went to talk them over with Finally horns were drunk in commemoration of and she did se honored kinsmen departed. All the toasts were Brother Frankt trouble him now, 'cause I s'pose called, in the old Norse language, minni, that is, memorial horns, and each one of them was called he's the

out by the priest, who conducted the whole ban- hereity had great ideas of the importance quet, and was said at mala fyrir minni, that is, to rank's position, and the weighty pressure of stronger and better in every respect than any other yarn in the market.

| business cares upon him since he had obtained a | in the market. Thus we have seen that the Yule feast consisting, place as clerk in a china-store. But poor Frank All our goods have dur name upon them, and are sold by us only to the wholesale trade, from whom country of two important performances: 1, The but, of the was thinking what a very small business it was, so was thinking what a very small business it was, so far as profits were concerned, and allowing his www. PARKS & SON, WM. PARKS & SON, idols with blood, and which took inued during thoughts to wander back regretfully to a Christeve; and, 2, The banquet, which the eating mas two years ago, when home and prospects were Norseland more that de thousand years ago, and there can be no dot, although the records are wanting, that was celebrated in a similar man-

ner in Ge, mpy and England, where other branches Since his father's death he had given up many ner in Ger and aut hughand, in hughand, when Christianity of his own ambitious plans, school and studies, Late Editor-in-Chief of The Advance, Author "The Young Mun," "Conscience and Law," war atroduced about the year 1000, Odin's Yule because it seemed right to do so; and he had acas changed into Christ's Yule. Without change | cepted thankfully that clerk-ship. Yet how slenof name or time, the festival was made to serve a der the salary for such steady work ! And how religion totally opposed to Odin's; and was little he-only a boy, after all-could do for those tians, and awaken the Impenitent. Will be a mignty helper in the revival of the prayer-spirit, whose gracions brought under the faith of Christ and His religion of peace and love. brought under the faith of Christ and His religion Christmas, and almost bitterly of the few poor Christmas, and almost bitterly of the few poor

There are still two quite distinct celebrations of gifts he could make-only a pair of cheap shoes COUNTY AND TOWN IN AMERICA. Do not delay, but There are still two quite distinct celebrations of Yule in Norway,—one by the Church for religious purposes, and another by the young people for amusements. The Yule-holidays still last thirteen days, ending on the 6th of January (Epiphany). that he was almost ashamed to see her wear. Yet Christmas day and the two following are occupied how much pinching and contriving it had requirin religious services, and the remaining ten days | ed to buy even these !

(Sunday and New Year's day excepted) are devot- "Frank," said Kitty, a little timidly-she began ed to all sorts of amusements. The people either go to church the first three days, or if this is not him until he went back to the store unless she did and Winter Trade. Nor ready for inspection and orders, practicable, they remain at home, quietly reading venture to interrupt-"Frank, tc-morrow is Christ- which shall have careful attention. the Bible or other religious books. They consider mas."

it their duty to go to church at least once during "I know it," answered Frank gloomily; but I MCSHANE BELL FOUNDRY Yule, for at the Yule service they bring their minis- | can't help it if it is." Yule, for at the Yule service they bring their minis-ter one of the three annual offerings; and this offer-"Why, you don't want to help it," said Kitty Manufacture those celebrated Bells for Chunches, Aca-"Why, you don't want to help it," said Kitty ing torms no inconsiderable part of the minister's with wide open eyes. You'll be home then all income. The offering is indeed voluntary, but the day, you know," she added, going to his side; people take pride in making a handsome one, say "and I've been planning things. I've made a dollar or two. It is presented to the minister in mamma a pin-cushion, and grandma a needle-book ; the following manner: After the usual services have and there's a little girl down the street that I don't been performed, the minister, with his embroider- believe ever had a doll, and I can spare her my ed robe on, stands before the altar with his back to old one, 'cause I had it a good while, and I'm getthe audience. He is apparently absorbed in pray- ting to be a pretty big girl, any way. Of course, er, and it would be cruel even to insinuate that be we can't give much, now we're poor; but I mean is considering what the offering may amount to. to give the little things just as glad as can be, for The people walk round the altar in procession, the Bible says, 'God loveth a cheerful giver ;' and and, as each lays his mite on the altar, the minister I s'pose that's what it means; don't you ?" makes a slight nod of acknowledgment. It needs ""A cheerful giver ?' So it does! Yes, dear,"

scarcely be added, by way of explanation, that the answered Frank, not very connectedly; but he ism to Christianity—Two Ways of Celebrating—Church-going and Alms giving—Family Gatherings—The High Song of Odin, etc. way, and it has undergone no important changes | lingering in his mind.

on the lounge, seemed to be studyifothing very Parks' Cotton Manufactures e pattern ESTABLISHED 1861.

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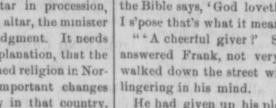
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THE YOUNG PEOPLE cheerful giver;" and Frank's brow cleared and his make good use of their share of Yule. For three Christmas holidays are spent. We Americans weeks before Yule begins every family is in busy eyes brightened as he went about his work; and have, as in so many other things, formed our own preparation, baking, brewing, tailoring, shoe-mak- he brought a cloudless face to the next day's ideas about the proper way for old and young to ing, etc., in order that they may not be interrupt- simple festival. welcome Christmas. With the reader's permission ed in their feasting and merriment during the holi-I propose to make a short pen sketch of the manner days. Every member of the family from the oldest she was "very glad that dreadful business didn't in which the Norsemen on the other side of the to the youngest, must have something new to wear have to bother Frank on Christmas;" but she briny deep regarded this great feast in times of for Christmas, and every member of the family, is never dreamed that she had been God's messenger old, and of the manner in which it is celebrated at expected to be at home on Yule-eve. It is the time of cheer and comfort .-- S. S. Visitor. for a family gathering, and it is a source of great The Scottish peasantry call Christmas Yule ; the happiness if the family circle has been left un-CHILD'S CHRISTMAS HYMN. Many hundred years ago, In a country distant far, While the wise men kept their watch, In the East they saw a star; And the shepherds with their flocks Saw a light around them shine, And upon the midnight air Heard the notes of choir divine. Wise men, shepherds, all arose, And with willing feet pressed they, Till they came and stood beside Where the infant Jesus lay. Child he was like one of you, Nursed within his mother's arms. But the wise men knelt before him With their offering of balms. For they knew the Saviour, Christ, With that little babe was born, In that poor and lonely place, On that welcome Chrismas morn ; That same Christ who in his arms Little children took and blessed, And with words of mild reproof, Those who stayed them thus addressed : "Hinder not these little ones In their coming unto me, For of such heaven's kingdom 1s, As such must my follower be." So, whene'er we count the gifts, Of the happy Christmas morn, rise at all. The moon and stars grow somewhat We will not forget the babe more pale at noon, when a red, fiery glow, as of That in Bethlehem was born. sunset or sunrise, burns for a moment, and then EMILY PEARSON.

since the overthrow of Popery in that country. He had given up his plans to God, his life into MANUFACTURERS,

his Father's keeping, and now should he be gloomy and repining about it? No, no! God loveth a



present.

Norsemen have a very similar name for it, and call broken since the previous Yule-eve. No supper it Jul. This word was in ancient times the name on this eve is complete without rice-porridge and of the whole month corresponding to our Decem- spare-rib. When the family get up from table, all ber; and while the etymology of the word is still the members of the household, from the oldest to bound up in litigation among the linguiste, I re- the youngest, shake hands, with the complimentary member reading in GRIMM's History of the German phrase, " Tak for muden," which means, " Thanks Language a passage in which he tried to make out for the food ;" to which is responded, " Vel bekoma sort of relation between the Latin Julus, or Julius, me," which is, " May it do you good." Wonderand our Teutonic Yule, although the former was a ful as it may seem to my readers, this is the only midsummer month and the latter a midwinter occasion during the year that the husband and mouth, and then he connected both words (Julius, wife shake hands. Not that the Norse husband and Yule) with the old Teutonic word Hijol (Norse and wife respect each other less, or feel less tender-Hijul, English Wheel), and claimed that both | ly for each other than those of other nationalities. names referred to the sun's wheeling around at mid- It is the custom of the country, and this custom winter and midsummer time. It must be admit- may be ascribed to the Norsemen's tendency to be ted that the resemblance of the words (Jol, Jul, slow in exhibiting his feelings, be they good or Yule, Hijul, Wheel, etc.) is striking, but that 18 bad, by outward acts or expressions. Look at the probably all that can be said of them. The Norse- Norseman, when you have the opportunity, and men celebrated Yule long before Christianity was observe how indifferent he looks; but he does not introduced in Norway and Iceland. The heathen feel indifferent, I can assure you. Yule, which lasted thirteen days, but was held The season of the year adds a charm to Yule in somewhat later than the Christian Christmas, was this northern country. In midsummer the sun the occasion of great merry-making, and an endless scarcely sets in this high latitude. With windows number of tales of ghosts, trolls, and satyrs were and doors open you may read until midnight withthen told. A special feature was the appearance out a candle. Morning and evening go hand in of the Yule-lads, a kind of geblin or monster satyrs hand, kissing each other upon the mountain tops, thirteen in number, one to each day of the feast; and uniting to day and yesterday with a silver they were the sons of the kidnapping hag Gryla clasp. It is said that, in the northern part of Nor-(an ogre represented as an old hag with a bag, kid- way, the smoker may light his pipe at midnight napping and devouring naughty children, but with a common burning glass. But at Yule-tide having no power over the good), and their names the sun scarcely rices, and far north it does not were used to frighten children with.

AS A RELIGIOUS FESTIVAL, the old Norsemen celebrated Yule in honor of Odin, the chief god in the Norse mythology. flickers and goes out. "And now," to use the Odin, whose pame still survives in our English language of Longiellow, who has been there and Wednesday (that is, Odin's day), had a large seen it, "the northern lights burn like sunbeams number of names, and one of these we find was playing in the waters of the blue sea. There is a In his crystal palace in the Polar Sea, Jol) takes its name from Jolner, or it may be the reverse, Joiner from Yule. Our Norse ancestors held three great annual sacrificial festivals (blots), to gold, from gold to crimson. The snow is stain- With the Flying Horse to lead the pair, the first in October, when the winter set in; the second in December or January (midwinter); and and west flames a fiery sword, and a broad band They pawed the ground in their haste to go, the third in April, when summer began. Thus passes athwart the heavens like a summer sunset. Santa Claus' team in tandem three Yule was the second great feast of the year, and in Soft purple clouds come sailing over the sky, and "At his palace gate in the Polar Sea. the earliest times it was celebrated in the beginning of Thor's month, or, according to our almanac, in the middle of January, but later it was celebrated at about the same time as our Christmas.

On the first night of Yule, or, as we would term it, on Christmas-eve, preparations were made by a great scrificial slaughter, and for this reason it was called the Hewing or Butchering night. The of our forefathers, who lived so far north, three nights. Of the three annual feasts, Yule was by far the most solemn and important, for then sacrafices were made to obtain peace and a productive upon it and made solemn yows. called sacrificial feast. At this the flesh of the quet was at its climax. Fall drinking horns pass- of the Elder Eads. In the High Song of Odin we ed around from one to the other, and toasts were read : drunk in honor of the gods. To purify the flesh and the ale, the priest bore them round or between the fires, before he handed them to the guests. The first horn was drunk to Odin, thus recognizing him as the chief ruler of the universe. But then there were those who did not feel their dependence upon Providence to any alarming extent, but had confidence in their own strength and energy, and they, instead of naming Odin as they put the full horn to their lips, emptied it in honor of Thor, after whom we still call our Thursday (Thor's day) and thunder. He was the war god, the old heathen Norsemen. the thunderer, and was worshipped by those who relied chiefly or their own personal might and strength, -- a fea, which characterized so many of our heroic and more. Next in order was a horn to Njord, the god of the sea, for prosperous voy. It was the day before Christmas. Out doors the ages, and a horn to Frey (after whom Friday is snow came whirling down, and countless people, probably called), to secure plentiful harvests and white with the drifting flakes, were hurrying to peace. In addition to these it was customary to and tro with arms filled with boxes and bundles. empty s horn to Brage, the god of song and poetry Inside, a fire burned cheerily, and the plain little (the Norse Apollo), and in drinking it

SANTA CLAUS.

BY MARGARET MASON.

Santa Claus harnessed, in tandem three, The Ursa Major and the Minor Bear, The colors come and go, and change from crimson ed with rosy light. Twofold from the zenith east They souffed the wind of sleet and snow, through their vapory folds the winking stars shine | That palace built of ice and snow, white as silver." By such a grand display of celes- Begun in the age of long ago, tial colors is Yule attended in Norway, while we Its walls were laid the very day read that but a single star heralded the birth of The Christ child in the manger lay ;

And all its crystal bells were rung

Every Christmas eve the Norse peasant fastens a When first the Bethlehem shepherds sung. bundle of grain to a long pole which is erected And Santa Claus now in the Christmas cold, somewhere in the yard or on the top of the house Gathers his gifts for young and old ; religions Yule lasted three days, or, in the language or barn for the little birds to teed upon early on Lights up his palace on every side, Christmas-day morning. Why not introduce this And opens the icy shutters wide ; beautiful custom in this country ? Puts on the frost-work steps a star, The Christmas-tree is not used by the peasantry To keep the swinging gate ajar, of Norway, but I would like to suggest in this con- And show the way for his tandem three, season. Imagine our ancestors marching in solemn nection; whether the "Christ-baum," which is so To find the gate of the Polar Sea.

procession on Yule-eve, and leading a great boar! universally used in other Teutonic lands, may not Because the icebergs are rough and tall This animal was consecrated to Frey, the god of have its origin in the famous Yggdrasil of the He takes his course above them all; pleatiful harvests, and was called the Atonement Norse mythology? It some one of the numerous And his tandem three, as if at play, Boar. All the persons present laid their hands readers of the Christian at Work can give a satis- Go dashing down the milky-way. factory explanation of the origin of the Christmas- The Northern Lights are blazing high-The night after the butchering, followed the so- tree, I feel certain that it will be read with interest. 'Tis his palace lamps on the midnight sky ! Finally, it should be added that during the thir. That flash of light is a shooting-star, sacrificed arimal was boiled in hugh pots that teen Yule holidays no one over enters a house in A spark from the wheel of his rolling car ! bung over the fires along the temple floor. The Norway, be it ever so humble, without being offer- 'Tis Santa Claus coming with looks like day, guests sat along the side-walls of the temple on ed something to eat and drink. Hospitality is one And fade the stars of the milky-way! both sides of the fires. When the flesh was boiled, of the cardinal traits in the Norseman's character. You hear not the sound of the north wind cold, it was passed around to the guests, and the ban-So put out the fires, lest they should melt The icicle sword in his starry belt; " Hail him who gives, Enters a guest, Where shall he sit? We'll take a nap, and then we'll see If Santa Claus brought for you and me Of meat and clothing Some wondrous gift, with his tandem three, Stands he in need From his crystal halls in the Polar Sea. Who journeys over mountains. Our Young Folks. Water is needful, A towel and kindness MISS ANNA'S SCHOOL. For the guest's welcome ; It was the day before Christmas in Miss Anna's Kind inclinations school, and the children talked very eagerly Let him experience. during the recess about the presents and the merry Answer his questions." parties expected on the morrow. The High Song of Odin was the catechism Just before dismissing them Miss Anna asked "children why do we keep Chrismas day." Almost all hands were raised, and the little boy to whom Miss Anna spoke said, " it was the birth-KITTY'S CHRISTMAS. day of our Lord." Then a little girl raised her hand.



BLUSH ON THE CHEEK OF NIGHT.

BY KATE W. HAMILTON.

poom was cozy and pleasant. But Frank, seated I might he saved,"

"What is it, Mary ?" Miss Anna said. "May I tell why we make presents on Christmas Leave was given, and Mary said, "It is because of God's great gift to the world." "What was that gift?" asked Miss Anns.

"He gave His Son Jesus Christ to die, that we