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—BY—
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I desire to say to all who have sheep pelts to bring them to me and I will pay the best market cash price for them. Do not let the pelts waste, but bring them right along.
SOL. ABRAHAM.

He Pawned His Baby's shoes.

The drummer seated him beside his comrades in the cars—
Of course, to join them in their jokes, they thought,
And share the jars.
But Will could notice on his face—who'd joined them in their glee—
A sterner look than he had worn at parting yesterday.
'Twas very strange, indeed, to see his counten so glum,
And jokes were passed, and one accused poor Joe of too much rum.
A second friend, in his defence, said, "That can never be—
For when Joe has his usual glass he joins us in our glee."
Now, it was quite provoking when they passed the liquor 'round,
For Joe to say, "I don,t indulge;" indeed it was profound.
'Twas then, astonished and perplexed, they asked him to explain
Why he should treat his noblest friends with such unkind disdain.
"Well," said he, "comrades, I've sworn off." He, who was his defence,
Said, "Well, I hope you have a cause; let's hear your evidence."
To which, undaunted, he replied; his courage quite at par,
"I saw convincing evidence last evening at the bar.
I had stepped in to get a drink, a common thing, you know;
The dealer, with his usual smile, said, 'Wait a moment, Joe,'
He had another customer, who took his old time stand,
Who had another pawn to sell in a bundle in his hand.
watched the customer untie the package he had brought,
He had that craving appetite, yet an anxious look, I thought;
He asked, 'Can you give me drink for this? I hope you'll not refuse,
It is all in the world I have to exchange—'tisa pair of the baby's shoes.'
'No,' said the dealer, 'I can't comply. (Though he'd taken many a right
He could not think of robbing the child) You can do without rum to-night.
And take back the shoes to the baby.' 'Nay, give me a drink,' he said—
'Just give me a drink and take them, the baby won't need them, it's dead.'
So boys, I've sworn off from the business. I gave up the tampering last night,
I have a wife and children. Should I go on, appetite
Might find me some day at the bar, too dissolute to refuse,
Pawning for liquor to wreck their lives my innocent children's shoes."

INFAMOUS.

MR. EDITOR: Knowing that your columns are open to the discussion of every subject and to communications that may or may not express your sentiments, I ask for the publication of this article.

How true it is that a great evil will contain within itself the element of its own detention in due time. This thought is nowhere better illustrated than in Roseburg. Now I am not a prohibitionist on principle, but I am an advocate of temperance. But how long before I am made a prohibitionist I cannot tell. There are things happening that will drive me and hundreds of others to prohibition or something more violent in self defence. When we see men come into town having nice families at home, expecting to return at once, remaining here day after day drunk, we inquire the cause. The saloon keeper says he is not responsible. I say he is. These men are known to be inebriates when, where liquor can be had. They cannot refuse it or deny themselves but must satisfy themselves and remain in that condition until a physical reaction comes and then they go home sick and feeble. If these men were destitute they would get no liquor for this is a kind of deadhead that even cannot afford to board and lodge on free whiskey. But they have money and every saloon keeper knows when he sells one of these men a drink of whiskey he is destroying that man and keeping him from his family for days and nights. The saloon keeper knows more about this than any body else and it is simply infamous that it is so. That a man whom we have described will be seized upon, when coming staggering up to the counter and fed whiskey night and day for his money when the man sells the liquor not only knows that the customer is in no condition to have liquor, drunk or sober, but he also knows that the wife and children of this victim are in tears at their fire-sides because "father does not come home. I say these saloon men know all about it. They know who are constitutionally inebriates and know that it is against law human or Divine to allow them to have liquor. This outrage in many western towns has been wiped out by the ladies of the place going and closing out the saloons with violence. I do not advocate this measure, but by the concation the saloon men are giving me and others, the time will soon come when the vengeance that will be visited on them will wipe out saloons as quietly and effectually as the morning sun lifts the fog from the earth. God speed the day when the revenge may come and the tears of the mother and children of the weak husband and father may be substituted for smiles and a happy home. If there is anything that is making more prohibitionists than all else it is the saloon keeper himself. Why should he be surprised to see prohibitionists covering the land like locusts of old, when he is creating them day and night. It is the old story of the last cent, for whiskey men if it destroys the victim and makes beggars of his wife and children.

COMING PROHIBITIONIST.

WASHINGTON LETTER.

From our special correspondent.

Washington, Dec. 7, 1885.

The event in Washington to-day was the beginning of Congress. The session opened in the usual way, There were crowds in the spectator's galleries and in the corridors of the Capitol, while on the floor of the House there was the old time confusion, bustle, noise, handshaking, exchange of congratulations and introductions. The old officers were re-elected from the speaker down. The Republicans gave a complimentary vote for speaker to Mr. Reed of Maine.

There were more than a hundred new faces among the Representatives, and the hall looked much improved by its new carpet and freshly varnished furniture. The seat drawing presented the usual amusing scene of expectation suspense and disappointment of the countenances of the fortunate and less fortunate members.

The Senate chamber looked but little changed since the last adjournment, except for the crape draping Vice President. The Senate opened as quietly as if its vacation had been only nine hours instead of nine months.

Senator John Sherman was elected to succeed Mr. Hendricks as President pro tem. Senator Logan having declined the first caucus nomination for the place. Nothing could have been more repugnant to the Democrats than the selection of Sherman. They would have prefered Logan, as the lesser evil. While Senator Logan is a narrow, positive partisan, his discreet action after the last Presidential election was in marked contrast to the undignified conduct of Mr. Blaine. And then it must be admitted that while he has been in Congress during a period of unparalled extravagance and corruption, his personal honesty has not been questioned.

Sherman is an accomplished hypocrite. While professing patriotism he would at any moment be willing to plunge the country in war, if he could thereby promote his own selfish interests. During his public life in washington, while engaged in no other business ostensibly, and while receiving the limited pay of Congressman or Secretary of the Treasury he has accumulated a fortune estimated at several millions. He is known to have been the brains in the Presidential theft of 1876, and to have been always an unscrupulous plausible, ambitious, avericious, demagogue.

The Presidemt's message is ready for Congress, and will probably be sent in at to-morrow's session. Of the Cabinet reports sent to the President, that of Secretary Whitney may be mentioned as one of the ablest. He has found during his incumbency decaying dock-yards, squandered millions, bad management and no ships. He scathingly reviews past methods, and holds that the only remedies in complete re-organization of the Navy Department. While he wastes no time in dragging to light past rascalities or in making accusations against former Secretaries, the plain manner in which he exposes the management, evasions and violations of law that existed when he assumed control, in the most effective indictment he could make against his predecessors.

In regard to prospective legislation it may be asserted that the House will first give attention to a change of its rules. Then a bill will be presented, for giving the Presidential succession to the Cabinet. It is urged that the temporary President, provided by such a bill, would not be the people's choice, but neither would an officer elected by the Senate. Such a bill would meet the emergency better than any other plan that has been proposed, for it would secure the continuance in power of the party and the administration elected by the people.

Then there will be debates on the Silver question, and a hard fight over it and the tariff. There are many theories among the silver men. The west will be for silver, the east against it, and the south will be divided.

The session has opened very quietly, but sensations will come later. Among them will probably be a scheme of Republican Senators to impeach the Attorney-General in connection with the great telephone case.

When the railroad is completed through this county, to form a through to Portland, the regular passengers train will leave San Francisco and Portland in the evening, thus traveling over the most picturesque portion between Redding and Roseburg in the day time, arriving at each end of the road in the morning for breakfast, which will make the trip continue through two nights and one day.—Yreka "Journal."

CHRISTMAS IN MEXICO.

Dramatic Religious Rites Mingled with Stately Merry-Making.

[F. A. B. in Philadelphia Press.]

The holiday season in Mexico shows as strong a contrast with the celebration in our country as Providence presents it in climate and people. It has religious traits that are attractive, and many of them dramatic. In fact, every phase of life in that Catholic country is singularly tinged with the forms of religion. During Christmas-tide they are shown in their best lights. Like all communities that worship their patron saints, their holidays begin earlier and last much longer than ours. The celebration of the birth of Christ begins there with the pilgrimage of Joseph and Mary from Nazareth to Bethlehem, where the Child was born. For nine days before the natal day everything is given up to the first act of this crude Passion play. The lower classes spend most of their time in worship at home and in the churches. But those who are wealthier take upon themselves the duty of celebrating every stage of the pilgrimage of nearly 1,900 years ago. Those moving in the same circle of society gather in groups each evening and go as a surprise party to the house of one of their circles. They sing and rap vigorously at the door, when those within ask:

"Who seeks admittance?"

"The Virgin Mary and St. Joseph ask lodgings in your house."

The doors are thrown open, and the visitors are welcomed and conducted to the nacimiento, a little altar erected in the private residences of the better classes, representing the birth of Christ. Here each one repeats a prayer with the rosary. These simple religious services over, all are invited to the parlor, where refreshments are served and the host makes proclamation that he is honored by the presence of Mary and Joseph, and invites them all to make merry. Music and dancing succeed eating and drinking, and there is prolonged merry making.

Christmas Eve ushers in a new scene, the most dramatic and beautiful of all the holiday season. The richer people who have represented the long pilgrimage, give way to the poorer classes, who now take up the celebration by giving the "Pastorela," a dramatic representation of the birth of Christ. The largest room that can be procured in the village is fitted up for the representation, and the humble people, who have few wants and little to supply them with, come in to represent the characters in the drama.

The shepherds in the field observing the Star of Bethlehem, are cleverly represented, as is their journey under its guidance. The birth in the manger, the historic cow, the angels and St. Michael are all shown in the simple, picturesque, but impressive play. The spectators who witness and applaud the humble players, who are thus properly representing those who welcomed the birth of our Savior, are sometimes those who made the emblematic visits of the previous nine days, but, generally the play is for the poorer classes. This charming introduction to Christmas Day ends a little before midnight, when those who have witnessed it are expected to entertain the performers. Then all classes go to midnight mass, where the greatest crowd of all the year, except Holy are seen. The food furnished at representations consists usually of nuelos, a wheat-flour cake cooked much like our doughnuts, and tesquino, a kind of beer or fermented drink, of which the poorer classes partake freely during holiday time.

Christmas Day is celebrated in a quiet way. Nothing of the boisterous joviality of the American day is apparent. Gifts from friend to friend are rarely interchanged. The servants often get their aguinaldo, a Christmas present, but even this custom is not general. Hearty and happy as is the Mexican's Christmas, it is enjoyed more as a religious festival than as a feast.

"O, The Mistletoe Bough!"

[Boston Globe.]

"Ivy," says a learned professor "was sacred to Bacchus, and was used at the Dionysian love feast. Another name for Bacchus was Kissos, which also is the ivy, but whether our custom of kissing under the mistletoe is a relic of Kissos and the Agape—doesn't matter in the least.

"Bird-lime, it is significant to observe, is made from the berries of the mistletoe, whence the same words signifies in Greek both mistletoe and bird-lime. How many a luckless human bird has been 'limed' under the mistletoe at Christmas. Some authorities refer the kissing custom to a theory that the mistletoe was the forbidden tree in Eden. The plant was also used in religious ceremonies by the Persian Magi.

"The stately ancestral homes in England are now being richly decorated with holly, and ivy and amber-berried mistletoe, and the hearts of the female inmates, from the fresh-faced house-maid to the languid Lady Jane, are beating faster as they hang the parasite in the most convenient nooks and corners in which they will take good care to be caught on Christmas Day. It is a good custom—may it flourish! And may the time be long distant when there shall no longer be one day in the year on which a man may kiss the girl he likes, sans peur et sans reproche!"

A Heavy Affair.

[Joaquin Miller.]

A London Christmas is a heavy affair. In fact, it is mostly tradespeople you see there on the streets at such times. The butcher, for example, wears a bouquet in his blue blouse. And this coarse, greasy subject has flowers—most by artificial paper flowers—stuck all up and down the dead carcasses—horrible!—which hang in rows and dozens about his shop doors. Other decorations, in similar bad taste meet you all the time and at every turn. And everybody's nose is red.

Adoration of the Nativity.

Mr. Howison, in his "Sketches of Upper Canada," mentions meeting an Indian at midnight, creeping along in the stillness of a beautiful Christmas Eve. The Indian made signals to him to be silent; and, when questioned as to his reason, replied, "Me watch to see the deer kneel; this is Christmas Night, and all the deer fall upon their knees to the Great Spirit and look up."

Dangerous "Eggs."

It is stated that the "serpent eggs" of the toy shops contain a grain of sulphocyanogen, quite enough to kill a child should it swallow one of them.

Cor. Detroit Free Press: Christmas is one of those points of the road at which we are compelled, whether we like it or not, to look back and mark the distance and the region we have traveled. Retrospect enervates as well as improves.

Dickens: Christmas is a time in which the memory of every remediable sorrow, wrong and trouble in the world around us should be active with us.

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