AN OLD-TIME CHRISTMAS.

Victoria Houghton, as she turned over her embroidery silks in quest of a desir-ed shade, exclaimed, "Well, I begin to think Christmas is about used up!

"Why, Vic, what a wicked thing to say!" and her sister Bell stopped, quite startled, in the centre of the room.

"Not the day itself or the event it commemorates, of course, so don't look so frightened, Bell. I mean our man-ner of celebrating it. We work for weeks preparing for the grand holiday, and when it comes it always falls below our expectations. Stockings and Christmas trees have lost their charms, and I think that after we have ceased to be children the 25th of December is a disappointing day.1

But what could we do?" asked Bell. "I would like to see the real old Christmas enstoms revived-the wassail bowl, the boar's head, and the waits singing from door to door. Then the helidays were merry in deed and name;" and Victoria's eyes sparkled.

"Not a bad idea, my Early English maiden." laughed a hearty voice, and both girls turned to welcome a cheeryfaced old gentleman with soft, snowy

"I did not know, grandpa, that any one was listening," said Victoria, with a blush.

"But I think with you, my dear, that familiarity has made balls and sugarplums a trifle 'flat, stale, and unprofit-Perhaps, with your assistance, we can make a change this year, and even in this nineteenth century have a sort of old-time Christmas at Hollywood." "Oh, that will be charming!" cried Victoria, beginning at once to ransack the library for any book that might give suggestions.

Hollywood was a delightful old mansion not many miles from New York, and in days gone by had sheltered a myriad happy boys and girls, but one by one the birds had flown from the home nest, until only father and mother Houghton and the youngest son remained beneath the quaint gable roof; and soon now Archie, this last child, was to say farewell, and go to seek his fortune in far-away Japan. But Christmas was a time of reunion, when children and grandchildren came to spend the happy, holy season with "the old folks at home," and was the "red-letter day" of the whole year in the history of Holly-

This year the day before Christmas was the coldest of the season, but not one was missing from the bevy of couisins that gathered about dusk in the Grand Central Depot, from Dick Bartlett, a young collegian, down to baby Ellis, erowing and capering in his nurse's arms. There were eight Houghton's, five Bartlett's, three Ellises, and one Hastings, who with parents and attendants trooped gaily into the warm car, and were whirled away to the little station nearest to Hollywood.

An omnibus sleigh is in waiting, and, well tucked up in furs, all are packed in, and dash off up the winding road to the old homestead, from which many lights are twinkling a welcome, while the boys shout at the top of their lusty young lungs "A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Victoria, assisted by grandpa and Bell, has done her work well. From the moment of their their arrival the new comers meet with a series of surprises Scarcely are greetings exchanged and wraps laid away before a loud-voiced bell summons them to the dining-room. The long table seems fairly groaning beneath its weight of good cheer, everything being set on together, as in in the simple old days, and there are several dishes which none of them has ever seen or tasted.

Before grandpa stands a tureen of plum porridge, while grandma's end of the board is adorned with with an enormous "Christmas pye," shaped like a manger, and filled with a composition of cows' tongues, geese eggs, sugar, raisins, lemon and orange peel, according to a very ancient and famous recipe. But what please the children most are the Yule-doughs, or baby cakes quaint little images made of paste and baked a fine light brown; and they have great sport over these old-time Christmas dolls.

"Where are the boys?" asks Gladys Ellis, suddenly missing her brothers and boy cousins.

But at that moment the shrill notes of a fife are heard, the door is thrown open, and in come the lads in procession, led by Dick, bearing a platter on which rests the erown of the Christmas feast, namely, the boar's head (although it bears a striking resemblance to a fat pig), decked with ribbons and garlands, lemon in its mouth, and rosemary in its ears. This with great ceremony they set upon the table, singing meanwhile:

"The Boar's head in hand bring I. With garlands gay and rosemary. I pray you all synge merrily, Qui cotis in convince."

This is received with great applause, and amidst the clapping of hands, the boys take their seats at the bounteous board.

The Christmas-eve supper was eaten with jokes and laughter and fun, and afterward they all assembled around the glorious wood fire.

Then grandpa had his surprise. His face was a study when, as Mrs. Hastings struck a few chords on the piano. there entered little Dolly Houghton and Max Ellis dressed like a lady and gentle man of the ancien regime, in ruff and farthingale, three-cornered hat and highheeled shoes. They took their places on the polished floor, saluted their hosts, and with amusing dignity commenced the first stately steps of the minuet de

la cour. It was indeed a charming picture, and the dainty little pair went through the difficult dance with perfect accuracy. Such high steps and glissades, such deep courtesies and courtly bows, such reverence on the part of the gentleman, and such gentle condescension from the little How deftly Max hopped on one foot and clapped his wooden heels together, and how coquettishly wee Dolly tosped her pretty golden head and gave her tiny white hand to her partner! until at length they ended with the balance royale, joining hands and making a pro-

found reverence to the company.
"You precious darlings!" cried grandma, rushing to embrace them; and suddenly divested of their dignity, the little dancers were passed round to be kissed and admired, and were soon romping as

A Soft Thing.

Two old friends met on a train between Dallas and Fort Worth. Alter the usual greeting one of them asked:

"Isn't Sam Sweedlepipes living in Dallas?" "Is he a glazier?"

"Yes, he is a painter and glazier." "He is getting rich fast."

"Getting rich fast, is he? Running a monte bank, I suppose." "No, he has got a better thing than that."

"City official?" "No; he belongs to a fire company, and

when a fire breaks out he runs along and wakes up the people with a stick." "I don't see how there is any money to be made in that."

"He wakes the people up by tapping at their windows with a stick, and he manages to break all the panes of glass within half a mile of the fire, and the next day he is called on to put that in again at 50 cents a piece. He has got a soft thing of it | him!" He hasn't got the social status, but he is alderman."-[Texas Siftings.

Just to Amuse the Children.

He entered the office of a Saginaw mabelieved he had a salt well on his farm, and eyed me up and down in a surprised way, he wanted to know what it would cost to remarking: develop it.

"I see," said the machinist, "there are two ways of developing a salt well. If you desire to plant several barrels of brine and pump from one to the other until you catch swer to an inquiry, that it was Warner's a greenhorn, I'll send you out an old engine, some second-hand pipe and-

"Sir, I'll have you understand that I'm an honest man." "Oh, of course."

"But, to please the boys and give 'ent something to do this winter, you might-"Send out the old materials. Come out into the yard and select what you want." -Wall Street News.

A Christmas Pantomime in London. One of the old chief scenes represents an eastern princess and her ladies of honor in the murble bathing apartments of the royal palace. Perfumed pastiles burning on the stage give a pale rose color to the scene and diffuse a sensuous odor through the house. A veil of the most transparent gause is between the bathers and the audience. Presently the ladies emerge from the bath. They are clad in silk tights so glossy as to stimulate the glistening of water. Thrown lightly around the hips or shoulders are little scarfs of pale pink or green lace. The ladies dance and desport about the stage, twirling gaudy Turkish towels with golden embroidered ends, from which they wring real water .- [New York Star.

A Troublesome Husband. A Waco, Tex., woman met a friend who

did not seem to be in good health. "How do you feel this morning?"

"Poorly; I'm feelin' right bad. You see I have to watch over my husband all the time."

"Is he sick?"

"No; if he was sick I wouldn't have to watch him. He is in good health. That's what's the matter with him."-[Texas Siftings.

A Popular Ex-Mayor.

Ex-Mayor Newton, of Des Moines, Ia., is charity which he is constantly doing. Successful as a politician, he has also recently been playing the part of a good Samaritan tics. The fainting traveler by the wayside, you need. whom he has raised up and refreshed by good counsel in the last instance, is Mr. George A, Crandale, the manager for Oberne, Hosick & Co., Second and Walnut streets. Mr. Crandale, who naturally feels under many obligations to the Ex-Mayor tells as follows how he came into such a wretched plight as to need help and how it

was cheerfully given: "I have never had an ache or pain of rheumatism," he said, "since I used Athlophoros, and the medicine cost me only \$3. If any one had guaranteed to cure me I would willingly have paid him \$50, yes \$100. My rheumatism was inflammatory, mostly in my ankles, but a little in the wrist. I could manage to hobble around wrist. I could manage to hobble around by the use of canes, but felt as if I were sions and frequently death. A pleasant, walking on the bare bones, or in other safe and certain remedy is Dr. JAQUE'S words as if my feet were off and I was walking on the stumps. The pain was terrible to bear, yet I managed to be about and to attend to my business.

"One day, during the time I was suffering so much. I hobbled to the Court House to Only 25 cents. Sold by druggists. look after some matter. As I was struggleing to get up the steps I met ex-Mayor Newton, who asked me what the trouble was. I told him that it was rhoumatism. Sold by all Harness Makers. whereupon he advised me to get a bottle of Athlophorous. I did not get it then, of Athlophorous. I did not get it then, as I had no faith in patent medicines and did not want to take any. A short time cough, hoarseness, bronchial trouble or did not want to take any. A short time after this I wrote to an old friend, Charles P. Griffin, of Stuart, to inquire what had cured him. I knew that he had been confined to his bed with rheumatism of the worst kind. His answer was: 'Get Athlophoros. 'That is what cured me.' I then got some, but really had no faith in its curing me. I began to get relief from it in twenty-four hours. I continued taking animals. Thousands of dollars are saved it until I had used three dollars worth, when my rheumatism, both the pain and the swelling, was gone, and I have not had Ing and need for their relief Dr. WIN-any return since. That is now over a year CHELL'S TEETHING SYRUP, which is

Ex-Mayor Newton based his recommendation of Athlophoros to Mr. Crandale upon the very remarkable cure it had effected in the case of his wife. That lady thus tells all about it:

"I have been comparatively free from rheumatism for the past year and a half. Previous to that I had been a great sufferer or years and had resorted to many rem dies, but nothing would do what Athio-phoros did for me. I have had a few-twinges of late, but I attribute that to my-self and not to the medicine, as I have not been so careful as I should have been. Athlophoros took the stiffness out of the joints of my fingers and gave me the use of my hands, in which I had so long had trou-I have recommended it in many cases and in every instance that I know of the resulta have been very satisfactory. I do not hesitate in the least in recommending it most heartily to every rheumatic suf-

If you cannot get ATHLOPHOROS of your druggist, we will send it express paid, on re-ceipt of regular price—one dollar per bottle. We prefer that you buy it from your druggist, but if he hasn't it, do not be persuaded to try something else, but order at once from us, as directed. ATHLOPROHOS Co., 112 Wall Street, New York.

The early Christmas shopper always satches the best presents.

Maryland, My Maryland.

Maryland legislators, who are always alive to the public interests, have endorsed because it contains neither morphia nor opium, and always cures. The price is only 25 cents.

Mme. Patti will sing in Paris this season

instead of coming to America. Politics Too Much for Him.

A lady on Fifth Avenue, New York, quickly summoned a doctor:

"Oh, doctor, my husband is nearly dead. He attended a caucus last night. He made four speeches and promised to be with his fellow citizens again to-day. But oh, doetor, he looks nearly dead."

"Has he been in politics long?" "No, only last year. He worked hard for "James Met'aulay's election." "He will get well, madam! He has a

Political life, of short or long duration, making more money than if he was an is very exhausting as is evident from the great mortality which prevails among publie men. Ex. U. S. Smator B. K. Bruce, who has been long in public life, says:

"The other day, when stepping into near chinist one day this fall, and said that he at a crossing, I found Dr. - within, who

"Why, Senator, how well you look!"

"'Well, I feel pretty well, I answered," The doctor uttered an incredulous reply, when the Senator frankly told him, in ansafe cure which accomplished for him what the profession had failed to do. Senator Bruce says his friends are very much astonished at this revelation of power.-[The

*Overwhelmingly Defeated.

Mr. Talmage's tabernacle now has 3,272

"Speaking of coughing," says Mrs. Partneton, "some will cough till their face gets black and blue and never think of buying a bottle of Dr. Bull's Cough Syrup."

Mr. George W. Childs has been pall-bearer at the funeral of thirteen distinguished men.

ARBOLISALVE cures Itchings and frrftations of the Skin and Scalp, Poisons, Piles and Ulcers. Cures Burns and Scalds without a Scar. 25 and 50 ets. at Druggists.

August Belmont has turned his seventythird year.

Something that will quiet the nerves, give strength to the body, induce refreshing sleep, improve the quality of the blood, and purify and brighten the complexion, is what many persons would be very glad to obtain. Carter's Iron Pills are made for exactly this class of troubles, and are remarkably successful in accomplishing the ends desired, as named above. They are useful for both men and women. Sold by druggists. Price, 50 cents a box. See advertisement.

When Baby was sick, we gave her Castoria, When she was a Child, she cried for Castoria, When she became Miss, she clung to Castoria, When she had Children, she gave them Castoria,

An electrical signal travels at the rate of

16,000 miles per second.

The Half was Never Told of the wonderful powers and virtues of that deservedly popular in the city over whose been tried and proved. Its cures are numdestines he presided, by reason of the many | berless and the record of (supposed) incurgood deeds and the unostentations acts of able cases that have yielded to its influence charity which he is constantly doing. Sue is astounding. If you have trouble with your Kidneys, Liver or Bowels if you suffer from Constipation and Piles, if you are a victim of Rheumatism or Majaria, take with a success equal to his triumphs in poli- Kidney-Wort. You will find it the remedy

> A PINT OF THE FINEST INK for families or schools can be made from a 10c, package of Diamond Dyes. Try them. All druggists keep them. Wells, Richardson & Co., Burlington, Vt. - Sample Card. 32 colors, and book of directions for 2c. stamp.

Ex-Commissioner Eaton has become president of the college at Marietta, O. "ROUGH ON COUGHS."

Ask for "Rough on Coughs," for coughs, colds, sore throat, hoarseness. Troches, Ec. Liquid, 25c. There is a great increase of interesting

looking young women who wear eye-glasses. Sprains, bruises, stiff joints, burns, scalds and rheamatism are relieved by Uncle Sam's Nerve and Bone liniment.

Sold by druggists. GERMAN WORM CAKES. Sold by all

druggists. Headaches, constipation, liver complaint, billiousness are cured by that mild, cleansing remedy which never produces pain, EL-LERT'S DAYLIGHT LIVER PILLS.

An economical man will keep the leather of his harness soft and pliable, which preserves it from cracking or ripping. He al-was uses UNCLE SAM'S HARNESS OIL.

One-third of all who die in active middle asthma, all of which may be permanently cured by EILERT EXTRACT OF TAR AND WILD CHERRY. Sold by druggists. A farmer's wealth depends on the condition of his stock. When scraggy and feeble they are especially liable to distempers, fevers, cods and all diseases which destroy

annually by that valuable old stand by UNCLE SAM'S CONDITION POWDER. Restless, fretful, crying children are suffering and need for their relief Ds. WINuseful not only for all the disorders of teething infants, but cures coughs, croups, sore throat, colic and cramps of older chil-dren, and should always be kept in every house for emergencies. Only 25 cents.

Rheumatism

Sold by all druggists.

According to the best authorities, originates in morbid condition of the blood. Lactic acid, caused by the decomposition of the guistinous and albumin-oustissues, circulates with the blood and attacks the throus tissues, particularly in the joints, and thus causes the local manifestations of the disease. The back and shoulders are the parts usually affected by rheumatism, and the joints at the knees, ankles, hips and wrists are also sometimes attacked. Thousands of people have found in Hood's Sarsaparilla a positive and permanent cure for rheumatism. This medicine, by its purifying and vitalizing action on the blood, corrects the cause of the disease, and it also gives strength to every function of the body. If you soffer from rheumstism try Hood's Harssparilla.

"About a year ago I was pretty well run down, be ing troubled with rheumatism and indigestion, and my blood being very poor. I began to take Hood's Sareaparilla and it gave me great relief." Jone

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and jouts of the body, rhenmatism, non talgia in fact any arhe or pain of the body -nothing equals Salvation Oil. Price 25c The position of state librarian at Des

Moines, In., is filled by a women

"Over and Over Again," Repetition is sometimes the only way to impress a truth upon the mind. Accordingly take notice that Dr. Pierce's "Pleasant Purgative Pellets" (the original Little Liver Pills) continue to be wonderfully the continue to be well bendered by the continue to be wonderfully the continue to be well bendered by the continue to be wonderfully the continue to be well bendered by the continue to be well by the continue to b effective in cases of sick and nervous head actic, constipation, indigestion, rush o blood to the head, cold extremities, and al ailments arising from obstruction of the bodily functions. Their action is thorough yet gentle, and the ingredients being entire ly vegetable, they can be taken with impunity into the most delicate stomach. Al druggists.

Amos J. Cummings has been re-elected president of the New York Press Club. stomach for any disease, if he worked for

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Mrs. Kate Chase (formerly Mrs. Sprague) has made her home in Paris.

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corrects of easier odors at once. Complete care of worst chronic cases; also unequalled as gargie for diphtheria, sore throat, four breath, 50c. The girl of the period continues to do

everything she possibly can to be masculine. If afflicted with Sore Eyes, use Dr. Isaac

Thompson's Eye Water. Druggists sell it. A fashionable game called Standal is played with discarded family photographs.

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Shoe and hardware dealers sell Lyon's Heel Stiff ners; they keep boots and shoes straight. Mme Patti claims that she is going to quit the stage while her voice is in full ture.

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