



## DICKENS ON CHRISTMAS.

## 

E. ACH holiday season the memory of other Christmases
with their half-forgotten joys, tinges us with melan-
choly. we grow older, we appreciate more and more the
As
cheerful optimism of Charles Dickens. Listen to him you
who sigh in vain for days on which the sun has forever set,

Circuit Court Yews
Farmers \& \& Fruitgrowers' bauk
W.
overruling demurrer.
H. Jenkins vs. City

drop your vain regrets:
that Therefore, as we grow older, let us be more thankful
that the circle of our Christmas associations and of the that the circle of our Christmas associations and of the
lessons that they bring, expands! Let us welcome every
one of them, and summon them to take their places by the Christmas hearth.
"Welcome, old aspirations, glittering creatures of an ardent fancy, to your shelter underneath the holly! We
know you, and have not outlived you yet. Welcome, old
projects and old loves, however fleeting, to your nooks projects and old loves, however fleeting, to your nooks
among the steadier lights that burn around us. Welcome, all that was ever real to our hearts; and for the earnestness that made you real, thanks to Heaven!
"Do we build no Christmas castles in the clouds now ? Let ouir thoughts, fluttering like butterflies among these
flowers, of children, bear witness! Before this boy there flowers, of children, bear witness! Before this boy there
stretrbes out a Future, brighter than we ever looked on in our old romantic time, but bright with honor and with
truth. Around this little head on which the sunny eurls We heaped, the graces sport, as prettily, as airily, as when
there was no seythe within the reach of Time to shear away curls of our first-love.
"Upon another girl's face near it-placider but smiling
bright-a quiet and contented little face, we see Home bright-a quiet and contented little face, we see fome
fairly written. Shining from the word, as rays shine from
a star, we see how, when our graves are old, other hopes a star, we see how, when our graves, are old, other hopes
than ours are young, other heads than ours are moved; how other ways are smoothed; how other happiness
blooms, ripens, and decays-no, not decays, for other blooms, ripens, and decays-no, not decays, for other
homes and other bands of children, not yet in being, nor for ages yet to be, arise, and bloom and ripen to the end
of all!
"Weleome, everything! Welcome, alike what has been, and what never was, and what we hope may be, to your
shelter underneath the holly, to your places around the Christmas fire, where what is sits open-hearted! In yon-
der shadow do we see obtruding furtively upon the blaze, der shadow do we see obtruding furtively upon the blaze,
an enemy's face? By Christmas Day we do forgive him!
If the injury he has done us may almit of such companionIf the injury he has done us may admit of such companion-
ship, let him come here and take his place. If otherwise, unhappily, let him go
injure nor aceuse him.


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