Our Best Efforts

are being exerted to make the selection of Christmas gifts at our counters a pleasure. The store is in full Holiday attire, and the stocks are brimful of just the staples and the novelties that please. Every appliance for the prompt, accurate and satisfactory service of our customers is in the smoothest running order. The store is better than ever, and many little betterments are added each day. Ever an interesting place to visit, it is doubly so now that the holiday demands fill every aisle with eager throngs of people. Whether you want to buy or not, you are welcome to the full enjoyment of all the conveniences we have provided.

RUGS FOR THE HOLIDAYS.

A few of the many suggestions this department has to offer:

100 NUBIA WILTON RUGS Oriental colors and designs, 27 x 54 inches, at **$1.25**

500 MOQUETTE RUGS— the new patterns for the coming season, 18 x 36 inches, at **$1.00**

27 x 63 inches, at **$2.00**

36 x 72 inches, at **$3.25**

100 GOAT SKINS — extra quality, white and gray, worth $2.00; our price . . **$1.50**

125 SHEEP SKINS—all colors, 16 x 28 inches, at . . **$1.50**

BABY CARRIAGE ROBES—Iceland Sheep, square, without pocket, **$2.00 to $2.75.**

BABY CARRIAGE ROBES—Iceland Sheep, Mandarin and Angora, with pocket, **$4.50 to $12.50.**

350 HASSOCKS — Brussels, Velvet and Wilton, extra grade, **50c to $1.50.**

DESK FURNISHINGS— and other useful articles, in Dresden and Delft ware, are here in a profusion of exquisite designs, at strikingly low prices:

EUCHRE CARD BOXES— 40 and 45 cents.

TRAYS—for pens, pencils, cigar ashes and pins, with Dresden decorations, **20 to 95 cents.**

STAMP BOXES—with three divisions, at **85c**

PERPETUAL CALENDARS celluloid clips, at **95c**

HAND BLOTTERS— 85c and $1.00.

THERMOMETERS, at $1.25

MUCILAGE CUPS—with tray and silver handled brush, **$1.60**

LETTER RACKS — single and double, at **$1.00 and $2.65.**

SMALL CLOCKS — with Dresden decorations and Ansonia movements, **$1.65 to $3.25.**

MATCH BOXES AND HAIR PIN BOXES, at . . . 75c

Mail orders receive prompt and accurate attention.

Strawbridge & Clothier
Philadelphia

Headquarters for Corn Cutters!

WE SELL

The McCORMICK CORN CUTTER AND HARVESTER, which has been tried and is a perfect success. And also the DAIN CORN CUTTER which will pay for itself in Harvesting from 40 to 50 acres of corn. So, farmers, it will pay you to buy one of these Cutters. Send in your orders at once. And we sell the

Bickford & Huffman Grain Drill!

which is considered the BEST and MOST DURABLE and RELIABLE DRILL on the market. And we REPAIR ALL KINDS OF GRAIN DRILLS. Farmers, look at your Drills and send them out soon to

TILGHMAN SHAFER,
BLACKSWITH & WHEELWRIGHT
AT THE OLD STAND, KENNEDYVILLE, MD.
REPAIRING A SPECIALTY.
WE KEEP FOR SALE THE GENUINE
OLIVER CHILLED Plows
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And All Kinds of Agricultural Implements.

CARRIAGES, BUGGIES, NO-TOP BUGGIES, ROAD CARTS. DAYTONS, SULKIES, CARRIAGE TOPS, CARRIAGE POLES. CARRIAGE HARNESS OF ALL KINDS, FARM WAGONS AND DEARBORNS.

Grass Seeders, Power Feed Cutters and Crushers, Power Grinding Mills, Root Cutters, Cucumber Pumps, Barbed Fence Wire, Belting of all kinds.

☞ Also Fire Insurance Agent.

Say, Where Are You Going?

—TO—

A. J. HACKETT'S,
Still Pond,
Where I Can Get New Wheels, Tires and Axles
for $13.75.

You can also have your old wheels repaired cheaper than anywhere else—he will hoop your wheels for $1.50, and make no extra charge for bolts. He is still Painting arriages from $5.00 up, and gives you a good job. If you want a top why look at his special for $9.50, full lined. It is a dandy. He has a few Dearborns on hand, and if you need one call and see him, his prices are right and way down. Prices reduced on all work.

Horse Shoeing 65 Cents Cash!

Horse Shoeing and Blacksmithing Parlor, Still Pond.

Assortment!

The stock of goods we have just placed is complete and gratifying in variety. We have all the lines, and all these lines full to overflowing, so that a customer cannot leave the store without being able to find anything and everything that a progressive merchant should carry. We do not dust over and sort up old goods, and try to make them pass for new ones, when a season comes in. We carefully select and order the best and newest the market affords, secure enough to meet all requirements, and look to it that every class and grade is represented. You will find what you want here, if anywhere, in all its variations of mode, finish and price.

WE SELL ALL STYLES AND ALL GRADES OF

Fine, Medium and Heavy Shoes,

For Men, Boys, Youths, Ladies and Misses.

THOMAS G. WROTH,
The Shoe Man.
UNDER STAM'S HALL, CHESTERTOWN, MD.

FINEST LINE OF RUSSET AND PATENT LEATHER GOODS EVER SHOWN.
ALL KINDS OF SHOE DRESSINGS.

WHAT BRINGS RELEASE FROM DIRT AND GREASE? WHY DON'T YOU KNOW?

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DR. FAHRNEY'S TEETHING SYRUP.
THE BABY'S COMFORT, THE MOTHER'S FRIEND.

Once tried, always used. Will cure Colic in 10 minutes; cures curd or sour stomach, relieves all forms of indigestion, can be given to babies 1 day old. Will prevent Cholera Infantum and keep the baby in good, healthy condition through the period of teething. An over dose does no harm; nothing injurious in it. 25 cts. at druggists.
Made only by DRS. D. FAHRNEY & SON, HAGERSTOWN, Md.
Trial bottle sent free if you mention this paper.

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N. Y. Journal, Phila. Record, " Press, alto. Sun, " Herald, — On Sale Daily.

CIGARS, TOBACCO, CAKES, CONFECTIONERY, STATIONERY, CANNED GOODS.

HARD AND SOFT COAL.
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KENT COUNTY'S
LEADING LIVERY,
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Give me a call. Resp'y, etc.,
GEORGE B. McWHORTER.
Feb. 21, 1896—y. Chestertown, Md

Windsor Hotel,
JOHN H. RAHTER, Prop.
American and European Plan.
Rooms 50 and 75 Cents.
Rates $1.50 and $2.00 per Day.
S. E. Cor. Calvert and Franklin Streets, opp. Calvert Station, BALTIMORE, MD

CHRISTMAS.

At Christmas play and make good cheer,
For Christmas comes but once a year.
—Thomas Tusser.

At Christmastide the open hand
Scatters its bounty o'er sea and land,
And none are left to grieve alone,
For love is heaven and claims its own.
—Margaret E. Sangster.

If all the year were playing holidays,
To sport would be as tedious as to work.
—Shakespeare.

No war or battle's sound
Was heard the world around.
—Milton.

We speak of a merry Christmas
And many a happy New Year,
But each in his heart is thinking
Of those that are not here.
—Longfellow.

JOLLY SANTA CLAUS.

PATRON SAINT OF CHILDREN IN MANY LANDS.

Different Names by Which He Is Known In Various Countries—In Austria He Has a Servant Who Helps Carry the Bundles. Naughty Children Punished.

St. Nicholas is one of the patron saints of Russia, and so at Christmas time he is a very special favorite. But Easter is the great feast, and the Christmas gifts are not so handsome as the Easter presents.

He is known as Santa Claus in Holland. He is Samiklaus in Switzerland.

In Helgoland the children call him Sonner Klas.

In the Tyrol he is the Holy Man. St. Lucy and the Christ Child go with him.

In lower Austria his name is Niklo, or Niglo, and his masked servant, who helps to carry the bundles, is Krampus.

In the Vorarlberg he is Zemmiklas, and he puts all naughty children into his bag and carries them off.

In Belgium the children polish their shoes and fill them with hay, oats and carrots for the saint's white horse. Then they place them in the fireplace or in a corner of the room, one of the saint's favorite hiding places. The door is carefully locked and next morning everything is found topsy turvy. The chairs and table have been turned about, the horse has eaten up the hay and left instead sweetmeats and toys for the good children and rods for the bad ones. But there are very seldom any bad ones at Christmas.

In the Netherlands the children write to him and sing to him to let fall from the chimney top something into their white aprons. As they sing they keep time, swinging the aprons back and forth:

Sunder Klaas du gode Bicot!
Breng' mi Noot un Zuckerbrod,
Nicht to veel un nich to minn,
Smiet in mine Schorten in!

In Bohemia and Styria there are Christ plays in every village during Advent. St. Nicholas, dressed in a long cloak, has a golden miter on his head and a bishop's staff in his hand. He reads his report of how the school children have behaved. Those who play truant, loiter on their way, forget their lessons, soil and tear their books or forget their prayers are to be beaten with his rod. Then comes the Christ Child and says: "Good Nicholas, be patient! Spare the little ones! Spare the young blood! Forgive them this time, good Nicholas!" And St. Nicholas forgives them because it is Christ's birthday.

In Carniola the good bishop dresses in a sheet and wears a pillow case on his head instead of a miter. Then he comes to see the children in their dreams, and asks them if they always say their prayers. Then he leaves fruit for the good ones and rods for the forgetful out of the big basket he carries on his arm.

In Alsace the Christ Child himself comes, dressed as a maiden, in white, to bring the good children sweetmeats. With a silver bell in her hand and lighted tapers as a crown on her head she fills the tiny wooden shoes from her basket.

Then she disappears out at the window where she came in, and her bell is heard tinkling as she enters the next house.

In Suabia the Christ Child carries a bell and an earthen pot full of gifts.

In Hanover, Mecklenburg and Holstein the Christmas fairy is Clas.

In Poland the heavens are opened and Jacob's ladder is let down for the angels to come down with gifts for good children.

In some parts of Austria candles are placed in the windows to let the Christ Child see the way.

Near Cologne the country children go round with cowbells in honor of the manger of Bethlehem.

Three boys, dressed in white, with leather girdles and crowns of colored paper, march about and personate the three kings of Cologne, who were said to be the three wise men.

The first child left at the gates of the Foundling hospital at Lyons on Christmas eve is laid in a handsome cradle and dressed in pretty clothes.

Bonhomme Noel brings the French children sweets for their shoes.

Children in Lorraine must not sit in the chimney corner on Christmas eve because they intercept the draft.

In the country villages near Stuttgart and Tubingen the children on the three Thursdays before Christmas shoot peas and lentils through a pipe at every window. This custom is said to date from the time when the plague raged and country friends came into town to see if their relatives were still alive. They threw handfuls of peas at the house, and the inmates appeared, if able to do so, and gave them a kindly salute.

In the Black Forest the Christ Child announces his arrival at the door by ringing his silver bell. Then the door is partially opened, and the gifts are thrown in. Sometimes a rod or a handful of peas is added for the naughty folk. The rod is for punishment, and the peas are for penance.

In northern Germany lights are placed in the windows and food on the tables, so that the Holy Mother and the angels who pass when every one is asleep may find food.

Saturn's temples were hung with flowers and wreaths of greens, tapers burned everywhere, feasting and dancing were in every home, gifts were freely exchanged, and all these customs were observed by Christians, but with a newer, deeper zeal for the dear Christ Child.

The Christmas tree, born in Germany, has taken root in every land where the Christ Child is known and loved.

American children have chosen the best of all the Christmas customs of the old world. Santa Claus comes from Holland; the stocking is French or Belgian; the "Merry Christmas" is English, as is also the mistletoe; the holly is Norwegian, and the happy, happy whole is American.—Philadelphia Ledger.

Christmas Tree Ornaments.

Strings of silver and gilt balls and balls of raw cotton make pretty and effective decorations. Shreds of raw cotton may also be sprinkled over the tree. This does very nicely to represent snow. English walnuts, either natural or gilded, may be tied with ribbon and added to the other materials. You cannot have too much. Quantity rather than quality makes a tree beautiful. A dozen or more dolls, made of bright colored tissue paper, should be added if there are any little girls in the house. Candy canes and sugar animals of every conceivable kind are always appreciated by the youngsters.

Antiquity of the Christmas Tree.

In Germany Christmas trees have been known ever since the introduction of Christianity. Before that time the dressing of a tree with candles and presents was a feature of the midwinter Druidical festival, so that in fact the German Christmas tree dates back to an era before the dawn of written history.—Exchange.

When Jesus Was Born.

Sound over all waters, reach out from all lands,
The chorus of voices, the clasping of hands;
Sing hymns that were sung by the stars of the morn,
Sing songs of the angels when Jesus was born!
—Whittier.

Champion Shot of the World.

Miss Annie Oakley writes: "Myself and many of the Buffalo Bill Wild West Co. have given Allen's Foot-Ease, the powder to shake into the shoes, a most thorough trial, and it does all it not more than you claim." It instantly takes the sting out of Corns and Bunions. Allen's Foot-Ease is a certain cure for swollen, hot, aching or sweating feet. Sold by all Druggists and Shoe Stores, 25c. Sample sent FREE. Address Allen S. Olmsted, Le Roy, N. Y.

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.

SUBSCRIPTION to the TRANSCRIPT one dollar per year.

What is CASTORIA

Castoria is Dr. Samuel Pitcher's prescription for Infants and Children. It contains neither Opium, Morphine nor other Narcotic substance. It is a harmless substitute for Paregoric, Drops, Soothing Syrups, and Castor Oil. It is Pleasant. Its guarantee is thirty years' use by Millions of Mothers. Castoria destroys Worms and allays feverishness. Castoria prevents vomiting Sour Curd, cures Diarrhœa and Wind Colic. Castoria relieves teething troubles, cures constipation and flatulency. Castoria assimilates the food, regulates the stomach and bowels, giving healthy and natural sleep. Castoria is the Children's Panacea—the Mother's Friend.

Castoria.

"Castoria is an excellent medicine for children. Mothers have repeatedly told me of its good effect upon their children."
DR. G. C. OSGOOD, Lowell, Mass.

"Castoria is the best remedy for children of which I am acquainted. I hope the day is not far distant when mothers will consider the real interest of their children, and use Castoria instead of the various quack nostrums which are destroying their loved ones, by forcing opium, morphine, soothing syrup and other hurtful agents down their throats, thereby sending them to premature graves."
DR. J. F. KINCHELOE, Conway, Ark.

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"Castoria is so well adapted to children that I recommend it as superior to any prescription known to me."
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"Our physicians in the children's department have spoken highly of their experience in their outside practice with Castoria, and although we only have among our medical supplies what is known as regular products, yet we are free to confess that the merits of Castoria has won us to look with favor upon it."
UNITED HOSPITAL AND DISPENSARY, Boston, Mass.
ALLEN C. SMITH, *Pres.*,

The Centaur Company, 77 Murray Street, New York City.

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Tried Friends Best.
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TUTT'S Liver PILLS AN ABSOLUTE CURE.

Rainbow Liniment
Banishes all Pain
CURES Rheumatism, Neuralgia, Lumbago, Sprains, Bruises, Chilblains, Cramps & Colic. Price, 25c. per bottle. Sample bottle, 10c.
Sold by Dealers. Manufactured only by
H. J. HACKETT & CO., 27 N. 2nd St., Philadelphia.

USE **HACKETT'S CONDITION POWDERS**
For Your Horses, Cattle and Poultry
Take no other. 15c. per lb. package.

CATARRH
is a LOCAL DISEASE and is the result of colds and sudden climatic changes.
FOR YOUR PROTECTION we positively state that this remedy does not contain mercury or any other injurious drug.
ELY'S CREAM BALM is acknowledged to be the most thorough cure for Nasal Catarrh, Cold in Head and Hay Fever of all remedies. It opens and cleanses the nasal passages, allays pain and inflammation, heals the sores, protects the membrane from colds, restores the senses of taste and smell. A particle is applied directly into the nostrils, is agreeable. 50 cents at Druggists or by mail; samples 10c. by mail.
ELY BROTHERS, 56 Warren Street, New York.

PILES ITCHING PILES SWAYNE'S OINTMENT
ABSOLUTELY CURES.
SYMPTOMS—Moisture. Intense itching and stinging; most at night; worse by scratching. If allowed to continue tumors form, and protrude, which often bleed and ulcerate, becoming very sore. SWAYNE'S OINTMENT stops itching and bleeding, absorbs the tumors. Sold by druggists or by mail, for 50 cts. Prepared by Dr. SWAYNE & SON, Philadelphia.

PARKER'S GINGER TONIC chases Lung Troubles, Debility, distressing stomach and female ills, and is noted for making men when all other treatment fails. Every mother and invalid should have it.

PARKER'S HAIR BALSAM Cleanses and beautifies the hair. Promotes a luxuriant growth. Never Fails to Restore Gray Hair to its Youthful Color. Cures scalp diseases & hair falling. 50c. and $1.00 at Druggists.

HINDERCORNS The only sure Cure for Corns. Stops all pain. Makes walking easy. 15c. at Druggists.

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PENNYROYAL PILLS
Original and Only Genuine. SAFE, ALWAYS RELIABLE. LADIES ask Druggist for Chichester's English Diamond Brand in Red and Gold metallic boxes, sealed with blue ribbon. Take no other. Refuse dangerous substitutions and imitations. At Druggists, or send 4c. in stamps for particulars, testimonials and "Relief for Ladies," in letter, by return Mail. 10,000 Testimonials. Name Paper. Chichester Chemical Co., Madison Square, Sold by all Local Druggists. Philada., Pa.

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No Ice House Stock.

RAISINS, CITRON, AND CURRANTS. NUTS, FRUITS, CANDIES, ETC.

Everything for the

Xmas Trade.

Prices Way Down.

JACOB F. THOMPSON.

Two Pounds Pure Ground Pepper 25 cents.

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CHESTERTOWN, MD.,
Front Street, Opposite the Old Bank.

Permanent and Transient Boarders taken at low rates: Lunch served at short notice. Oysters in all styles. First-Class Dinners to country people at 35c. Bride's Cakes made to order. We also carry in stock a general assortment of Cakes and Confectionery. Picnics and Festivals supplied with our celebrated Ice Cream at moderate prices. A call solicited.
SHUSTER'S DINING PARLOR

Oysters! Oysters! Oysters!

To the public in general. The undersigned wishes to say that he is prepared to furnish oysters by the plate or gallon, in first class style at short notice. Cooked and served in the well-known Perkins style at his residence on Cannon street.
oi5-2m. HARRISON JENKINS.

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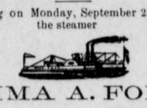
Comprising Soup, 4 Vegetables, Dessert, Bread, Butter and Coffee, Meat or Fish, for
FIFTEEN CENTS.
Also a Variety of 5 and 10c. Dishes.
Everything in Season. Open All Night.

Fall Schedule.
CHESTER RIVER
Steamboat Company.

Beginning on Monday, September 23, 1896, the steamer



EMMA A. FORD

will leave Chestertown at 8 o'clock A. M., on Monday, Wednesday and Friday, stopping at Rolph's, Booker's, Quaker Neck, Bogle's, Queenstown and Kent Island.

RETURNING, will leave Baltimore at 10.30 A. M. on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, making the same landings.

On and after Monday, Nov. 2, the
STEAMER B. S. FORD
will leave Centreville at 8 A. M., Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, stopping at landings on Corsica River, Jackson Creek and Rock Hall. Returning, will leave Baltimore at 10.30 A. M., Monday, Wednesday and Friday, for same landings.

A Special Round Trip from Baltimore to Rock Hall and return will be run on SATURDAYS, leaving Baltimore at 3 P. M., and leaving Rock Hall at 5 P. M. This will give Rock Hall patrons an opportunity to leave home Saturday morning for Baltimore and return same day.
GEO. WARFIELD, Pass't.

SASSAFRAS RIVER STEAMBOAT CO.

CHANGE OF SCHEDULE.

On and after MONDAY, SEPT. 21st, 1896, the STEAMER SASSAFRAS will leave Georgetown at 7.30 A. M. on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Shallcross' wharf, at 7.45, A. M.; Cassidy's wharf, at 8.00 A. M.; Turner's Creek, at 8.15 A. M.; Betterton, at 9.00 A. M.; Buck Neck, at 10.15 A. M.; Gale's wharf, at 10.30 A. M.

Returning, leave Baltimore, Pier 6, Light street, at 10.30 A. M., on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays for the above landings.
Sept. 17, 1896. WM. CUNDIFF, Sup't.

Fall Schedule, 1896.
BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 5,

THE STEAMER EMMA GILES
(weather permitting) between
Tolchester Beach and Baltimore,

Leaving Tolchester Saturdays at 9.00 A. M. and 4.30 P. M.
Leaving Baltimore at 7.00 A. M. and 2.30 P. M.

Russell's Stage makes connection from Chestertown with the Tolchester Boat.

TOLCHESTER COMPANY.
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Or, G. E. NOLAND, Tolchester.

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HAVING located at Rock Hall, I am prepared to do Shaving and Hair Cutting in latest styles. Trimming of Ladies' and Children's Bangs and Shampooing a specialty.
Music furnished for parties, etc.
Give me a call.
j30-96. THOMAS L. SNYDER, Rock Hall,

Holly.

Not one pretty flower would stay
When old autumn nipped the grass,
For she had a cruel way,
Though as red checked as a lass.
Winter had our northland taken,
His white flags by winds outshaken.

What, then, was there bright enough
For the merry Christmas day?
"Good Dame Nature, be less rough,"
Said the folks. "Leave storms, we pray.
Bring some posies and be cheery,
Lest she find the world be dreary."

"What are posies in the gleam
Of my beautiful white frost?"
Said the old dame from her dream.
"By the hedge, all snow embossed,
Bloom itself the gaud day carries,"
And she held up holly berries.

How their scarlet brightness shone
In the morning's airy tracks!
Nature is a wise old crone.
She knows what a picture lacks.
Winter lost is melancholy.
Christmas laughed to see the holly.

Since that hour, now far away,
When time's tired wing was light,
In the path of Christmas day
Always shines the berries bright,
And mid all its tender folly
Gleams the blush of Christmas holly.
—Selected.

CHRISTMAS CHARITIES.

Generosity to the Poor Was Customary In Ye Olden Tyme.

At Drayton Beauchamp, in Buckinghamshire, there was a curious custom known as "Stephening." It was the ancient practice of the inhabitants of the village to repair to the rectory on St. Stephen's day, the day immediately following Christmas, and eat as much bread and cheese as they chose and drink as much ale as they thought proper at the expense of the rector. The custom gave rise to so much rioting that he discontinued it and distributed an annual sum of money instead. In the olden time it was the custom of the rector of Great Barr in Staffordshire on every Christmas day to give to all persons calling at his house as much bread, beef, mustard and vinegar as they could eat. A money payment is now made in place of the eatables. The inhabitants of North Clifton were formerly free from ferry dues, and in consequence the ferryman and his dog were indulged with a dinner each at the vicar's at Christmas. The ferryman also on that day received of the inhabitants a prime loaf of bread.

There is a very pleasant custom connected with the parish of Cumnor in Berkshire, the church of which is a vicarage and a beautiful specimen of the venerable parochial edifices of that kind in England. On Christmas day after evening service the parishioners who are liable to pay any tithes repair to the vicarage and are there entertained with bread, cheese and ale. It is no benefaction on the part of the vicar, but claimed as a right on the part of the parishioners, and even the quantity of good things which the vicar brings forward is specified. He must have four bushels of malt brewed into ale and small beer, two bushels of wheat made into bread and half a hundredweight of cheese, and whatever remains unconsumed by the vicarage payers is distributed next day after morning prayers among the poor.

There was a very curious custom observed at Paddington church, in London, which partakes of the character of Christmas charity. At 8 o'clock on the morning of the Sunday before Christmas it was usual to throw a quantity of bread and cheese from the steeple of the church among the populace. The assemblage on the occasion was generally immense, and a great scramble took place. The custom had its origin in the will of two poor sisters, who, traveling to London to claim an estate, in which they succeeded, and being much distressed, were first relieved in Paddington. The custom was kept up until a few years since, when a less objectionable mode was adopted for the distribution of this charity. It is given in bread and coal by the minister and parish officers to the poor of the district.—Selected.

CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS.

Information For Making Ornamental Letters For Inscriptions.

To use against dark backgrounds very pretty lettering is made by lightly covering pasteboard forms with cotton, pulled apart until it is fluffy as down. Sprinkle these with glue and then sift coarsely powdered mica over them. When a strong light falls on them, the effect will be very pleasing. These letters must be made by some one with deft fingers, as their effect depends greatly on the fluffiness of the cotton. It must be laid on lightly, just caught in place here and there by fine stitches and fastened to its background by fine wires, which should be attached to the frames of the letters before they are covered. If it is not thought best to attempt such lettering very pleasing substitutes can be made by covering pasteboard with gilt paper, or if colors are wanted tissue paper can be used. Crumpled tinfoil makes a pretty covering, and is easily put on.

A beautiful letter can be made by covering pasteboard with velveteen in some dark color, like scarlet, olive or blue. Fasten the cloth in place by folding its edges over the letter and sewing them together on the back. Then string popcorn and run it around the edges of the letter, fastening it well by stitches here and there through the cloth covering. Then go over the popcorn with a wash of the gilding liquid used in ornamenting furniture and fancy work. The effect will be rich and striking if good colors are used for covering the letters and the gilding is well done. The rough regularity of the edging formed by the popcorn gives somewhat the appearance of coined or hammered work. These are effective on dark or light backgrounds, as the gilding outlines them clearly and brings them out prominently in proper light.—Ladies' Home Journal.

The Three Magi.

According to tradition the bodies of the three magi, or "kings of the east," who visited Christ, bearing gifts, are buried in the Cathedral of Cologne, in Germany. They are said to have been discovered in the third century by the Empress Helena, mother of Constantine, who translated them from Jerusalem to the great Church of St. Sophia, at Constantinople, whence they were sent by the Emperor Emmanuel to Milan at the request of the bishop of that city. In 1164 the Emperor Frederick of Germany, having taken Milan, seized the bodies of the three kings as the most precious booty and removed them with great pomp to Cologne cathedral. The shrine of the three magi is one of the show places of the city. The altar where the relics are kept is profusely decorated with gems and gold. The bodies are supposed to be buried underneath the high altar, but the three skulls, set in a velvet cushion, profusely adorned with precious stones, are exhibited to those who are willing to pay the large fee demanded for opening and illuminating the chapel where these relics are kept.—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

Why Ivy Is Proscribed.

The ivy is never used for Christmas decoration. It was once sacred to Bacchus and constituted almost the sole leafy decoration at the Roman saturnalia. The early Christian clergy, desiring to wean the people from their pagan practice as far as possible, forbid the use of the ivy, and the prohibition has lasted until the present age.—Selected.

A Gascony Tradition.

In Gascony there is a tradition that the lost spirits in hades experience a cessation of their tortures on Christmas day, and that on this one day of the year there is rejoicing even in the lower regions.—Exchange.

A Silesian Superstition.

In Silesia there is a superstition that a boy born on Christmas day must be brought up a lawyer or he will become a thief.

Here is a diamond, here a piece of charcoal. Both carbon; yet between them stands the mightiest of magicians—Nature. The food on your table, and your own body; elementally the same; yet between the two stands the digestion, the arbiter of growth or decline, life or death.

We cannot make a diamond; we cannot make flesh, blood and bone. No. But by means of the Shaker Digestive Cordial we can enable the stomach to digest food which would otherwise ferment and poison the system. In all forms of dyspepsia and incipient consumption, with weakness, loss of flesh, thin blood, nervous prostration the Cordial is the successful remedy. Taken with food it relieves at once. It nourishes, and assists nature to nourish. A trial bottle—enough to show its merit—10 cents.

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Rev. John Reid, Jr., of Great Falls, Mont., recommended Ely's Cream Balm to me. I can emphasize his statement, "It is a positive cure for catarrh if used as directed."—REV. FRANCIS W. POOLE, Pastor Central Pres. Church, Helena, Mont.

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