

NEW YEAR'S DAY.

Gotham's Favorite Festival at Hand. CITY SCENES YESTERDAY. How the Old Year Was Tucked Up and Laid Away. The Custom of Making New Year's Presents.

Services in Catholic and Episcopal Churches. Will may we be able, we may we never see. The good and the bad. New Year's Day has come at last, and all the festive boys of Gotham will be abroad, full, fat, and merry.

SIDEWALKS AS SLIPPERY AS GREASED GLASS. There were many gloomy forebodings that the great eventful occasion of New Year's would turn out a bitter mockery of enjoyment, that the walking would be as "parlous" as navigating a tight rope.

THE CUSTOM OF MAKING CALLS ON THIS DAY HAS ALREADY BEEN ALLUDED TO. It is a very commendable social custom and peculiar to the city of New York.

THE PEAL WHICH RINGS OUT THE OLD YEAR. I never hear it without a gathering up of my mantle and a hurried dash to the door.

THE WASSAIL OR WASSAL BOWL. The poorer class of people carried a bowl adorned with a crown of flowers, and begged for something wherewith to obtain a glass of wine.

TRINITY CHIMES. Ringing the Old Year Out and the New Year In. There is a fanciful idea connected with the Chimes that always suggests a merry time and a reason of some special joyfulness.

PRESENTING OF GIFTS. With low legs and in a humble guise. When his worship at the New Year's tide. An orange stuck with cloves was a common present, and is explained by Lupton, who says that the favor of wine is improved and the wine itself preserved from mouldiness by an orange or lemon stuck with cloves being hung within the vessel so as not to touch the liquor.

NEW YEAR'S IN PARIS. In Paris it is by no means uncommon for a man of 50 or 60, or even 70, to make presents on New Year's Day which cost him a fifteenth part of his income.

THE EVE OF THE NEW YEAR.

Scenes in the Streets, Markets and Stores—Half a Million People Purchasing Presents—The Promise of the Feast—Honoring the Old Year. The eve of the New Year darkened on the world with a peculiar sadness in the aspect of nature, in keeping with the melancholy thoughts which usually come when we are forcibly reminded of the rapid flight of Old Father Time.

THE TURN OF THE TIDE. was rung on her melodious bells through an ocean of mud and was enveloped in a falling mist that seemed to dampen both their garments and their hearts.

THE AVENUES. up town were crowded by the moving, mixing and surging multitude, and it was composed of all sorts of people. If the stranger coming to New York wishes to see something of the character of the inhabitants let him keep his eyes open on the eve of one of her great holidays.

LITTLE KNICK-KNACKS. for their little ones, to make the early dawning of the New Year as bright to them as possible; and while they are at it, they may as well make the most of it.

THE REMAINS OF THE PREVIOUS YEAR. remain as white and fresh upon the end without withering or soiling? One traditional custom of New Year's Eve was that of going out after midnight and firing the streets blowing their horns, which comprised instruments of all sorts of tones and all degrees of discordance.

MANHATTAN MARKET WAS CROWDED MORE THAN IT HAS EVER BEEN SINCE THE OPENING, and the dealers were busy as bees. There is no doubt that to-day will witness as large a consumption of the good things of the market as has ever been known in the history of the year, and of course the good cheer and good feeling will therefore not be lessened.

THE SLEIGHING. splashes plentifully to the ground in crossing the streets. Carriage wheels fling dirty snow upon the passengers, and, except in favored spots, the sleighing is but for the present.

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WATCH NIGHT SERVICES.

"Couldst Thou Not Watch With Me One Hour?"—Observance of an Ancient Custom. "To man, as to God, existence is an eternal now. The present is the point at which two eternities meet. The present alone is ours. The night of time, bearing with it us and our destinies, is sublime." So writes the Rev. Dr. Westworth, who also declares that it is no wonder that men have set apart one hour for the contemplation of this solemn subject.

THE COLORED CHURCHES. are usually crowded on watch nights, not alone by noble brethren and sisters, but by pale faces, who some times go to mock but remain to pray. Services were held in Sullivan street Methodist Episcopal church last night, but the place was so packed that the services were not well represented.

THE WHITE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH. In Forty-third street, where Dr. King made a brief address, and in which he spoke of the joy which he felt in his experience during the year touching the death of Christians and unbelievers. He appealed to the young men of the church, who were well represented, to begin the year with a new life.

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THE LOUISIANA RETURNING BOARDS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD:—In reading the fragmentary accounts of the proceedings in Louisiana, which culminated in the overthrow of the State government and the accession thereto of the Pinchback régime preparatory to the installation of the Kellogg organization, under the decision of Judge Durell, the public are perplexed, and, to some extent, baffled, by references to four different sets of persons, claiming at different times to be the returning officers of the State. I propose to remove this difficulty by showing the origin of these various boards and the authority under which they claimed official existence and recognition. The circumstances which led to the original division are sufficiently well known; but it will not be inappropriate to recapitulate the facts as they appear in evidence.

THE LOUISIANA RETURNING BOARDS. After these three members had met and organized it became necessary to fill the two vacancies, since the law required the Board to be composed of five members, and authorized the remaining members, in case of the death or disability of any of the number, to choose substitutes. At this point Colonel Wharton claimed the virtue of a commission from the Governor appointing him Secretary of State in place of Bowen, removed by the Governor.

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DISASTERS AT SEA.

Loss of the Charrucea on Her Passage to Ireland. The Steamship Costa Rica Disabled Off the Coast of Mexico—The Fearful Voyage of a Bremen Bark—Arrival of the Steamship Cuba After Passing Through Terrible Gales. LOSS OF THE CHARRUCEA. Another Grain Laden Steamer Gone Down—Description of the Vessel and Her Cargo—No Tidings of the Scandera or Commander. A short time back the Herald chronicled the loss of the English steamer Scandera, which sailed from this port with a crew of sixty men, for Great Britain, laden with grain, and which, like the ill-fated City of Boston, has gone to the ocean's bed, leaving no vestige behind.

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S. W. to N. W., blowing N. W. sea. Distance made, 23 miles. December 29.—Lat. 45 N., lon. 53 W. had N. E. gales, with a very high sea. Distance made, 13 miles. December 30.—Lat. 45 N., lon. 53 W. had N. E. gales, with a very high sea. Distance made, 14 miles. December 31.—Lat. 45 N., lon. 53 W. had N. E. gales, with a very high sea. Distance made, 15 miles.

THE WESLEY RIVER. The Ice on the Ohio Broken—The Steamer Mountain Boy Sunk—The Propeller Messenger and Grey Eagle Badly Damaged—The Mississippi Gorge at Randolph Dispersing. Early this morning the ice broke the steamer Mountain Boy, Messenger and Grey Eagle loose from the foot of Walnut street and carried them down on the Mall line wharbo at the foot of Vine street, sinking the Mountain Boy and damaging the other two boats.

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THE PACIFIC MAIL STEAMSHIP COSTA RICA Disabled in the Gulf of California—The Steamer Waiting Off Manzanillo To Be Towed to San Francisco. A rumor gained credence yesterday on the street that the Pacific Mail steamship Costa Rica had been disabled in the Gulf of California, and from this rumor the Pacific Mail stock declined quickly, to the consternation of some speculators and to the great joy of others.

ACCIDENT TO A STEAMSHIP. The Pacific Mail Steamship Costa Rica Disabled in the Gulf of California—The Steamer Waiting Off Manzanillo To Be Towed to San Francisco. A rumor gained credence yesterday on the street that the Pacific Mail steamship Costa Rica had been disabled in the Gulf of California, and from this rumor the Pacific Mail stock declined quickly, to the consternation of some speculators and to the great joy of others.

THE MONSTER GORGE AT RANDOLPH BROKEN—NO FURTHER DAMAGE APPREHENDED. All the shore ice below Wolf River disappeared during last night. A large quantity of ice is running in the river, and it is believed that the gorge at Randolph has broken, but the ice has softened so much that no further danger is apprehended. The boats at the levee are loading and preparing to leave.

THE MISSISSIPPI. The Monster Gorge at Randolph Broken—No Further Damage Apprehended. All the shore ice below Wolf River disappeared during last night. A large quantity of ice is running in the river, and it is believed that the gorge at Randolph has broken, but the ice has softened so much that no further danger is apprehended. The boats at the levee are loading and preparing to leave.

THE CATHOLIC CHURCHES CLOSED IN THE GRAND DUCKY OF POSEN—ARBITRARY ACTION OF THE PRUSSIAN GOVERNMENT—CLOSING CONSECRATION SERVICES DENIED THE POLISH POPULATION. Our readers will remember having read, in one of our recent numbers, a despatch announcing that all the Catholic churches in the Grand Ducky of Posen were closed on the 8th of December by order of the Prussian government. We have since received from our own correspondents further details on this subject, and which completes the information, somewhat vague as we were at the time, given in a month paper. Monsignor Ledochowski, Archbishop of Posen, addressed a circular letter to all the members of his clergy, and which he ended by praying the celebration, on the 8th inst., in all the churches of the diocese, of solemn services to the memory of the Holy Innocents, the protection of the Heart of Jesus. He commented on the principal features of the persecution to which Catholicism was subjected throughout the whole of Poland, and he exhorted his followers to the protection of the Heart of Jesus. He commented on the principal features of the persecution to which Catholicism was subjected throughout the whole of Poland, and he exhorted his followers to the protection of the Heart of Jesus.