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CHRISTMAS CAROLS

Hymns of Praise Arise From Thousands of Thankful Lips.

RELIGIOUS SIDE OF THE HOLIDAY

Impressive Observances Conducted in the Churches.

SERMONS AND SERVICES

That the community should not forget that Christmas consists of something more than giving and receiving of presents, of dining and feasting and toasting, and indulging in good cheer and charity, the Christian churches of the city, almost without exception, prepared elaborate programs in commemoration of the birth of Christ and to draw the attention of the people to the higher significance of the Christmas day.

Every year Christmas celebration seems to take a wider scope and extend its realm, but the church watches with jealous care that her children shall lose no part of the complete realization of the meaning of this great sacred feast, and thus it comes about that the religious aspect of the day is conspicuously being brought into greater prominence.

Music and sermons, hymns of praise from the elders and carols by the Sunday school pupils marked the services of the day. Most of the churches held more than one service, and every denomination of the Christian religion was represented in the general celebration.

The Catholics commenced at midnight last night, with solemn high mass in many of their churches. At 5 o'clock this morning another mass was given for those who could not attend at midnight and again at 11 o'clock solemn high mass was pronounced.

The Protestant churches began their services early in the morning and held them at different periods of the day, the children receiving special attention in many of the churches. Holy communion was a feature of the services of the churches, and special musical programs were provided by all.

At the Franciscan Monastery, near Brookland, devotional services of an impressive character were held. Midnight mass was celebrated last night, followed by the procession to the Grotto of Nativity. The elaborate decorations of the grotto had just been completed in time for this event. Services were held also during today, week-end and Monday, for the purpose of adorning and benediction at 4.

St. Matthew's Catholic Church. The devout congregation of St. Matthew's Catholic Church, augmented by a large number of visitors to share in the notable services, commemorated the anniversary of the Savior's natal day with song and praise and votive offering. Solemn high mass was celebrated at 11 o'clock, with the impressive ceremonies attaching to that office, and a magnificent choral and orchestral choral features of the highest order.

The church was beautifully decorated for the occasion, the altar, banked with palms and ferns, and roses, forming a background for the soft glow of the candles, which were lighted during the stages of the celebration of the mass. The acolytes and altar boys, in their white robes, filled the space between the altar, where stood the celebrants in their rich gowns of gold and red, in a way which knelt the worshipping congregation.

The celebrant of the solemn high mass was Rev. Father Bart, assisted by Rev. Father Sterling and Rev. Father Lee, subdeacon. Rev. Father Bart preached the sermon, taking for his text the utterance of St. John, "The Word is made flesh and dwelt among us." Rev. Father Sterling expounded the mystery of divine condescension in eloquent terms, which held the attention of the congregation throughout the service.

The choral and orchestral portion of the service was excellent. The choir was composed as follows: Sopranos—Mrs. Edward Schwartz, Mrs. Ed. H. Bassett, Mrs. Charles Wilmarth, Misses Pearl Evans, Margaret and Katie Aslmer, Marie Young, Katie Miller, Mabel and Irene Harris, M. Dermott, Helene Martin, Grace Cramer, Lulu Landman, Mrs. Clough, Misses Katharine Lacey, Rosalie Holbert, Anna Fleming, and Christine Holbert. Organists—Francis Bishop, Misses Lambert and Julius Sullivan. Tenors—W. H. Gibson, Michael Peters, T. H. Maxwell, P. H. O'Farrell, Ed. H. Bassett, and L. Mills. Basses—Charles Goodchild, W. Silas Sheetz, Henry Statham, Arthur Giles, H. Whitney and Clough. The choir and orchestra were led by Rev. Father Rosa Pennebaker, Mr. John Nolan, Organist, Miss Jennie Glennan.

Adorned for Festal Occasion. St. John's never looked more beautiful than it did this morning, with its interior dressed in festal attire for the celebration of the great feast day of the Christian church. With hymns of praise and rejoicing, and the singing of carols, in which the congregation joined, and in an eloquent sermon by the pastor, the people of St. John's Episcopal parish paid their tribute to the joyous occasion.

The church and the walls of the galleries of the church were banked and festooned in green and red, and fern and flowers. The decorations were large, with flowers, 7:50 and 11 a.m. The first service consisted of holy communion, with prayer and the mid-day service was morning prayer and the evening service was evening prayer and the Rev. Alexander Mackay-Smith, D.D., with his assistant minister, Rev. Frank E. Baglow, and Rev. Ernest M. Paddock.

Church of the Covenant. Services at the Church of the Covenant this morning began at 11 o'clock, and were attended by a congregation of goodly numbers. The organ was played by Mr. Harvey Murray. The music, in addition to congregational singing, included solos by Mr. Reeside and Mr. McFall, appropriate to the day. Offering was made for the poor. Rev. Dr. Hamlin preached a brief discourse from the text "And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth." He said that these words have given rise to more varied interpretations than perhaps any others in the Scriptures, and no doubt the very simplicity of the statement had much to do with the diversity of views. The text was a description of the Messiah, and some of the confusion of ideas in regard to it was due to the fact that the "Word" was taken to be equivalent in meaning to the Bible. The latter, he said, contains many words of God, but the book itself is a history of God's dealing with His people.

The Old Testament might be described as the word of God placed in such a historic setting as to be a literature. It is the historic effort of Jehovah to de-

No. 14,922. WASHINGTON, D. C., TUESDAY, DECEMBER 25, 1900—TWELVE PAGES. TWO CENTS.

Services at the New Church.

Services appropriate to the day, with the celebration of holy communion, was held this morning in the New Church (Swedenborgian), 16th and Corcoran streets. The pastor, Rev. Frank Sewall, officiated and delivered the sermon. A quartet choir, composed of Miss Mattie Gibson, soprano; Mrs. Ralph P. Barnard, alto; John M. Reiman, tenor, and Eugene F. Stevens, bass, rendered appropriate music. Mr. Stevens is also organist. The choir was led by Miss Maud G. Sewall who was the organist. Christmas greens were used in effective decorations about the chancel, and on the walls were bits of greenery which gave the touch of the season to the interior of this place of worship.

Beautiful and Impressive.

The attendance at the 11 o'clock service today at St. Alexander's Church was so large as to tax the seating capacity of the edifice. The service was an unusually beautiful and impressive one, the features being a special program of music, with solemn high mass. The decorations consisted entirely of Christmas greens.

In connection with the solemn high mass Monsignor Martinelli pontificated. Rev. Father Hann was celebrant, with Rev. Father O'Connell as deacon and R. H. Tierney as subdeacon. Rev. Father Pink and Rev. Father Parlow were present as deacons of honor. Mr. Fred Dunn officiated as master of ceremony, while Mr. Fred Devereux was assistant.

Prior to the celebration of mass a strikingly eloquent sermon on the gospel of the day was delivered by Rev. Father Conway. The music consisted of Beethoven's mass in C, Meyerbeer's Schiller March and Haydn's "The Heavens Are Telling." The entire service was of a full orchestral and organ accompaniment. The program of the musical portion of the service was specially arranged by Mr. S. J. Kubel, director of the choir. Mr. Eric Rath was the organist, with Mr. S. Minister as leader of the orchestra. The soloists were Miss Cecelia V. Murphy, soprano; Mrs. Margaret Nolan-Martin, alto; T. E. Turpin, tenor; James Nolan, bass.

The chorus comprised: Soprano, Misses Mary Sweeney, Josephine Phillips, Cora E. Noyes, Dana Henson, Kate Henson, Lylech, Dena V. Grasse, Teresa Buehler and Ernie Bieher; alto, Mrs. A. C. Taylor, Misses Clara Kubel, Mary O'Dea and Mrs. M. Sheehan; tenors, Thomas W. Davis, Thomas H. Dooley, George Lansdale, George Q. Houlihan and Carl Nanten; basses, Harry Chase, Daniel Milrick, John L. Dwyer, Aloysius J. Nef, W. H. Bartholdi and M. Donnelly.

A NOVEL STRIKE.

Chicago Post Office Operatives Object to Long Hours.

CHICAGO, December 25.—A strike among the clerks of the registry department of the Post Office Department yesterday threatened for a time the prompt delivery of thousands of Christmas gifts. Extra hours of work was the grievance of a score of operatives, who during the holidays have been compelled to labor fourteen hours a day. The trouble was quickly adjusted by the post office authorities, who suspended the leader of the strikers. The rank and file of the protesting clerks then returned to their laboratories.

Superintendent Marr of the registry department said: "The mails were flooded this year, and there is no other way than to have clerks work longer hours. We are handling 16 per cent more work this year than in 1899. I have thirty-six men assisting the regular force, and I would add many more if further help were not experienced hands available and I cannot break in green ones. Some of the employees complained, but later returned to work, and I am confident that the strike will be a thing of the past, and of course, he had to be suspended."

JAMES RAGAN'S FUNERAL.

Will Take Place Thursday, With Mass at St. Joseph's Church.

The funeral of the late James Ragan, whose death is so widely and deeply deplored, will take place Thursday morning at 9 o'clock from his late residence, No. 642 E. street northeast. Half an hour later solemn requiem mass will be celebrated at St. Joseph's Catholic Church. There promises to be a very large attendance, including representatives of the Master Plumbers' Association, the Veteran Firemen's Association and the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks, in all of which Mr. Ragan was a prominent and popular member.

THE OMAHA KIDNAPING

MR. CUDAHY SAYS THERE HAVE BEEN IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENTS.

Several Clues Found Which May Lead to Abductors' Capture.

CHICAGO, December 25.—A special to the Tribune from Omaha, Neb., says: Another important development in the Cudahy kidnaping case has been reported. The police in the discovery in a barn near Pacific Junction, Iowa, twenty-two miles south, and just across the river, of a pony answering the description of the one ridden by one of the abductors. It was left there, apparently by some agent of the fugitives. The saddle was in a neighboring barn, and a pair of trousers was in the shed in which the pony had been abandoned.

E. A. Cudahy, in speaking of the case last night, said: "There are some important developments, but for obvious reasons I cannot state them for publication. The detectives have found some clues that seem to point in the right direction. I think the discovery of the lantern which marked the place at which I deposited the ransom is an important development. The most important clue, however, was in the fact that when we took the horse which one of the men used on the night of the kidnaping. A horse answering the description has been picked up near Pacific Junction, and the animal will be brought to Omaha. If this proves to be the horse used by the kidnapers it ought to aid us."

Three Men Implicated.

"The published story that there were only two men implicated in the crime is incorrect, carried out by my boy and a third man followed on horseback. My son thinks he could identify only one of the kidnapers—the one who remained with him in the house. This man talked a great deal, and Eddie thinks he could identify him by his voice."

"I received a letter this morning and another last evening signed 'Blaise T.', in which the writer tells me that the man who did the kidnaping are not in Omaha, that we are on the wrong track altogether. These letters were written on the letter paper of the Windsor Hotel of Omaha and posted from Cincinnati. The writer makes an attempt to be incorrect, only a counterfeit was damaged. Trains are running from De Ar to Kimberley irregularly. There are considerable delays elsewhere as the result of heavy rains."

Railway Service Restored.

CAPE TOWN, December 25.—Regular railway service between Cape Town and De Ar has been restored. The report of the destruction of a bridge south of De Ar turns out to be incorrect, only a culvert was damaged. Trains are running from De Ar to Kimberley irregularly. There are considerable delays elsewhere as the result of heavy rains.



A MODERN SANTA CLAUS.

AT THE WHITE HOUSE

A Quiet Christmas at the Executive Mansion.

REMEMBRANCES OF MANY FRIENDS.

The President and His Wife Took a Drive.

DINNER ARRANGEMENTS

Christmas at the White House was as quiet as a Sunday, with the exception of an official call by Representative Payne, chairman of the ways and means committee of the House, who had a brief interview with the President during the morning about pending legislation. The reorganization of the army is considered an urgent matter by the President. Mr. Payne, who is the republican leader, says that the House will act promptly after the Senate has passed upon the bill now before it.

Secretary and Mrs. Root and Col. and Mrs. Bingham called socially and exchanged the season's greetings with President and Mrs. McKinley, who remained in the private apartments throughout the day, except when they went out for an hour's drive. The President's custom for many years has been to attend church on Christmas day, that being one manner of observing the occasion, but Mrs. McKinley did not care to attend church this morning and the President decided to go driving with her. Mrs. McKinley is suffering from a cold, but otherwise is in her accustomed health.

Wagon Loads of Presents.

If any great portion of the pleasure of Christmas is derived from presents, Mr. and Mrs. McKinley ought to feel supremely happy. Express wagons have made many trips to the White House during the last week. Today they delivered many packages, one wagon frequently having half a dozen or more parcels. Messengers also delivered numerous parcels, evidences of the Washington friends of the President and his wife had remembered them. The articles received at the White House this Christmas have often been of great value. Aside from his political admirers the President has thousands of warm personal friends all over the country and a considerable number of them keep the chief executive in mind when they are making purchases during the Christmas season. Their letters are almost as varied as the stock of goods of several big stores.

A large number of presents have gone away from the White House, but naturally this is small compared with the number received.

The Dinner.

The President and his wife had lunch at the usual hour this afternoon, and dinner will be served about the regular time, 7 o'clock. Enough turkeys were received to insure a fine one for the presidential table. Nobody ever knows which turkey of those sent by friends is used. To reveal the secret of the favored turkey would be regarded as a sad breach of etiquette.

There are no visitors at the White House to share the Christmas dinner with the President and his wife. Although the expenditures for the Christmas season have often been of great value. Aside from his political admirers the President has thousands of warm personal friends all over the country and a considerable number of them keep the chief executive in mind when they are making purchases during the Christmas season. Their letters are almost as varied as the stock of goods of several big stores.

May Issue Cold Weather Clothing.

The Secretary of War has made a declaration that in cases where the post command certifies that it is necessary, arctic overcoats may be issued at cost prices to enlisted men. It is also provided that canvas mittens, blanket-lined canvas hats and blanket-lined canvas overcoats may be supplied to troops serving in extremely cold regions and also under certain conditions to troops at West Point, N. Y. The overcoats are to be issued only to men performing guard duty or night service, when exposure to weather would jeopardize life or limbs by freezing. These overcoats may be fur or blanket-lined canvas.

Preferred Member to Trial.

NEW YORK, December 25.—Obrecht Reiber, a prisoner charged with attempted felonious assault, committed suicide in his cell in the West 20th street station house last night by hanging himself with his handkerchief.

THE CABINET'S CHRISTMAS

WHERE AND HOW THE MEMBERS SPENT THE DAY.

Several Were at Their Desks During the Morning—The Attorney General Played Golf.

The big granite building occupied by the State, War and Navy departments was silent and deserted today, save by Secretaries Long and Root, Adj. Gen. Corbin and a few messengers and watchmen. The two cabinet officers spent the forenoon at their desks attending to private correspondence which had been neglected on account of the pressure of official business. Secretary Root had his Christmas dinner in his private apartment at the Portland, in company with Mrs. Long and her sister, Miss Martha Pierce. All his children are at Colorado Springs, Col., but each of them sent their parents beautiful Christmas remembrances.

Secretary Root had all his family with him at the Christmas dinner at his home on Rhode Island avenue, including his daughter and two sons. The daughter and two sons went out for a game of golf today and did not go to his office. Except when enjoying himself on the links, he was at his home with his family.

Secretary Gage went to his office for several hours this morning and then returned to his home at Washington, where a few personal friends dined with him. Postmaster General Smith will eat Christmas dinner at his residence in this city, as will Secretary of the Interior Hitchcock.

ORDERED BY TAFT COMMISSION.

Millions Being Expended for Public Improvements.

According to recent advices from the Philippines, the Taft commission expended more than \$5,000,000 in Mexican money during the months of September and October in public improvements and in the organization of the new government. One appropriation made by the commission for the construction and repair of highways and bridges in the Philippines amounted to \$2,000,000 in Mexican money. Other appropriations included \$725,000, for expenses incurred for the benefit of the insular government during the month of October; \$24,500, Mexican for the purchase of a site for a market in Manila, and \$7,000, Mexican, as annual compensation to a statistician. The Secretary of War has received copies of the orders authorizing these and other expenditures. The revenues of the islands are large and are constantly increasing, but the commission is using every precaution to avoid the possibility of a deficiency. Although the expenditures for public works are large, it is claimed that they will result in much-needed improvements of a permanent character.

All Unite in the Work.

Employees and officers of the institution alike enter with zest into this labor, all actuated by the same sentiment in planning and executing the details that will work out into a merry Christmas for the mentally afflicted of the hospital. The present Christmas time is to be made as enjoyable in every respect as the asylums are during Christmas seasons of the past. Through each ward, alcove, dining room and the corridors, have festoons, the crowd of holly and cedar. The large chapel hall is similarly decorated, and all is in readiness for the great Christmas entertainment for the evening, when an employee of the institution will impersonate Santa Claus and distribute the gifts, moving pictures preceding and a dance following.

German Orphan Asylum.

Each of the sixty children at the German Orphan Asylum at Anacostia found some joy on their gift ready for them when they came this morning. Some of the presents came from the asylum, while in other instances friends of the little ones remembered them. The Christmas dinner was eaten at midday, and turkey and goose formed the principal dishes, while there was also abundant buttered bread and cakes. The real Christmas celebration, however, will not take place until next Sunday afternoon.

Permitted to Receive Deleceables.

Roll call at the District Jail this morning disclosed the fact that there were 361 prisoners in custody. Of these there were 300 colored prisoners and 61 white ones—50 white males and 2 white females; 246 colored males and 54 colored females. While Warden Harris did not provide his charges with an extra bill of fare, he permitted them to receive such delicacies as were brought or sent to them by their relatives or friends, provided they were not of such a nature as to be likely to injure their health.

At the Workhouse only absolutely necessary labor was performed, and a dinner of great delicacy was served before the prisoners. The inmates were also allowed to receive delicacies brought by relatives or friends. An unusually good dinner was also provided by the students of the Washington Asylum Hospital and the almshouse.

EXTRA BILLS OF FARE

Good Cheer Dispensed to Inmates of Local Institutions.

THE PROGRAM AT ST. ELIZABETH'S

Gifts for the Children at the Several City Charities.

PRISONS AND SCHOOLS

Not only did clear skies and a bright, warm sun cheer the fortunate and the unfortunate today, but in those institutions of the District where the inmates are detained by law or by illness or by poverty everything was done by those in charge to make the great Christmas holiday one long to be pleasantly remembered. In the District prisons, with the single exception of the Jail, extra bills of fare were furnished the inmates, and at the hospitals, the orphan asylums and at the quarters of the religious organizations the day was observed by not only the serving of delicacies, but also by such ceremonies as were appropriate to the day.

At no institution was Christmas day more pleasantly observed than at St. Elizabeth's Insane Asylum, where 2,200 or more unfortunate beings are cared for by the general government. Dr. Richardson, the superintendent of the asylum, decided several weeks ago upon a program that would be not only appropriate to the day, but also one which would, if possible, bring happiness to every inmate of the great institution. Each patient capable of responding was asked to name some remembrance desired. In many instances the replies were such as might be expected of beings in their unfortunate condition, yet in a great majority of the cases the gifts asked for were reasonable and sensible. Very many requested wearing materials, many preferred books, and one woman patient expressed a great desire for a tin horn. She received it. Another woman desired a red jumping devil, and a toy of that character she received. Even the twelve Indians in the institution received gifts.

Miss Condit-Smith's Appeal.

Favorably Acted on by the Treasury Department.

Assistant Secretary Spaulding has taken favorable notice of the appeal of Miss Condit-Smith from the action of the customs authorities at New York on seizing her trunks on her arrival from China. The basis for the action is set forth in the following statement made by Mr. Spaulding: "The regulations provide for free entry of personal effects of United States ministers and their families returning from abroad."

Another Account.

PARIS, December 25.—A dispatch to the Havas Agency from Pekin says: "The ministers assembled at the residence of Senor B. J. de Colgan (the Spanish minister and the donor of the diplomatic corps), and received Prince Ching, to whom the Spanish minister handed the joint note of the powers. Li Hung Chang, who is still ill, asked to be excused. Prince Ching said he had the note, said he would immediately communicate it to the emperor, and assured the ministers that a speedy reply was the desire of the court, as it felt that all China wants peace and prosperity."

CHRISTMAS IN NEW YORK.

Charitable Work a Feature of the Holiday Observance.

NEW YORK, December 25.—Christmas dawned bright and pleasant, and before the day was well under way the hundreds of charitable society workers were up seeing to providing wholesome dinners for the thousands of deserving poor throughout the city. The great Madison Square Garden has been transformed into a gigantic dining room, and there tonight the Salvation Army will feed 25,000 people.

The Salvation Army began this morning to distribute baskets of dinner to all families who sent tickets. The tickets had been given out by members of all religious denominations to persons worthy of charity. State Senator Timothy D. Sullivan will feed 5,000 people on the Bowery; Frank Tilford 500 newboys at Lyric Hall, and Thos. Reynolds' Democratic Association will feed 1,000. The department of charities and correction will feed their inmates, and Mrs. Howard Gould will feed 500 children.

THE FORTUNE BRINGER.

Frequent and constant advertising brought me all I own.—A. T. Stewart.

DIED IN AN ALLEY

Suicide of Aged John Ryan, a Veteran Soldier.

FOUND WITH BULLET IN HIS BRAIN

Had Suffered a Great Deal From Disease.

NO RELATIVES KNOWN HERE

John Ryan, an old soldier, who was retired from the United States army after having served more than thirty years, committed suicide about 3 o'clock this morning by shooting himself in the head. He was in an alley near the Business High School when the deed was committed. Miss Geiger, who lives at 104 Indiana avenue, heard the report of the weapon, but paid no attention to it, believing the shot had been fired by some one who was celebrating Christmas. Four hours later the body of Ryan was found in the alley by Policeman Brennan of the sixth precinct. The bullet had entered through the right temple, and the right hand of the victim was resting on the revolver that had been dropped beside him.

Ryan was seventy-three years old, having been born in Limerick, Ireland, in 1828. He came to this country when he was quite a boy, and his first enlistment was as a private of Company A, 8th Infantry, and later served in Company A, 4th Infantry, and Battery G, 2d Artillery. He took out his naturalization papers in this city in 1870. For more than a year he occupied a room in the house of Mrs. Margaret Bryan, No. 104 Indiana avenue, and had lived here for about ten years since his discharge from the army.

Was Beloved by Discharge.

When Mrs. Bryan learned that the body of a man had been found near her back gate she offered up a prayer for him, little thinking that the victim was John Ryan, who was loved by everybody in her house. "Nothing too good can be said about John Ryan," she said, when she learned of the identity of the body that had been found near her gate. Ryan was a man of exemplary habits. He remained in the house most of the time and was always trying to do good for others. Never did he lose an opportunity to say a good word or perform a kind act for his fellow man. Later he served in Company A, 4th Infantry, and Battery G, 2d Artillery. He took out his naturalization papers in this city in 1870. For more than a year he occupied a room in the house of Mrs. Margaret Bryan, No. 104 Indiana avenue, and had lived here for about ten years since his discharge from the army.

Happy Soldiers and Marines.

The marines and sailors stationed here, the infantrymen at the Washington barracks and the cavalrymen at Fort Myer enjoyed tempting Christmas dinners, in addition to the usual fare of the day. Entertainments were provided for the little ones, gifts were presented to them, and everything else done by those in charge for their welfare and happiness.

The Destitute Ones.

The Salvation Army, the Central Union Mission and many of the churches provided for the wants and pleasure of the poor, and in a number of instances members of church choirs visited the hospitals and like institutions and sang for the inmates. The local auxiliary of the National Red Cross Society saw that a number of packages of clothing, toys, candy and nuts were sent to the children of Galveston, Texas, and otherwise cared for their comfort and happiness.

Would Not Dance.

About 6 o'clock he came downstairs with the dishes that had been left in his room and a few minutes later he was sent for to come to the parlor. Mrs. Bryan requested him to dance the Virginia reel, but he begged to be excused only on the grounds of illness.

"But," he volunteered, "I listened to the playing of 'The Girl I Left Behind Me,' and it was good music."

Shortly after 6 o'clock he went to his room on the second floor and nothing more was seen of him until his dead body was found in the alley this morning. He made no noise in leaving the house. A week ago the man had presented to several persons in the house, and yesterday he insisted on paying a month's rent, although the money was not due. Mrs. Bryan refused to take the money, but she had to remove the corpse the police found \$24.25 in the dead man's pockets.

It is stated that he had not drawn his pension money for the last quarter. Captain Nevitt investigated the case and gave a certificate of death from a self-inflicted wound. The body will probably be buried at Arlington. So far as is known Ryan had no relatives in this country.

DELIVERY OF NOTE

PRELIMINARY DEMANDS OF POWERS

IN CHINESE HANDS.

Presented by Spanish Minister—Prince Ching Says China Wants Peace and Prosperity.

PEKIN, December 24.—The preliminary joint note was delivered today to the Chinese. Li Hung Chang found that he was unable to attend the meeting of the ministers, and his credentials and those of Prince Ching were presented by the latter to the foreign envoys.

Prince Ching, replying to the Spanish minister, Senor B. J. de Colgan, who presented the note, said he would immediately communicate it to the emperor, and assured the ministers that a speedy reply was the desire of the court, as it felt that all China wants peace and prosperity.

MISS CONDIT-SMITH'S APPEAL.

Favorably Acted on by the Treasury Department.

Assistant Secretary Spaulding has taken favorable notice of the appeal of Miss Condit-Smith from the action of the customs authorities at New York on seizing her trunks on her arrival from China. The basis for the action is set forth in the following statement made by Mr. Spaulding: "The regulations provide for free entry of personal effects of United States ministers and their families returning from abroad."

It appears that Miss Condit-Smith was at Pekin at the time of the siege—a guest of the minister of the United States. She sent her wardrobe, with the exception of the clothes she wore, and the question as to whether she should be allowed to take them with her to New York is being considered by the Treasury Department.

Personal Mention.

Channing Ridd of the Missouri bar was admitted to the bar of the United States Supreme Court just before the court adjourned yesterday, upon motion by Charles W. Needham.

Each of the sixty children at the German Orphan Asylum at Anacostia found some joy on their gift ready for them when they came this morning. Some of the presents came from the asylum, while in other instances friends of the little ones remembered them. The Christmas dinner was eaten at midday, and turkey and goose formed the principal dishes, while there was also abundant buttered bread and cakes. The real Christmas celebration, however, will not take place until next Sunday afternoon.