

GRIM OLD CROMWELL.

The Protector Made Christmas a Gloomy and Serious Day.

"Christmas was illegal in Cromwell's time," said an antiquary. "Those grim old Puritans were so gloomy that they would not have any gayety even on Christmas day."

"Cromwell said that holly and mistletoe were heathenish things. He said that they had no real Christian significance; they were a part of some pagan festival of the Druids. Accordingly he made a law that if you decorated your house with mistletoe at Christmas you got thirty days in jail."

"The terrible old fellow forbade Christmas celebrations—no dancing, no singing, no playgoing, no feasting on Christmas day; penalty, thirty days."

"You see, it was his idea that Christmas was a religious, a serious time, a time for churchgoing and prayer and reverence and for nothing else. The innocent family that in Cromwell's day sat down to turkey and plum pudding and wound up with Christmas games got a month all round."

"Only for a time, though. The people rebelled. Willing as the people had been to put on the gloom of those dreadful old Puritans, they insisted on having a little joy on Christmas day, and Cromwell after a year or two had to give in to them."—New Orleans Times-Democrat.

A Painter's Genius.

It is told of Leonardo da Vinci that, while still a pupil, before his genius burst into brilliancy, he received a special inspiration in this way: His old and famous master, because of his growing infirmities of age, felt obliged to give up his own work, and one day bade Da Vinci finish for him a picture which he had begun. The young man had such reverence for his master's skill that he shrank from the task. The old artist, however, would not accept any excuse, but persisted in his command, saying simply, "Do your best." Da Vinci at last tremblingly seized the brush and, kneeling before the easel, said the following prayer: "It is for the sake of my beloved master that I implore skill and power for this undertaking." As he proceeded his hand grew steady, his eye awoke with slumbering genius. He forgot himself and was filled with enthusiasm for his work. When the painting was finished the old master was carried into the studio to pass judgment on the result. His eyes rested on a triumph of art. Throwing his arms around the young artist, he exclaimed, "My son, I paint no more."

A Half Length Picture.

A countryman bargained with a California photographer for a half length picture of himself at half price, and when the artist delivered a fine view of the subject from the waistband down the victimized sitter indulged in remarks more forcible than polite.—Philadelphia Inquirer.

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WINDFALL APPLES.

What to do with the windfall apples is a problem that gives the owner of every large orchard considerable concern as the time for picking apples approaches. Where one is provided with an evaporator or is so fixed that he can convert this defective fruit into vinegar, the problem is comparatively simple. But where neither method of disposing of this product of the orchard is possible it is a question what is the best thing to do. An effective method of disposing of such apples and one which gives a certain return is to turn droves of hogs or sheep into the orchard periodically and allow them to clean them up. This not only disposes of the apples, but the worms as well, as such apples are usually wormy. In any case it is best to remove the windfalls from beneath the trees, and if they cannot be disposed of in any of the methods suggested it is best to put them on the plow land with the manure and turn them under.

QUERIES DESIRED.

With a view to increasing the practical value and interest of this department for the wide circle of readers who weekly scan its columns, the writer would deem it a favor if they would feel free to make queries along any line, or send him data of matters of special interest in their particular locality, including facts or occurrences striking or unique, special successes attained along different lines of effort, together with methods followed—in short, anything of a character which the reader feels would prove interesting or useful to other readers of the notes. In each case where queries are sent they will be answered by personal letter, while mere matters of interest cited will be commented upon in the notes.

A Crime Against Society.

Voluntary self murder is not only a violation of the divine law, but is also a crime against society. We are social beings. We owe a duty to the commonwealth as well as to ourselves. We mutually depend on one another, like the members of our physical body. "For none of us liveth to himself; and no man dieth to himself." Human society may be compared to a grand army, every member of which has a special place and mission assigned to him by his sovereign commander. To abandon the post of duty intrusted to a sentinel is regarded by the military code as a most cowardly act, which is punished with extreme rigor. What less does the suicide do than basely abandon the situation assigned to him in the warfare of life? And there is no vice more contagious than cowardly desertion. It is often followed by a general mutiny. The same is true of suicide. When a few deeds of self murder are widely circulated by the press they are not infrequently followed by numerous voluntary slaughters. A suicidal wave rolls over the land.—Cardinal Gibbons in Century.

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Telephone Central Now.

Calexico Chronicle.

When you ring your telephone bell in Calexico now you get a jolly hello from a Calexico central. The apparatus has been in the course of being set up for several days and Tuesday connection was ready to be made with the valley lines and the new service commenced. This will facilitate communication between local subscribers, on the two different lines a great deal.

When you wish to call Imperial, El Centro, Holtville or Brawley the local exchange will make the connection for you.

Noel J. Davenport has had charge of the installation of the new board which is located in the California Development Company's main office. Paul Stelntorf is the operator.

The Calexico exchange connects directly with the levee phones and the Yuma system also and so makes the field much wider for subscribers.

Twin Baby Dies.

At the Davenport residence tomorrow morning the funeral services of little Helen Annabelle, a twin daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Noel J. Davenport will be held. It is to be a private service, Father Gleason of San Bernardino having it in charge. Interment will be in the cemetery at San Bernardino.

The babies have both been ill for several weeks with the whooping cough. Little Marie is some better, but a complication of diseases proved too much for the other babe.—Colton News, Aug. 1

A Faithful Friend

"I have used Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy since it was first introduced to the public in 1872, and have never found one instance where a cure was not speedily effected by its use. I have been a commercial traveler for eighteen years, and never start out on a trip without this, my faithful friend," says H. S. Nichols of Oakland, Ind. Ter. When a man has used a remedy for thirty-five years he knows its value and is competent to speak of it. For sale by El Centro Drug Store.

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W. W. Masten,

El Centro, California