Holt County Sentinel

Friday, December 29th, 1876.

TOWN AND COUNTY

—There will be a mite society at the residence of Dr. Callen, on Friday evening next. All are invited to attend.

—Miss Emma Dibble, daughter of Elder P. K. Dibble, returned to Oregon on Saturday.

—A number of farmers near Craig have tried the sorghum remedy for hog disease, recently discovered by Mr. Crouser and published in the SENTINEL, and all have found it beneficial.

—A festival will be given at the Court House on New Year's night, for the benefit of the Presbyterian Sabbath School. Refreshments such as are usual at such places will be supplied. Admittance ten cents. Everybody invited.

—No apology is necessary for the large amount of space we devote this week to the admirable address of Prof. Hill on School Legislation. It is an unanswerable argument in favor of the public schools, and we hope every reader will give it a careful perusal.

—All business men should commence the New Year by supplying themselves with neat letter-heads, bill-heads, business cards, printed envelopes, etc. The SENTINEL office is the place to get all such work done. Call and see samples. Orders by mail promply attended to.

—We know we have a good natured list of advertisers, who will not take offence because some of their advertisements are crowded out this week. We'll make it all up to them hereafter. A large amount of local matter is also left out for want of space.

—At the administrator's sale of the property of C. W. Forney, deceased, near King's Grove, on Thureday of last week, things generally sold well. Stock hogs brought $7.00 per hundred; cows sold from $20 to 25; yearling cattle from $12 to $20 per head; corn in the crib 16 cents per bushel.

—At an election of Oregon Lodge No. 139, A. F. and A. M., held on the 19th inst., the following officers were elected for the ensuing year:

R. Montgomery, W. M.
M. H. Soper, S. W.
Charles Brown, J. W.
W. G. McIntyre, S. D.
Joel Hester, J. D.
John Wallace, Tyler.

—The fifth anniversary of the Woman's Union, will be celebrated on the evening of the 6th of January. All members are especially requested to be present, as well as other friends. The exercises will consist of Music, Readings, Essays, Recitations and the annual address. The entertainment will be held in the hall over Chadduck's store.

—In this season of general rejoicing, when everybody is making presents to everybody else, the poor printer should not be overlooked. But we are very modest in our aspirations, and will be quite satisfied if each of our friends will send us a new subscriber for a New Year's gift. How many will thus remember us and so make a new claim for leniency from old St. Peter when the heavenly gates are opened? We shall see.

—There will be a Sunday School concert at the M. E. Church, next Sunday afternoon, at 2½ o'clock, instead of the usual Sunday School exercises. Short addresses will be made by Rev. W. L. Edmonds, Dr. Callen, and the Superintendent, and singing by the school. The exercises will be commemorative of Christmas and New Year. A banner will also be presented to the class contributing the most during the last three months. All the friends of the school are invited.

—We understand that Mr. Wm. Hawkins and his brother Henry are about to establish a soap factory in this city, under the firm name of Hawkins & Bro. We hope the citizens of the city and surrounding country will encourage this establishment with their patronage as the sample presented to us will compare favorably with any thing of the kind we now have in the market, and every encouragement should be given to all manufacturing enterprises which may endeavor to establish themselves in our midst as each one is calculated to assist in building up our city and county. Encourage home manufactures by all means and thus keep the money at home.

—The entertainment at the German M. E. Church, on Tuesday night, furnished by the teachers and patrons of the Sunday school, was a grand success. An evergreen Christmas tree, fourteen feet in height, beautifully illuminated and decorated with showy presents; a triumphal arch of evergreens, spanning the entire platform, overhung with trinkets of various kinds; and a programme alternating with vocal music by an improvised choir under the lead of Philip Rostock, and speaking in both German and English, were the chief attractions of the evening. Another interesting feature was a dialogue and tableaux of the gate of heaven, impersonated by seven young men, representing the different confessions of faith, and who made such endeavors to gain admittance into heaven. Saint Peter, the keeper of the gates, listened to the claims of the Jew, the Gentile, the Catholic, the Lutheran, and the Calvinist, and expostulates with each one on the inefficiency of his ground for salvation. At this juncture the Bible christian steps amidst the claimants for celestial admittance, and instructs all in the way that Christ taught, whereupon Saint Peter opens the gates of heaven, and all enter in, singing: "Climbing up Zion's hill!" The house was densely crowded and standing room was very scarce. The entertainment passed off as pleasantly and as orderly as can be.

—Miss Alice Heath is visiting friends in Warrensburg.

—Mrs. S. Hunnicutt went south on Saturday, on a visit to her former home.

—Casper Michel, of Nodaway township, who went to Germany and brought back a bride about a year ago, is the happy father of a girl baby.

—Those having ice houses are now busily engaged in filling them. The ice is brought from the Slough at Forest City, Mill Creek and Ancelment's mill.

—Elder T. W. Smith, one of the twelve apostles of the church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, will preach at the Court House this (Friday) evening at 7 o'clock.

—On New Year's night there will be a festival at the church in Whig Valley, to which every body is invited. A splendid supper will be prepared by the ladies, and the proceeds will be devoted to repairing the church building. An admittance fee of fifteen cents will be charged; supper twenty-five cents extra.

—Messrs. A. J. Jimison, C. H. Burns, Dr. Wilson of Forest City and George Burnett took a pack of ten hounds on Christmas day and went over on the island in front of Forest to have a wolf hunt. They jumped their game about 11 o'clock a. m. and run him till sun down, but failed to catch him.

—The families of Mr. T. J. and Elder Kelsey joined in erecting a very beautiful Christmas tree on Monday. A sumptuous dinner was spread at the residence of Mr. Peter, after partaking of which the two families repaired to Elder Kelsey's where the presents were distributed. It is needless to say that enjoyment reigned supreme.

—We regret to learn of a fatal accident near Craig on Tuesday evening of last week. Mr. Levin Hamlin, of Waugh's Grove, was returning home from Craig with his team, and when about half way, in descending a hill, he started up his horses to a very rapid gait and in making a short turn at the foot of the hill, the wagon upset and fell on him, producing injuries from which he has since died. His family have the sympathy of the community.

—On last Saturday the President granted an immediate and unconditional pardon to Major John L. Bittinger of St. Joseph, who was confined for complicity in the whisky frauds. All the papers of St. Joseph, Democratic and Republican, join in commending the Presidents' action in the matter. This is as it should be. We know Major Bittinger well, and we are sure this would not be a bad world if there were no worse men in it than John Bittinger.

—On Tuesday night of last week a shooting affair occurred at Mound City, in which W. H. Simpkins was shot by Royal Van Deusen, a saloon keeper. An old grudge had existed between the parties. Simpkins was found during the night hanging around the rear of the building occupied by Van Deusen, which seems to have given rise to the suspicion that he contemplated burning it. Simpkins was shot in the side, but, we understand, is not dangerously injured.

—The good people of Whig Valley had a splendid Christmas tree on Monday night. A big crowd was present and every body was happy. Frank Joslyn made a tip-top speech and every body applauded. A fine dress was put up to be voted to the handsomest young lady present, and, after a spirited contest between the admirers of Miss Maggie Roberts and Miss Ida Kerns, the former was declared the winner of the prize. The proceeds of the sale were donated to the Sunday School.

—The air in the vicinity of Craig is resonant with the cries of new born babies, and the druggists of that town are doing a thriving trade in soothing syrup. On the 24th of October a daughter was born to James Gambrel and wife, of Union township; on the 21st November a boy baby presented himself at the residence of George Waggoner of Craig; on the 20th of the present month Samuel Prosser of Craig was tickled by the appearance of a fine girl; and on the 23d inst. John Guilliams of Craig was jubilant over the birth of a boy. And still they come!

—The conduct of some white men and boys in going to the festival of the colored people on Christmas night and raising a disturbance, deserves the severest reprobation. The good people of Oregon are trying hard to make this an educational centre, but they can never succeed in doing so while such acts are tolerated. People from other cities will not send their children into a community where lawlessness like this goes unpunished. We must preserve the fair name of our city by putting a stop to such actions at once and forever. As we understand the grand jury now in session will take cognisance of the matter, we refrain from further allusion to it at this time.

—A delightful "Old Folks Party" was held at the residence of Mr. James Coursin, on Hickory Creek, three miles north of New Point, on Christmas day. Thirty-one friends and neighbors were present. The oldest couple was Thos. D. Denny and wife—Mr. Denny being sixty-six and his wife sixty-three. Mrs. Coursin was the heaviest lady present, weighing 199 pounds, and Mrs. Patterson the lightest, weighing 84 pounds. Mrs. Mary A. Debolt was, by vote, declared the best looking lady present, and Miss Molly Debolt the most industrious—she having brought her knitting along. Only two unmarried ladies were present: of these Miss Lily Coursin was voted the handsomist. John Patterson was declared the ugliest man present; John W. Davis the laziest: and William Nowland the best looking. After voting thanks to the host and hostess for their hospitality the party broke up and all returned to their homes highly pleased and wishing Christmas would come often.

CHRISTMAS WEEK.

How it Has Been Celebrated in All Ages.

ITS SOLEMNITIES AND ITS MERRIMENTS.

The Origin of Christmas Day.

The Origin of New Year's Day.

DIFFERENT OBSERVANCES OF VARIOUS NATIONS.

Plaintive Carols and Boisterous Songs.

KISSING UNDER THE MISTLETOE.

A Collation Which will be Entertaining and Instructive to All Classes of Readers.

Throughout all Christian nations the present week is devoted to celebrating the anniversary of that wonderful birth which occurred in the manger of Bethlehem nearly nineteen hundred years ago.

The word Christmas is formed of the two words "Christ" and "mass," which sufficiently indicate that its founders intended it to be a purely religious festival.

The first authoritative command to keep Christmas time holy is attributed to Clement, a *Collaborateur* with St. Paul and mentioned by the latter in the Epistle to the Philipians. Clement says: "Brethren, keep diligently fast days, and truly, in the first place, the day of Christ's birth."

ORIGIN OF CHRISTMAS DAY.

Its institution is attributed by the decretal letters to Pope Telesphorus, who died A. D. 138, and throughout the subsequent history of the church it has been one of the most noted of Christian solemnities. At first it was the most movable of the Christian festive days, often confounded with the Epiphany, and celebrated by the eastern churches in the months of April and May. In the fourth century the urgency of St. Cyril of Jerusalem obtained from Pope Julias I. an order for an investigation to be made concerning the day of Christ's nativity. The result of inquiry by the theologians of the East and the West was an agreement upon the 25th of December. The chief grounds for the decision were the tables of the censors in the archives of Rome; and although, in the opinion of some of the fathers, there was not authentic proof of the identification of the day, yet the decision was uniformly accepted, and from that time the nativity has been celebrated throughout the church on the same day. It has also been a common tradition that Christ was born about the middle of the night.

EARLY OBSERVANCES.

The custom of Roman Catholic countries of ushering in Christmas day by the celebration of three masses, one at midnight, the second at early dawn, and the third in the morning, dates from the sixth century. The day was considered in the double light of a holy commemoration and a cheerful festival and was accordingly distinguished by devotion, by vacation from business, and by merriment. During the middle ages it was celebrated by the gay fantastic spectacle of dramatic mysteries and moralities, performed by personages in grotesque masks and singular costumes. The scenery usually represented an infant in a cradle, surrounded by the Virgin Mary and St. Joseph, by bulls' heads, cherubs, eastern magi, and manifold ornaments. The custom of singing canticles at Christmas, called carols, which recalled the songs of the shepherds at the birth of Christ, dates from the time when the common people ceased to understand Latin. The bishops and lower clergy often joined with the populace in carrolling, and the songs were enlivened by dances and by the music of tambours, guitars, violins and organs. Fathers, mothers, sons and daughters mingled together in the dance; if in the night each bearing in his hand a lighted wax taper.

CHRISTMAS SONGS.

Some of the Christmas carols are as simple as nursery-songs, and rude as the ages in which they began to be sung, when Christianity itself was in its childhood. The wassail-cups and yule-fires of the old Saxons were strangely mixed up with the tender and sacred birthday-story of the New Testament. Sometimes these carols were sung by children at the mansion window or door:

"Here we come a-wassailing
Among the leaves so green,
Here we come a-wandering,
So fair to be seen.
Love and joy come to you,
And to your wassail, too,
And God bless you, and send you
A Happy New Year!

"We are not daily beggars,
That beg from door to door;
But we are neighbors' children,
Whom you have seen before.
God bless the master of this house,
God bless the mistress, too,
And all the little children
That round the table go."

And some of them show a curious blending of church-music and hunting songs:

"The holly and the ivy,
Now both are full-well grown;
Of all the trees that are in the wood,
The holly bears the crown.
O the rising of the sun,
The running of the deer!
The playing of the merry organ;
Sweet singing in the choir!"

Others again are sweet and tender and pathetic. Nothing could be more beautiful than this:

There's a song in the air!
There's a star in the sky!
There's a mother's deep prayer
And a baby's low cry!
And the star rains its fire while the Beautiful sing,
For the manger of Bethlehem cradles a King!

There's a tumult of joy
O'er the wonderful birth,
For the Virgin's sweet boy
Is the Lord of the earth.
Ay! the star rains its fire, and the Beautiful sing,
For the manger of Bethlehem cradles a King!

In the light of that star
Lie the ages impearled;
And that song from afar
Has swept over the world.
Every breath is aflame, and the Beautiful sing
In the homes of the nations that Jesus is King.

We rejoice in the light,
And we echo the song
That comes down through the night
From the heavenly throng.
Ay! we shout to the lovely evangel they bring,
And we greet in the cradle our Savior and King.

During the last days preceding Christmas it is still the custom for Calabrian minstrels to descend from the mountains to Naples and Rome, painting the shrines of the Virgin mother with their wild music, under the poetical notion of cheering her until the birth-time of her infant at the approaching Christmas. In a picture of the nativity by Raphael he has introduced a shepherd at the door playing on a sort of bagpipe.

FEASTING AND REVELRY.

Preparatory to Christmas the bells are rung at dead midnight throughout England and the continent; and after the solemn celebration of the mass, for which the churches in France and Italy are magnificently adorned, it is usual for the revellers to partake of a collation (*reveillon*), that they may be better able to sustain the fatigues of the night.

Among the revels of the Christmas season were the so-called feasts of fools and of asses, grotesque saturnalia which were sometimes termed "December liberties," in which everything serious was burlesqued, inferiors personifying their superiors, great men becoming frolicsome and which illustrate the proneness of man to occasionally reverse the order of society and ridicule its decencies

CHRISTMAS PRESENTS TO CHILDREN.

In the Protestant districts of Germany and the north of Europe, Christmas is often called the "children's festival," and Christmas is devoted to giving presents, especially between parents and children, and brothers and sisters, by means of the so-called Christmas tree. A large bough is erected in one of the parlors, lighted with tapers, and hung with manifold gifts, sweetmeats, apples, nuts, playthings and ornaments. Each of these is marked with the name of the person for whom it is intended, but not with the name of the donor, and when the whole family party is assembled, the presents are distributed around the room according to their labels, amid joyful acclamations and congratulations. A more sober scene succeeds, for the mother takes this occasion to say privately to the daughters, and the father to the sons, what has been observed most praiseworthy and what most faulty in their conduct. Formerly, and still in some of the smaller villages of North Germany, the presents made by all the parents were sent to some one person, who, in high buskins, a white robe, a mask, and an enormous flax whip, becoming the bugbear of children, known as *Knecht Rupert*, goes from house to house, is received by the parents with great pomp and reverence, calls for the children, and bestows the intended gifts upon them according to the character which he hears from the parents after severe inquiries. A beautiful poem of Hebel, *Christ-Baum*, celebrates the German ceremonies on Christmas eve.

OLD TRADITIONS.

It is an old Swedish tradition, preserved in the history of Olaus, archbishop of Upsal, that at the festival of Christmas the men living in the cold northern parts are suddenly and strangely metamorphosed into wolves; and that a huge multitude of them meet together at an appointed place during the night, and rage so fiercely against mankind and other creatures not fierce by nature, that the inhabitants of that country suffer more from their attacks than ever they do from natural wolves.

WASSAILING IN "MERRIE ENGLAND."

Christmas has always been at once a religious, domestic, and merry-making festival in England, equally for every age. The revels used to begin on Christmas eve, and continue often till Candlemas (Feb. 2), every day being a holiday till twelfth-night (Jan. 6). In the houses of the nobles a "lord of misrule," or "abbot of unreason," was appointed, whose office was "to make the rarest pastimes, to delight the beholder," and whose dominion lasted from "All-hallow eve" (Oct. 31) till Candlemas day. The larder was filled with capons, hens, turkeys, geese, ducks, beef, mutton, pork, pies, puddings, nuts, plums, sugar and honey. The Italians have the following proverb: "He has more business than English ovens at Christmas." The tenants were entertained at the hall; and the lord of the manor and his family encouraged every act conducive to mirth.

On Christmas eve the bells were rung;
On Christmas eve the mass was sung:
That only night, in all the year,
Saw the stoled priest the chalice rear.
Then opened wide the baron's hall,
To vassal, tenant, serf, and all:
Power laid his rod of rule aside,
And ceremony doffed his pride.
The heir, with roses in his shoes,
That night might village partner choose.
Ait hailed, with uncontrolled delight
And general voice, the happy night
That to the cottage, at the crown,
Brought tidings of salvation down.
England was merry England when
Old Christmas brought his sports again.
'Twas Christmas broach'd the mightiest ale;
'Twas Christmas told the merriest tale;
A Christmas gambol oft would cheer
A poor man's heart through half the year.

A glowing fire, made of logs, the principal of which was termed the yule log, or Christmas block, which might be burnt till Candlemas eve, kept out the severity of the weather; and the abundance was shared amid music, conjuring, riddles, hot cockles, toolplough, snap dragon, jokes, laughter, repartees, forfeits and dances. The generous wassail bowls and bowls of punch never failed to bring tumultuous joys. The favorite and first dish on Christmas day was a soused boar's head which was borne to the principal table with great state and solemnity, "upon a silver platter, with minctralsye." There is a tradition that this custom originated at Queen's college, Oxford, in commemoration of the valor of a student, who, while on a walk reading Aristotle, being suddenly attacked by a furious wild boar, rammed the volume into the throat of the aggressor crying *Græcum est* till he had fairly choaked the beast to death.

KISSING UNDER THE MISTLETOE.

The common custom of decking the houses and churches at Christmas with evergreens is derived from ancient druid practices. It was an old belief that sylvan spirits might flock to the evergreens, and remain unnipped by frost till a milder season. The holly, ivy, rosemary, bays, laurel, and mistletoe furnished the favorite trimmings which were not removed till Candlemas. Chaplets of these were also worn about the head, a practice to which the phrases to "kiss under the rose," to "whisper under the mistletoe," are allusions.

The custom of kissing under the mistletoe at the Christmas season is referred to the supposition on the part of some that it was the forbidden tree in the garden of Eden. This pleasant custom Mr. London supposes most likely came from our Saxon ancestors, and to have been commemorative of Baldur the son of Odin In the feudal ages, the same writer adds, it was gathered with great solemnity on Christmas eve and hung up in the great hall with loud shouts and rejoicings.

Among the druids the mistletoe was considered sacred if found growing upon the oak, and was possibly rendered thus valuable from its rarity; for its appearance on that tree is now so rare that the druids' mistletoe is conjectured by some to have been some other plant. The tradition is, that it was cut from the oak with great ceremonies on the first day of the new year, and at that time consecrated to their chief deity on account of the extraordinary virtues they attributed to it. Pliny, among other ancient writers, gives a similar account. It was also used in religious ceremonies by the Persian magi.

The representative of the mistletoe in the western and southern portions of the United States is *phoradendron flavescens* of Nuttall, which grows chiefly upon the branches of elms and hickories; a yellowish green, woody-stemmed parasite, with a jointed stalk having opposite and whorled branches, fleshy, obovate-shaped leaves, small flowers in axillary spikes, which are shorter than the leaves, and fruit of white, glutinous berries.

In old church calenders Christmas eve is marked: *Templa exornantur* (adorn the temples). Holly and ivy still remain in England the most esteemed Christmas evergreens, though at the two universities the windows of the college chapels are decked with laurel.

ANCIENT SUPERSTITIONS.

It was an old English superstition that on Christmas eve the oxen were always found on their knees, as in an attitude of devotion, and that after the change from old to new style they continued to do this only on the eve of old Christmas day. This was derived from a prevalent mediæval notion that an ox and an ass which were present at the nativity fell upon their knees in a suppliant posture, as appears from numerous prints and from the Latin poem of Sannazarius in the fifth century. It was an ancient tradition, alluded to by Shakespeare, that midnight spirits forsake the earth and go to their own confines at the crowing of the cock, and that

——Ever 'gainst that season comes
Wherein our Saviour's birth is celebrated,
The bird of dawning singeth all night long;
And then, they say, no spirit stirs abroad;
The nights are wholsome; then no planet strikes;
No fairy takes, nor witch hath power to charm,
So hallowed and so gracious is the time.

There was a famous hawthorn in the churchyard of Glastonbury abbey, which always budded on the 24th and blossomed on the 25th of December. After the change of style it was observed that it blossomed on Jan. 5, which would have been Christmas day O. S. It is said that slips from this thorn are preserved which blossom on Jan. 5 to the present time. Near Raleigh there is a valley said to have been caused centuries ago by an earthquake which swallowed up a whole village and a church. It was formerly a custom for people to assemble here on Christmas morning, to listen to the ringing of the bells of the church beneath them.

MODERN CUSTOMS.

The Christmas celebrations in England have lost their primative boisterous character, the gambols and carols are nearly gone by, and family reunions and evergreen trimmings are nearly all that remain of the various rough merriments which used to mark the festival. The last memorial appointment of a lord of misrule was in 1627, when he had come to be denominated "a grand captaine of mischiefe." The poems of Herrick contain many descriptions of old English Christmas celebrations.

In the United States, since the Puritans were at first stern opponents of Christmas pastimes, the day has been less generally celebrated in New England than in the middle and southern states. It has been made a legal holiday in some of the states, and is usually observed by a religious service and by making presents, and not unfrequently by trimming houses and churches with evergreens, and by imitating the German custom of Christmas trees.

A MONDAY CHRISTMAS.

Christmas day falls on a Monday this year. It fell on a Monday also in 1865, and on that occasion the following was unearthed from, it was stated by the London *Times*, the Harleian MSS.

If Christmas day on Monday be,
A great winter that year you'll see,
And full of winds both loud and shrill;
But in summer, truth to tell,
High winds shall there be, and strong,
Full of tempests lasting long;
While battles they shall multiply,
And great plenty of beasts shall die.
They that be born that day, I ween,
They shall be strong each one and keen;
He shall be found that stealeth aught;
Tho' thou be sick, thou dies not.

The year 1866 was the year of the Austro-Prussian war, a year of disastrous gales, and a year of cattle-plague. Again in 1871 Christmas day fell on a Monday. The twelvemonths following that day saw us with cattle-plague in the north and some great storms; but as to "battles" we must go back a few months in 1871 for the capitulation of Paris and the conflict with the Commune. We have now a Monday Christmas for the third time within a dozen years.

NEW YEARS DAY.

The first day of January has also been celecrated in various parts of the world for many ages as a religious and social festival.

With the post-biblical Jews the new year commenced and still commences with the autumnal month Tisri, the first day being celebrated by them with considerable ceremony. The Romans made an especial holiday of it, offering sacrifices to Janus, whose principal festival occurred on this day, and taking care that all they thought, said, and did should be pure and favorable, since every thing was ominous for the occurrences of the whole year. They appeared in the streets in festive garments, exchanged kindly salutations, and gave to each other presents called *strenæ*, consisting of gilt dates, figs, honey cakes, and copper coins having on one side the double head of Janus and on the other a ship. This custom of bestowing presents was made by some of the emperors an important source of their personal revenue, until modified by a decree of the emperor Claudius. The early Christan emperors however continued to receive them, notwithstanding they were condemned by the ecclesiastical councils on account of the pagan ceremonies at their presentation. Prynne in his "Histro-Mastix," referring to the hostility of the early church to any imitation among Christians of the Roman saturnalia, says: "The whole Catholicke church appointed a solemn publike faste upon this our new year's day, to bewail those heathenish enterludes, sports, and lewd idolatrous practices which had been used on it; prohibiting all Christians, under pain of excommunication, from observing the calends or first of January (which we now call new year's day) as holy, and from sending abroad new year's gifts upon it (a costome now too frequent), it being a mere relique of paganisme and idolatry, derived from the heathen Romans' feast of two-faced Janus, and a practice so execrable unto Christians, that not only the whole Catholicke church, but even the four famous councils of (here follows a long array of authorities) have positively prohibited the solemnization of new year's day, and the sending abroad of new year's gifts, under an anathema and excommunication."

NEW YEAR'S GIFTS.

The bestowal of gifts upon new year's day was not peculiar to the Romans. The druids distributed branches of the sacred mistletoe, cut with peculiar ceremonies, as new year's gifts among the people; and the Saxons of the north, according to Bishop Stillingfleet, observed the festival with more than ordinary jollity and feasting, and by sending gifts to one another. In spite of the opposition of ecclesiastical councils, the practice continued through the middle ages; and among kings and their powerful vassals the interchange of presents was a distinguishing feature of the first day of the year. Henry III. of England is said to have extorted new year's gifts, and Queen Elizabeth's wardrobe and jewelry were probably almost wholly supplied from these annual contributions. It appears from the "Progresses and Processions" of her majesty, published by Nicholas, that the lords spiritual and temporal of the realm, the chief officers of state, and the servants of the royal household down to the master cook, sergeant of the pastry, and dustman, were among the contributers to these largesses, which consisted of money, rich wearing apparel, plate, jewels, trinkets, sweetmeats, and an infinite variety of other things. Dr. Drake says that, although the queen made returns to the new year's gifts, in plate and other articles, she took care that the balance should be in her own favor. As late as 1692, as appears from the "Monthly Miscellany" for December of that year, the English nobility were accustomed, "every new year's tide," to "send to the king a purse with gold in it." Under the Tudors and Stuarts new year's gifts were given and received with mutual wishes of a happy new year among all conditions of people. An orange stuck with clover or a gilt nutmeg was a popular gift; tenants sent their landlords capons, and ladies received presents of gloves or pins, or in lieu thereof a composition in money, whence the terms "glove money" and "pin money."

NEW YEAR CEREMONIES.

Brand in his "Popular Antiquities" enumerates many ceremonies and superstitious practices observed by the English and Scottish peasantry on the first day of the year, which, together with the once almost universal bestowal of gifts, have very much declined. In England the ringing in the new year from the belfries of churches is now the only open demonstration of joy at the recurrence of the naiversary. In Germany many ceremonies derived from old superstitions are in vogue; but throughott continental Europe, although the day is a universal holiday, congratulatory wishes have been generally substituted for the more substantial expressions of esteem formerly interchanged by friends. In Paris and other large cities almost incredible sums are still expended in bonbons and similar articles for presents. In the city of New York the day is made the occasion of social visits by gentlemen among the families of their acquaintance—a custom dating back almost to the settlement of the town by the Dutch, and which has been imitated with more or less success in other cities in the United States.

We hope all our readers are spending Christmas week both pleasantly and profitably, and will be able to commence the New Year with no other thoughts in their hearts than those of good will to all men.

Hog Sales.

Elias Bender, three miles north of Oregon, last week sold to Robert Cain twenty head of hogs averaging 303 pounds, at $5 15 per hundred.

George Cook, of Union township, a few days since sold to Peter Hoover of Craig ten head of hogs averaging 309 pounds, at $5 10 per hundred.

Henry Bunyenstock last week shipped from Craig fifty-three head of hogs, averaging 317 pounds, for which he received $5 25 per hundred. This was one of the finest lots of hogs shipped from the county this season.

Thomas Story near Craig, lately sold six head of hogs, averaging 231 pounds, at $5 15 per hundred.

Augustus Bunz, living two miles northeast of Mound City a few days ago sold nine head of hogs, averaging 318 pounds, at $5 15 per hundred.

John Potter, near Mound City, sold four head of hogs, averaging 265 pounds, at $5 15 per hundred.

S. H. Stambough, living in King Grove, recently sold twelve head of hogs, averaging 300 pounds, at $5 10 per hundred.

W. H. Miller, near New Point, sold twenty-four head of hogs on Tuesday, averaging 304 pounds, at $5 35 per hundred. Sold to Cain & Watson.

Charley Keller and his two sons living near New Point, sold on Tuesday, thirty head of hogs to Cain and Watson, averaging about 310 pounds, at $5 35 per hundred.

Thomas Curtis sold twenty head of hogs at the same time as above, averaging 270 pounds, at same price.

Esq. Thomas S. Bragg sold, in the same lot as the foregoing, six head averaging 310 pounds, at same price.

H. C. Williams, of Nodaway township, sold fifteen head of hogs on Tuesday, averaging 267 pounds, at $5 15 per hundred.

At the same time, Arthur E. Williams sold fifteen head averaging about 270 pounds, at same price. He also sold one "stag" hog, which weighed 680 pounds.

Also, same time, Hezekiah Smith sold forty-one head, averaging about 280 pounds. Same price.

Also, same time, Augustus Weigel sold seven head, averaging 290 pounds. Same price.

—We are indebted to our friends of the *Press* for courtesies during the past week, which we take pleasure in acknowledging.

—Circuit Court adjourned over from Saturday till Wednesday, thus allowing litigants and jurors to go home and enjoy Christmas. As we go to press, court is still in session.

—The exercises at the M. E. Church on Christmas night were highly interesting and enjoyed by a large concourse of people, both old and young. Two Christmas trees were prepared, both of which were handsomely decorated. One of them contained presents for adults and the other for children. An excellent address was delivered by Rev. Mr. Lake of Nebraska, after which the presents were called by Dr. Callen and Mr. Hasness, and distributed by Misses Belle Heater, Jennie Cotton and Julia Luckhardt. Vocal and instrumental music added zest to the evening's entertainment and everybody was as happy as possible.

LOCAL NOTICES.

Give Way For The Boss Store.

Great Reduction in Goods at the Red Front Store.

Michigan Salt, $2.20 a $2.30 per bbl.
Best Rio Coffee, 4 lbs $1.00.
4 lbs Japan Tea for $1.00.
2 1-2 lbs Choice Imperial Tea, $1.00.
12 Boxes Axle Grease for $1.00.
4 lbs Starch for 25c.
Mens Kip Boots 2.50 and up.
Ladies Fine Side Lace Goat Shoes 2.00
6 Yards, all wool Flannel 1.00.
1 Doz. Ladies Cotton Hose, good, 1.25
12 all Linen Towels, 1.00
12 all Linen Handkerchiefs, 1.00.
15 Yards Standard Calico, 1.00
Ladies Heavy Felt Skirts, 1.00.
Great Bargains in Ladies Shawls.
Mens Heavy Winter Suits, 8.00 and up
Overcoats, 4.50 and up.
A splendid line of goods suitable for a

Holiday Present

at Astonishingly Low Prices. It will pay YOU to visit the

RED FRONT.

dec 22 '76 2t

Come and Settle.

Every one indebted to me is urgently requested to come and settle immediately, as I must close up my books by the first of January. A. J. CALLEN, M. D.
dec 22 2t

It is to your interest to call and settle your account by January first 1877. If you do not we will be obliged to place the same in other hands for collection.
(Dec. 15, '76, 3t) F. & G. SEEMAN.

Why Go Off

To the large cities to buy goods at retail, when you can buy the same class of goods at the same price for cash at Baskins', Oregon, Mo. Dec 15'76

Cheap Calico.

On and after Saturday next I will have a class of Calico which I will sell at five cents a yard.
[Dec. 15, '76 tf] WM. BASKINS.

Christmas Toys!

A large lot just received by Baskins, and for sale at the lowest price. [Dec. 15, '76 tf]

Fresh Honey!

A fresh supply just received at Baskins'.
[Dec 25, '76 tf]

My Friend,

If you are indebted to me, you must call and settle your account by January 1st., 1877.
(Dec. 15, '76, 3t) GEO. NIES.

Bleached Domestic

As low as 8¼ cents a yard (yard wide) at Baskins? (Dec 15 '76 tf)

Red Flannel

From 20 cents a yard up, at Baskins'. Dec 15 tf

Books.

To a person of refinement no gift is so pleasing as a nice Book. It is something that will endure for years, perhaps after the giver has passed away; and by its presence preserve the memory of a faithful friend. We have Poets, Histories, Works of Fiction, by all the prominent authors, Juveniles for the children, and in fact almost anything in the book line.

HARRY VORIS,
(dec 22—2t) Felix Street, St. Joe., Mo.

This "Cheap Goods" Business.

A good deal has been said by other merchants about selling cheap. I want it to be understood that I will not be undersold on the same class of goods by anybody in the country.
[Dec. 15, '76 tf] WM. BASKINS.

We would advise the people of this county, when they are visiting St. Joseph, to be sure and visit the Boston 20ct Store, on Felix St., opposite of the Market House. We have made a personal examination of their stock and can truly say that it is really wonderful how so many fancy and useful articles can be bought and sold for 20cts. Many of the goods sold for 20cts are goods that we all have been in the habit of paying from $1.50 to $2 for each article. Just now they are busy opening a large stock of holiday goods and we would advise all that are contemplating buying presents to give them a call. (Dec 15, '76 tf)

Holloway's Pills and Ointment.—For Scurvy, Leprosy, and cutaneous diseases they are unrivalled. In places where these maladies are prevalent, the cures are marvellous, for the expulsion of pimples, blotches, &c., they are unparalleled, and as a cosmetic the Ointment stands unequalled. Sold everywhere. 25 cents per box or pot. 15

A CARD.

To all who are suffering from the errors and indiscretions of youth, nervous weakness, early decay, loss of manhood, &c., I will send a receipt that will cure you, FREE OF CHARGE. This great remedy was discovered by a missionary in South America. Send a self-addressed envelope to the REV. JOSEPH T. INMAN, *Station D. Bible House, New York.* 18mf.

The Centaur Liniments have created a revolution in remedies for Rheumatism, Strains, Swellings, Pains, Burns, Scalds, Stings, &c. The White Liniment is for the human family, and the Yellow Liniment is for horses. They are certain, handy and cheap. 5w13

$10,000 AWARDED.—"I was so sick and low-spirited that I thought I would give anything to get well; and if any one had insured me the good health produced by using Simmons' Liver Regulator, and charged me a thousand dollars, I would willingly have paid it if I had had it; in fact, ten thousand dollars would be worthless to me than what it has done for me."
23ml GEO. F. BARRETT, Macon, Ga.

OUR MARKET REPORTS.

OFFICE OF THE SENTINEL,
Thursday Evening, Dec. 28th 1876

Grain.

WHEAT—This market has been slightly active and quotations a shade higher, under the influence of a good speculative and shipping demand; advices from all the large centres have been more favorable, the market is now strong, not because it can be shipped at present quotations without loss, but for the reason that there is confidence in the future, and sufficient money to carry the wheat through to time of navigation.

CORN—This market has ruled a trifle more unsettled during the past week; quotations ruling a shade weak. Trading in all departments of the market has been dull.

Live Stock.

CATTLE—The demand for good to choice native shipping steers has been steady, with good prospects of continuance until after the holidays. In heavy sales in this line, country shippers must forward only fine, fat, well matured cattle, and then they can realize good prices, if Eastern markets do not decline. Native trim-built pony steers, and good fat cows and heifers were readily sold, because so few have been furnished the markets. Among the sales of Christmas beeves, was one heifer weighing 1,402 pounds @ 6¾: one steer 1,700 pounds @6. The quality of these cattle was such, that had they been marketed a little earlier would doubtless have brought $6.50. They were fed by Brown & Robinson of Callaway county Mo.

HOGS.—The tendency of prices during the past few days has been downward from the simple fact that buyers do not want any more hogs until after the holidays, having purchased enough to carry them over; they paid good prices for all the hogs they bought, but do not want more even at lower figures. From this it will be seen that we shall have a dull hog market until the close of the holidays. Country shippers therefore, need not hurry about sending in hogs to arrive before Wednesday next—that is, if they wish to obtain fair prices for their property. There was, and is, a moderate shipping demand for light hogs.

Oregon Markets.

FLOUR—Spring ₩ 100 lbs	$2 50
—Winter	3 00
WHEAT—Fall	80a1 00
CORN—Per bushel	20
OATS— "	25
POTATOES— "	35
APPLES— "	75a1 00
EGGS—	20
BACON—Country hams	15
—Shoulders	14
—Sides	15
LARD—old	15
HONEY—	16
BUTTER—	25
HOGS—₩ cwt	5 00a5 37

St. Joseph Markets.

WHEAT—No 2 Winter	1 10
—No 3 "	90a1 00
—No 4 "	80a 85
—No 1 Spring	85
—No 2 Spring	75a 80
—No 3 Spring	65a 70
CORN—in wagon lots	30a 35
—in car lots	30a 35
—New	25
OATS—old on track	32
—old in wagons	35
—new	28
RYE—No 2	40a 45
BARLEY—No 2	45a 65
POTATOES—	30a 35
ONIONS—	40a 60
APPLES—Green	60a 75
—Choice winter	2 00a2 75
—In car lots	2 50
HIDES—Green	6
—Cured	6¼a 7
—Part Cured	5½a 6¼
DRY FLINT	11¾a 13
DRY SALT	9¾a 10
GREEN CALF, wt 8 to 14 lbs	10
HOG SKINS	25
DAMAGED HIDES, two-third rate, (cut scored, and one grub, classed two-thirds rate.) Branded hides 10 per cent. off.	
BUTTER—Good	15@ 20
—Choice	20@ 25
EGGS—	20@ 23
HOGS—	5 00@ 5 35

Chicago Markets.

WHEAT—No. 1 Spring	1 14
—No. 2 Spring	1 16
—Winter	1 13
CORN—No. 2	44
OATS—	32@ 32¾
RYE	60@ 62
BARLEY—	76@ 85