

CHRISTMAS TIME.

The Day That Comes but Once a Year is Now at Hand. The City's Streets Blocked With Busy Purchasers.

Elaborate Musical Exercises Arranged by the Different Churches - Fine Weather Promised.

If old Santa Claus deigned to cast his glance over San Francisco yesterday, a complacent feeling must have taken possession of that guardian of the welfare of the children of the earth as he saw the throngs of devotees bringing offerings to his shrine. Although slightly out of the latitude of the two elements with which that jolly old myth likes to surround himself, ice and snow, nevertheless, the preparations for celebrating the day consecrated by the children to their patron have been going on with great vigor for some weeks past in San Francisco, which did not stop until the last electric light went out on the principal streets as the clock struck the hour of midnight on Christmas Eve.

At St. Francis' Church, Vallejo street, Beethoven's grand solemn high mass will be sung at 11 o'clock. Services will be held in the church at 11 o'clock. The sermon will be delivered by Bishop William F. Nichols. A special musical service will be rendered by the vested choir.

At St. Paul's Episcopal Church, California street, between Fillmore and Steiner, rector-in-charge Rev. W. L. Gibbons, the music will be as follows: Hymn, Hark, the Herald Angels Sing; Te Deum; Venite and Gloria; Kyrie, Sursum Corda, Sanctus, Gloria in D; Hymn, Hark, the Herald Angels Sing; Mendelssohn; Gloria Tibi, Esoworth; hymn, "Adeste Fideles"; offertory, "Noel"; A. Adam, solo; in F. M. Fortescue; "Sing, O Heavens," Berthold Tours.

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At Trinity Church there will be appropriate services on Christmas, conducted by the rector, Rev. J. Sanders. The selection of music will be as follows: Te Deum and Jubilate in B flat, H. J. Stewart; communion service, Kyrie, Sursum Corda, Sanctus, Gloria in Excelsis, in F, Berthold Tours; Agnus Dei in B flat, Sir John Stainer; offertory, "Noel," A. Adam, solo; in F. M. Fortescue; "Sing, O Heavens," Berthold Tours.

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PACIFIC COAST COAL.

The Principal Sources of San Francisco's Supply. The Coal-Producing Regions of California. Mount Diablo Deposits Likely to Hold Their Own for a Long Time to Come. Other Valuable Deposits.

The high price of coal during the early part of December has naturally directed attention to the possibility of making California self-supplying in the matter of coal; at all events of cheapening the price of the article by opening up deposits near tide water, and abolishing the expensive process of importation, transshipment and storage.

Unfortunately the position of the coal industry in California has hitherto been disastrously affected by the inferior quality of the mined product. By far the larger proportion of the California coal is simply lignite, a half-way stage between the fossilized fibrous material of plants and trees and genuine coal, the perfectly metamorphosed product.

That the minds of Californians have been abundantly exercised in the direction of discovering workable veins of real coal is apparent from recent exchanges issued in areas of coal possibilities. Says the Cottonwood Register of Shasta county:

A gentleman from Pennsylvania while prospecting on coal ground in the northern part of the county, recently discovered a large body of stone coal. After sinking about ten feet the bed appears to be inexhaustible, and is of better quality than any that he has seen elsewhere in the West.

This is merely a case in point. The Santa Ana Standard is equally enthusiastic over the prospects of coal mining in the Santa Ana valley, and within the past three months active efforts have been made to boom the coal deposits of Mendocino county in the Coast Range beyond Ukiah.

It must, perforce, be admitted that the coal-producing resources of the Pacific Coast are far behind those of the Atlantic, not only as to quantity, but quality. California is, undoubtedly, less favored than any section west of the Rocky Mountains. All along the western coast of this country, from British Columbia to the Mexican line, the coalfields are small in extent and of comparatively recent geological origin.

Speaking in regard to the Pacific Coast generally, from Alaska to the Mexican line, it may be stated without hesitation that the coal deposits of Vancouver Island are of great and increasing value, though no statistics are available in regard to them. As to the mines of Oregon and Washington, the best idea of their steady development can be gained from the receipts at San Francisco during the six years between 1871 and 1876, the rate of production in tons and variation in quantity having been quite similar since then:

Table with columns: Year, Coos Bay, Bellington Bay, Seattle, Astoria, Portland, Vancouver Island, Oregon, Washington, Total. Data for years 1871-1876.

MISCELLANEOUS.

THE BALDWIN.—"The Private Secretary" is proving quite as attractive as it did when it was presented at this house on a former occasion. There will be a matinee to-day. The Emma Juch Opera Company will commence a season of English opera a week from to-morrow evening.

THE BUSH.—Gus Williams and John T. Kelly have caught on in great style in their amusing farce-comedy, "U and I." Matinee to-day.

THE CALIFORNIA.—The Howard Athenaeum Specialty Company is playing to splendid houses. Matinee to-day.

THE ALCAZAR.—The Christmas bill at this house is very strong. "Turned Up," and "Rough Diamonds" will be kept on another week. Matinee to-day.

THE TIVOLI.—"The Wonderful Lamp" is one of the prettiest burlesque operas seen at this house in a long time.

GRAND OPERA HOUSE.—George T. Ulmer in "The Volunteer" is the attraction at this house. Christmas matinee this afternoon.

POWELL-STREET THEATRE.—Baggeen's Vaudeville. New acts and specialties at the matinee to-day.

THE ORPHEUM.—"Traviata" was sung last evening. To-night "Rigolotto."

NOTE.—M. de Pachmann will give a piano recital at Irving Hall, Saturday afternoon at 3 o'clock. The programme will be a miscellaneous one.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Kansas Gets a Welcome Wetting. KANSAS CITY, December 24th.—The first snow of the season fell to-day, in northwestern Missouri and northern Kansas. Some of the incoming trains on the Western roads were delayed for two or three hours. A despatch from Wichita, Kansas, says that a soaking rain fell in the southern part of Kansas to-day. It was just what the country needed, and will doubtless extinguish the threatened invasion of the Hessian fly. A special from Topeka says the State Board of Agriculture has received telegraphic advice from the northern half of the State to the effect that a snowstorm to-day covered winter wheat. The snow was badly needed.

Utah's First Bishop. ROME, December 24th.—The Pope has erected the Vicariate of Utah into a diocese. Father Scaretan has been appointed first Bishop of the new diocese.

THE CALIFORNIA! Strictly European Plan. ABSOLUTELY FIREPROOF. Opened December 1st, 1890.

Rooms have sunlight entire day. The only strictly first-class hotel in San Francisco. Magnificent appointments, unparalleled in beauty and brilliancy. Unquestionably the most beautiful and luxuriously furnished hotel in America. Rooms en suite, with baths of latest exposed sanitary plumbing. Electric lights throughout. Every convenience for comfort of guests. Most centrally located, being in midst of amusements, art galleries, shops and other places of interest. Its cuisine is of a peculiar excellence. Restaurant and service perfect. Half portions served. Rooms \$1 per day and upward.

HARD & KENZLER, Managers.

A. W. STOTT 3 MONTGOMERY ST. UNDER MASONIC TEMPLE. DEALS EXCLUSIVELY IN HIGH GRADE DIAMONDS, JEWELLERY & WATCHES. ARTISTIC DESIGNS, RELIABLE IN QUALITY AND AT VERY REASONABLE PRICES. OPEN EVENINGS.

Fine Table Wines From our Celebrated Orleans Vineyard. PRODUCERS OF THE ECLIPSE CHAMPAGNE. 530 Washington St. SAN FRANCISCO.

GEORGE H. FULLER 638 640 MISSION ST. OFFICE ESKS

PROSPECTIVE PRIZE-FIGHT. The Chances Are Favorable for a Fight Between Slavin and Corbett. Joe Thompson, the Australian sport now in this city, received a letter yesterday from his brother Barney in London, which states that Slavin, the pugilist, is willing to accept a proposition to fight Jim Corbett of San Francisco, before the California Athletic Club, in this city. The letter states that Slavin would doubtless wire a reply to the query as to whether he would come here to meet Corbett, but the telegram has not yet been received. Still, sporting men think that negotiations for the prize-fight will be successful and that the meeting will be had. President Fulda of the California Club says that he has no doubt of Slavin's willingness to come, and that the club is ready to offer the purse whenever Corbett is.

BRANDY THIEVES ARRESTED. Two Barrels of Liquor Stolen From a Bonded Warehouse. On Tuesday afternoon thieves entered Halett & Bode's warehouse on Filbert and Battery streets, and remained secreted until after dark, when the doors were closed. During the night they stole two twenty-six-gallon barrels of brandy, which they hid in a straw pile in a stable about a block away. Officer Egan found the stolen liquor yesterday, but left it where it was found. He and Officers O'Neil and Ellis hid near by and waited. About 8:30 o'clock last evening three men went to the barrels with demijohns and bits and proceeded to tap the casks. The officers raided the trio, but the telegraph has not yet been received. Richard Ryan and Frank Savage, two ex-convicts, whom they charged with burglary.

A Fire on a Hotel. At 6:15 o'clock last evening an alarm of fire was sounded from box 372 for a fire on the roof of the Hotel Pleasanton, on Jones and Sutter streets, caused by sparks falling from the large smokestack. Before the fire was put out by the fire department a few buckets of water. But little damage was done. The guests of the house were not aware that anything was amiss until after the blaze was extinguished.

A Compositor Robbed. As C. S. Wells, a compositor on the ALTA, was walking along Larkin street, near Clay, Tuesday night, a masked man stepped out of a doorway, and, presenting a pistol at him, commanded Wells to halt. The highwayman went through his pockets in approved style and relieved Wells of \$5.40 and a silver watch, but at the request of Mr. Wells the garrotter returned the watch.

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INDIANAPOLIS, December 24th.—Information was received to-night that Judge Cyrus C. Hines, for thirty years a resident of this city, and for fifteen years the law partner of President Harrison, at Ludlow, N. H., was to-day stricken with apoplexy and will die.

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