

Christmas in Lancaster in 1874

Notwithstanding the cry of "hard times," the celebration of Christmas in this community [Lancaster] was more general and extensive than for many years past. Never, indeed, have we seen so many Christmas trees and decorations sold, and as to confections and toys, it may seem incredible to some, but it is none the less the fact that our confectionery and toy stores were almost entirely without stock as early as four o'clock Wednesday afternoon. These are cheering signs, for certainly there cannot be much suffering in a community where there has been such a lavish expenditure of money as was witnessed this Christmas. What a glorious day is Christmas! We do not quite agree with Henry Ward Beecher, but yet he has said something new on the subject of this annual festival. In his prayermeeting on Wednesday evening he said, that "as with everything else in the great question of Christianity, there had been blood shed in disputes about Christmas, and the war was not settled until there was a general agreement that the 25th day of December should be celebrated as the day of the first appearance of our Saviour in this world. They probably didn't come within rods of the right day, but it's just the same if one thinks so. There isn't the remotest probability that on the 25th day of December we celebrate the hour and day of Christ's birth, but it is just the same to us."

Our storekeepers are almost unanimous in saying their sales were "satisfactory" and that, with them, means a great deal. On Christmas eve the streets and stores were unusually crowded, and although there was considerable drunkedness among the reckless and debauched classes, the general public seemed bent on a more rational enjoyment of the great Christian holiday. During yesterday, (except just before and after the time of service in the several churches) the streets were quite deserted and the town wore the appearance of Sunday. Almost all the stores and shops were closed, and almost everybody seemed to be at home enjoying or making ready to enjoy the great Christmas dinner. In the evening the streets wore a more lively appearance, but there was nothing to be seen particularly worthy of note.

Today, Saturday, the streets are thronged with people, as is usual on the "second day of Christmas," many of whom have come in from the country for a day's enjoyment.

Christmas Services in the Churches

Moravian Church. Services were held in the morning at the usual hour. An anthem entitled "Glory to God in the Highest," was excellently rendered by the choir. Bishop Bigler preached a sermon from 2 Corinthians 9:15—"Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift." In the afternoon the usual "children's love-feast" was held, at which coffee and rusks were dispensed to all. After an address by Bishop Bigler came the opening of the "missionary boxes" of the different classes. All being delivered, the total amount was found to reach nearly seventy dollars. A number of beautiful Christmas anthems were sung by the scholars of the Sunday School. The church is very handsomely decorated. The walls are hung with festoons of laurel, suspended from the ceiling. Over the pulpit, which is covered with beautiful flowers, is erected an arch across the top of which are the words, "Glory be to God on High." A very beautiful star, representing the "Star of Bethlehem," occupies a position over the pulpit and surmounting the arch the figures "1874." The work of decoration was superintended, we believe, by Mr. Peter Regennass, who certainly deserves great credit for the handsome appearance

First Reformed Church. In the First Reformed Church (Dr. Kremer's) the decorations this year were of a much more elaborate character than heretofore. The walls are hung with festoons of green, and suspended from the middle point of the ceiling to each corner of the gallery are four heavy festoons. The most noticeable decorations are in and around the chancel—the bright green laurel and natural scarlet flowers contrasting beautifully. Over the pulpit is erected a handsome arch, with the motto, "Glory be to God on High." The only service was held at 6½ o'clock, a.m. The choir, assisted by Keffer's full orchestra, opened the services by singing "Adeste Fideles," in good style, Miss Appel rendering the solos. This was followed by Mozart's "Gloria," which was the most soul-inspiring performance we have listened to in a long time. The choir, under the leadership of Mr. Hiram Stamm, and the orchestra, exceeded, yesterday, all their previous efforts in the rendition of this beautiful masterpiece. "Hail the Blest Morn when the Great Mediator," and the children's hymn, with the usual echo, "While Shepherds watched their flocks by night," were also sung. The services at the altar were conducted by Dr. Kremer, assisted by Rev. Pro-

The decorating of the church was done under the supervision of Mr. Hiram Stamm. At the usual hour of service in this church tomorrow morning, the Sunday School celebration will be held, and will, doubtless, as in other years, prove most interesting.

fessor Krebs.

St. James's Episcopal Church. The services in St. James's Church commenced at 10½ o'clock, a.m. An excellent sermon, appropriate to the occasion, was preached by the Rector, Rev. Mr. Watson, from the text "Glory to God in the Highest." The church was very handsomely decorated. The altar was covered with a white

embroidered altar-cloth, and was profusely decorated with the finest

with autumn leaves and laurel. The choir deserves special mention as the music under the leadership of Prof. J. E. Gleffer was exceptionally good. Dank's "Te Deum," Scott's "Gloria Tibi," "Adeste Fideles," "Glorias," and the "Christmas Hymn," were all rendered with great sweetness and expression. St. Paul's Reformed Church. This church was elaborately and

natural flowers. The font was decorated in a very unique manner

beautifully decorated. Festoonings of evergreens hung gracefully around the walls, while an evergreen arch surmounted the pulpit, with the motto in evergreen: "Glory to God in the highest; on earth peace, good will to men." At 10 o'clock in the morning a Christmas sermon was preached by the pastor, Reverend J. B. Shumaker. The principal celebration, however, was reserved for the evening, when the children of the Sunday School were gathered together. A fine tree had been erected near the pulpit, but it was not large enough to contain the gifts, which were of the lost liberal kind, a box of candies and a very pretty picture being presented to each of the pupils of the infant school. The affair proved delightful to all concerned. St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church. This church was very pro-

the flowers and evergreens with which they were crowned. In the side vestibule of the church was erected a fine representation of the birth of Christ, with the infant Saviour in a crib and the Virgin and St. Joseph standing over Him. Mass was said at 5, 8, and 10 o'clock, and at the last named hour an appropriate sermon was preached by the pastor, Rev. Mr. F. L. Neufeld. Vespers were at 3 o'clock, p.m. All the services were very largely attended. St. John's Lutheran Church. Service was held here at the usual

fusely and handsomely decorated throughout, the altars attracting particular attention from the taste displayed in the arrangement of

morning hour, the pastor, Rev. B. C. Suesserott, preaching a sermon from Luke 2: 10-11. There was no decoration in the church but it will be decorated tomorrow. (27 December)

St. John's Free (Episcopal) Church. Garlands of evergreen were hung around the entire body of the church, whilst the altar and communion table were profusely adorned. On top of the latter stood an evergreen cross, and the whole table was covered with a white communion cloth, on the front of which were the words in gold letters with crimson background, "Gloria in Excelsis." Communion service was conducted by the pastor, Rev. T. B. Barker. The choir, led by Mr. W. O. Marshall, opened with the anthem, "Hark! The

Herald Angels Sing," and the entire music of the morning was very fine. First Methodist Church. The usual Christmas prayer meeting service was held yesterday morning, at 6 o'clock, in the lecture room of the church. Short addresses were delivered by the pastor, Dr. J.

B. Dobbins, and presiding elder, Rev. C. F. Turner. Christmas service will be held in the County House at 10½ o'clock tomorrow. Dr. Dobbins will preach sermons appropriate to the day. The choir will render the following selections: "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing,"

F, from Mozart's Magic Flute; "Hark! What Means Those Holy Voices." in F. from Donizetti. The lecture room, which has been beautifully refitted for Sunday School purposes, will be formally opened at 2 o'clock tomorrow. St. Paul's Methodist Church. The usual service was held in the morning by the pastor, Rev. H. R. Callaway, and in the evening an

in D, by Dr. Hastings; "What Are Those Soul-Reviving Strains?" in

entertainment, consisting of music, dialogues, and recitations by the pupils of the Sabbath School, was given.

Trinity Lutheran Church. A very large congregation gathered here at 10½ o'clock in the morning, the pastor, Dr. E. Greenwald, preaching an eloquent and instructive sermon. The altar and baptismal font were tastefully decorated with flowers and ivy. The

choir sang the anthem, "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing." The reunion of the Sunday Schools connected with Trinity will take place

in that church tomorrow afternoon at 21/2 o'clock. Zion German Lutheran Church, Service was at 10½ o'clock. The new pastor, Rev. F. P. Mayser, preached a Christmas sermon in German. In the evening at $7\frac{1}{2}$ o'clock, there was a children's meeting, on which occasion the pastor delivered an address and the little folks were rejoiced by the presentation to them of gifts from two

large trees. Grace Lutheran Church. At this church (Rev. D. H. Gessinger, ning, and pretty gifts were presented from a fine Christmas tree.

pastor) a large and delightful children's meeting was held last eve-St. Anthony's Roman Catholic Church. At this, as well as the other Catholic churches, high mass was held at 5 o'clock in the morning, Mozart's 12th Mass [sic]* being rendered. At this church the

services were of an unusually interesting character. The attendance was very large and the services were conducted by the pastor, Rev. Father Anthony F. Kaul. The church was very handsomely decorated with evergreens and flowers. The sides of the altar were very nicely trimmed with flowers and evergreens, while the centre contained a large cross made of about forty candles, which, when illuminated, presented a fine appearance, and was very much admired by all who saw it. During early mass about 300 candles were lighted. At 8 o'clock a children's mass was held, which was largely attended. At 10 o'clock the regular church service was held, high mass also be-

ing celebrated. Vespers were held in the afternoon, after which a children's meeting was held in the school-room of the church. Here a large Christmas tree had been erected with a beautiful garden surrounding it. It was well filled with toys and candies, and presented a very pleasing sight. During the services, which were of a very interesting character, each child received a Christmas gift of a package of cakes and candies. St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church. At St. Mary's Church on West Vine Street three masses were held—the first taking place at

5 o'clock, the second at 8 and the third and last at 10. The church was elegantly decorated with evergreens, and the main altar was one mass of wax tapers and flowers. Over the tabernacle was a gas jet under the leadership of Mr. Joseph Altick. Prof. Hall's solo in the "Et Incarnatus Est," one of the most solemn pieces in the mass, was perfect, and received with much effect. It was followed by a grand quartette in the same mass, by Miss Kress, soprano; Miss Spicer, alto; Prof. Hall, tenor; and Mr. Joseph Altick, basso. The "Gloria" was a grand union of voices, in which the orchestra and organ joined in. The gem of the mass was the performance of Lambillott's Christmas Hymn, an Italian composition. The Rev. Father J. C. Hickey was the celebrant. The Very Rev. Father Bernard Keenan, on account of ill health, did not take any part in the exercises. The attendance was unusually good.

light forming the word Jesus. This is an entirely new design, is very handsome and attracted universal attention. The music without doubt was the finest of the kind ever heard in this city. It was Mozart's [sic] 12th Mass, accompanied by Professor W. F. Weber of Harrisburg, and his orchestra of twelve pieces. The Professor was also assisted by Messrs. Ermentrout, Weber, and Bussard, of this city. The organ was presided over by Professor Haas, and the choir was

unusually good.

First Presbyterian Church. This church, as is well known, takes but little account of Christmas as a religious day, and yet perhaps as worthy and beneficial a Christmas entertainment as was held in this city was that of the Presbyterian Mission Sunday School, on South Queen Street. It has been the custom of this Mission School Association, for some years past, to give the members of the school a festival or treat of candies, cakes, apples, etc., on Christmas.

Social Festivities

Last night a very large and intelligent audience gathered at Fulton Hall, to attend the complimentary benefit of Prof. John Hart (our well-known elocutionist and dramatic reader), under the aus-

pices of the George H. Themas Post 84, Grand Army of the Republic. It was a perfect ovation to the Professor, and if he did not feel proud and happy he should have done so. Those who favored him with their presence will never regret it. The performance was excellent throughout. Mr. Hart never read better, and Miss Keffer (always good), has improved greatly in her music. Mr. Conly was irresistibly comic in his portfolios of song and humor, and Professor Gleffer's "George H. Thomas Grand March," his own composition, reflected great credit upon him, as did the accompaniments during the evening. In addition to all this, Mr. Charles H. Loag, of this city, was introduced as a "surprise," and gave several very fine performances

Many were the pleasant social affairs about town on Christmas eve—public and private parties. Among the former was the ball of the American Independent Club, which passed off pleasantly and in good order; a grand dress ball at Grant Hall, where some twenty couples participated, under the management of L. B. Norbeck, Charles E. Lehman, and Clarence V. Lichty; a supper by the "Merry Ten

on the banjo.

couples participated, under the management of L. B. Norbeck, Charles E. Lehman, and Clarence V. Lichty; a supper by the "Merry Ten Club," at which the table fairly groaned with good things, and last but not least, a "Cocalico Ball" in one of the upper rooms of Fulton Hall, at which a terrible riot took place.

How it [the riot] originated would be difficult to tell, but we have no doubt whisky was at the bottom of it. One good thing has come out of this fight, however, and that is the determination of Mr. Yecker, the proprietor of Fulton Hall, to not let out any part of the building hereafter for ball purposes. Officers Killinger and Adams were dispatched to the hall to quell the riot, which they had partially succeeded in doing, when Officer Killinger was approached by a gentleman whom he recognized as Constable Wentzel Selak, of York, who had come to Lancaster in company with 'Squire Metzel, also of York, to visit friends, and had found his way to the ball. Mr. Selak inquired for Officer Messenkop, and soon Officer Killinger observed that a crowd was gathering about them, making demonstrations. It soon became evident that the York constable had enemies among them, but why such was the case no one could tell, for he was perfectly sober and quiet as a lamb. All of a sudden the crowd made a bolt for him, knocked him down and beat him shamefully-Officer Killinger being considerably used up in his efforts to protect him. He finally got Selak on his feet, and just then a pistol was discharged, the ball entering the leg of William Pontz, the cigarmaker, making an ugly flesh wound-indeed going entirely through the leg. Officers Killinger and Adams both declare that this shot was fired in the rear, while Selak was in front of them; but nevertheless the now maddened crowd insisted Selak had fired it. and cries of "kill him," "kill him," were heard on every side, and the desperadoes at once proceeded to carry it out by knocking him down and giving him another most brutal and cowardly beating. The officers got reinforcements, and finally succeeded in getting him out of the hall, and taking him to the office of Dr. J. O. Boyd, where his bleeding head and face, and bruised body, arms and legs received careful attention. Constable Selak was doubly unfortunate, for, while

he was being kicked almost to death in Lancaster, his stable was burned to the ground—supposedly by incendiaries—in York. *The so-called "Twelfth Mass," attributed to Wolfgang A. Mozart (1756-1791), probably was written by Carl Zulehner. Known also as "Muller's Mass" and the "Seventh Mass," the composition was first published by Simrock in 1821. When Vincent Novello, the noted Italian-English music publisher, arranger, and organist, undertook to gather all Mozart's works from their scattered repositories throughout Europe, the publisher's agents included many

and performers who were unable to read a full score at sight could achieve an admirable result. The "Twelfth Mass" was a favorite of English and American musicians and choirmasters. Later, Kochel, and more recently, Alfred Einstein, analyzed and catalogued Mozart's works more accurately. As a result, Mozart's fifteen masses, including the seven Missae breves and the hauntingly beautiful Requiem, are now established. In 1903 Pope Pius X issued his Motu Proprio which discouraged the extrinsic effect of music in connection with the celebration of the mass. Most masses by the great composers are now presented in concert form rather than in religious services.

works of a spurious nature. Novello catalogued and arranged the Mozart Masses including those (No.'s 7, 8, 9, 12 and 18) not written by the great and immortal Mozart, and several (No.'s 13, 16 and 17) probably not the work of Mozart. Novello arranged the difficult scores so that non-professional musicians