Santa Claus.

Chirrup! Chirrup! Christmas Cricket Chimup!ailtue evening through! For a factstep's at the wicket, e no the wind is in the flue.

(hirror! Chirror?-He is rarping: (hirrup !- There! Undo the door; ger ta Claus, Sir, frem his tapping; He's been often here cf yore.

Chirrup! B'ers bir !-Old and jolly (Jost as when I was a boy). With a little Chratmas holly. Ard a deal of Christmas joy

With a bundle white and snowy, And his boots a trifle osmp. Ard his eye -the night is blowy-Lo k theumy near the lamp.

But the same old, horest laughter, And the same old cheery tone, With a chord of sorrow after, And a tenderness its own.

And he takes the chair we offer In the chimney corner bere. And he drirks the glass I proffer, As we talk of Christmas cheer.

Just the same old. hearty fellow With his presents for the boys, With his winter apples mellow. And his store of children's toys;

With his crackers and his kisees, And his rebuses and hymes, And his mistletoe for Misses. And his tales of olden t'mer.

Just the same, and little older, With the good things in his pack, With the white locks on his shoulder, Ann the snowflakes on his back.

Blesshim! Chirrup! Christmas Cricket! Chirrup! al! the evening through! For his footsten's at the wicket, And the wind is in the flue;

And the wintry gusts distress him, And the way is wild and leng. And the little chi'dren bless him For their stories and their sor g! WILLIAM TWAMLEY.

Christmas Folk-Tales.

we find in our own and other countries a host of amusing old folk-tales, most of ing the superstitious beliefs of our foreof the "Nisse" at Christmas time-a class | fireside. of fairies about the size of small children, and who were. we are reminded, far more numereus in the good old times than nowadays. Like Shakspeare's Puck, they are fond of pranks, and unless the master o the house pampers them they are spiteful and vindictive, and hence it is not surprising that their goodwill is deemed worth securing On Christmas Eve, therefore, offerings of sweet porridge, cakes, beer, and other delicacies are provided specially for them; but care must every mark of respect, othe wise they will quickly show their displeasure. Thus, it is related how, one Christmas Eve, when a girl in a mecking spirit brought these little beings their customary offerings, she was so severely handled by them that on the following Christmas morning she was found dead in the barn. With tales of this kind told among the peasantry, and received by them with the utmost faith, we can well imagine how ready they naturally were to gain the patronage and friendship of these mysterious elves who, in a thousand and one ways, could befriend those who acknowledged their superior power. Among Norwegian folktales of the sea relating to Christmas, we are told how a certain sailor, according to custom, was desirous of presenting on Christmas Day a cake to the spirit of the waters; but when he came to the shore, lo !- much to his disappointment-the waters were frozen over. Reluctant to leave his offering upon the ice, he tried to make a hole; but, in spite of all his la bors. he could not make it large enough for the cake to go through. When perplexed as to what he ahould do, he was agreeably surprised by the appearance of a little tiny hand, as white as snow, which, stretching through the hole he had made, seized the cake and instantly disappear ed with it. In this legend originates, i is said, the compliment paid to a Norwegian lady, "Your hand is like a water sprite's."

The Norse peasant, in his popular tales. has a curious solution for the oft-asked question, "Why the sea is salt?" It appears, says Mr. Dasent, that once upon a time, long long ago, there were two brothers, one rich and the other poor. Now it happened on Christmas Eve that the poor one had not so much as a crumb of bread to eat, so he went to his brother for help, who gave him a whole flitch of bacon, at the same time bidding him go prisonment in that isolated region with from a Chinese point of view, could not least of which will be connected with juice, which they greedily absorb, so that to a certain evil magician. On arriving his having stolen cabbages from his safely be entrusted to subjects of states ladies travelling, will disappear with time, they at least seem solid masses of carbonat the magician's house, he was surrounded by a host of persons anxious to buy his | When just in the act of escaping with his | fleets. flitch. "Well," said he, "by rights my load he was perceived by some pasters On the subject of the adoption of rail- up to greater reforms and will produce tempering process never a word is spoken old dame and I ought to have this flitch by, who, there and then, conjured him ways the Chinese have hitherto proved greater advantages in China than in ann aloud nor the least excitement or sprightfor our Christmas dinner, but since you up in the moon. There he stands in the themselves stolidly indifferent to the empire under the sun, they will probably ly action in lunged in. Sounds uttered have all set your hearts on it, I suppose full light of the moon, to be seen by promptings of active plenipotentiaries and have to encounter a period of probation would penetrate the grain of the rock and you must have it; but if I sell it at all, everybody, having his stolen load of cab- of interested advisers. For some years which will try the patience and tax the expelled by heat or conflicting with the I must have in return that quern behind bages on his back for all eternity. He it has been foreseen by the most enlight- resources of the promoters and supporters the door yonder." At first, the old only has a minute's change one day in ened of their statesmen that railways are of their existence. magician laughed outright at this proposal, the year, when he is said to turn around inevitable, but at the same time they but the "poor brother" stuck to it, and so once on Christmas Eve. at last the magicis n parted with his quern. wondering what had kept him so long.

course of the day's rejoicings he incauti- it remained panting, howling without inthree hundred dollars. Before long, however, he found that it kept on grinding; and so alarmed was he that he reveld it to his brother for the same money as | lar street—one special rule being that he had purchased it. As before, it soon there should be no baking. brought renewed prosperity to the poor brother, which enabled him to buy a | at Christmas-time, or the Wild Huntsman golden house, the fame whereof spread will gallop through it. On one occasion for and wide, and attracted strangers from a woman refused to take the usual warnall parts. So, one day, a stranger came | ing, and had no sooner sat down to spin to see the quern, and the first question he on Christmas Eve than she fell into a asked was whether it could grind salt. deep sleep, and was only awoke by the "Grind salt?" said the owner, "I should entrance of a stranger, who, without any just think so; and anything else you like." apology for intruding, saked for her Thereupon, so anxious was he to buy the spinning-wheel, and commenced spinning. quern that he promised to pay untold | Before long he used up all the flax she wealth for it. Secured of his prize, he had, and on his asking for more, she was put to sea, and when so far off that no obliged to give him her supply of wool. one could reach him, he said to the quern | Still, however, he kept on calling for "Grind salt; and grind both fast and more; and his angry demands so frighten good." No sooner had he spoken than ed and terrified the poor woman that, the quern forthwith began grinding salt, although it was but four in the morning, which, in an amazing short time, arose in | she roused up her neighbor-a cunning heaps on the deck and threatened to sink | old crone-and acquainted her with the his vessel. Alarmed at the rapidity with stranger's mysterious conquest. Happily, which the quern kept grinding, he intreat- | she quickly perceived the nature of the it went on, and before many minutes the him away by some magical charms; for vessel sank beneath the weight of salt. had she not done so, his presence might of transport from one place to another, But the quern, still beneath the water, have cost the woman her life. keeps grinding, and hence the saltness of

having agreed with a stranger to play herself in her holiday attire, and, seated everything foreign, has inaugurated his placed in jail. Mrs. Maxwell is in a Scattered round the Christmas sesson, was astonished at seeing his new master Ralston, in his "Songs of the Russian sanctioned an order for a quantity of maxwell had written a letter saying he vanish into the earth as soon as the bargain had been made. Terrified at the which, apart from their own instrinsic in- thought of having agreed to work for so mysterest, are valuable as faithfully embody- | terious a personage, he quickly resorted to the clergyman, who advised him to fulfil fathers in connection with the Yuletide his engagement, and to play nothing but festival. It would seem that, in days psalms. Accordingly, as soon as Christgone by, these fireside legends were ex- mas tide arrived, the weird stranger made tensively circulated at Christmas-tide; his appearance, and beckened the fiddler the varied incidents they contained acting | to a spot where the company were asas so many warnings to those who might, sembled. On reaching his destination he inadvertently or otherwise, be induced to at once struck up a psalm tune, which so disregard the traditionary notions of the enraged his audience that they instantly season. As the greater part of these vanished, but not without so violently tales are novel probably to most readers, bruising him that it was with some diffi-It may not be inopportune to give some | culty he succeeded in reaching home, and illustrations of them. Thus Norwegian | narrating his Christmas experience to the folk-tales often allude to the merry doings | family as they were gathered round the

the sea

In Germany, Christmas Eve is the season of all others when fairies are supposed to be most active, keeping their festival on the mountain tops. Then, we are told, the rough stone is transformed into brilliant crystal-veins of gold starting out artistically into majestic pillars-beneath which graceful canopy feasting and dancing are kept up with protracted enthusiasm. The attendants on these fairy-gatherings are generally beautiful Swedishgirls, who have unwarily partaken be taken that this act is performed with of the contents of the golden goblets offered to them by the fairies, and thus instantly fallen into their power. According to the legendary lore found in most parts of Germany, the magic effects of these fairy potions is threefold :- "At the first draught from that horn, he who drinks forgets Heaven; at the second, he forgets earth; at the third, he forgets his hetrothed bride." Hence, on Christmas Eve persons are recommended to stay at home, because the fairies on this night delight to waylay the lonely traveller, compelling him to take a draught of Christmas cheer from their enchanted goblet. Among the large class of folkthe fairies reminded him of his own home; lines. The Chinese have shown of late watches. This at once opens a field for old priest; who uses as his match a stick

neighbor's garden on Christmas Eve. possessing large armies and powerful they will not be less real while they last; ized substance rather than gritty rock.

On reaching home, the clock struck Germany to make nightly excursions and have set their faces steadily against twelve, as his wife met him at the door, through the air for the twelve nights of pandering either to a gushing philanthro-Christmas, alarming all who hear him by py or to the outcry begotten of a manu-"Oh!" said he, "you shall quickly see the his furious progress. He generally rides factured reed. In this spirit they refused The patients had become unable to write cause of my delay;" after which words, upon a large white horse, no less than on behalf of the late Emperor, the present legibly, but when the affirmation was Oleopolis the other day reports a singular to the table hidding it. grind everything necessary for the him. According to a tale quoted by Mr. meaning English capitalists proposed to Christmas fare. The wife, as may be im- Thorpe, in his "Northern Mythology." lay down in the palace grounds for the agined, stood thunderstruck, watching in every place through which he passes amusement of his Imperial Majesty; and

poor brother refused to tell; but in the as happened one year at Wulfsdorf, where ously gave the history of the magic quern, | termission until the following Christmas which his brother ultimately bought for Eve, when the Wild Huntsman again an enthusiastic mandarin who thought it took it with him. Hence various precautions were formerly taken to prevent the Wild Huntsman approaching any particu-

It is also considered dangerous 'to spin ed it on his knees to leave off; but still visitor, and hence was not long in driving

in the course of centuries clustered round | iron horse running through the land. We may add that these tales, in which | the Christmas festival in Russia. one of the witch element figures atrongly, still the most popular refers to the celebration | the innovation, and Prince Ch'un, the of the winter solstice. Thus it is said Emperor's father, who, according to the considered remote. The father recovered Isle of Man, it is related how a fiddler, that the Sun-a female being-arrays quidnuncs of Shanghai, is opposed to during the night, and in the morning was during the twelve days of Christmas to in her telega, urges her horses upon the accession to power by giving his cordial terrible condition, and it is feared the whatever company he should bring him, summer track. In many places, says Mr. support to the new proposal, and has shock will deprive her of reason. Dr. People" (1872, p 187), it has been cus- steel rails from the Osnabruck steel- was tired of life, and as he did not wish tomary to represent this solar goddesspopularly designated Kolyada—by a girl the Prince has taken an active interest such as they would have to face he had dressed in white, who, seated in a sledge, in the coal and iron mines of the northern decided to take them to the grave with is driven about from house to house, provinces and he probably recognizes the him. while the young people who accompany fact that his profits might be increased a her sing various songs, of which the following is a specimen :-

Kolyada! Kolyada! Kolvada has arrived On the Eve of the Nativity. We went shout, we sougt Hely Kolyada "hrough all the courts, in all the alleys, Wa found Kolyada, &c. Kerr

Tradition, too. says that at this season of the year all kinds of hidden treasures are specially revealed to mankind, in connection with which belief the following tale, quoted by Mr. Ralston, is current : - Between Christmas Day and the festival of the Epiphany the new-born Divinity comes down from heaven in order to wander about the earth; on which account labor of any kind is accounted wrong. At midnight, also, on each of there festivals. "the heavenly doors are thrown open; the radiant realms of Paradise in which the sun dwells disclose their treasures; the waters of springs and rivers become animated. turn into wine, and receive a healing efficacy; the trees put forth blossems, and golden fruits ripen upon their boughs."

Space will not permit us to multiply further instances of these Christmas tales. but the few we have quoted will suffice to show their general nature.

RAILWAYS IN CHINA.

In a country where time is no object, where punctuality is unknown, and to himself as embarrassing to his fellow. Four days previously to the tempering of where haste is regarded as a sign of illbreeding, the introduction of railways presence of so great a man would at any room, there to fast and engage in certain seems a superfluous anomaly. And yet other time be one of humble prostra- ceremonials, in which chronic traditional stress of circumstances has so forced the tion. tales connected with this superstition, hands of the statesmen of China that an may be quoted one which tells how, imperial decree has, we are told, been be galling to men who have always been when a Christmas feast was being given | issued inviting proposals for the construc- | accustomed to start on their journeys at | vals and for a very short time (and then in a German village, one of the guests, tion of railways through the northern any hour they please. unfettered by time attracted by the sound of music from part of the empire. Thus the day has or time-tables; and the idea of a railway head plumes) that they may not be without, was induced to leave the festive arrived which has for years been looked guard starting a train without waiting for touched by the unitiated. Yet, during scene indoors, and to wander towards the | forward to by financial syndicates, groups | a leisusely approaching local magnate | the intermissions of their religious obserspot where the music seemed to come. of contractors, and ambitious foreign would be an unheard-of want of propriety. vances, they prepare great cakes of pinon He had, however, not gone many steps be- engineers. Already, no doubt, plans and Even in the minor question of making the gum, carefully wrapping them in strips of fore he was met by two beautiful girls, maps which have been kept carefully time-tables plain to the people, some who asked him to join their Christmas pigeon-holed at Shanghai and Hong-Kong preliminary difficulties will propertiongambols in a neighboring field, which, in preparation for the turn whichevents ably arise. The day of twenty four hours morning of the day succeeding the last after a little persuasion, he consented to are now taking are on their way to Prince is, according to Chinese reckoning, divi- night of their vigil, they repair in single do. On arriving at the fairies' gathering, Kung's successor at Peking, and to his | ded into twelve equal divisions, which are file, headed by a particular clan-priestfor such it was, he was surrounded by omnipotent lieutenant, Li Hung Chang, known as the period of the rat, the ox. numberless little beings all anxious to whose only difficulty will be to make the tiger, the hare, the dragon, the serwelcome him; one of whom handed him | choice of the best among the many | pent, the horse, the sheep, the monkey, | fore lifting the stones, before even a cup of wine, after drinking which he schemes which will be laid before them. | the cock, the dog, and the boar. Each quarrying any of them, they recite long, forgot his former state, and thought of It is, however, by no means certain that of these periods is subdivided into eight propitiatory prayers. casting abunnothing except the feasting and dancing foreigners, or at all events any subjects | parts of fifteen minutes each, and these are dant medicine-meal to the "Flesh of of the fairies. When he had been enjoy- of the Great Powers, will have much to the smallest divisions of time known to the rock." With other but shorter ing himself in this manner for some time, do with the construction of the proposed all except the few fortunate possessors of prayers the fire is kindled by the but what was his astonishment when on a natural desire to do their own work, or the wildest confusion and strange mis. of hard wood with which he drills vigourpassing through the village to find every- if foreign help has to be called in, to understandings. What will minute, ously into a piece of dry, soft most, until thing in decay, and all his relations and employ people of nationalities whose represent to the minds of people accuss the friction ignites the dust of its own friends dead, for the spell of the fairies' desire to encroach may reasonably be tomed only to reckon by the rat, the ox. making, and to the flames thus generacup on him had lasted a hundred years. | considered as limited by their lack of the tiger, etc.? and how will the fine ted, offerings of dry food are made. The One German version of the well-known power to trespass. Thus to Danes have distinctions of A.M. and P.M. be brought stones are then brought, and when warm legend of the man in the moon connects fallen much of the work connected with home to their intelligence? Though enough, placed over the fires; heirg conthis wretched individual's solitary im- laying the new telegraph lines, which, these and all other difficulties. not the stantly anointed with pitch and cartus

have wisely determined to wait for the Again, the wild huntsman is said in demand of a naturally developed want,

all this wealth?" For some time the howling. Occasionally one is left behind, loss for just six weeks. As though despeople in advance of the age, the materiel of this railway was shipped to Formera by possible to regenerate the island by carrying passengers and goods about it at the ing passengers and goods about He even Springfield, O., recently, resulting to rate of thirty miles an neur. It is death of the three children of Dr. succeeded in collecting several bundred John Maxwell. About six o'clerk in the collecting bundred but John Maxwell. succeeded in collecting several but John Maxwell. About six o'clock the thousand dollars to make his road, but doctor sent his wife to a structure of Dr. thousand dollars to make his load, but doctor sent his wife to a store on an before he could begin the work he was errand which would detain here. before he could begin the work in the work in the work of the state of the transferred to another scene of usefulness, leaving him alone with his alone and the mandarin who entered on his leaving him slone with his children, and the mandarin who entered also into the possession of labors entered also into the possession of his wife had gone he called his soon as his accumulated dollars. From that day to this nothing has been heard of the them in case of a refused inde funds and the rails and rolling-stock are at this moment resting on the Formosan

But during the eight years which have elapsed since the Woo-Sung fiasco events have occurred which have educated the native mind at an unprecedented rate. One of the most awful famines which have ever visited any country has desolated whole provinces of the empire; there have been in the outlying dependencies rumours of wars with Russia and Japan. and actual crossing of swords with France, The telegraphs also, which now carry messages from Pekin to Canton in a few minutes, have aggravated the growing impatience at the slowners of the means and the natural result of these conditions Arthur, the youngest child, died shortly Of the numerous folk-tales which have is the now expressed desire to have the

> works. For the last two or three years to leave his children to a life of poverty. hundredfold if the output were carried to market in railway trucks rather than in donkey carts. It is doubtless in connec- indicted by another physician on a charge tion with these mines that the first rail- of criminal libel. The case is still pendway will be constructed, and fortunately ing. Since coming there he has been for the undertaking the prospects of an immediate return are unquestionably certain. In Shan-see, the province adjoining the metropolitan province on the west, the extent of the coal field is incalculably great, while in the immeclate neighborhood iron abounds in pro-

> In estimating the effects which are care and instruction bestowed by the old likely to be produced on the country by women on the young, as for every process railways, it is necessary to consider the in the making of the he-we, or wafer. social side of the question. Although breads. Year in and year out, too, while caste in its technical sense is unknown in these lessons are being plied. it is told China, the divisions which separate the how the famed and beloved "Godders of ranks of the mandarins are as marked as the White Shells" taught not a few of those which divide the different Brah- her graces-and some secrets-in conminical grades, and the gulf which inter- nection with the daily occupation, which venes between the official classes and the forms their theme. Of these secrets, a people is quite as wide as that which chosen few old women of the tribe are yawns between the Brahmin and Shudra the keepers. With many a mysterious classes. And in one sense the Chinese rite and severe renance, they quarry and distinctions are more difficult to deal manufacture the enormous baking-stones with than the Indian, in that they affect on which the flaky, toothsome he-we is every act in the daily intercourse of life. made. Garrulous enough, mercy knows! At first, therefore, the levelling tendency are these crones on most other subjects: of railways will beyond question produce but they guard with a sphinx-like jealousy some searchings of heart among the such of their methods and observances privileged classes. A red-buttoned man- as add prestige to experience in their darin whirling through the country in company with a parcel of rich shopkeepers old women making up a party of "stenewould be in a position as distasteful finishers" is four or eight, rarely more. travellers, whose only attitude in the the stones they retire to an estufa or lone

> and though railways will ultimately lead From the beginning to the end of this

hree cases are reported to the French Association for the Advancement of the Sciences of immediate cure of paralysis aglians by means of hypnotic suggestion. made to them emphatically during sleep experience. He had hooked a black bass that they could write as well as other weighing thirty-six pounds, but when he people, they did so forthwith and retained tried to haul his prize to shore the bass

DR. MAXWELL'S AWFUL CRIME. anchine from

He Forces His Four Children to Swallow Poison and Three of Them Die, A terrible tragedy was enacted at his wife had gone he called his children them in case of a refusal, induced them to swallow a mixture of aconite and chloroform. Then he tied a cloth saturated with the same drug around the mouth and nostrils of each, and laid his victims on a bed. The children, after struggling for a few minutes, sank into insensibility. Maxwell then administered a dose to himself and lay down on the bed beside his unconscious children. In a few minutes after the doctor had swallowed the poison, Mrs Maxwell came home. Upon seeing the insensible forms of her children on the bed she suspected the terrible truth, and at once summoned assistance. Medical aid was speedily at hand, but before the physicians arrived Blanche, aged 12, was dead, after 1 o'clack next morning, and Kenneth aged 10, died at 4 o'clock next morning. Private interests are also in favor of Grace, the eldest child, is still alive, but the prospects of her ultimate rocovery are

Dr. Maxwell came to Springfielda short time ago from Cedarville, O. While living at the latter place he had been unable to provide for his family properly. and his combined troubles are alleged to have affected his mind.

Zuni Sacred Bread Stones.

of the domestic duties of Zuni, is so much

For no art or industry within the range

occasional calling. The usual number of chants and repeating rituals play an im-The necessity for punctuality also will portant part. During these four days they never come forth unless at rare interunder the protecting influence of warning cedar bark, and in other ways make ready for the work at hand. On the usually a "Badger," who on no account touches one of them -to a quarry. Benew "being" (function) of the store, split scale, or shiver it with a loud noise. So also, the evil influence of undue passion or hasty action would alike be communicated to it—with blighting future effect.

Probably a Bass Invention.

sgined, stood thunderstruck, watching this quern grind out dainties enough to last till Twelfth Day. When, however, last till Twelfth Day. When, however, the rich brother on Christmas Day saw all that was on the table, he was very envious, and said, "Whence have you got envious, and said the passes are the passes and the pas he practices humself.

Henry Ster CODES AS & fa They o per cent of m per cent., of ime); 31 pe chiefly gelatin of water. Th per cent. matter contai of phosphorio of lime. The nitrogen are former being \$1.50, and th 87 cents; 100 condition to b \$2.37. But h slowly soluble they will deca in so many yes duce them to make them us ducing them t them to ashes. cheaper, but t the bones can less cost than the most costl in many cases them for wan burning teco method. Thi lime in the fin as available fo bone or more undecomp

The Pa It is well, this month, different phase been made, th rected, and

gelatine.

this more kn he can have doingsandasy are great help neglect to kee is very often t vlew of the pa many a dollar ing year, and guess can neve are very likely takes year af that the prices been as high, produces, as though they a same has been other branches clothing and mer uses bein was, if not bel remember. T nearly so. W may bring pea of workers in who atrive to ducts.

Take a Loc Yes, it shou for a few decay soon start the much loss be crop is stored the dwelling h toes, etc., may coming unsala several large d thing will do ness than bein noxious gases tables. And ter than in sun er the house the fumes are ing, and the fa

them day and The proper derneath an ing, or under used for the though in suc to be much n able loss. If veniences sho of roots, whe from dampne and still not at them. Co for unloading ing easily an

The mode when worked market it is cities good fancy pats, c if sold direct pats will not are taken to with trays f and ice. F or two poun tangular on should be

cloth, wrung Butter in packed clos ware jars; inch of the and the jar then secure much as po

Sprinkle the potato to prevent cellar, Major P is simply t nety, in a

and, finally ear; and T train to re Is is a q