

Christmas festival of the vintry ward schools.

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Notes : Scène festive à l'occasion de Noël. Les enfants pauvres chantent dans la salle de l'école de charité d'un quartier de Londres Gravure de presse extraite de The Illustrated London News. "Jan. 10, 1852."

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Enseignement à l'étranger (sauf anciennes colonies)

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Lieux : Londres



CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL OF THE VINTRY WARD SCHOOLS.

of their old schoolfellows, to fit themselves for being, in like manner, good and trustful servants.

Well, then, of these former scholars, a call was made for such girls as, having left since June, 1850, had continued a year, or nearly so, in their places, when there stood forth three—the only three who, by length of absence, could have fulfilled the conditions—to each of whom was presented a packet of books. Afterwards, the oldest scholar in the room was summoned; upon which advanced, with firm and steady step, one declaring herself to be 77—Mary Rignall, mother of the schoolmistress; and, no one putting in a higher claim, she carried off the book intended for such an one. A second distribution of buns and cake now came out, and was speedily exhausted. The closing scene soon followed.

The whole was terminated by singing another carol, "Once in Royal David's city;" and, as a farewell address to all, the latter verses of the one with which the rejoicings had been opened—

say to all this hallowed season,
Cheerful marks the closing day.

At ten o'clock the sad hour of parting arrived. Notice was given to quit; and never was such a notice much more reluctantly received. Now for the first moment did the looks of the children betray something like grief—grief to think that their blissful, happy evening was come to an end, and that all must now separate—old and young—past scholars and present, rich and poor, the

children of the one and the children of the other; master and servant, minister and people, and patiently, but not without that sweet remembrance of the feast day, wait the coming of another Christmas.

We cannot conclude without giving our hearty assent to a remark which was dropped by one of the strangers present—that the singing was very different from that which is usual in our charity-schools, being of a much higher character, though at the same time simple and unpretending, and all in unison.