

Christmas at St. Mark's in the Nineteenth Century

[As described by Dr. Thomas Maddox
sometime between 1865 and 1887]

The Sunday School celebration of St. Mark's Church, Lappan's Cross Roads, Thursday before Christmas, was quite an event. Fifty scholars, including fourteen orphans, were present, to take part in the exercises.

The Christmas tree was very pretty, and loaded with a great variety of articles, calculated to please and charm the hearts of the children. The "Christmas Carol," "Carol Brothers," and "Wonderful Night," and "I Think When I Read That Sweet Story of Old" were sung with spirit and in good style, by the scholars.

Rev. Henry Edwards, rector of the church, delivered an appropriate address, and the children answered promptly and satisfactorily the questions relating to the season.

The day was clear and bright; every face was radiant with pleasure, and the "Christmas greens" contrasted fairly with the cream-colored walls. Leafless twigs, the snow-covered fields without gave additional beauty and luster to the well-loaded Christmas tree within. A grand event in the history of the world was to be commemorated.

"The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light."

"Glory to God in the highest; on earth peace; good will to man."