

VII.—A CHRISTMAS SCENE.

BY GEORGE DOLLAR.

DIFFERENT people have different ways of celebrating Christmas. The vast majority, it is true, display a lamentable lack of originality in devising means to celebrate the festive season; they content themselves with the turkey and pudding, the Christmas tree and the round games, the mistletoe and the bonbons, which have regularly appeared after dinner on the 25th of December for as many years as our grandfathers can remember. But there are a few choice spirits who are

immense wealth, we hasten to say that the buildings, railways, etc., which he annually constructs are not life-size. They are, in fact, models of such things, and the tract of ground upon which Mr. Herrity constructs them is the floor of his own parlour.

The scene represented in the photographs is a typical American village, lying at the foot of some hills, upon the summits of which, at right and left, are a second village and a fort of the United States army. The villages are



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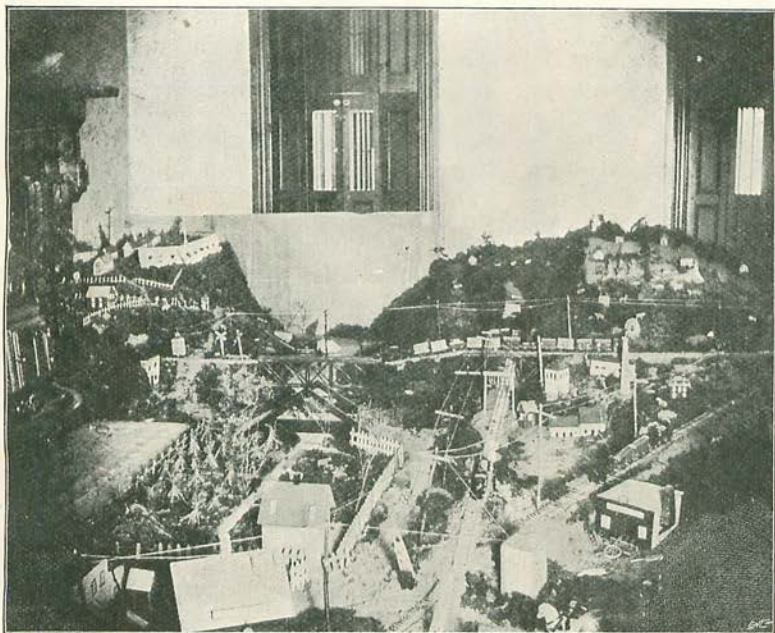
THE MODEL VILLAGE OF ROSEVILLE.

[Photograph.

tired of the old amusements and desire novelty. Such a one is Mr. P. B. Herrity, of 926, G Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. We should think that Mr. Herrity's Christmas hobby is probably unique. Every year he lays out a tract of uncultivated ground in schools, churches, houses, railways, and farmyards. Lest the reader should infer that Mr. Herrity is an owner of vast lands and

connected by railroad, and the fort is made impregnable by a broad stream, which flows at its base. If the photos. are carefully examined it will be seen that no feature of village life is omitted. Even the tufts of grass growing by the roadside and the ubiquitous vagrant dog are there.

The village is called Roseville, and is named after Mr. Herrity's little daughter,



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A NEARER VIEW OF THE FORT AND THE SECOND VILLAGE.

[Photograph.]

Rose. The scene does not take so long to prepare as might be thought. Mr. Herry only commences to work upon it at the latter end of November, and, giving a few hours each evening, has it all ready by Christmas Day. After all the pieces are made the difficult work of setting up the scene is begun.

The hills have to be made and the fields laid out. From start to finish the arrangement of the scene occupies about thirty-six hours, skilful movements and tireless patience being essential to its success.

Mr. Herry has quite a reputation in his district for these models. For several Christmases past he has made a model village like the one we have been enabled to show. He does not copy anybody or anything. He mentally

plans what his next year's exhibit shall be, and sets to work upon its construction when the time comes. He makes all the models himself, from the church-steeple down to the sleeper of the railroad. Some of the houses have taken him three years to make; but he possesses endless patience and the true artist's love of accuracy. No amount of pains is too great for him to take, and consequently his models are replete with all the details of the scenes they represent. It is this careful attention to minute detail that makes Mr. Herry's model scenes so much admired and praised by all who see them. He intends to continue in his hobby, and this year, he says, he is going to make a scene "which will surpass any in this country."



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A NEARER VIEW OF THE FIRST VILLAGE.

[Photograph.]