

BONATTAR.

The Nativity of Christ has always been a favorite subject for art, and also for popular festivals. Every nationality seems to paint the Nativity and the appearance of the Magi to suit their own national customs, and we herewith reproduce the Swedish conception of "Bonattar." Bonattar signifies a festive illustration of Biblical subjects, hung up during Twelfth Night, which means the time between Christmas and Epiphany. The picture shows the Magi bringing their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh to the new-born Saviour.

The owner of the picture, a native Swede, Mr. Edwin Pearson, informs us that from his memory the inscription reads: "About the wise men's offer in Bethlehem (Assabba-Kings) came three, came three with frankincense and myrrh and offered, Hallelujah."

The decoration is painted in very brilliant colors, from the juices of berries, on a very tough paper. In spite of their being vivid, the colors have not faded, which seems remarkable. It was customary during the Christmas festivities to have all the walls covered with these "Bonattar," showing the different subjects from the Bible.

A hundred or more years ago, these "Bonattar" were quite common among the better class of farmers in certain sections of Sweden, but they are very scarce now except in museums—the modern cheap chromos having taken their place. However, it is still the custom to decorate the walls for the Christmas festivities.

