

## A Christmas Légend

VER since that first Christmas eve the cock has entimed all night long on the anniversary to keep away evil spirits; for the cock is a lay bird and a knowing one. There is a pleas-it tale of him and Saint Stephen, the first mar-r, whose day is December 26, close by his dear

Lord's.

Lor

desert my service for another's?"
Nay," answered Stephen. "I lack neither nor drink. But the Child that is born this is greater than all of us; and Him only

night is greater than an of the will is serve."

"That is as true," quoth Herod, smiting the table with his fist, "as that this roast cock on the platter shall crow before us."

Hardly were the words out of his mouth when the wock stretched his neck and crowed lustily, "Christian status est!" At this proof that Stephen's words were true, Herod was so angry that he made his soldiers take Stephen outside the walls of Jerusalem and stone him to death. And this is the reason why, unto this day, Saint Stephen is the patron of stone-cutters.—Abbie Farwell Brown, in Lippincott's Magazine.