











# Christmas in Washington

BY EDWARD B. CLARK

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**T**HE Potomac river does not mark the boundary between the southern and northern capitals. The spirit of the holiday season of the south makes itself felt through the District of Columbia, through Maryland and well into Pennsylvania. Here it is still the Christmas of the candle light and of the blazing log, the Christmas of the distinctive old England cheer.

It is probable that there has been a Christmas tree in the White House at every holiday season in every administration excepting that of Grover Cleveland. Old residents of Washington say that even the bachelors and the widower presidents had Christmas trees to remind them of their own childhood, or to be used as an ornament for specially invited children guests.

President Taft's youngest child, "Charlie," is of Christmas tree age and inclination. Both the president and his wife are young in heart, and the Christmas tree has always been a place in their holiday merrymaking. The president's two older children, Robert and Helen, are in college, the son at Yale and the other at Bryn Mawr. Like all other college students who can make the journey home the present year older children are with their parents.

Christmass in the White House is very much like the Christmas in the homes of all American families. When there are children in the great colonnade all the stockings are hung up, and the decorations and the spirit of Christmas eve are just as great as they are in any of the humbler homes in the land. Christmas is a home day for the president and his family. The press is given over, and the White House clerks and employees, to saying nothing of the cabinet members and the senators and representatives who make daily journeys to the president's office, know that on Christmas day of all the days in the year the president wishes to have of the cares of state and to have the same privilege that any other American citizen has—the privilege of enjoying his family and of partaking with it undisturbed of the Christmas cheer.

It has been said that there was no Christmas tree at the White House in the holidays of 1901 when Theodore Roosevelt was president. There were six children in the Roosevelt family, all of them of Christmas tree age when the colonel of Rough Riders became president. There were always happy times at Christmas in the Roosevelt household, but the Christmas tree was banned because the president being a strong advocate of the preservation of the forests, thought that it was little less than a sin to cut down trees and of necessity kill the ones he intended to use them for merely decorative purposes.

It is said that on one occasion the youngest boy of the household had a tree give him, and thinking that it was as it was already cut down he might as well keep it, he put it in the closet of his room and there kept it until he died. It is also said that his father had a tree, but the historians of the household do not know, or at any rate do not say, what happened then, and so the end of one story of a former Christmas tree celebration in the executive mansion must forever remain unknown.

In the Potomac river section where the old time Virginia Christmas still dwells, there is an openness about the holiday that is like the openness of the Virginia home. Friends, but here the ready doubtless will interpose objection—it is the transmuted spirit of the old days still dwelling in the hearts of the southerners, the spirit of the cavalier who generally made too free with his means of inward cheer, but with whose "vices" charity always kept pace.

The war did not kill Christmas in Virginia. It survived battle and poverty and it is as happy and lusty to-day as it was in the seasons when the slaves brought the oak logs to the fires. It is the great festive of the south and the north, the spirit of the cavalier who generally made too free with his means of inward cheer, but with whose "vices" charity always kept pace.

Washington makes the most of Christmas.

In it the glee and thanksgiving it is a thoroughly southern city at the holiday season.

It has its cheer and its charity in full measure and these things together make "A Merry Christmas."



IT IS STILL THE CHRISTMAS OF THE CANDLE-LIGHT AND OF THE BLAZING LOG.



SCENE OF THE ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY.



THE NEIGHBOR SWINGING HIGHEST GREAT ACROBATIC HOLLY.

of all the old estates of the woodsmen, and the first to cross the Potomac.

Arlington is now a sad enough place, and the Christmas feasting in the houses where Robert E. Lee married his wife, and where he is buried, has been forgotten.

Does not he travel far, however, through the state of the Carters, the Boyds, the Pendletons and the Randolphs, to find in this holiday season the scenes of cheer that once

gave him such pleasure? And does not he remember the days of the holly, the laurel and the mistletoe?

The Christmas gift in the course of the ages has had its ups and downs, ranging from the lordly acceptance by a titled minister of plain yet royal wages to the humble appeal of the dependent serf, whose welfare was at his overlord's will and pleasure.

What has determined its evolution is really what determined its social significance; and there have been times when that spirit was precisely the spirit of the most polite highwaymen who ever made started traveler stand and deliver.

The Christmas materials of England, with their "God save you, merry gentlemen, let nothing you dismay," soon established the precedent

that, wherever they chose to intone their carols before a door, that door must open to them hospitably, and a table must be furnished forthwith with good things of the season for their prompt refreshment.

But, though the greeves among them are as there are now, persons who happened to have other pleasures on their hands, and regarding keenly that the joyful waits came uninvited, could not perceive why anyone should play refractory host.

The curmudgeons unquestionably had the right of it, but the card singers, many a time, burst in doors and wrecked house furnishings in their wrath at the refusal.

There was a Christmas hold-up in London.

"Christmas gift" isn't altogether bad, as it isn't altogether new. It is only a recurrence of an old, old custom by a humanity whose nature, in the mass, changes slowly.

And when it is all sifted down to its essence, you are getting a rather sincere compliment the same compliment his jingle would hold William the Conqueror, and his fellow-citizen paid Dick Whittington, who became lord mayor of London.

Scattered through the country south of Washington are old plantation homes still occupied by the families who have held them since the days of the colonies. There seems to be a general belief in the north that most of these old places are forsaken and desolate; but there are many, more, than the city dwellers know, still remaining prosperous and showing scarcely a trace of change as the result of age.

It was said the other day by an old southerner in Washington that no home-loving Virginian ever would move "until after the next Christmas."

The next Christmas comes and goes, but there is no time to come, and the moving is put off, and will be put off until the holiday spirit has gone from the south—a spirit that will go when the south goes.

Christmas largesse is almost as old as Christmas.

In the south, if you happen to be in any section that preserves even a modicum of the old-time custom, you are liable to encounter everywhere, on Christmas morning, from such negroes as have some claim to knowing you, the familiar phrase:

"Christmas mas' gif!"

It means, as one of the class favored by fortune, from the less lucky are free to ask Christmas largesse, and that with no sinking of independence, with no sacrifice of self-respect.

The custom does assume the superiority of a giver—does, indeed, assume it not very far

## BACKACHE IS KIDNEYACHE.

Usually There Are Other Troubles to Prove It.

Pain in the back is pain in the kidneys, in most cases, and it points to the need of a special remedy to remove and cure the inflammation of the kidneys that is interfering with their work and causing that pain in the back.

Thompson Warren, Kansas, professional nurse, 429 N. 23rd St., Parsons, Kan., says: "For some time I was smothered in a severe attack across the small of my back and irregular passages of the kidney secretions. Since using Doan's Kidney Pills, I am free from these troubles."

Remember the name—Doan's. Sold by all dealers in 50 cents a box. Postbox, Milburn Co., Huron, N. Y.

**May Save Millions Posters.**

Artist, lithograph, print, paper manufacturers and tobacconists, cigar manufacturers are all united in a gigantic crusade against tuberculosis which is about to be started under the direction of the National Association for the Study of Free Speech and Anti-Tuberculosis, Inc. In addition to the gifts of free space on billboards and free printing of posters made by the Associated Billposters and Distributors of America and the Printers' Protection Association, several hundred paper manufacturers have given paper for the posters to the value of several thousand dollars, and artists from all over the United States are contributing sketches for posters, free of charge. The state and national anti-tuberculosis associations will see that the posters are placed in cities and towns where they are most needed.

The posters are nine feet long and seven and a half wide, will be printed in several colors. If sufficient paper is procured a million will be pasted up. The value of these various contributions would reach fully \$2,000,000 if paid for at commercial rates.

**In a London Omnibus.**

A London bus driver was hailed by a clerical-looking old gentleman, and on the first opportunity he remarked to the conductor: "Do you know who is the author of 'The Cardinal Mannin'?" "Go on, that is the Cardinal Mannin,'" said the conductor. "I know 'im." They argued further, and finally beat a shilling over it. When collecting fares the conductor determined to set matters right by direct address—"Excuse me, sir, but are you Cardinal Mannin?" "Yes, I am," the passenger looked him coldly and boldly in the eye, and answered: "What the devil has that got to do with you?" The conductor was satisfied, but even as the driver of a bus he had to get even with his passenger. Putting his head out of the door he called up to the driver: "You are right, Bill, it was 'is 'olness."

**Even Ready Opening.**

The editor of a London newspaper, conscious that some one was standing behind him. Looking round, his glance fell upon a seddy looking individual with the eyes of a crane.

"I beg your pardon," said the newcomer, but is there an opening here for a fresh recruit?" "No," gruffly replied the editor. "An ingenious carpenter, foreseeing your visit, has provided an excellent opening. Turn the knob to the right, and do not slam the door as you go out!" —The Sunday Magazine.

**There All The Time.**

It is told of Dr. Thorold that he was once asked to give away the prizes at a school he was going to the London school board.

In the course of his opening address he gravely asked the children, "Which was the largest island in the world before Australia was discovered?"

When the youngsters gave it up, he said in the same grave way, which made them laugh all the more, "Why Australia, of course; it was there all the time!"

## RESULTS OF FOOD

Health and Natural Conditions Come From Right Feeding.

Man, physically, should be like a perfectly regulated machine, each part working easily in its appropriate place. A slight derangement causes undue friction and wear, and frequently results in the entire system.

A popular educator of Boston found a way to loosen the brain and the body in that harmonious co-operation which makes a joy of living.

"Two years ago," she writes, "being in a condition of nervous exhaustion I resigned my position as teacher, which I had held for 40 years. Since then the condition has, of course, been a benefit, but the use of Grape-Nuts has removed one great cause of illness in the past, namely, constipation, and its attendant evils.

"I generally make my entire breakfast on a raw egg beaten into four spoonfuls of Grape-Nuts, with a little hot milk or hot water added. I like to eat the whole meal assiduously, and my bowels take care of themselves. I find my brain power and physical condition much greater and I know that the use of the Grape-Nuts has contributed largely to this result.

"I am in feelings of gratitude that I write this testimonial, and trust it may be the means of affording others in their search for health."

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Evening League... 7 p. m.  
Preaching... 8 p. m.  
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