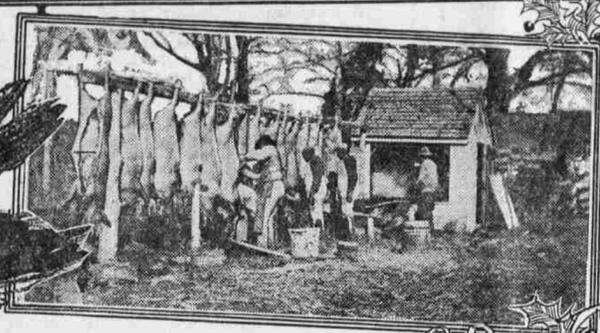


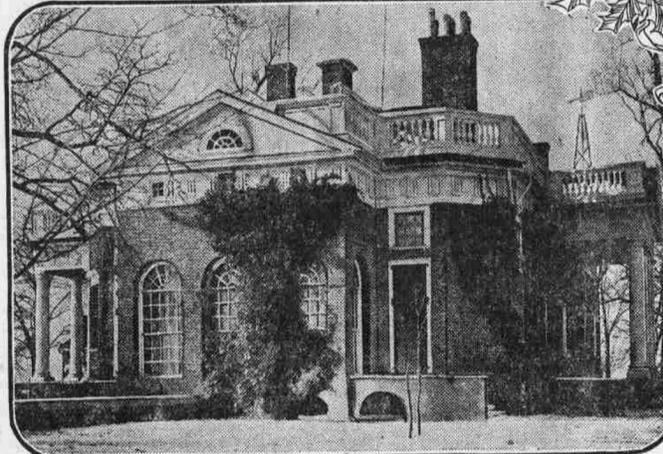
YULETIDE IN "OLE VIRGINNY"

By J. M. BELL

How folks in the tidewater section of state that mothers presidents celebrate during Christmas season. Some of the spirit of Merrie England 150 years ago pervades that part of America today,



DRESSING PORK FOR CHRISTMAS



A FAMOUS OLD VIRGINIA MANSION

THE visitor to an old plantation in tidewater Virginia, at Christmas time will no doubt be agreeably surprised to find that many of the old customs survive and are regularly observed, not only on the large plantations, but on the smaller farms, and even in the negro quarters. So all get their full measure of gifts and turkey.

Perhaps the first sign of Christmas is the killing of the fat hogs, which have taken on flesh rapidly since they were put up and hardened on good, sound ear corn. Hog-killing time means a generous supply of "fresh," in other words sausage, sparerib, chine, cheese-sonse, pig's feet, and, of course, that fresh pork ham baked during Christmas week. This is flanked by a baked ham two years old and sugar-cured. It will all furnish mighty good eating for visitors who drop in for a little while, but have not time to stay to the regular dinner.

Those who have spent years on a tidewater Virginia plantation know just what hog-killing time means to host and hostess. All through the countryside, from the humblest negro holding to the largest river estate, preparation for Christmas begins with hog-killing time, for then the corn is gathered, the woodpile is ready, and farm work in general is in such condition that all are in pretty good shape for the holidays.

That Christmas Gobbler.
Two weeks before Christmas, the turkey gobbler (generally one of the year's raising) is singled out from the flock, put up in a slatted coop in the back yard, fed on shelled corn till he is in proper condition, killed the day before Christmas, hung up on the north side of the porch and next day, when cooked in the old-time kitchen by an old-time negro "kitchen queen," forms the piece-de-resistance for the big dinner. The Christmas menu rejoices in roast turkey stuffed with oysters, bread crumbs, etc. A sugar-cured ham (from one to two years old), crisp celery, Irish and sweet potatoes (the latter candied), salsify and spinach (all grown in the home "yardin'") macaroni, and, of course, cranberry sauce for the turkey. The dessert consists of jelly (plenty of wine for seasoning), blanc maitre, both white and chocolate, meringues, fruits, such as Malaga grapes, rose-cheeked apples, bananas and oranges. Wine is served at table and a toddy of whisky, sugar and water, with a dash of nutmeg, will most likely be taken by the gentlemen beforehand at the sideboard. Bouquet cheese and coffee end the feast.

This menu is indicative of a typical plantation dinner; others will be in proportion to the taste and means of the diners, but it can be safely asserted that nowhere would a guest or a stranger sit down to a meager feast on this day, for even the negroes have prepared most liberally for the great occasion.

Christmas Decorations.
The good old custom of decorating the houses for Christmas still obtains, and the generous supply of holly, running cedar and pine, growing in the Virginia woods, is used. Mansion, farmhouse and cottage are all decorated. Mantels, halls, and even bedrooms are witnesses to the season of jollity. Family portraits of ancestors, now long laid at rest, are honored with a wreath of green and the red berries of the holly, a Christmas greeting from the stern canvas.

What are the social customs that emphasize this season in Tidewater, Virginia? On Christmas morning a glass of eggnog or toddy is taken by the gentlemen as they go into breakfast. After this meal, the company will separate. It is possible that some of the party will go to the Colonial church in the neighborhood for morning service. The ancient brick edifice will always have been decorated by loving hands for this season. Wreaths of evergreen intertwine on walls, chancel and pulpit.

The morning service over, the congregation exchange Christmas greetings outside. Some presents are taken to church for neighbors who live at a distance; happy, inexpensive recollections of the season, but appreciatively indicative of the momentous occasion. Back from church, home folks and guests are ready for dinner.

Hunting Parties.
The east Virginians have ever shown a penchant for hunting, and chasing the fox behind a good pack of hounds has always been a sport par excellence. This sport still exists in the country districts, and in spite of wire fences, now almost

universal, you will hear the baying of the hounds and the cheering of the mounted hunters as they pursue the crafty fox through fields and woods on a Christmas morning.

The Christmas dinner is more or less a formal function and it is likely that the family and the guests will be in place when the blessing is asked by the host. Even the allurement of the hunt will not make the men overlook the time-honored custom of being in place when the stuffed gobbler is served.

The Country Dance.
In the evening all join in the old-time country dance. The very name suggests quadrilles, lancers, two-steps, waltzes and even, perhaps, the schottish. These delightful recreations, still observed, come from the "mother country," and have flourished in east Virginia for three centuries. Nothing is more joyous than a Christmas dance on a Virginia plantation, where observance of the season is inherited, where the servants are negroes, the fiddlers are negroes and thoroughly familiar with the dear old dance music so fondly remembered by those of ante bellum days. Invitations have brought out the countryside, whose social position deserves the courtesy. The "great house" is decorated with all the evergreens of the season. Bright fires are burning and the servants are on hand to wait on the "white folks."

The night is a stary one, and a rime of frost has settled over the landscape. Outside there is a rumble of vehicles over the slightly frozen road leading to the house, buggies, carriages, perhaps a four-mule wagon, with its gay crowd of young people, the black jehu guiding his team and coming in a rapid trot. There may be one or two automobiles.

The big front door is thrown open, a blaze of genial light welcomes the incoming guests, who shake hands with the host and hostess standing within the portals. Upstairs go the "gyls" to the "ladies' room," while the gentlemen go to the room assigned them. All is bustle and happy preparation for the coming dance.

Nine o'clock chimes from the timepiece on the parlor mantel. The lively bevy of maidens are trooping down the broad stairs. What visions of loveliness are these highbred Virginia girls!—and they charge the very atmosphere with coquetry. Young gentlemen offer hurried requests for the dance. Then the real revelry begins with the fiddler's call of "Choose yo' pahdnahs fo' de fust' quadrill."

"Turkey in the Straw."
There is a graceful sweep of skirts across the well-waxed floor, a clasp of hands as the couples fall in place. The scraping of violins to the tune of "Turkey in the Straw," and the head fiddler calls "fohwud fo'." One dance follows another with short intermission, until supper is announced at 12 o'clock. Then the musicians play a march for the couples as they make their way to the big dining room.

Around the lengthened mahogany table is spread a feast fit for the gods. Cold turkey, turkey salad, pickled oysters, cold ham, celery, olives, beaten biscuit, thin wafers, fruits, cake and black coffee. At 1:30 dancing is resumed. There

have been quip and jest around the hospitable board. Love affairs begun, and harmless jealousy can be easily discerned. The "lancers" is the next figure. A couple steels off after the set is over, a secluded lounge in the hall offers opportunity for the "sweet nothings," or maybe true love called forth by the propitious time and place.

The negro servants stand around the hall door and watch with fascinated gaze the many couples as they go through the dances. Happiness fairly gleams on their dark faces.

The night is waning, already the roosters have crowed for "three o'clock." From now on until "de brek er day" the dancing keeps up, and when the first red streak appears on the horizon the violins play "Home, Sweet Home." It seems that the fiddlers fairly excel themselves as they draw their bows for this, the last waltz. The dancers swing to the steady rhythm of the music. The music ceases. The dance is over and one more old-time Virginia Christmas gathering is a memory. The host and hostess speed the parting guests, and presently the "great house" is quiet.

The Customs Inherited.
The customs inherited from English ancestors, will never be forgotten in this section of "Ole Virginia," where the plantation owner was a very king, where the smaller farmers had their own peculiar pleasures, and where even the negroes (following the example of "de white folks") have always made merry in the Yuletide season, following the time-honored customs which have existed so long that like the common law, "the memory of man runneth not to the contrary."

Changes have taken place in this favored section, many of the oldest families have sold their ancestral homes and moved to the cities. The numerous well-known estates have passed into the hands of wealthy persons from the North and West, but in spite of changes, the spirit of Christmas animates the natives of all classes and is caught by the "strangers within the gates," for the Northern and Western folks that have settled and made their homes with us in nearly every case enter into the social life of the communities, in which they reside, and during the holiday season join hands with the natives—all in humor for the week of frolicking.

FISHERMEN SAVED MOOSE.
A bull moose was seen lately, pursued by a bear, close to the town of Pinedale in the state of Wyoming. Two men, fishing in Fayette lake early one morning, were greatly astonished to see him emerge from the timber at a high rate of speed and rush toward the water. A few seconds later, however, they were able to grasp the reason for this singular conduct, as a large black bear came into view at the same spot, but on beholding the men he at once took fright and made into the woods. After splashing round in the lake for some time the moose came out, blew the water from his nostrils and stood only a few yards away from the fishermen, eyeing them serenely. He was of unusual size and had a magnificent set of horns. He skirted the shore of the lake at a leisurely gait for about a mile and then darted into the woods.

NEWS and GOSSIP OF WASHINGTON



Cuban Legation Is to Have a Handsome New Building

WASHINGTON.—Contracts have been let for a handsome new Cuban legation building, to be erected in Sixteenth street, in the section known as Meridian Hill. Plans for the legation have been drawn by Macneil & Macneil, architects, and work upon the structure will begin at once. It is expected that the legation will be ready for occupancy by the Minister and Mme. Cespedes next autumn. The plans call for a handsome three-story structure of limestone in Louis XV style, with elaborate formal gardens at the rear.

The chancery and offices of the legation will occupy the first floor of the new building. The second or drawing-room floor will contain the reception rooms, the dining room, and a balcony will open from the most interesting features. The living quarters for the minister and his family will occupy the third floor.

The house will be built around a center hall, open from the ground floor to the rotunda on the third floor. A monumental stairway will lead to the drawing room, and at its head will be placed a colossal painting by a Cuban.

Pan-American Building Capitol of the Americas

"THE capitol of the Americas"—such, it has been declared, is the relation of the Pan-American building in Washington to all the republics of the western hemisphere. And within this capitol building is a room, beautiful enough to attract attention as a show room, and yet significant enough in the purpose it serves, to be designated as a "holy of holies."

This room is the so-called governing-board room, where meet the plenipotentiaries of 21 nations who constitute the governing board of the Pan-American Union, to discuss and act upon questions that concern the welfare of the Americas.

In this meeting place of nations every thought has been carried out by architects, artists and decorators to stimulate the ideal of pan-Americanism. In a setting of brown and gold have been placed pieces of furniture which accent with every line of grace and beauty the general suggestion of Latin America.

A great oval table, 20 feet long, of highly polished Dominican mahogany occupies the central space of the floor. Around it are grouped 21 massive chairs, each covered with Spanish leather, and carved across the upper part of the back with the name and coat-of-arms of the country whose representative occupies it. When these chairs are not in use, a heavy cord, in which are entwined threads matching every color in the flags of the different nations of the union, encircles them, symbolizing the unanimity of purpose that is existent at all times among the republics.

The walls are covered with dull yellow brocade up to the line of a bronze frieze. The side lights and central chandelier are of bronze wrought with conventional designs after the pattern of the aboriginal art of the Aztecs and the Incas.

The frieze is the crowning glory of the room. Its bas relief figures, telling the story of the discoveries and conquests of the American continents, testify to the slow growth of a civilization which makes possible the existence of the room itself and the spirit of the meetings that are held within it.

Enormous Mass of Campaign Literature Sent Out

ENOUGH white paper, in strips nine and a half inches wide, to circle the earth five times, and still leave a surplus was used to print political speeches made by members of congress and sent out from the government printing office for use in the late campaign from June 1 to October 1.

The campaign was remarkable for the use of literature and for the publicity given to speeches, prophecies and statements by political leaders on both sides. Figures obtained at the government printing office show that, from June 1 to October 1, 48,000,000 copies of speeches of senators and representatives and political leaders were printed for distribution. Taking three feet of paper as an average for the amount used in each speech, a grand total of 144,000,000 feet, or 125,337 miles, of paper were used in printing these speeches. Some of the speeches, however, ran 36 feet long, and three feet per speech is considered a very conservative estimate.

In printing this vast number of speeches, all of which appeared at one time or another in the Congressional Record, it is estimated that 3,000 pounds of ink were used and 600 pounds of paste in putting the pages together. The labor involved in the printing of the speeches cost about \$5,000 and the paper used \$43,000.

Of course, the members of congress themselves, the campaign committees and individuals paid for the printing of these speeches. So the cost of the labor, the paper, the ink, the paste, etc., was not charged up to Uncle Sam. But there are certain features of the business of printing and circulating such speeches which must be charged to the government, among them the transmission of the speeches through the mails free under frank—no small item. Also, the work of printing reports for the government departments was delayed along with other government work while the speeches for campaign use were reeled out by the mile.

Goddess of Liberty on Capitol Is 53 Years Old

ON THE second of December the Goddess of Liberty, which surmounts the dome of the capitol, was fifty-three years old. The average woman of fifty-three, although a bit reconciled to her age, tries in many little ways to make her friends think she is just a few years younger, but Miss Columbia cannot resort to a subterfuge of this sort, for both her age and weight are fully known.

She was erected in 1863, when Washington was under military rule during the Civil war; she was the work of Thomas Crawford, the sculptor, and was cast at Bladensburg, Md. She is made entirely of bronze, and the points of her crown are tipped with gold. The statue weighs 14,985 pounds and is 19 feet 6 inches in height. The history of the goddess is an interesting one. The statue was cast in five sections, which were placed together under the direction of an Italian. The task was so skillfully executed that it was impossible to discern the cracks. When it was desired to take the statue apart in order to get it up on the dome of the capitol, a negro, recently emancipated, offered to find the seams. He adjusted block and tackle and, after much twisting and turning, his efforts were rewarded and the Goddess of Liberty showed her seams. So, after remaining a year in front of the capitol, she was placed on top of the dome and a national salute of 13 guns was fired simultaneously by 12 stations in honor of Miss Columbia. She has been struck by lightning several times, but, as she was fully prepared for such an emergency, no damage was done.

Thoughtful Bobbie.
When Bobbie went to see his grand-mother he was much interested in whatever went on in the kitchen. One morning she said to him: "I'm going to make you a nice little pie in a saucer, Bobbie, all for yourself. Don't you think I'm pretty good to take so much trouble?" Bobbie thought about it a moment. "Grandma," he said, "mamma told me not to be a bother, and if it's going to be any trouble you can just as well make my pie the regular size."

Facts Versus Fancy.
"I am sure, Maggie," said the mildly critical mother-in-law, "that any woman ought to be satisfied with what John says he gives you." "So would I be with what he says he gives me," snapped Maggie.

Ingenious Calculator.
A calculator that shows the money values of one country in the terms of several others and applies the values to various weights and measures has been invented by an Englishman.

A Mother's Burden

A mother who suffers kidney trouble, finds it hard to keep her daily work. Lameless, backache, sharp pains when stooping and "blue," nervous or dizzy spells, make home life dreary. Active kidneys bring back vigor, health and a pleasure in family duties. If the kidneys are weak try a box of Doan's Kidney Pills.

A Missouri Case

Mrs. G. K. Reymann, 363 W. Main St., Richmond, Mo., writes: "I have been down with kidney trouble for several months. I had severe headaches and dizzy spells and my kidneys didn't act as they should. Finally I felt so run down that I couldn't do any housework. Three boxes of Doan's Kidney Pills fixed me up in good shape and before long I was rid of my troubles. I have had no sign of the complaint since."

Get Doan's at Any Store, 50c a Box
DOAN'S KIDNEY PILLS
FOSTER-MILBURN CO., BUFFALO, N. Y.

Natural Suggestion.
"The accounts say that the new Emperor Karl was deeply touched at the first interview with his ministers of state."
"Great Scott! Did they try to borrow from him that quick?"

THIS IS THE AGE OF YOUTH.
You will look ten years younger if you darken your ugly grizzly, gray hairs by using "La Creole" Hair Dressing.—Adv.

The General Craze.
"Now that aviators are doing such wonderful things, everybody is crazy about flying."
"Yes, I noticed even old Gabby is putting wings to his house."

TORTURING SKIN TROUBLES

That Itch, Burn and Disfigure Healed by Cuticura. Trial Free.

Bathe with plenty of Cuticura Soap and hot water to cleanse and purify. Dry lightly and apply Cuticura Ointment to soothe and heal. This stops itching instantly, clears away pimples, removes dandruff and scalp irritations, and heals red, rough, sore hands.

Free sample each by mail with Book. Address postcard, Cuticura, Dept. L, Boston. Sold everywhere.—Adv.

As Times Change.
"A man used to be afraid his wife would find out that he had been to see a big spectacular show with a bullet."
"Yes, and now he's regarded as an inconsiderate person if he doesn't go to every one that comes along and take the entire family."

SOAP IS STRONGLY ALKALINE
and constant use will burn out the scalp. Cleanse the scalp by shampooing with "La Creole" Hair Dressing, and darken in the natural way, those ugly, grizzly hairs. Price, \$1.00.—Adv.

Pressing Question.
We see that the slinky person is to be the style throughout the coming season, and we suppose we shall soon be face to face again with the problem of where a fashionable matron of about forty-two size puts herself when she gets into her new gown.—Ohio State Journal.

To Drive Out Malaria

And Build Up The System
Take the Old Standard GROVE'S TASTELESS CHILL TONIC. You know what you are taking, as the formula is printed on every label, showing it is Quinine and Iron in a tasteless form. The Quinine drives out malaria, the Iron builds up the system. 50 cents.

Cold Calculation.
"Quality is more to be desired than quantity," said the man of artistic inclinations.
"Not always," replied the practical person. "A diamond is pure carbon. But you can't get the action from it that you can from a ton of coal."

COVERED BY ALL
but possessed by few—a beautiful head of hair. If yours is streaked with gray, or is harsh and stiff, you can restore it to its former beauty and luster by using "La Creole" Hair Dressing. Price \$1.00.—Adv.

Working Abandoned Holdings.
Many holdings in Brazil which have been abandoned for nearly a century are now being worked and made productive. That of the Carmelite monks, where there is now settled a colony of foreign agriculturists, and that of the Benedictine monks, worked by the monks themselves, are among these. The ancient industry of sugar planting has been revived to an extent never before known in some states. Many of the municipalities have revived and again placed under cultivation old and abandoned coffee fazendas.

It must be a great relief to some men when their wives become widows.

You can cure that cold in a day. Take—

HILL'S CASCARA QUININE

The old family remedy—in tablet form—safe, sure, easy to take. No opiates—no unpleasant after effects. Cures colds in 24 hours—Grip in 3 days. Money back if it fails. Get the genuine box with Red Top and Mr. Hill's picture on it—25 cents. At Any Drug Store.

DRIVE PAIN AWAY!

With Hunt's Lightning Oil. Rheumatism, neuralgia, sore muscles, headaches, cuts, burns and bruises, and all other aches and pains. Lightning Oil is applied to affected parts. No other treatment brings such quick and soothing relief. Get a bottle of this valuable home remedy today. It is sold in 15-cent bottles, or the A. B. RICHARDS MEDICINE CO., Dept. 10, will send you on receipt of price.

MISSION STATION AT BARAKA

Pleasing Sight Witnessed by Christians in the Heart of Darkest Africa.

Very charming it is at this station in the old house among the old trees looking out upon the river and beyond this to sunset, Jean Kenyon Macneil writes in the Atlantic. And very encouraging it is to a missionary from a young station to see these thousands of Christians, the fruit of half

a century of missionary labor, who have come to be a people of pleasant and orderly life, living in their gray bamboo houses after no mean fashion, with books upon their shelves and clean linen upon their beds. Some of the houses are papered and some have cement floors; in some there are pictures of miscellaneous subjects upon the walls and fading photographs of the family when they were bride and groom.

Of a Sunday the little church is full of a decent congregation who have come up to the house of God with pleasure and with pride, dressed, I suspect, with a good deal of conscious vanity, and observing solemn rules of conduct with great good cheer and complacency. Do not despise this joy in form and order; the house after having been swept is furnished after a new fashion that passeth not away, and how shall the owner conceal his delight? I call at the houses of Christians and go about to the village prayer-meetings just for the pleasure of seeing these comely Mpongwe women

move about in their enriched circumstances—themselves enriched in mind and heart and spirit beyond all counting.

Looking for Improvement.
"Bliggins says he's an anarchist."
"Hope he is."
"Why?"
"Even anarchists have some feelings. When they find they're compelled to associate with a man like Bliggins, maybe some of them will reform."