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CHRISTMAS.

Christmas as a church festival, commemorative of an event that ushered in a new creed and a new civilization, has a distinct importance and interest. To the student of history, sacred as well as secular, it will always present a problem rich in the variety of its aspects and full of mystery as to its inception, its progress and ultimate solution.

There is an unfailing source of mysterious wonder in the thought that around the cradle of an infant should be grouped the most tremendous material and moral transformation in the history of the human race; that from it should have radiated, and to it be traceable, occurrences that involved all that is noblest, all that is most cruel in human nature. For, whether Jesus Christ be regarded as part and parcel of the Deity, or only as the greatest of humanitarians and reformers the world has ever known, the interest and attractiveness of His personality are supreme, in that His work was finished at a period of life when that of other reformers generally begins.

With all this vast interest surrounding it, however, Christmas is more prominent in its relation to the social than to the religious life. By almost universal consent it has come to be acknowledged as a season for social amenities, when all occupations, all business of whatever nature, are to be subordinated to the best and kindliest instinct of the heart—that of giving and making life pleasant for others. This characteristic of Christmas reaches beyond the limits of sect or creed, for Jew as well as Gentile conforms to the usages it has brought into existence.

The peculiarity of Christmas is that the generous impulses it awakens are not confined to the narrow circle of the family, nor yet merely embrace personal friends. Few people but feel the desire at this season to contribute something to the happiness of others. The spirit of giving gifts is in the air. Whether it is because we are "animals of habit," or that something that lies dormant in us all the year round awakens at this time and transforms us, the fact remains that almost everybody wants to give something to somebody else. From this feeling have sprung the sweetest charities, and because of it the lives of the poor and unfortunate are made to take on a brief radiance of happiness.

In the practice of this all-embracing kindliness lies the most perfect enjoyment of the season, and in the fullest possible exercise of it rests the safest assurance of A Merry Christmas.

THE SOUTHERN RACE WAR.

It is doubtful if ever the white people of the South can be reconciled to negro suffrage. Nor is it likely that the deep-seated prejudice of the colored race will permit of reconciliation, were such a thing possible. Either one or the other must rule, and if it be the white race their supremacy must be absolute or there can never be peace and quiet.

Generally speaking, Southern whites are impulsive, quick to resent, and prone to use weapons when aroused to anger. Naturally brave and impetuous, they fight rather than attempt to conciliate. For all time they have looked upon the negro as an inferior being, and neither law nor argument can alter or change their opinion. To them the negro will always be an animal, and with them his life is of but little more value.

On the other hand the negro is prejudiced against the whites. Years of slavery and countless experiences of ill treatment have filled him with a hatred that needs but opportunity to make itself felt. The drink habit and in many instances a gross ignorance exaggerates this feeling, and oftentimes develops abuses that might otherwise have been unknown. Added to this we find that a certain class of whites take advantage of the negro's ignorance to use him as a political catspaw, which, of course, gives greater cause for widening the breach between the races.

Time may solve the negro problem of the South, but at present it is folly to talk of negro equality with the white. Southern chivalry forbids such a compromise and society has placed its ban on the recognition of the negro in any capacity except as a servant, an inferior. So long as this condition exists no effort on the part of negro sympathizers will be of a voice in giving him full and unrestricted suffrage. It is better, then, to face and try to change conditions by natural methods than to keep up this race war force of arms and deeds of violence.

Every friend of the Southern negro should advise a rise in the scale of humanity by means of a development of the intellect. This can only be done by a liberal education. Already the negro race has accomplished wonders within the few short years that mark its liberation, but there is still chance for improvement, especially in the South. Drop the bottle and take up the spelling book, lay aside the revolver and use the arithmetic, let politics go and take care of the schoolhouse, should be the injunction of all persons who feel a genuine interest in the negro's welfare.

For until the negro proves his title to equality with the white by force of intellect he must remain in a subordinate position, and must also renounce his right to hold responsible office and become a factor in Southern politics.

HELP IS NEEDED.

Word comes that there is much suffering among the poor of the city. At the headquarters of all those organizations that make it their business to relieve the necessities of the poor, the demands made upon their resources are far in excess of the means they have to satisfy them. Many of the cases brought to their notice are of persons too proud to make known their condition, and whose needs are revealed only through some neighbor's kindness and forethought.

Two things must be done, and, by the way, this is just the season to do them. Money, food, clothing, bedding, and everything else that goes to make the inner and the outer man comfortable should be sent without delay to whatever charitable organization the donors may prefer. Next, everybody ought to make it his business to look up those that are in need, but too sensitive to make their wants known, and bring the cases of such to the attention of those who will take pleasure in furnishing the relief that is most needed. In that way a great deal of suffering can be alleviated.

It is this personal service after all that counts most in the rendering of practical charity. Of course it involves trouble and inconvenience; it is not nearly as easy as just drawing a check and letting somebody else do the rest, but it is the best and truest of charity. It makes the poor, the worthy poor, feel that they are not looked upon as a burden to be shaken off in the quickest and easiest manner possible, but that they are regarded with sympathy and with that appreciation of their situation which arises from a conviction that their condition is owing to no fault of their own.

Work is scarce; winter is here; so is Christmas. Three potent reasons why everybody that can should help.

BLESS our sweethearts, their "Merry Christmas" is as welcome as a gold mine, no matter if it is accompanied with a mustache cup or a pair of slippers, and their smiles are so sweet that we can never tell them that the necktie is out of date or that we never smoke two-fers.

SURELY there has been great progress made in medical science. We now have vaccine for smallpox, bacilla innoculation for consumption, anti-toxine for diphtheria, the Pasteur treatment for hydrophobia, the gold cure for inebriety and duck hunting for gout.

IF CONGRESS really wants to be a public benefactor, let it enact a law inflicting the death penalty on all persons who revive that chestnut concerning a green Christmas, a fat graveyard, and a lean pocketbook.

THE sensation published that the Greene family have been outlaws for a hundred years fades to a myth when we think of that little garden episode that set Adam adrift in the cold, cold world.

IT is desirable that the Meteorological Bureau should immediately add to its service a department that shall give prompt information concerning the flight and whereabouts of the wild duck.

A CHRISTMAS conundrum—yesterday the people had it, to-day merchants are counting it, to-morrow banks will loan it at 8 per cent., next week Congress will quarrel over it and all time to come newspaper men wish they could hear it rattle in their inside pockets.

THE longest footrace on record is now in progress across the Empire of China. It is safe to bet on native talent.

SOME persons seem to be natural gamblers. An Ohio minister, while preaching a sermon "on ways that are dark," startled his congregation with an illustration of his skill at throwing three-card monte. Of course no money was up.

THE worst is to be feared. Citizen Traine has brought his psychic force to bear on Wall street and announces that there is soon to be a panic.

EVIDENTLY Rev. Parkhurst did not refer to New York city when he said that "heaven is a locality."

THERE are people who believe that if a way could be found to reduce the stature of the New York police to correspond with their estimate of honesty a fortune could be made in exhibiting them as midgets.

TO SEE an amateur girl minstrel cork up when off the stage just refer to her shapeliness when dressed in short skirts.

AS THE world grows older and people become more enlightened a greater effort is made to harmonize surroundings. This is best illustrated in the latest fad for the use of queer shaped beer mugs, evidently to correspond with the face that uses them.

TUT, TUT, TUT! Don't feel discouraged, Senator George. The Democratic party has not made a bad record. Fifty ducks a day is far above the average.

INDIAN SCHOOLS TO GO WEST.

The Committee Likely to Report in Favor of Important Changes.

The subcommittee of the House Committee on Indian Affairs has been considering the appropriation bill for several days, and will report it soon after the holidays. There is a proposition before the committee to make a reduction in the expense of the Eastern schools.

Representative Wilson, of Washington, who is a member of the subcommittee preparing the bill, says that there is a general feeling that the Indians can be better educated on their reservations in the West.

The committee has also been considering what to do with the improvements made by the churches for contract schools, and it has about been determined to appropriate $60,000 to buy a certain number of them, and to begin acquiring them at about 20 per cent. each year. These improvements in the way of school buildings were made by the churches when the contract system was in force. Now that it has been determined to discontinue the contract schools as rapidly as possible, members of the committee believe that it will be fair to the churches and a good thing for the government to acquire the buildings which are suitable for school purposes if they can be obtained at a reasonable price. If these purchases are provided for they will be under the direction of the Secretary of the Interior. Secretary Smith has been asked to furnish the committee with information as to the desirability of acquiring these buildings.

of a Sneak Thief—Henry Blandy yesterday reported to police headquarters at thieves stole from his residence, No. 1447 street northwest, eight yards of black silk goods.

CLOAKROOM AND GALLERY.

Senator Allison is not to be caught by chaff. He is wary of interviewers.

"I see," said one of his newspaper friends, as the Senator walked down Pennsylvania avenue the other day, "I see a good deal of talk about a gentleman of your name as a Presidential possibility or probability."

"H'm," said the Senator, as he walked briskly along, "I see that you ride a bicycle; wonder if I could learn to ride one. Guess I'm too old. Pity, though, for I hear its splendid exercise."

And he swung along as though nobody had said President.

Here is the way a measly New York reporter says our own Col. Fellows received the news of Gov. Flower's action on the charges against him. It seems that Col. Fellows was connected in New York with the Governor's office in Albany by telephone, and the conversation with Private Secretary Williams went something like this at the New York end:

"Yes? Ah, yes. Yes. Yes. Ah, yes. I know. I mean has an official copy been sent? Oh. Ah, yes. Then it will be sent down during the day? Yes. Yes. Well, please accept my thanks. Yes. Goodbye."

Then Col. Fellows beamed and announced to the waiting newspaper friends that the charges against him had been dismissed by Gov. Flower.

"They say that Mr. Brosius is the only member who has ever had a tariff speech printed in Japanese," said somebody, in the hearing of that gentleman yesterday.

"That's all right," said Mr. Brosius, with a smile. "People who want to make remarks about that speech can do it, but don't you see what it accomplished? Look at the record the Japs have made since they read that speech."

The fellow who supposes he is going to persuade Senator Harris to talk about executive secrets when he doesn't want to by appealing on account of the press or the public, gets badly left. Somebody was struggling to get some information about the charges against Mr. Clarke, of his state, nominated for judge.

"I have nothing to say," was his sententious reply.

"But the press and the public are very anxious to know about this matter," persisted the questioner.

"The press and the public can be ——" replied the senator. "I will inform Mr. Clarke of the charges against him, because he has a right to know them, but as for the press and the public, they are not in it, so far as I am concerned."

The genuine Tennesseeans are not particularly proud of the "statesman" who proposes to walk 350 miles to take his seat in the legislature of that State, as already related in THE TIMES.

"I don't think any real Tennesseean would be guilty of such a thing, at least no Tennessee Democrat," said Representative Richardson. "The fact is this man is a Massachusetts Yankee Republican, who lives way up in the east end of the State, and this, I suppose, accounts for it."

Ex-Representative West, of New York, whose short, stout figure and ruddy English face are well remembered by many people of Washington, indulges in a little Christmas screed in a New York paper. He remarks that his ideal Christmas is to have all his children and grandchildren around him on that day, but that while not exactly superstitious, he will not consent to thirteen at table on Christmas Day.

"I remember a Christmas dinner," says he "at which I found, just as I was about to attack the turkey, that there were thirteen at table, so I refused to go on until I had seated two of the children at a side table, and then everything proceeded smoothly. I am not a bit superstitious, but there is one thing I will not do, and that is to sit at table with thirteen."

RECIPROCITY OF TRANSFERS.

Pending Negotiations of Street Car Line Officials on That Subject.

There are now pending negotiations between the Eckington and Belt Line roads with the Washington and Georgetown road and other roads with a view of securing reciprocity in the matter of transfers. The Eckington line had withdrawn its transfer arrangement with the Washington and Georgetown road for the reason that the new or more existing organization was not satisfactory to the former line.

In a letter to President Dunlop, of the Washington and Georgetown road, Manager Schoepf, of the Eckington and Belt line, suggested that transfers be made at Fifteenth street and Fourteenth street for both his lines with the Washington and Georgetown and branches. Owing to the absence of a quorum of the board of directors of the Washington and Georgetown Company at their last meeting no action was taken.

Manager Schoepf is also desirous of entering into a similar arrangement with the Metropolitan line, and with that object in view held a conference yesterday with President Phillips. After the conference Mr. Phillips was seen by a TIMES reporter, to whom he said that, while there had been a conference for the purpose stated, the conferees had not reached a conclusion, or, as Mr. Phillips put it, the arrangement was not yet a finality. There was no disagreement, and it is quite likely that further negotiations will end to the advantage of both companies and to the public. Manager Schoepf is of the opinion that the act which authorizes the Metropolitan Company to change its motive power contains also the legal obligation to provide for transfers for the accommodation of the public at as early a date as possible.

NEWSBOYS' XMAS DINNER.

It Will Take Place Thursday Afternoon at Marini's Hall.

The annual Christmas dinner given by the managers of the Newsboys' and Children's Aid Society bids fair to assume much greater proportions than ever before. Union Division, No. 8, Knights of Pythias, have tendered the use of Marini Hall, which will furnish double the table and seating capacity of the rooms of the home, No. 927 E street, where the dinners have hitherto been served, and the donations are coming in in quantity and variety in a most promising manner.

Mr Charles C. Dulin not only furnishes the ice cream, but will superintend in person the serving of it. The Board of Children's Guardian's, many of whose proteges are inmates of the home, are expected to participate in the services. Contributions of money, turkeys, and fruit, enough to make 200 children realize that this is the holiday season, are respectfully solicited. Donations received at this office will be acknowledged in THE TIMES and forwarded to the Christmas dinner committee, No. 927 E street northwest.

LIABILITIES EXCEED ASSETS.

Albert L. Pitney, the Hardware Dealer, Driven to the Wall by Misfortune.

Albert L. Pitney, the hardward dealer at Eleventh and E streets northwest, yesterday made an assignment for the benefit of creditors to Charles T. Yoder. He says the step is due to the business depression and to various losses and misfortunes. His assets amount to $4,517 and liabilities, $18,248. The assets are stock, $3,000; fixtures, furniture, horse and wagon, $240; book accounts and notes, $1,277.

The liabilities are a note and interest secured by a chattel trust to A. W. Bingham and Mr. Doyle, trustees, $4,335; notes with interest from Pitney & Shannon to M. E. Pitney, $7,721; a note to M. E. Pitney, $925.97; rent of store, three months, $250; rent to J. F. Barbour, $100; W. H. Cole & Son, Baltimore, $1,907; Dufree & Co., Baltimore, $376; Alfred Ely & Co., Baltimore, $279.

Deadly Work of a Vandal—The mounted police are looking for a miscreant who has been engaged in poisoning horses and dogs in the country about Anacostia of late. Henry Matthews, who lives near Giesboro, lost two valuable horses and a pair of hunting dogs by strychnine poisoning during the past week, and three other horses are in a critical condition.

Lunacy Cases—Inquisitions in lunacy were ordered yesterday in the following cases: Wilbur F. Kellogg, upon affidavit by C. H. Kellogg, of No. 2820 Pennsylvania avenue northwest; William Taylor and Aloysius Reeves, on information from Dr. Stoutenburg.

$13.50

is our price for a FINE BLUE KERSEY OVERCOAT—that's up to 'high water mark' in cut, fit, and finish. Has a broad velvet collar and satin lining in the sleeves. 'Twill cost you $18 or more elsewhere.

☞ Your money back if not satisfactory.

GEO. SPRANSY,
"The Reliable Clothier,"
434 7th St. N. W.

SOCIAL SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

Christmas day in the White House will be quietly spent by the President's family, so far as outside visitors are concerned. So far as the children are concerned, it will be a gala occasion, as they are now both old enough to appreciate the fact that an avalanche of toys and gifts of every description has been showered upon them by persons known and unknown alike to fame and to their parents. Dinner will be served late, in the private dining-room. Mrs. Perrine, who is at present visiting Mrs. Cleveland, will be present, and add by her society to the pleasure of the occasion.

In the private portion of the White House there is an abundance of decorations suitable to the great Christian festival celebrated at this time. There is holly and mistletoe with garlands of crowsfoot, and Christmas stars and wreaths ad libitum.

In the library the children's Christmas tree is a thing of gorgeous reality, but contrary to published accounts of a party on Christmas afternoon there will be no invited company of the children of the Cabinet to enjoy the pleasure of gazing at and admiring the tree on which so much thought and care has been lavished. The duty of putting the tree in place and supplying it with the requisite amount of glistening ornaments always devolves upon Mr. Pfister, the President's gardener, who invariably proves himself equal to the occasion in this as in other matters of decoration.

In addition to the many glistening balls with which the tree is decorated there is showered over its branches a glistening mass of fine tinsel thread that gives it the appearance of having been sprinkled with sparks. About the base of the tree are spread the gifts whose bulk makes it inconvenient to hang them upon the branches. These, of course, form a fine array well calculated to charm the hearts and catch the fancy of the two little girls for whom they are intended.

The first thing this morning the children will have the delight of inspecting the stockings hung for them by the chimney, so that so far as they are concerned the day from the start to the finish will be one of unalloyed delight.

The Secretary of the Treasury and Mrs. Carlisle have a happy household with them to celebrate Christmas, and for the purpose of adding to their ordinary programme for dinner will not have to go outside for guests other than those now in the house. Their son, William Carlisle, with his wife and three children, has arrived from Chicago, and this addition to the family circle will be further enlarged by the presence of Mrs. Herndon, of Alabama, who has been their guest for some weeks. Last Christmas the gifts brought to Washington by Mrs. Carlisle's oldest granddaughter, her little namesake, Jane, were made by the little girl herself who, shortly before that time, had taken the prize for needlework in one of the Chicago schools. This morning, when the family come down to breakfast, they will find their Christmas presents piled beside their respective places. For the accommodation of the many that could not be placed upon the breakfast table, there is reserved one of the side tables and the day will be one of rejoicing generally, as the number of gifts prepared for each by members of the family and friends outside has been very large.

The Short Story Club will meet at The Strathmore Arms, northwest corner of Eleventh and K streets northwest, on Wednesday evening, at 8 o'clock. Miss Gertrude V. Withington will read a story. Members and invited guests are requested to be prompt in attendance, that the exercises, which will be of a varied and interesting nature, may not be interrupted.

Postmaster General and Mrs. Bissell will have with them at Christmas dinner the Secretary of State and Mrs. Gresham, the latter having recently returned from Chicago. For the little daughter of the house the presents sent in from far and near have been enough to almost start a toy shop, and apparently have left nothing to be desired on the part of the little lady for whose pleasure they have been selected. If she should be minded to set up a doll show during the holidays, she will have abundant material at hand with which to start the enterprise.

The Secretary of War and Mrs. Lamont will have a quietly informal dinner to-day. Yesterday afternoon the children, who for weeks past have been preparing a treat for their parents, rendered a little French comedy in the front drawing-room. In addition to the Secretary and Mrs. Lamont, the only spectators and auditors were Mrs. Cleveland, Ruth, and Mrs. Perrine. For to-day there is a fine large tree in the library upstairs, where the three young daughters have spent much time within the past few days getting everything in readiness, and little Frances especially has been interested in providing every facility for the advent of Santa Claus during the night of Christmas eve.

Attorney General and Mrs. Olney, with Mrs. Minot and her young son, will spend Christmas quietly. That is, the family will endeavor to do so, but as Master Frank will find many things arranged for his acceptance, when he opens his eyes in the morning, for which he has long sighed, there is likely to be considerable hilarity on his part that will last throughout the day.

Secretary and Mrs. Hoke Smith will give their children a royal good time on Christmas Day, after the good old Southern style. The house will be decorated with Christmas greens, and Christmas cheer will prevail from cellar to garret. The Secretary's parents, Dr. and Mrs. Smith, and Mrs. Cobb, mother of Mrs. Smith, are spending Christmas with the Secretary's family.

Secretary and Miss Herbert, no less than Mr. and Mrs. Micou, will endeavor to make Christmas Day of the present year a memorable one to the young son of the latter couple. The Christmas dinner will be served with the accessory of every delightful dish that marks the table on Christmas Day in the South.

The Brazilian minister and Mme. de Mendonca will give their third musicale on the evening of the 5th of January, from 9 to 12 o'clock.

Mrs. Philip C. Johnson and Miss Johnson have issued cards for a tea, from 5 to 7 o'clock, on the afternoon of January 2 at the Portland.

Miss Ella Richards, daughter of Gov. Richards, of Montana, will be the guest of Miss Mamie Stuart, of Capitol Hill, during the holidays.

Several Christmas Eve Penalties—In the police court yesterday William Stanton was sent to the grand jury in $500 bonds for second offense petit larceny, his latest theft being two bushels of corn from Shelton Harvey. A sentence of thirty days in jail was imposed upon John W Gray for assaulting Anna V. Gray, his wife. George W. Hill struck Ella Robinson and was assessed $10 or thirty days. James Blair participated in an affray and was fined $10 or one month in jail. Pinkney Talburt, colored, cruelty to animals, fined $5.

Coffin as a Christmas Gift—William Gordon, a muscular colored man, assaulted his wife Mary by knocking her down, and then promised to give her a coffin for a Christmas gift. "I'll kill you if it is the last thing I ever do," said the infuriated husband, "and then see that you fit the coffin. William will court solitude in the District jail for the next two months.

CHRISTMAS RULED 'CHANGE.

Hence It Was One of the Dullest of the Year.

NEW YORK, Dec. 24.—This was one of the dullest days of the entire year. The Stock Exchange and the speculative fraternity paid more attention to the Christmas merry-making than they did to the buying or selling of stocks. There was a holiday air about the street and few of the brokers' offices even made a pretense of doing business. There was a general grumbling at the refusal of the governing committee to close the Stock Exchange to-day as petitioned for by a majority of the members, and for all practical purposes the Exchange might just as well have been closed, the trading being almost entirely professional and without the slightest animation.

Only two stocks were traded in to an amount over 10,000 shares, to wit: Distilling and Sugar. The entire Granger group figured in the transactions for only 8,000 shares, and General Electric had 7,600 to its credit. The rest of the list was unutterably dull except Reading, of which 4,400 shares were sold.

At the opening of business the market was fairly firm but very weak. In the last hour the trading was irregular, but at the close a fairly steady tone prevailed, the greater part of the list, however, showing declines compared with the closing quotations of Saturday.

New York Stock Exchange.

Furnished by Silsby & Co., bankers and brokers, Metropolitan Bank Building, Fifteenth street, opposite Treasury, Washington, D. C.

	Ope.	High	Low	Closing
A.T. & S.F	4⅜	4½	4	4¼
Chesapeake & Ohio	17¼	17¼	17⅛	17¼
C., B. & Quincy	71¼	71¼	71⅛	71¼
Chicago Gas	72	72	71⅝	71⅝
Del. Lack. and Western	161	162¼	161	162
Distillers & Cattle Feed	9¾	10⅛	9¾	10¼
Erie	10	10	10	10
General Electric Co.	33¾	34⅛	33⅛	33⅝
Jersey Central	93½	93½	93½	93½
Louisville & Nashville	57⅝	59⅛	57¾	59¼
Lake Shore	137½	137½	137½	137½
Manhattan	101¼	101¼	101¼	101¼
Missouri Pacific	26⅞	27¼	26⅞	27¼
New England	32¼	32¼	32¼	32¼
Northwestern	97¾	98	97¾	97¾
National Lead	38¼	38⅝	38	38
New York Central	99⅛	99⅝	99	99⅛
Ontario & Western	15¼	15¼	15¼	15¼
Reading	15	16	15	15¾
Rock Island	61¾	62	61¾	62
Southern Pacific	18½	18½	18½	18½
Southern Railway	10¼	10⅛	10¼	10¼
St. Paul	57¾	58	57⅝	58
Sugar Trust	89⅛	89⅝	89	89⅛
Tennessee Coal & Iron	15¼	15¼	15	15½
Texas Pacific	9⅛	9⅜	9⅛	9⅜
Union Pacific	11¾	11¾	11¼	11¾
U. S. Cordage	7⅞	7½	6½	6½
Western Union	87½	87½	87	87½
Wabash preferred	13½	13⅝	13½	13⅝
Wheeling & L. E	10⅝	10⅝	10¼	10¼

Washington Stock Exchange.

Sales—regular call.—12 o'clock m.—United States 4s, registered, $1,250 at 113¼. American Security and Trust, 10 at 137. Lincoln Fire Insurance, 2 at 7¾.

Government bonds—U. S. 4s, registered, 113½ bid. U. S. 4s, coupon, 114⅝ bid. U. S. 5s, 117¼ bid, 118¼ asked.

District of Columbia Bonds—20-year fund 5s, 109 bid. 10-year fund 6s, gold, 110 bid. Water Stock 7s, 1901, currency, 117 bid. Water Stock 7s, 1903, currency, 129 bid. 3.65s, funding, currency, 114¼ bid, 116 asked. 3-65s, registered, 2-10s, 100 bid.

Miscellaneous Bonds—Washington and Georgetown Railroad conv. 6s, 1st, 133 bid. Washington and Georgetown Railroad conv. 6s, 2d, 133 bid. Metropolitan Railroad, conv 6s, 109 bid, 113 asked. Belt Railroad 5s 80 asked. Eckington Railroad 6s, 104½ bid. Columbia Railroad 6s, 102 asked. Washington Gas Company conv. 6s, 130 bid, 140 asked. U. S. Electric Light conv. 5s, 125 bid. Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone 5s, 99½ bid, 103 asked. American Security and Trust 5s, F. and A., 100 bid. American Security and Trust 5s, A. and O., 100 bid. Washington Market Company 1st 6s, 108 bid. Washington Market Company imp. 6s, 108 bid. Washington Market Company ext. 6s, 104 bid. Masonic Hall Association 5s, 101 bid. Washington Light Infantry 1st 6s, 99 bid. Washington Light Infantry 2d 7s, 99 bid.

National Bank Stocks—Bank of Washington, 300 bid, 310 asked. Bank of the Republic, 250 bid, 285 asked. Metropolitan, 280 bid, 290 asked. Central, 270 bid. Farmers and Mechanics, 190 bid, 200 asked. Second, 137 bid, 147 asked. Columbia, 132 bid, 145 asked. Capital, 115 bid. West End, 104 bid. Traders, 103 bid, 110 asked. Lincoln, 9½ bid. Ohio, 7½ bid.

Safe Deposit and Trust Companies—National Safe Deposit and Trust, 130 asked. Washington Loan and Trust, 118 bid, 122 asked. American Security and Trust, 135½ bid, 137 asked. Washington Safe Deposit, 100 asked.

Railroad Stocks—Washington and Georgetown, 240 bid, 305 asked. Metropolitan, 55 bid, 68 asked. Columbia, 57 bid, 65 asked. Belt, 18 bid. Eckington, 25 bid.

Gas and Electric Light Stocks—Washington Gas, 47½ bid, 48 asked. Georgetown Gas, 50 bid, 60 asked. U. S. Electric Light, *126 bid, 128 asked.

Insurance Stocks—Firemen's, 39 bid, 45 asked. Franklin, 45 bid, 55 asked. Metropolitan, 68 bid. Corcoran, 57 bid. Potomac, 70 bid. Arlington, 145 bid. German-American, 160 bid. National Union, 13 bid, 15 asked. Columbia, 13 bid, 15 asked. Riggs, 6¾ bid, 7½ asked. People's 1¾ bid, 6 asked. Lincoln, 7¾ bid, 8 asked. Commercial, 4½ bid.

Title Insurance Stocks—Real Estate Title, 108 bid, 118 asked. Columbia Title, 7¾ bid, 8 asked. District Title, 10 bid, 15 asked.

Telephone Stocks—Pennsylvania, 55 bid, 58 asked. Chesapeake and Potomac, 50 bid. American Graphophone, 4½ bid. 5½ asked. Pneumatic Gun Carriage, 40 bid.

Miscellaneous Stocks—Washington Market, 15 bid, 20 asked. Great Falls Ice, 120 bid, 145 asked. Norfolk and Washington Steamboat, 96 bid. Lincoln Hall, 85 bid, 100 asked. Inter-Ocean Building, 80 asked. Mergenthaler Linotype, 137 bid, 139 asked.

*Ex. div.

Live Stock Market.

NEW YORK, Dec. 24.—Beeves—Receipts, two days, 3,964 head; on sale, 29 cars. Opened slow, closed active, 10c. higher; native steers, poor to good, $3.75a4.80. European cables quote American steers at 10a11½; American sheep at 10¼a12½; American refrigerator beef at 7½a9. Exports to-day, 416 beeves, 1,280 sheep and 1,800 quarters of beef.

Calves—Receipts, two days, 436 head; firm; veals, poor to prime, 5a8c per pound; barnyard calves, $2.50a$3.12½, and Western calves, $2.12½a$3.50.

Sheep and lambs—Receipts, two days, 9,925 head; on sale, 28 cars; active, ½a¼c. higher; sheep, poor to prime, $2a$3; lambs, common to choice, $3a$4.50.

Hogs—Receipts, two days, 11,587 head. Market weak at $4.40a$4.75.

CHICAGO, Dec. 24.—Cattle that were good enough to sell for more than $4.25 were scattering, the average quality being very common.

Hogs—Few good heavy hogs were offered, and while best grades were quoted around $4.70, there was comparatively little business at over $4.45. At $4.40a4.55 bought the bulk of the lots averaging over 250 pounds, and $4.15a4.30 were the prices most frequently paid for light weights. There were many sales of pigs and light mixed stuff at $3.75a4.05. The close was dull.

SHEEP AND LAMBS—Sheep were quoted from $1.50a3.50, the bulk selling from $2.50a3.25. Lambs were quoted from $2.25a4.00 and the majority of the sales were at $3.25a3.75.

LOUIS' MERRY CHRISTMAS.

He Got Compliments Galore and a Twenty Dollar Bill Besides.

Master Louis Woulfe, a very bright little boy, messenger to Assistant Foreman J. M. A. Spottswood, of the Government Printing Office, was kindly remembered by the second division, (day) James E. Bergin, foreman, and a few outside friends during this Christmas season. A little while before the 1 o'clock whistle yesterday the lad received an envelope from Assistant Foreman Bergin, enclosed in which was a crisp $20 bill, accompanied by a brief note, in substance as follows:

"On behalf of the employes of the second division and a few outside friends, it is my pleasure to hand you the enclosed token of their appreciation of your many good qualities. Whatever use you make of it, let the gift itself be considered in the light of a merit mark for industry, politeness and integrity. Live up to your present line of conduct and manhood's Christmas will find you surrounded by friends who will appreciate you as we do."

Begged to Be Sent to Prison—A poorly clad and hungry looking man, past middle life, entered the Sixth precinct station-house Sunday night and begged to be sent to prison. His teeth were chattering with cold as he told Policeman Pat Creagh that he was homeless and friendless and nearly frozen from tramping about in the biting north wind. In the police court yesterday he gave his name as Lewis La Belle and repeated his request to Judge Kimball. He was asked by the Court how long a sentence he wanted in the workhouse. "Until next pension day," was the reply. A sentence of three months was entered against the poor unfortunate.

Deed of Trust on Dr. Easton's Church—The Eastern Presbyterian Church trustees yesterday gave a deed of trust on lot 25, square No. 864, and lots 41 and 42, on square 64, to secure $6,000 to Nicholas Erckhardt, Job Barnard and J. Whit Herron are the trustees. The lots conveyed are the site of the church at Maryland avenue and Sixth street northeast.

Not Open To-day.

We're glad enough to give this entire day to our faithful employes for the rest and recreation they have so loyally earned.

What we've planned to do this morning is the pleasantest task of all the year--the distribution of the hundred or more Overcoats to Washington's needy little chaps, and for which tickets have already been issued.

We want to say "thank you"--to you--the people--for making this by far the most prosperous holiday season we have ever had. May your share of good fortune grow as high as you've piled ours. That we are appreciative we'll leave the future to prove.

A "Merry Christmas" to you.

SAKS AND COMPANY

PENN. AVE. AND 7TH ST.

WAS THE ACT OF A BRUTE.

Murder of Mrs. Leahy by Joseph Beam Described Before the Coroner's Jury.

The story of the cruel murder of Anna Lola Leahy by her brutal step-father, Joseph A. Beam, was told in all its blood-curdling particulars yesterday, by eye-witnesses, before the coroner's jury. At the conclusion of the hearing, the unanimous opinion of all present was that the dead woman had been the victim of heartless revenge. The murderer was unmoved by the testimony, but eyed each witness like a cat watching a mouse.

Dr. J. J. Kinyoun was the first witness. He saw Mrs. Leahy when she rushed into the yard in her desperate efforts to escape from the bullets of the assassin. She raised her arms appealingly towards him, then with a shriek of despair fell to the ground face downward. The doctor started towards the prostrate woman, but retreated when Beam covered him with both pistols and shouted that he would kill any —— —— —— who entered the yard.

At this juncture Mrs. Josephine Beam, wife of the murderer, testified to hearing a noise down stairs, and afterwards finding the dead body of her daughter stretched out in the yard. She did not believe her husband was sane. His mind had been affected for several years owing to the excessive use of strong drink.

Lizzie Goetz, sister of the murdered woman, said she did not believe Beam was insane in either a greater or less degree. He drank a good deal at times, but she thought the deed was inspired through motives of revenge, because the family would not support Beam in his idleness and drunkenness. He had not done anything towards the support of his family for over five years.

Dr. Kinyoun resumed and told how the prisoner had flourished his revolver on the streets and threatened to kill anyone who interfered with him. On the way to the station house he tried to justify the foul act by saying he had killed a brute.

Congressman George D. Meiklejohn, of Nebraska, said he was on his way home from the Capitol, and when near the parking at Third street and Mary and avenue northeast he heard some one ask excited