

Christmas Eve in the Kitchen

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By ELEANOR E. KING.

IN THE kitchen of an apartment building in the city was seated a large, husky man with a little girl of about seven, on one knee, and a boy of perhaps six, on the other knee.

"But grandpa, I don't see why Santa Claus doesn't come," said little Doris. "We have waited so long out here in this old kitchen."

At this, Master Fred laboriously climbed down from his grandpa's knee and ran over to the kitchen door, and then to the window.

"Isn't it disgusting, grandpa? I can't even see him coming."

"Well, you know," said grandpa, as Fred climbed back upon his knee. "Santa Claus was a little boy once himself, and he knows how impatient little boys are. He has a hard time, though. Every year he has more boys and girls to bring toys to than he had the year before."

"But grandpa," said Doris, "I never knew Santa Claus was ever a little boy."

"Oh, yes," asserted grandpa firmly. "Once upon a time a group of fairies were playing around in an open place under some trees and they found a little baby asleep. They took the baby to their queen. The fairies loved the little baby, so they begged the queen to let them keep him and take care of him. The queen consented and the little boy 'Claus' thrived under the care of the fairies."

"S-h-h! Grandpa, I think he's coming, interrupted Fred as he again climbed down and ran to the window. "Nothing doing," he said with much disgust and gave a signal with his arm like the flagman does when telling a train to go.

Grandpa obeyed the signal and continued: "He lived under the care of the fairies until he grew to be quite a man. Then the queen ordered her fairy workmen to build 'Claus' a hut, as he was a mortal and could not live the way the fairies did, any longer. 'Claus' had lots of time when he got into his new home and he occupied it by carving things. The fairies had taught him how to whittle and he began making all sorts of toys.

"There was a village some distance from his hut and every time he heard of a little boy or girl down in the village who was sick, he took them one of his little toys. The children grew to like him ever so much. After a while he became acquainted with so many children that he found it hard to get around and see them all so often. He decided that he would work all year making toys, and then go around and find out which of the children had been good, and leave them presents.

"When the fairies heard of this plan they were delighted and gave Santa Claus four reindeer and a sled to help him out.

"After many years of this hard work Santa Claus began to show that he was growing old. The fairies realized that Santa Claus was a mortal and would die, so they—"

"Santa Claus has come," some one shouted from the front room.

"Hurry and finish, grandpa. What did they do?" queried Doris nervously.

"They gave Santa Claus everlasting life so that he could make little children happy always," finished grandpa.

"Oh, I am so glad," said both of the kiddies.

"Now, to see what Santa brought," said grandpa, and all three made a rush for the parlor.



DAY BEFORE CHRISTMAS.

Patience—Aren't you sorry you didn't do your Christmas shopping early?

Patience—Why, I'm going to. I'm going out early this evening to do it.

Removing Pencil Marks. Indelible pencil marks may be removed by soaking for a few minutes in alcohol and then washing in the regular way. The alcohol is just as effective after the material thus stained has been washed and ironed.

CAROLS AS PART OF THE CHRISTMAS SERVICE.

THE origin of the Christmas carol is uncertain. It is probably as old as Christianity. Indeed, Bishop Taylor in his "Great Exemplar" remarks that the first carol is the hymn of the angels to the shepherds in the plains of Bethlehem:

"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."

In the Fifteenth century carols were widely used throughout Europe. In fact, the first pieces printed by the very first printers were carols. In one of the oldest collections appears "The Boar's Head," which used to be sung as that old dish was carried to the table during the Christmas revelry:

The Boar's Head in hands I bring
With garlands gay and birds singing;
I pray you all to help me sing
"Qui estis in convivio!"

"The Boar's Head" represents one of the convivial carols or "joie chansons," which had their place at the feasts, dances and other gay festivities of the Christmas season.

In Shakespeare's time bands of itinerant singers used to wander about the streets and make their carols a pretext for getting money.

During the Eighteenth century carols declined greatly, and many of the

quaint old customs which had marked Christmas festivals for centuries became obsolete.

Carols still exist in parts of England.

In Wales it has been preserved to a still greater extent, while Ireland, too, has her Christmas caroling in time-honored style. France has its "Noels," and in Italy Christmas carols have been sung since the time of St. Francis of Assisi, who discovered the power of sacred song in the vernacular.

In churches all over the world many of the delightful old carols are now a part of the Christmas service.

Good Reason, Too.

At Christmas the children of a certain provincial school tried to collect money by going from house to house singing carols and snatches of hymns. Many complaints reached the rector's ears of bands of youngsters scampering through the first verse of "White Shepherds Watched," and then violently ringing the doorbell. So he instituted inquiries on the next occasion he visited the school.

"Why is it," he asked, "that, instead of singing the hymn in a reverent way, you scamper through one verse and then ring the bell?"

Silence reigned for a short time. Then a shrill voice from a small boy at the back of the room was heard in explanation:

"Please, sir, it's 'cause they always lets the dog loose at the second verse."

Hard Christmases for G. Washington

NO ONE has told us much about George Washington's Christmases. But from the record of his life we learn how he spent some of his Christmas days.

It was a very cold Christmastide in 1777 at Valley Forge. Snow was on the hills. Everything was frozen. And Washington's army was in great need of food, clothing and shelter.

Instructions of parties of men to go foraging for food are entered in the orderly book for that Christmas day at Valley Forge, which was anything but merry for Washington.

Still more desperate were the food conditions at Morristown, in 1779, when Washington reported that his army was on half allowance and near starvation. "We have never experienced a like extremity at any period of the war," declared Washington, pleading that food be sent.

There was a welcome Christmas present for Washington and his men at New Windsor in 1780 when a big Christmas wagon came with over 2,000 shirts and other comforts made by Philadelphia women patriots—things needed by the men under Washington, who were cheerfully suffering all sorts of hardship in order that this country might be free. The Philadelphia wom-

en also raised, last year, over \$300,000 in aid of the soldiers.

The fine old Colonial mansion (the Craigie house) in Cambridge, Mass., (now widely known as the home of Henry W. Longfellow), was the place where Washington spent his first Christmas as commander of the Revolutionary army in 1775. Mrs. Washington was there with him (as she was later at Valley Forge), and there was some pleasure in the midst of the heavy cares and responsibilities carried by the great Washington.

A year later Christmas day found Washington at the head of his 2,400 brave men making his celebrated crossing of the Delaware river, nine miles above Trenton. The snow and sleet were blinding, it is recorded, and the cold was intense. But hearts were brave.

Wherever he was at Christmastide, Washington was cheered with the thought that the cause of the struggling colonies would surely win. A few days before Christmas, 1776, he wrote to his older brother, John Augustine Washington: "Between you and me, our affairs are in a very bad situation. . . . However, under a full persuasion of the justice of our cause, I cannot entertain an idea that it will finally sink, though it may remain for some time under a cloud."

Washington must have had some very merry Christmases at Mount Vernon. There were no children of his own with whom Washington could romp. But we can easily imagine the big-hearted general putting on a

false beard of fuzzy white whiskers and slinging a pack over his back for the delight of the little ones in the neighborhood.

General Washington was truly the "Father of His Country," and we have a very good idea of the sort of holiday spirit in which he observed the "glad Christmastide" when our republic was in its infancy.

No one in all our bright history as a nation has handed down a more radiant Christmas message of hope and faith.

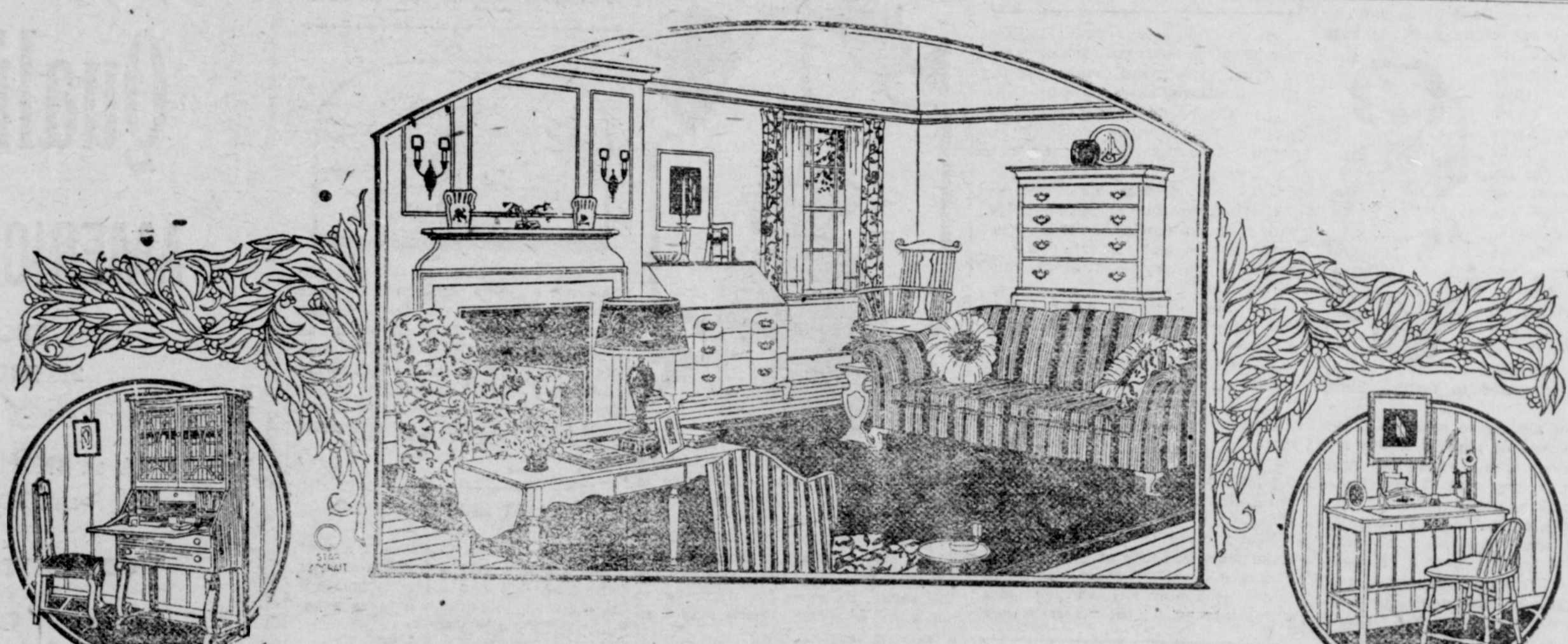
To Clean Leather Furniture.

Add a little vinegar to tepid water and wash the leather with a clean cloth; wipe dry. To polish apply the following: Whites of two eggs beaten slightly (not stiff) and mix with two teaspoonfuls of turpentine; rub with clean, dry cloth.

Charity in the Heart.

'Tis the season for kindling the fire of hospitality in the hall, the genial fire of charity in the heart.—Washington Irving.

Cream together two cupfuls of soft sugar and one-cupful of butter. Add the yolks of five eggs well beaten and a generous flavoring of vanilla. Sift two teaspoonfuls of baking powder and one-half a teaspoonful of soda with two cupfuls of flour. Add alternately the well-beaten whites of the five eggs and the prepared flour with enough more to make a soft dough. Roll thin and cut in small rounds, diamonds or squares.



Mid-Winter Fair and Xmas Sale of Furniture at Reductions of 20 to 40 per cent. Four Big Sales Days, Dec. 7 to Dec. 10th

VERY SPECIAL FOR WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7th.

- \$1.00 BROOMS 50c
- Reg. Seamless Tube Self Basting Aluminum Roaster \$1.49
- Reg. \$5.50 per doz. Cups and saucers at special price, ea 25c
- Universal Food Choppers, Large Family size. Reg. \$3 value at \$2.50
- Bargain, Regular \$8.50 All Copper Boilers priced special \$6.35
- Wringers, Washtubs, Wash Bds., Aluminum and Granite Wear at Bargain Prices.
- Bed Springs, Link Fabric Coil Double Deck Coil Yum Yum Springs as low as \$3.85.

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9x12 Size—Extra Special
—Another opportunity for the thrifty. Extra fine quality Axminster rugs for living and dining rooms; very attractive oriental, Chinese and conventional patterns, in tan, blue, gray, rose and beautiful combinations. The sale price

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\$5.95

—other mattresses to meet the most luxurious tastes at special low prices for this sale.

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WILLIAM AND MARY DINING SET

Consisting of Buffet, Extension Table, Six Chairs. Special for this sale \$149.50

Jacobean Quartered Oak Library Table

Carefully selected materials, sturdy construction. Low price for this sale \$29.85
Large selection of Library Tables.

Walnut and Quartered Oak Dining Table

With Chairs to match at prices that will interest the thrifty buyers.

Three-Piece Genuine American Walnut Bed Room Suit

Priced at, this sale \$89.50

DRESSERS

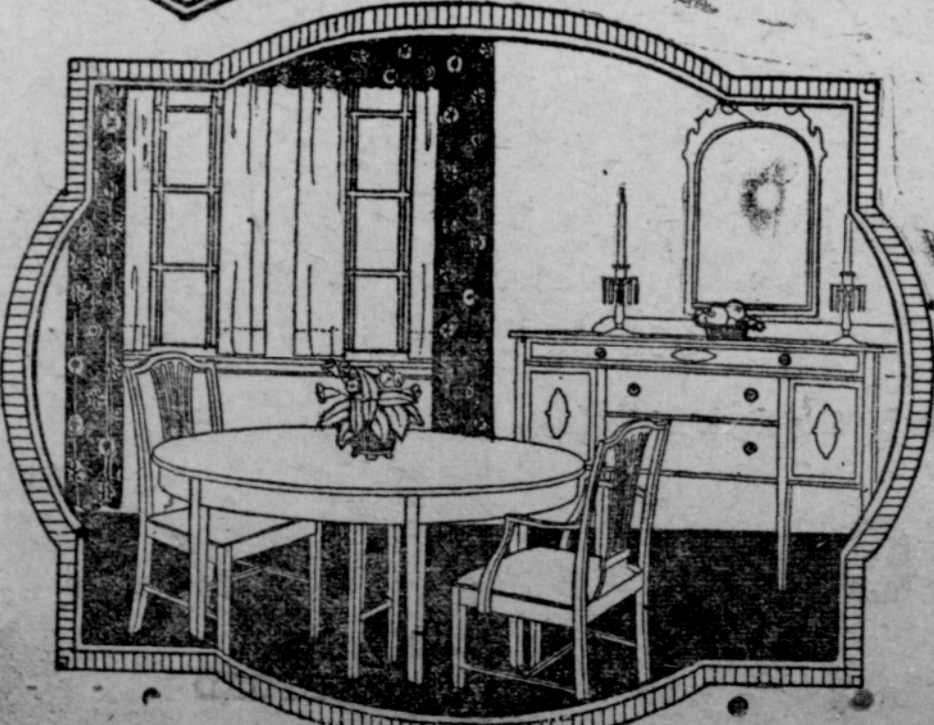
A number of odd Dressers, a few slightly marred in shipping, hardly noticeable, at real bargains.

—100 ROCKING CHAIRS—100

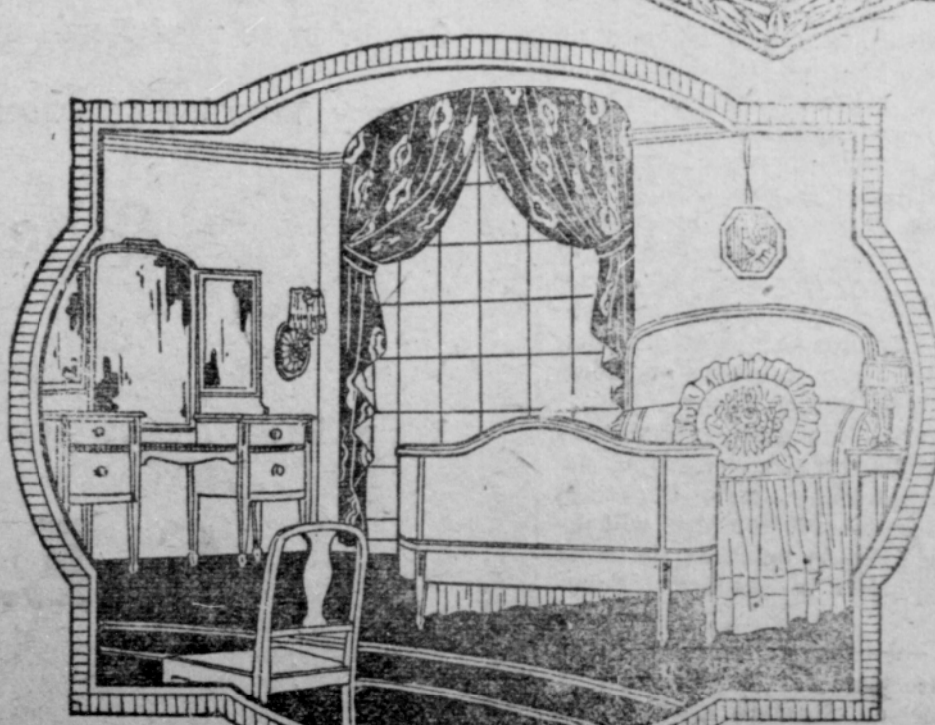
Quartered Sawed, Leather, Fibre Reed, Tapestry Upholstered, Leather Seated

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