



WASHINGTON CROSSING THE DELAWARE
Christmas Night 1776

THE METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART

Managers Kinney & Truax take pleasure in announcing the engagement of



The Holy City

With **LUELLA MOREY** as Salome

Direction. LECOMTE & FLESHER

GRANTS PASS OPERA HOUSE
One Night
MONDAY, DECEMBER 23

The Great story of **MARY MAGDALENE** dramatized and presented with all the gorgeous wealth of scenery and radiant splendor, that is required for a perfect production. BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT THE PRICES FOR THIS ENGAGEMENT WILL BE **50c 75c, \$1.00**

Special attention given to Mail Orders and out of town patrons
THEATRE PARTIES NOW FORMING
Seats on sale Saturday, December 21

America's Most Memorable Christmas.

By ROBERTUS LOVE.

[Copyright, 1907, by Robertus Love.]
THE most memorable Christmas in American history was that of 1776, the day on which Washington crossed the Delaware. As a matter of fact, Washington and his army crossed the Delaware four times during that same month, but it was the crossing on Christmas night that made vivid history. The picture of "Washington Crossing the Delaware," framed as a colored chromo or a black and white print, has been familiar to two generations of Americans. But how many of us know just why, how and where Washington crossed the Delaware, what bearing that movement had upon the destiny of America, who painted the famous picture from which the familiar chromos are made and where the original oil painting may be seen today?

Driven from Long Island and New York across "the Jerseys," Washington's defeated and discouraged army was pursued closely by the British under Cornwallis. Washington reached Trenton Dec. 2 and began preparations for crossing over into Pennsylvania. Collecting all the boats he could find, he sent his army across the river on the night of the 7th, following with the rear guard the next morning. Just as Cornwallis, as the historian Lossing puts it, "came down, with great pomp and parade, to the opposite shore."

Cornwallis expected to find boats and cross the river, capture Philadelphia, the capital of the struggling colonies, and end the rebellion in short order. But the wily Washington had destroyed all the boats which he could not take on the Pennsylvania shore for his own future use. The British general therefore decided to wait until the river froze, so that he could cross on the ice. Mild weather prevailed for a fortnight. In the meantime Washington had placed strong guards at several fords and ferries up and down the river, the enemy also posting detachments at important points on the New Jersey side. Washington, with a portion of his army, was encamped at Newtown, a little northeast of Bristol, Pa. The British garrison at Trenton consisted of about 1,500 Hessians and some British light horse under command of Colonel Rall, a gallant Hessian officer.

The capture of Philadelphia seemed so imminent that by advice of General Putnam, in command there, the Continental Congress retired to Lancaster. The situation was highly critical. The time of service for which most of Washington's men had enlisted would expire within ten days, and unless money could be had for their payment few of them would remain in the field. Many citizens who had espoused the patriot cause became discouraged and went over to the enemy. Cornwallis was so positive that the "rebels" were on their last legs and the war practically over that he went to New York with the intention of sailing for England on leave of absence.

Washington felt that some decisive blow must be struck. The British must be shown that the Americans will fight in their own homes. The Hessians must be encouraged to a demonstration of patriotic sentiment. A victory was planned. Washington's army was along the river, but he could not

duce some of his subordinate commanders to co-operate with him. They could not cross the river, they said. But Washington could and did. He proposed to go over and give the Hessians at Trenton a Christmas after-math in the way of a daylight surprise the morning after Christmas, knowing that the jolly Germans would be more or less demoralized by their bibulous manner of celebrating the anniversary. Washington's troops at Newtown were chiefly New Englanders. He had about 2,400 men and twenty pieces of artillery. The weather had turned much colder toward Christmas, and on the afternoon of that day a chill storm of snow and sleet began, lasting through the night. Washington's troops marched to McConkey's ferry in the snowstorm. McConkey's was a river-side inn on the New Jersey bank of the Delaware about nine miles above Trenton. The boats previously hidden by the Americans were collected at this



RALL TRIED TO RALLY HIS MEN.

point, opposite McConkey's house, and at dusk the soldiers began crossing. Everybody knows, of course, that "the river was full of floating ice," but Colonel Glover and his fishermen soldiers from Marblehead did not mind that. They knew how to guide boats amid cakes of ice. These Massachusetts fishermen were placed in charge of the boats.

The plan of Washington was to reach Trenton by 5 o'clock in the morning and catch the Hessians sleeping off their Christmas potations. He counted upon getting the whole army across by midnight. Owing to the delay caused by the ice and the storm it was 3 o'clock in the morning when the last boat load of patriots reached the Jersey shore. By 4 o'clock the force was formed ready for the march upon Trenton. Colonel Henry Knox had brought over his cannon on the frail fatboats, with horses to pull the pieces along the road.

General Washington crossed the river a little before midnight. The inmates of McConkey's house were astonished all night, brewing big jellies of hot and steaming punch, which the cold and weary Continental officers drank with eager zest. It is related that early in the morning hours Washington himself stepped into the inn

and found some of his young officers inclined to loiter by the fire and indulge in extra potations. There was more serious work on hand. Washington, it is said, drank just one stout "snifter" and ordered his officers to be about their business. McConkey's house still stands, and the place is known now as Washington's Crossing.

Washington divided his forces into two bodies, one to march down the river road and attack the enemy from the west, the other to enter the town from the north. The commander instructed all his officers to set their watches by his, so that the attack might be made simultaneously at every point. It was 8 o'clock when the enemy's outposts were encountered and driven in, firing from behind trees and fences as they ran.

Colonel Rall had been up all night, with other officers, carousing and playing cards at the house of a Tory. Though the attack was made three hours later than had been intended, it was still practically a surprise. Rall buckled on his sword and gallantly tried to rally his demoralized forces, but it was too late. Already the light horse and 500 Hessians had taken flight and escaped. Knox had planted his cannon to sweep the principal streets, and the attack from all points was furious. Colonel Rall fell mortally wounded, and a little later he surrendered his sword to Washington. The American commander took nearly a thousand prisoners, with many stands of arms, cannon and other equipment. The victory was complete. Cornwallis deferred his trip to England, remaining here to surrender to Washington at Yorktown five years later.

The next day Washington's army recrossed the river, taking the Hessian prisoners to Newtown. On the 29th his forces having been increased by the arrival of other troops, he made the passage of the Delaware for the fourth time in a month, reoccupying Trenton until forced to retire to Princeton by the maneuvers of Cornwallis. In crossing and recrossing the river and fighting the battle of Trenton Washington lost only seven men. Two were killed, four were wounded and one frozen to death.

The famous picture "Washington Crossing the Delaware" was painted in 1851 by Emanuel Leutze, who was born in Wurttemberg in 1816 and died at Washington in 1898, having settled permanently in America. Leutze painted several other American historical scenes. The Washington picture, an immense canvas to which no printed reproduction can do justice, now hangs in the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York city, where it may be seen free of charge by any American patriot—or by any Hessian or British visitor for that matter. The great painting was presented to the museum ten years ago by John F. Kennedy. It is a matter of congratulation that this artistic representation of an inspiring incident connected with America's most historic Christmas now belongs practically to the people of America, one and all.

The Loneliness of Greatness.

I sometimes think that great men suffer the greatest impoverishment in the realm of human kindness. In the first place, we are afraid of approaching them lest our offers should seem presumptuous and impertinent, or we think that such little ministries as ours can never be needed, and the kindly service is withheld. Dr. Robertson Nicoll has told us what delicate delight it gave to Ian MacIaren when anybody did him a kindness. An individual act of personal grace made his heart sing for many a day.—London Strand.

PROVOLT

The Lewman Bros. are getting ready to set out 2½ acres of strawberries and eight acres of grapes—mostly Tokays; and a number of early and late peach trees. They will also put out a variety of small fruits for which they expect to find a market at the Grants Pass cannery.

Mr. Hill, who recently purchased 40 acres of land at Provolt intends to plant 15 acres to English walnuts which will no doubt prove a profitable investment.

Many in the valley are taking up the dairy business. In a few years dairying will be the principal industry in the Applegate Valley, as we have the soil, climate and plenty of water. This Valley is also noted for its Sugar Pine and red fir. We expect it will soon be made into lumber and hauled to Grants Pass by electric cars.

Clayton Stone has his new blacksmith shop completed and is now ready for business and as he is a first-class workman will probably have all he can do.

Before going elsewhere those who want holiday goods should see the display of H. F. Bailey at Provolt. He will be pleased to show you and quote prices.

I notice "Red Cloud" thinks I do too much croaking. It matters not what "Red Cloud" thinks—a valley not worth speaking well of is not worth living in and a valley well spoken of is surely a good place in which to live; that is why the Provolt vicinity is becoming so thickly settled and which was given up by the professors from the Agricultural College at Corvallis to be the ideal dairyman's home in 1907.

T. E. L.

A Dangerous Deadlock

that sometimes terminates fatally, is the stoppage of liver and bowel functions. To quickly end this condition without disagreeable sensations, Dr. King's New Life Pills should always be your remedy. Guaranteed absolutely satisfactory in every case or money back at all drug stores. 35c.

Mrs. Bridley—You don't love me as much as you used to.
Mr. Bridley—Think not?
Mrs. Bridley—No. You used to say I was worth my weight in gold, but—
Mr. Bridley—But now you're not as stout as you were, you know.—Philadelphia Press.

for workingmen

Levi Strauss & Co's

Overalls

selected denim the two horse brand

COURIER AND OREGONIAN \$2