

## Christmas on An Ocean Liner

Trees For Passengers and Crew, Presents, Toasts, Singing and Dancing Make It a Gala Day.

THE man who spends his life on board a big passenger ship sees about as many different kinds of Christmases as anybody, I guess," said the captain of a North German Lloyd steamship as he sat in his cabin preparing for a holiday voyage to the Mediterranean.

"With a crowd of jolly passengers aboard who are off on a trip to enjoy themselves Christmas is a day to be remembered. Friends and relatives send gifts on ahead, so that they may be handed to passengers at the right time, and of course this personal remembrance from home makes more enjoyable the celebration which is always prepared on board the ship itself. The 24th of December passes about as do other days until dinner time arrives, and then the chefs and stewards outdo themselves in providing an elaborate menu and in table decorations.

"If the weather is fine, as it is likely to be, the passengers are in high spirits, for the Christmas feeling is infectious, no matter where you go. Toward the end of the dinner speeches are made, songs are rendered, stories are told and toasts are given, and when this is completed all go to the main saloon, and the Christmas tree is revealed, standing there in the middle, under the big skylight. It is a big tree, too, just as big as can be obtained and put in place, and on it are hung gifts from the ship for every passenger—not costly at all, but remembrances that are likely to be long preserved as souvenirs of a pleasant occasion. Then, if the sea is not high, the candles are lighted, and the tree bursts into beautiful illumination.

"After the distribution of gifts from the tree a concert is given if the weather is bad, but whenever Christmas eve is pleasant and the latitude is suitable the passengers go on deck, which they find to be shielded from the wind by canvas, brilliantly lighted and decorated with flags and bunting. And, I tell



Gifts from the ship for every passenger.

you, on a moonlight night, with a calm sea and soft, pleasant air, in the Mediterranean, for example, a Christmas eve aboard a great ship is something for most passengers to remember. I'm sure I can't imagine anything more charming.

"The band plays lively music, and the passengers dance on deck, but if they imagine they are the only ones aboard ship who are celebrating Christmas they are mistaken. If they were to look into the forecastle they would see another Christmas tree there, also covered with little decorations and gifts—the sailors' tree. For, you know, a German is only half a German without a tree on Christmas eve, and every German ship has one.

"Long before the ship sailed from her home port on the Christmas voyage friends and relatives of each sailor prepared some little presents, which they sent forward in care of some acquaintance in the crew so that their particular sailor might have his surprise at the right time. Of course these gifts are inexpensive, for the sailor's family has little money to spare, but a pipe, warm stockings or some such article is received aboard the vessel and carefully kept until the proper time, when all are hung on the tree. The company gives the sailors a little wine or beer and Christmas cakes. This applies also to the firemen, who have a tree of their own in their room. So, as you will see, there are usually as many as three trees aboard the ship.

"The 25th of December we observe as a holiday on our ships, and all work is suspended aboard ship excepting that which it is absolutely necessary to perform. If there is a clergyman among the passengers he is requested to hold religious services for the tourists and also for the crew, and these are fully attended. On German vessels the captain does not officiate, as do English captains, at such ceremonies."—Chicago Inter Ocean.

The Reason Why. Fred—I saw you let Tomkins kiss you under the mistletoe last night. Why did you refuse me permission? Cousin May—Because, you silly boy, you asked.

## 'Twas the Week Before Christmas

MY folks act funny nowadays—I can't tell what is going on. When ma comes in she always says, "What bundles come when I was gone?" An' if I touch a closet door Or hunt for playthings anywhere Somebody runs across the floor And says I "musn't go in there!"

My sister talks a heap with ma, But whispers when I come aroon'. An' they hide things away so pa Won't see 'em when he comes from town. I told pa all about it too; He only laughed, an' said to me, "This time o' year it's best for you Not to observe the things you see."



"Have you been looking?"

There's packages behind the bed In ma's room. When I found them there I sat her what they was. She said, "Have you been looking? I declare!" An' now they're gone; but there's a lot Of bundles in the cellar, though. An' ma says she won't tell me what They are, for I don't need to know.

Ma hides things from my sister—yes, An' sister she hides things from ma. They're sewin' somepin not a dress, An' both of them hide that from pa! There's somepin poked behind the books, But pa he's gone an' turned the lock; An' near as I can see, it looks Like somepin's hid behind the clock.

My folks acts funny—I can't see Why they should all drop ever' thing An' pick some errand out for me Whenever they hear our bell ring; An' I ain't treated right, nohow. It don't seem just exactly fair Wherever I am stated now. One o' 'em says, "Don't go in there!" —W. D. Nesbit in Chicago Tribune.

Christmas With Lewis and Clark. Some rain at different times last night and showers of hail, with intervals of fair starlight. This morning at day we were saluted by our party under our winders, a Shout and a Song. After breakfast we divided our tobacco, which amounted 2 Carrots, one half we gave to the party who used Tobacco, those who did not we gave a Handkerchief as a present. The day proved showery all day, the Inds. left us this evening, all our party moved into their huts, we dried some of our wet goods. I received a present of a Fleeces Hosiery (fleece hosiery), vest, draws & Socks of Capt. Lewis, pr Mockersons of Whitehouse, a small Indian basket of Guterich (Goodrich) & 2 Dos wessels tales of the Squar of Shabono & some black roots of the Indians. Our Dinner to day consisted of pore Elk balled, split fish & some roots, a bad Christmas dinner, warm day.—From "Newly Discovered Personal Records of Lewis and Clark."

A Curious Custom of Oxfordshire. In some places in Oxfordshire, England, it was the right of every maid-servant to ask the hired man for a bit of ivy to trim the house. If he turned a deaf ear to her importunities or forgot her request she would steal a pair of his breeches and nail them to the gate in the yard or on the highway. This was supposed to debar him from all privileges of the mistletoe.

For St. Nicholas' White Horse. In Belgium the children expect the good St. Nicholas to visit them. They think he rides on a white horse, so they polish their shoes with great care, fill them with hay, oats or carrots for the saint's horse and put them in the fireplace or on a table, and in the morning, instead of the forage, they find sticks for the bad children and candies for the good ones.

Laurel For Christmas Decoration. The laurel being an evergreen makes a striking feature in a winter landscape. Enormous quantities are used in the Christmas dressing of churches for wreaths and other decorations. Mountain laurel can be grown for decorative purposes, and it is easily cultivated. What comes to market is gathered from the wild laurel growth.

The Spirit of Giving. Don't give only where you expect a return or wonder whether you will be supposed to buy something for A., B. or C. The spirit of Christmas lies in the loving and the giving—never in the receiving.

# Buying a BUGGY

WE WANT TO THANK THE MANY PATRONS OF OUR STORE FOR THE EXCELLENT TRADE WE HAVE HAD THE PAST YEAR. IT HAS BEEN AWAY ABOVE THE AVERAGE, AND WE ARE THANKFUL.

## But the New Year is Here

AND WITH IT COMES NEW WANTS THAT WE ARE READY TO SATISFY. SOME OF YOU HAVE PUT OFF BUYING THAT BUGGY UNTIL NOW. PROBABLY YOU ARE WAITING FOR A REDUCED SALE, WHEN ALL THE TIME WE WERE SELLING OUR BUGGIES, CARRIAGES AND OTHER VEHICLES CHEAPER THAN YOU COULD GET THEM ELSEWHERE AT A BIG REDUCTION SALE.

OUR STOCK OF BUGGIES AND CARRIAGES IS BIGGER AND BETTER THAN EVER, AND YOU WON'T FIND ANYTHING LIKE IT—NEW, SNAPPY, UP TO DATE. IF IT'S NOT FIRST QUALITY WE WON'T SELL IT.

JUST COME IN AND SEE WHAT WE HAVE. EVEN IF YOU DON'T BUY RIGHT AWAY, YOU CAN FIND OUT WHAT YOU WANT AND AT THE SAME TIME GET ONE OF OUR HANDSOME CALENDARS FOR 1906.

# Quality In Harness

PERHAPS YOU WANT A NEW HARNESS FOR YOUR HEAVY TEAM OR MAYBE THE WOMEN FOLKS HAVE BEEN TEASING FOR A NEW DRIVING HARNESS. YOU KNOW THERE IS A DIFFERENCE IN LEATHER—SOME IS SHOWY, BUT WON'T WEAR; SOME WILL WEAR BUT ISN'T FINISHED NICELY—THE OTHER KIND HAS BOTH WEAR AND FINISH. THAT'S THE KIND WE USE.

AS WE MAKE ALL OUR HARNESS, WE KNOW JUST WHAT GOES INTO IT, AND WE CAN GUARANTEE THAT ANYTHING YOU BUY FROM US WILL GIVE THE MOST COMPLETE SATISFACTION. IF YOU BUY ONE SET OF HARNESS FROM US, WE ARE SURE YOU WILL COME AGAIN. COME IN EARLY THIS YEAR. YOU CAN GET A CALENDAR EVEN IF YOU DON'T BUY THE HARNESS UNTIL SPRING.

# A WORD ABOUT PRICES

NO MAN LIKES TO PAY MORE FOR AN ARTICLE THAN IT IS WORTH, EVEN IF IT IS SOMETHING LARGE, LIKE A BUGGY OR SET OF HARNESS. WE PROTECT OUR CUSTOMERS. THEY DON'T PAY TWO PRICES BECAUSE THE BUGGY HAS A LITTLE BRIGHTER PAINT THAN USUAL ON IT, OR BECAUSE THE HARNESS HAS ONE OR TWO EXTRA BRASS OR SILVER FLATED BUCKLES. ASK OUR PRICES AND THEN COMPARE OUR GOODS BEFORE YOU GIVE AN ORDER FOR ANYTHING IN OUR STOCK.

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