# FEW QUIT AT XMAS

#### DESERTIONS RARE IN ARMY DUR ING THE HOLIDAYS.

1

#### Old Sergeant Says Home That's Fit to Go to Wouldn't Welcome a Runaway Soldier-A New Year's Burial of Cavalrymen.

There are few desertions from the army just before Christmas, and the company commander is almost as sure of holding his men through the holidays as the Sunday school teacher is of having an overflowing class until the bespangled, candle-lit tree has been pruned of its gifts.

A recruiting sergeant is responsible for the statement concerning Christmas and desertions.

"Aren't men apt to desert their garrisons at this time to get to their homes for the holidays?" he was asked

"No," replied the sergeant, whose many service stripes, several of which had the white edging to indicate actual field service in the islands, indicated that he might be relied upon as an authority. Then he reasoned it out this wav:

"You see the man who has got a home that's fit to go to on Christmas or any other time wouldn't have the nerve to go to it as a deserter, because his folks would be respectable and they wouldn't have any use for a man who had run away from the army Then again the man who has a sort of hankering to get to his own home must have a streak of decency in him that wouldn't let him desert.

"And the fellows who just take the holidays as a time for a lot to eat wouldn't desert now, for you can't beat a company cook on roasting turkey and baking mince pies. We're great eaters in the army on Christmas. It doesn't make much difference whether we're round New York or on the plains, or in the islands, that is, the Philippines, every company has its holiday feast. I never happened to serve up in Alaska, but I bet they don't let December 25 go by just like an ordinary day.

"We did miss one Christmas dinner in the Seventh cavalry, though. That was about 1890, when we had a fight with the Sioux on Wounded Knee creek. The fight wasn't on Christmas but two or three days later, although for a week we had been expecting it. That was in the Bad Lands, and our New Year's day we spent in digging enough graves in the frozen ground for 29 of the cavalry who had been killed.

"That wasn't a fair fight. It was treachery after surrender. We had captured about 250 bucks, and were disarming them. There were nearly as many more squaws hanging around with rifles hidden under their blankets. The medicine man was mumbling something all the time, which didn't sound well, but nobody really expected a scrimmage then.

### CONCERNING CHRISTMAS.

Facts Regarding Its Observance In America and Other Countries.

December 25 is a legal holiday in all the states and territories and the District of Columbia. General recognition of Christmas in America is of com-

paratively modern origin. A generation or two ago the Roman Catholic and the Protestant Episcopal churches observed the day by religious services. but the great body of Protestants, in New England especially, ignored it as and popular individual on earth, was they ignored Easter, says Youth's Companion.

Pennsylvania observed the day, as did ants of the Pilgrims, the Puritan obappeared.

Christmas was not observed even in the Roman Catholic church till the second century after Christ, when, according to tradition, Pope Telesphorus instituted the celebration of the anniversary of the birth of Jesus. The anniversary was celebrated in January. March, April, May and September, at different periods and in different parts of Europe and Asia and it was not until the fourth century that the east-

ern and western churches agreed upon December 25 as the proper day.

The Christmas tree is of German origin and Santa Claus is supposed to be akin to the Knecht Rupert of northern Germany, to whom parents gave their presents to be distributed to the children on Christmas night. Rupert dressed in a mask, wig, white robe and high huskins went about from house to house, awarding the presents to the young children, who supposed him to be a supernatural messenger.

Kriss Kringle, another name for the distributor of gifts, is a corruption of the German Christ Kindlein, or Christchild, from whom the Christmas gifts are supposed to come. The Christmas tree was practically unknown in England until after the marriage of Queen Victoria to a German prince, who introduced German customs.

Many of the ceremonies of the day are derived from old heathen customs adapted by the Christian fathers to make it easy for the worshipers of the old gods to accept Christianity.



### SANTA'S BIOGRAPHY

PLACE OF HIS BIRTH AND HIS PARENTS ARE UNKNOWN.

Is Best Known and Most Popular In-

#### dividual on Earth-Gives Presents Worth Many Millions Yearly But is Not Classed as Rich.

Santa Claus, the most widely known born so long ago that it would not be ladylike for him to acknowledge it, so

The Dutch settlers in New York and nobody knows his exact age. Neither is it known just where he was born, also the English settlers in Virginia, nor who his parents were, but they and the French and Spanish colonies must have been eminently respectable farther south. As a more tolerant people, for everybody nowadays claims spirit prevailed among the descend- kin with him. He is the only untitled person whom nobody calls "Mister," jection to Christmas celebrations dis- and he is a bachelor of excellent repute. Although he gives away more at Christmas than Mr. Carnegie and Mr. Rockefeller ever thought of giving, he is not classed with the millionaires. Still he shows a preference for that class and he puts more in their stockings than he puts in the stockings of the poor. Perhaps he has a taste for fine hosiery. Some bachelors do. In any event, the fact remains that the rich get more out of him than the poor Maybe he is not altogether to do. blame for that. Anyway he doesn't ride around in an automobile. This

may be because he wants to save more to give away. At the same time he doesn't ride in the street cars. So there you are.

Santa Claus is the only truly religious person, for he never asks anybody what church he belongs to before taking up his stocking to fill it. Neither does he care a continental about politics, and he never votes He is especially fond of children, and the children are so dead stuck on him that they want him to come around every day in the year. Their parents, however, don't feel so much that way about it, and Santa Claus kindly considers their feelings in the matter. He knows enough not to be anxious to work a good thing to a frazzle. Nobody knows where Santa Claus

lives in the summer, also the spring and fall and most of the winter, but wherever it is it must be a healthy place, because he always shows up at Christmas looking so fat and jolly that really he ought to advertise the location and take in boarders. There is one thing certain, if he did there wouldn't be any "No-Children-Taken" signs around the establishment.

Santa Claus confines his attention almost exclusively to mankind, the lower animals, except the reindeer, having no pull with him whatever. This is a well-known fact in natural history, which may be proved by pic tures of Santa Claus and his holiday turn-out coming in over the snowy roofs.

When Santa Claus dies there will be the biggest funeral ever heard of, but there is not much likelihood of that event ever happening as long as there are any children alive. When they

### Santa Claus' Tree By Wallace Irvin

It looked rather bare, standing starkly out there, And Jimmy's poor mother, the picture of care, And immy's poor grandfather, lean as a Turk, And Jimmy's poor father, who hated to work, Set eves On the prize

With unquenchable sighs. It isn't so pleasant to be a poor peasant,

To have to ride steerage And bow to the peerage And go through a Christmas with never a

present! And Jimmy remarked as he looked on his Tree:

"I wish I were wealthy as—well, let me see "So rich I could rig Every branch, every twig

With candy and peanuts and pop-corn and gum Enough for each person who lives in a slum, With shoes that have soles

And socks without holes, With alpaca dresses for mother, and some

Small purses of gold, so that poor folks could And take on their backs

Sacks and packs,

Stacks and stacks, And always walk up to the Tree for a store And never know hunger and want any more."

And (such was the speed of those magical days), No sooner the words than the Tree was ablaze With bright-hanging diamonds dropping like dew, With fairyland candles that twinkled anew,

With toys so unstinted You'd think they were minted

For all the world's children as fast as they grew. And big boys and small boys, And short boys and tall boys, Meek girls and sleek girls and slow girls and

spry. Young folks and old folks,

Modest and bold folks

Modest and bold torks Came flocking each stocking of Christmas to try, And Jimmy he stood by his Tree in his pride And handed out presents to all who applied Till each grizzled grandsire, each babe, youth or maiden

Departed with joys of the season so laden That some were afraid that their shoulders would

crack And saved themselves trouble by hiring a hack.

Here's the strangest of all! When the winte was past,

The Saint's Tree took root in the soil and grey fast. And every Christmas it blossomed once more With gifts to the poor who applied at the door, And Jim grew so famous that when the King died

They gave him the crown which he wore without pride, The Kingdom improved

And he had the throne moved

To the porch of his house where he sat all the day

A-talking with neighbors in quite the old way; But he always kept watch, as if kindly to guard The magical Tree which still grew in the yard.

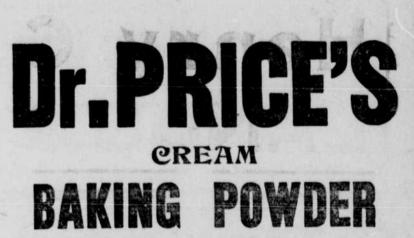
But just once a year, as the gossips still tell, A genial old fellow drove by in a sleigh And winked at King Jim saying: "Tree's doing well !' Then snapped up his reindeer and capered

away.-Success. ~ 常观的 常是 如 " 如

THE HOUSE OF MYSTERY.

Strange Actions by Father, Mother and Children at Christmas Time.

The mystery began with the husentered the house with a very innocent phere.



Perfectly pure, unquestionably wholesome. A pure food factor ante-dating all pure food laws. Indispensable for raising finest cake, biscuit and pastry.

### No Alum. No Lime Phosphates

Be on guard against alum in your food. Prof. Johnson of Yale College says he "regards the introduction of alum into baking powders as most dangerous to health."

### Read the label. Buy only where Cream of Tartar is named.

To Attain It, One Must Rise to Higher Realm of Thought and Feeling. People who would attain exquisite

mental poise must dive between the whitecaps and the waves on the surface of thought, down into the depths of their beings, where there is eternal calm which no mental tempest can disturb.

THE PERFECTLY POISED MIND.

A perfectly poised mind must be in frequent communication with the divine. Dwelling upon human qualities will never bring that perfect mental balance, that divine serenity, which makes mere physical beauty unattractive in comparison.

There is a sweetness, a ripeness, a divine something about a serene mind which eludes analysis but which we all feel. No wealth can compare with the benign, satisfying influence which radiates from an exquisitely poised personality.

Smoe of our best observatories are band coming home half an hour later built upon mountain tops, so that the than usual, so as to have the cover great lens which sweeps the heavens of darkness when leaving a package may not be obscured by the dust, the behind the vestibule doors, while he dirt, the mists floating in the atmos-

### Notice of Referees' Sale of Real Estate

Notice isihereby given that by virtue of a indgment in partition entered on the 5th day of November 1905, in an action pending in the district court of Richardson County, Nebraska n which Myrtle Schaible Mulligan is plaintiff and CarrielSchaible, widow of John Schaible, Jr., deceased, Laura Schaible, Roy Schaible, Edward Schaible, Etna Schaible and William Mulligan are defendants, and in pursuance of an order directing the sale of the premises entered in said cause November 6, 1908, and in pursuance to an order of sale issued out of said court in said cause, we, the undersigned referees in partition in said action, will offer for sale at public auction and sell to the highest bidder for cash on the 14th day of December, 1908, sale commencing at one [1] o'clock p. m., at the West front door of the court house in Falls City in said county, the following described real estate to-wit: The south half [1/2] of the north east quarter [3] of section thirty [30] in township (1) one north range sixteen(16)in Richardson County, Nebraska. The purchaser takes the real state free of widow's dower.

Dated November 10th, 1908. REAVIS & REAVIS, A. R. SCOTT. Attorneys for Plaintiff J. R. WILHITE B. I. REAVIS. Referees First publication November 13, 5 times.

**TO- NIGHT** 

GEORGE ADE'S

POLITICAL COMEDY

The County

"But, finally, that medicine man stooped down, scraped up a handful of sand, and threw it in the air. That was the signal. In an instant bucks and squaws fell on us with knives and guns. For 20 minutes it was hand-tohand, and with muskets clubbed. That's when we lost our 29 men.

"So that holiday season on Wounded Knee creek wasn't much of a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year sort of a time, but take it year in and year out, the soldier hasn't any fuss to make about his Christmas.'

CHRISTMAS IN THE ARCTIC.

Theatrical Performance by Crew of an Icebound Ship Sixty Years Ago.

Christmas eve was the opening night of the theater, the first one ever known in those regions, writes Capt. B. S. Osbon, in Recreation. It opened to a full house and yet not an advertisement had appeared in any paper on the face of the globe. No flaring posters had adorned the walls of the village on shore, but the villagers were all there as "first nighters." Promptly at eight o'clock the orchestra-the minstrel band-in lieu of an opening overture, gave us a selection from their repertoire, which was generally applauded. and to the tinkling of a bell up went the curtain. The play was "Black-Eyed Susan," adapted from a famous old song of that name, well known to all sailors in those times. It was a play in three acts, interspersed with some familiar sea ditties of the day. Susan was the star of the evening and the young fellow who took her part played and looked it to perfection. His make-up was very clever, considering the material at his command. The wig had been made of fine combed yarns braided as deftly as any girl could have done it. Susan's cheeks and lips were very red-from the paint pot-and large pendant earrings dangled from her ears. Her dress was faultless in fashion and fit, her carriage graceful and she acted the girl to the unbounded satisfaction of the "vast assemblage." The Esquimau portion of the audience was amazed at the performance, but Susan was an even greater puzzle to them. None of them had ever seen a white woman. It was good as a play to watch those poor, untutored natives as they followed the piece with intense wonderment.

A Report

Extent of Their Friendship. Dimpleton-Do you still keep up your friendship with the Caterbys? Hatterson-We see them very little, but we annoy each other with Christmas presents every year.



13

FOR THIS



(A)

## - The Bar and a second

#### A Christmas Discovery.

Do you remember the story of the portrait of Dante which is painted upon the walls of the Bargello, at Florence? For many years it was supposed that the picture had utterly perished. Men had heard of it, but no one living had ever seen it. But presently came an artist who was determined to find it again. He went into the place where tradition said that it had been painted. The room was used as a storehouse for lumber and straw. The walls were covered with dirty whitewash. He had the heaps of rubbish carried away. Patiently and carefully he removed the whitewash from the wall. Lines and colors long hidden began to appear; and at last the grave, lofty, noble face of the great poet looked out again upon the world of light. "That was wonderful." you say, "that was beautiful!" Not half so wonderful, declares Dr. Henry Van Dyke, as the work which Christ came to do in the heart of man-to restore the forgotten image of God and bring the Divine image to the light. He comes to us with the knowledge that God's image is there, though concealed; he touches us with the faith that the likeness can be restored.

A BRANCE

Sure Sign of Love. "I think Charlie really loves me now," said Miss Dinsmore to her mamma.

"What makes you think so, dear?" "He hasn't tried to break off our acquaintanceship as usual just before the Christmas holidays."

are all gone Santa Claus will go too, for what's the use of his monkeying with grown-ups?

WHY HE SPANKED THE CHILDREN

How the Settler Prepared the Young Ones for Christmas.

On the morning of the day before Christmas I dismounted at the door of a North Dakota cabin to inquire the whereabouts of a man living in that neighborhood, and the sounds from within told me that one of the children was being spanked. When the spanking had been concluded the settler opened the door and invited me in. I saw nine children standing up in a row and the tenth one sitting down on the other side of the room. The man thought some explanation should be made, and he said:

"It's the way I do every Christmas time, and I had just begun when you rode up. Can you wait till I have spanked the other nine?'

"Of course, but may I ask why you do it? They look to me to be nice, well-behaved children."

"They are as good children as you will find in the state, sir; but the spanking must go on."

"Yes, the spanking must go on," added the wife.

I couldn't say any more, of course, and I went out to the gate and waited. The nine were called up one after another and put through the machine. and then the man, who was breathing hard from his exertions, joined me at the gate and said

"There, the last one of 'em has where Brown lives."

'Thanks, but would you take it amiss if I asked what your ten children had done to deserve punishment? "You may ask, sir, and I will explain," he replied. "They hadn't done nothing. I was licking 'em so they wouldn't expect any Christmas presents in their stockings to-night!"



#### Christmas Giving.

The one feature of Christmastide that cannot be overdone is the giving of comfort to the needy. Sometimes it appears that the custom of exchanging gifts has its questionable side, in the increasing demands upon slender purses and the cultivation of a spirit of mendicancy in servitors. These matters, however, regulate themselves, and probably little harm is done by the swelling of the spirit of generosity at this holy time. But the relief of the poor and unfortunate is a blessed work that can never work ipjury to him whe gives.

look on his face and told of his street car being blocked.

At midnight of that night, while his innocent-hearted wife was sleeping one disturbing influences in our strenby his side, he sneaked out of bed and down stairs and secured the package and hid it in a closet. The next step was taken by his

wife. She took down from the pantry breathe a purer air, get in closer a pitcher in which she had been stor- touch with the divine.-Success. ing up dimes and nickels and pennies for months and months, and, after counting them over, she sneaked down BROUGHT OBEDIENCE AT ONCE. stairs in the forenoon and bought and lugged a parcel home and hid it away Mr. Drayton's Diplomatic Way of Deal on the top shelf of a clothespress.

Then one of the children came in one day and looked and acted very mysterious, and shortly afterward Then, as the mother suddenly and into line. unexpectedly entered the parlor one

afternoon, she almost stumbled over a mother cried out in her surprise, but asked for no explanations.

Then desk and bureau drawers that had not been locked for a year were found closed tighter than a drum. Closet doors that had stood wide open were made fast. There was lingering behind when others went to bed. There was getting up before the others in the morning. Each member of the family went around trying to look as innocent as a sheep, but at the time bearing a load of guilt on his conscience.

The strain was intense. The mys tery could not last. The day came when the murder was solved. It was the day before Christmas. That family had simply been preparing to Santa Claus each other. It always been licked, and now I'll show you acts that way, and it always turns out happily.

A RANGE STA

The Sweetest Bells.

The bells ring clear at Christmastide From steeple and from tower All hearts with love are beating high-Love is their Christmas bower.

There is no time in all the year When hearts are more atune-The Christmas bells to winter are What roses are to June.

But steeple bells and tower bells Ring not for saint or sinner, A sweeter note than bells of home That calls to Christmas dinner.

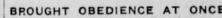
A THE AND A SHORE

No Cause for Joy. Photographer (taking family group) -Now, then, Mr. Housefull, the expressions are all right but yours. Try and look happy-remember that Christmas is coming. Mr. Housefull (despondently)-

Confound it, man, that's just what I am thinking about!

**GEHLING THEATRE** In order to shut out the din, the ter rible noises which distract the mind; in order to shut out the thousand and

uous life, the things which warp and twist and distort us, it is necessary to rise into the higher realm of thought and feeling, where we can Friday, Nov. 27



ing with Tommy.

In the Drayton household it is said that the father of the family has a way might have been found hiding some- of presenting alternatives to his chilthing among the rafters of the garret. dren that never fails to bring them

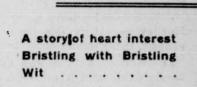
"I wish you would speak to Bobby," said Mrs. Drayton one night. "I've told daughter who was down on her knees him to take his medicine and then jump and reaching under the sofa. The into bed, and he won't do it. He just hops round, and says he doesn't want to take the medicine and he doesn't want to go to bed!'

Mr. Drayton stepped to the door of Bobby's room and stood there, tall, grave and impressive.

"Bobby," he said, firmly, "if you don't take your medicine at once, and Sen jump into bed, you will be put to bed, do you hear me, put to bed, without having your medicine at all!" Upon which Bobby, alarmed and con-

fused, swallowed his allotted portion and meekly retired for the night .-Youth's Companion.

> **Cut Prices** on all PHOTOGRAPHS for The Xmas Trade SEE OSWA FALLS CITY. NEBRASKA



Chairman

PRICES

### 35, 50, 75, **@** \$1.00

Seats Now on Sale