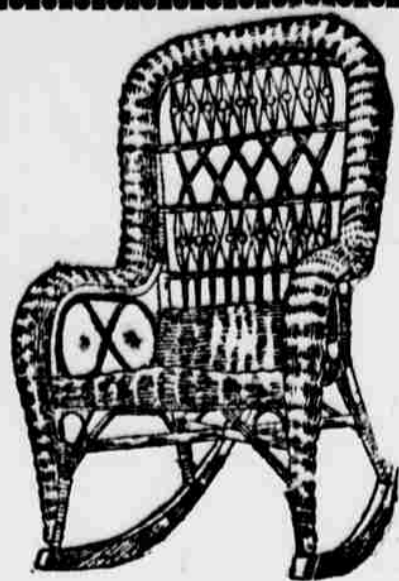


HOLIDAY OFFERINGS

"The most brilliant display in the west." Uncommon bargains at an uncommon time. Buy useful as well as ornamental presents. We have made unusual efforts this season—and show a marvelous collection of attractive and useful furniture pieces—which will make suitable presents for any member of the family. Christmas shopping an easy and inexpensive pleasure at our store.



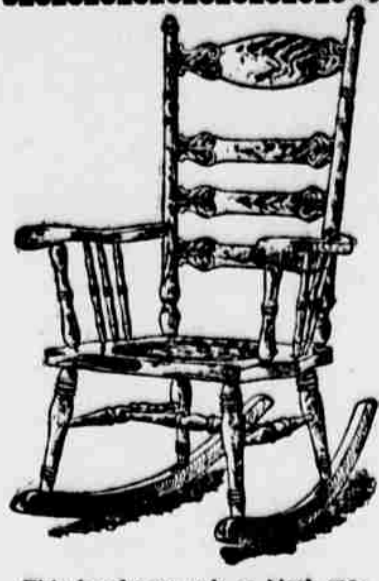
This large comfort Rattan Rocker, full roll, well made, graceful design. Price—

4.50



100 of these solid oak (not elm) Rockers, richly carved and finished, sole leather seat, full size—well made. Price—

1.50



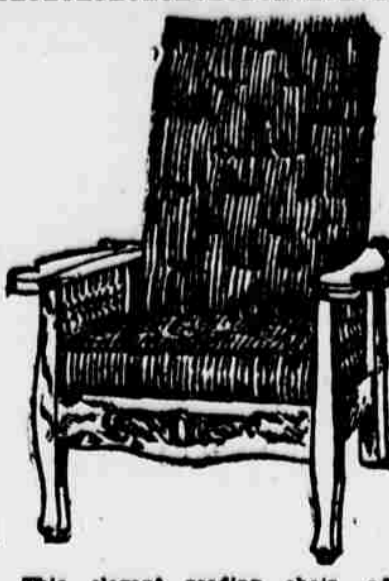
This handsome oak or birch mahogany rocker, artistic design, hand carved and polished, leather seat. Price—

5.00



Rocker like out made of quartered oak or birch, mahogany, highly hand polished and richly carved, sole leather seat, a bargain at our price—

3.50



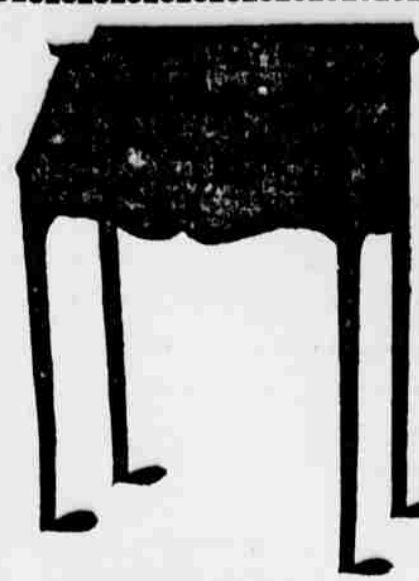
This elegant reading chair, adjustable back, hair filled cushions, made in velvet or corduroy, oak or mahogany, highly polished, \$3 value for—

10.00



This elegant oak frame Morris Chair, has rod adjustment back, hair filled, reversible cushions, in various colors, velvet and corduroy. Price—

8.00



This handsome ladies' desk, quartered oak or imitation mahogany, hand polished and carved. Price—

5.00



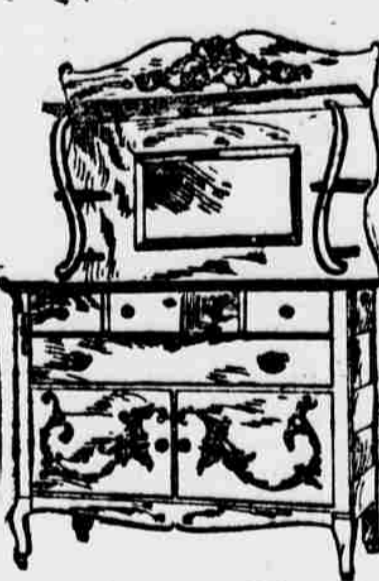
Solid oak polished single door wardrobe, portable, easily taken apart and set up for moving, has large drawer. Price—

10.00



Combination Bookcase, like cut, highly hand polished and carved, two patterns, French plate mirrors, nicely finished inside. Price—

20.00



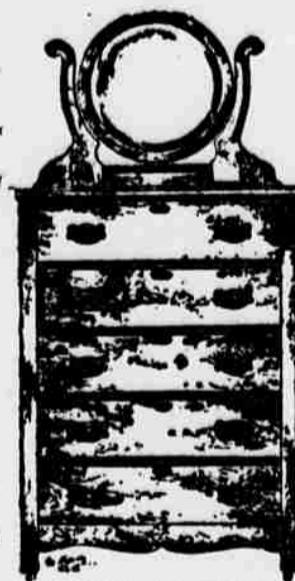
This is the greatest sideboard ever offered for the money. It has no competitor. Solid oak, hand polished and carved, 18x22 French bevel mirror, swell top, one drawer lined. Our price

18.00



China Closet, made of select quartered oak, highly polished, vent glass ends, very special at—

13.50



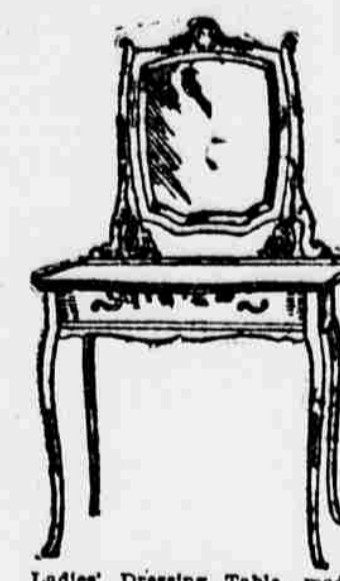
Oak Chiffonier with large French bevel oval mirror, four large drawers and double door cabinet. A wonder at—

8.50



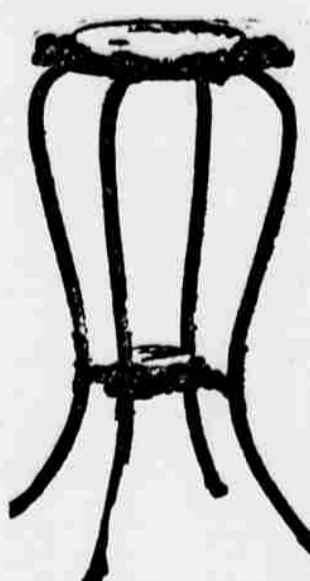
Quartered oak pattern, 30 inch top stand, richly carved hand polished, rope turn legs, artistic design. Price—

4.50



Ladies' Dressing Table, made in birch or maple or birch mahogany, French bevel mirror, 18x22 inch top, nicely carved and polished. Price—

13.00



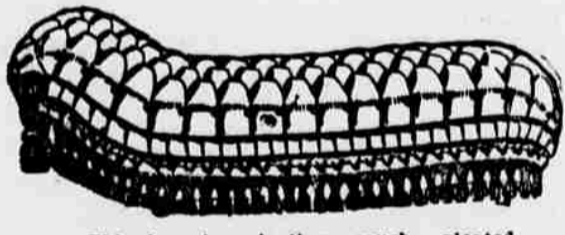
This handsome gold finished top and shell, stand, choice design. Price—

7.50



Couch like cut made up in various colors, in choice velvet or corduroy, full spring edge, button top, 37 inches wide, 8 feet long, a wonder at our price—

5.50



This luxurious leather couch, panted tufted, hand cut fringe with ruffle piping, guaranteed to stand up, choice of colors, made also in mahogany finish frame. Price—

37.50



This handsome solid oak table, heavy fluted legs, fitted with ball bearing casters, richly hand polished. Compare it with the \$12.50 kind elsewhere. Our price—

8.00

Orchard & Wilhelm Carpet Co.

1414, 1416, 1418 DOUGLAS STREET, OMAHA.

SOCIETY'S HIGH PRIESTESS

The Uncrowned Leader of Gotham's Four Hundred at the Opera.

GLIMPSES OF LIFE IN THE SMART SET

What Leaders and Followers Do to Vary the Monotony—Colonel Roosevelt as a Domestic Disciplinarian.

NEW YORK, Dec. 16.—(Special Correspondence.)—Mrs. John Jacob Astor is certainly a radiant creature. On the opening night of the opera she showed not a trace of her recent illness and the regal figure in the soft gray satin dress, with the tarsi and ropes of diamonds, was the cynosure of all eyes. She attracted more attention than Mme. Emma Eames upon the stage and

one of her ceremonious dinners gives a man a cachet that nothing else can supply. With the stamp of Astor approval debutantes and beaux can feel assured of their social position.

Mrs. Astor is as popular with the older men as she is with the young ones and to be seen in her opera box is a kind of patent of social nobility and an introduction to her is a very important item in a young man's social equipment, for whatever she does at once becomes the fashion. It is rarely that a woman so frankly worshipped by the masculine half of the world is also a favorite with her own sex, but Mrs. Astor's high-bred face and gentle manners arouse more enthusiasm than envy even among women less fortunate than herself.

Colonel John Jacob Astor is also immensely popular just now, for the halo of the military hero is around his head. His patriotism and the soldierly simplicity of his bearing during the late war earned him more friends than were ever attracted by his millions, and the fact that he neither asked nor wanted any reward in the way of political preferment added greatly to his popularity.

bathing in the ocean, so decided to wait on the veranda till he should return. Pretty soon his square, broad-shouldered figure was seen coming rapidly up the hill. After learning my errand, he excused himself for a moment and went upstairs, and when he came down again Mrs. Roosevelt said: "Teddy, did you bring up that wet bathing suit?" "No, no," he said, with a comical little gesture of self-punishment, "I forgot it." "Then I'll send a servant down to bring it up," said Mrs. Roosevelt, "for it will be ruined if it is left to lie down there all wet with sea water."

"You will do nothing of the kind," said the colonel, "for I am going to bring it up myself." He started down the path, but she called after him: "Teddy, have you got the key to the bathroom in your pocket?" He turned and came back to the house. "I left it upstairs just now, when I went after a handkerchief," he said. "Then I'll send a servant down to bring it up," said Mrs. Roosevelt, "for it will be ruined if it is left to lie down there all wet with sea water."

"You are not going upstairs to get that key for me," he said. "I left the bathing suit in the bathroom, and I am the one to go after it. I left the key upstairs and I am going to get that myself, too. It is quite time I learned to be less thoughtless."

They had quite a little argument as to who should get the key, but he finally cut it short by bounding up the stairs, two steps at a time, and immediately bounding down again, swinging the key in his fingers. "He never will let anybody wait on him," said Mrs. Roosevelt as the colonel started for the bathroom.

In a few minutes he came up the hill again, looking bright and happy, and holding a sloppy flannel bathing suit at arm's length. "It doesn't do for a man to humor himself too much," he said, smiling at Mrs. Roosevelt. "I would never succeed in breaking my bad habits if I allowed you to spoil me."

That rigorous self-discipline doubtless contributed a great deal toward making Teddy Roosevelt so good a soldier, and it is sure to make him a good governor, and possibly a good president after 1900; but no matter how high the position he may be called upon to fill, his best role will always be that of husband to the modest little woman at Oyster Bay.

The Old Family Servant.

Those people who pride themselves on the perfection of their menage, but who do not happen to have a number of old family servants, are now trying to supply the deficiency by borrowing them from other members of the family one month or forty years, but they must be in evidence on all ceremonious occasions. A Christmas, in order to be up to date, must have the young mother's old nurse hovering around, looking anxiously and tenderly at baby, while the old, gray-haired butler, and the housekeeper in her stiff black silk, are as necessary to the fashionable wedding reception as the orange blossoms or the bridegroom. It looks rather odd—but then, many new-fangled things do—to see the bride give the third piece of wedding cake to an old servant, especially if one happens to know that what is supposed to be a reward for years of faithful service is bestowed upon an old woman who never saw the bride until the rage for family servants began a few months ago. As the genuine

article is certainly rare now in America, even in the south, it goes without saying that most of the old family servants seen everywhere nowadays must have been manufactured to meet the ever growing demand for ancient and respectable retainers.

Mrs. Gebhardt's Club. When a group of pretty society girls, with Mrs. Fred Gebhardt in the center, are seen



"ISN'T IT DEAR!"

earnestly talking together the chances are that they are not discussing the opera or somebody's engagement, but are making plans for the new club in which that charming young matron is trying to interest all her friends. The sole object of the club is to foster individuality in dress, each member pledging herself to design all her own costumes and to induce as many other women as possible to do the same.

Whether this movement will result in a diversity of styles similar to that which characterized the first few years of this century remains to be seen. The present tendency seems to be toward classic draperies and clinging, snaky effects, and at the theater the other evening two girls in the orchestra, evidently prospective members of the new club, were discussing one of the costumes worn by Elsie de Wolfe in "Catherine" and speculating as to how the design could be modified sufficiently to meet the requirements of originality without sacrificing the characteristic features of the gown.

I gathered from their talk that there was soon to be a costume party in upper tendom, at which each woman would wear a dress of her own designing. By the time the curtain went up on the third act it was arranged that the blonde girl should call on the brunette the next afternoon and see a dress which the latter had just evolved from her inner consciousness and which she herself pronounced "dear."

The dressmakers are inclined to smile at the new fad; it doesn't trouble them in the least, for they know that while fashionable women may find amusement for a season in designing costumes they have neither the skill nor patience to make up their own designs, so the dressmaker's occupation is secure.

When you ask for De Witt's Witch Hazel ointment, accept a counter or imitation. There are more cases of piles cured by this than all others combined.

SONG OF SANTA CLAUS.

George Allison.

Where am I, all the year round, you say? Getting things ready for Christmas Day. Mingling in the merry, merrous toys For stockings of good little girls and boys; Much harder work than you'd well believe, All must be finished by Christmas Eve; Everything that I do, in my sleigh I pack; Naught that I take, do I'er bring back!

Merrily, merrily, o'er the snow, Swift as an arrow from archer's bow, Thousands of visits tonight for me, So I haven't a minute to waste, you see!

Such a collection of gorgeous toys! Trumpets and drums for the bold, brave boys. What have I here for the small, sweet girls? Dolls that cry "Mam-mam" with golden curls! Dog-tops, sleds, candy, tin soldiers, guns, Pictures books here for the tiny ones, Woolly lambs, horns and tambourines, Big Noah's arks, blocks and jumping beans!

Merrily, merrily, here we go, Down the dark chimney to homes below; Little folks smile in their sleep, you know, But they never catch Santa Claus, oh, dear, no!

Out and away again! O'er the roofs, Tinkles the tunc of my reindeer's hoofs; Merry my heart, as I ride tonight, Under the stars, shining clear and white, Just as they did in the long ago, When the Christ-child came to the earth below.

And for His dear sake do I work this night, That the Christmas Day may be blithe and bright!

Merrily, merrily, home I go, Over the glittering, crackling snow; Breathing a wish, as I take my way, That the world may be merry on Christmas Day!

SOME LATE INVENTIONS.

Bicyclers will appreciate an improved grip, which has curved spring strips arranged around the bar, with a screw cap at the end which adjusts the curvature and strength of the springs to suit the rider.

An Ohio woman has patented an interchangeable hoe and rake, the teeth of the latter being slipped into eyelets in the blade of the hoe, with a clamp at the top of the blade by which it is attached to the handle of the rake.

In a newly designed trousers stretcher two metal bars are connected by jointed rods, forming Vs at either end, pointed in opposite directions, with a pair of rods in the center to pull the Vs open and spread the stretcher.

In an improved shipping crate for chickens a rectangular frame is made of steel rods hinged together to form a folding box when covered with wire netting, the lids being of wood to protect the crate from bending out of shape when folded.

Tough mats are made eatable by the use of a new machine, which has two rollers adjustably mounted in a frame, with a crank attached to one roller by which the two are cast with prongs on the under side which sink into the bed of the stream to afford an anchorage for the pulleys carrying the ropes to be passed around the ship, the ropes being lightened and the ship pulled off.

Horses are prevented from running away when left unattended by a western man's invention, composed of a ratchet band attached to a wheel hub, with a pin to which the reins are fastened, the wheel revolving the band and winding up the reins, while the ratchet prevents the reins from pulling when the horse backs.

Mental Phenomena.

Washington Star: "I suppose," said the visitor at the insane asylum, "that you have

frequent occasions to note that people under your charge are entirely sensible on some particular topics."

"Yes," answered the superintendent. "The good sense they show on general subjects is amazing. For instance, never since I have been here have I heard of a movement among the inmates to get up a six-day bicycle race."

CHRISTMAS IN ROME.

Services in the Great Churches of the Eternal City.

The midnight services on Christmas eve in Rome are impressive, according to a London Journal. Nine cardinals in costly vestments, nine train bearers, twenty ushers, a choir of superb voices behind a gilded railing, all add to the impressive service. The chapel is a blaze of light, and Michael

lowed by the cardinals in scarlet. At the last, beneath a canopy, upon the shoulders of men, and flanked by the mystic fang, the pope advances. The silver trumpets are blown and the pope gives his blessing.

At the moment of consecration in the mass the pope descends from his throne, passes down the choir and reaches the altar. It is impressive when the pope, with his own hands, lifts the eucharist from the altar and presents it.

Devout Definitions.

Chicago News: Divorce—The cold lunch that follows love's banquet. Humility—The uniform worn by hypocrites on dress parade. Whistling—The transformation of a popular air into an ill wind. Abuse—The penalty an eminent man is compelled to pay the public.



CUTTING THE WEDDING CAKE.

whispers of "How sweetly pretty Mrs. Astor looks tonight!" were heard all over the house to the strains of a Wagnerian accompaniment. During the entractes the Astor box was filled with the handsomest and most brilliant men in the house, for Mrs. William Astor is without doubt the high priestess of New York's fashionable society today. A bow, a cordial smile of recognition, but above all an invitation to

Though it is a trifle late in the season for stories about Colonel Teddy Roosevelt at the beach, I want to tell something that happened at his place at Oyster Bay last summer, which shows the character of the man and his stern self-discipline better than anything else I have heard during the war or the late political campaign.

On going to his house to interview him one afternoon I learned that he was down



MRS. JACK ASTOR AT THE OPERA.

Angelo's "Last Judgment," painted on the ceiling, adds to the superb effect. A girl who spent last Christmas in Rome enthuses over the services in St. Peter's. The altar glitters with gold and candles, and is arched by a canopy. There are two thrones for the pope. Guards of honor, soldiers and attaches are to be seen in abundance. At 10 the procession of the pope and the cardinals enters. The stagers and blowers of silver trumpets precede him. His cap of maintenance and three tiaras follow them; a company of mitred priests come next, followed by the cardinals in scarlet. At the last, beneath a canopy, upon the shoulders of men, and flanked by the mystic fang, the pope advances. The silver trumpets are blown and the pope gives his blessing. At the moment of consecration in the mass the pope descends from his throne, passes down the choir and reaches the altar. It is impressive when the pope, with his own hands, lifts the eucharist from the altar and presents it.