CHRISTMAS GIFTS

At the BIG NORTH END STORE

You can make your friends happy at little cost to yourself if you choose your remembrances from our stock. We can't give you a complete list of what we have, and we would not if we could, because we want you to call, as our stock is much prettier than any description we can give you of if. Read carefully, consider fairly, act promptly, profit largely where good quality and low prices reign.

Fancy Goods

Photo Frames	25c. to 50c.
Whisk Holders	10c. to 15c.
Pictures	50c. to 75c.
Table Mats (5 in set)	25c. set
Games	15c., 20c., 25c.
Fancy Collar and Cuff Boxes	50c. and 75c.
China Cups and Saucers	10c., 25c., 35c., 50c.
Moustache Cups	45c. and 75c.
Fancy China Fruit Dishes	$1.10 and $1.50
Fancy Bon-Bons	15c., 20c., 25c., 30c., 35c.
Cream Pitchers	20c., 25c., 50c.
Silk Handkerchief Cases	35c. to $1.25
Handkerchiefs in great variety	3c. to 75c. each

Ladies' Gloves

We are showing a splendid line of gloves. All that fashion sanctions of glove taste is here.

Kid Gloves, all shades	75c. to $1.10 pr.
Fancy Woolen Gloves	25c. to 50c.

Shirt-waists

In a good variety of patterns.

Black Lustre	$1.10, 1.35, 1.85
Black Sateen	1.35, 1.50, 1.85
Cream Lustre	95c., 1.10, 1.50, 1.85
Fancy Colored Waists	95c. to 1.75
Flannelette	50c., 70c., 90c., 1.00
Golf Jackets	1.85 to 2.85

Skirts

What could be more appropriate as a gift than a nice skirt? We are showing a splendid line at small prices.

Women's Skirts	$1.50 to 4.25
Misses' Skirts	1.75 to 1.95

Dress Goods

Here is a group of pretty stuffs that will make the best of presents.

Fancy Tweeds	35c. to 85c. yd.
Homespun Suitings	50c. to 1.10 yd.
Venetians, all shades	80c. yd.
Plain Colored Goods	27c. to 60c. yd.
Plaids	30c. to 80c. yd.
Heavy Coat Cloths	70c. to 1.85 yd.

MEN'S AND BOYS' FURNISHINGS

Regatta Shirts

The newest things in Shirts are here . . 50c. to $1.25

Neckwear

Of a distinguished tone.

Made-up Ties	25c. and 50c.
Bows	25c.
Flowing Ends	50c.
Four-in-hands	25c. to 50c.
Puffs	50c.

Men's Gloves

You cannot make a mistake in selecting gloves for a Christmas gift. They are useful and always acceptable.

Men's Lined Kid Gloves	50c., 70c., $1.00 pr.
Men's Mocha Gloves, fur lined	2.25 pr.
Men's Lined Mocha Gloves	90c. to 2.00 pr.
Boys' Woollen Gloves	25c. to 35c. pr.

GLOVES, TIES, ETC., BOXED FREE

Men's Handkerchiefs

When at a loss what to give one knows handkerchiefs are sure to be appreciated.

Hemstitched Handkerchiefs	8c. to 35c.
Silk Initialed Handkerchiefs	25c. to 50c.
Mercerized Handkerchiefs	20c.
Fine Lawn Handkerchiefs	2 for 25c.
Suspenders	25c. to 50c. pr.
Boys' Suits are here in abundance	$2.50 to $5.75

S. W. McMACKIN

No. 335 Main Street 'Phone No. 600

CHRISTMAS BEFORE the WAR

BY A. RICHMOND PARKHURST JR.



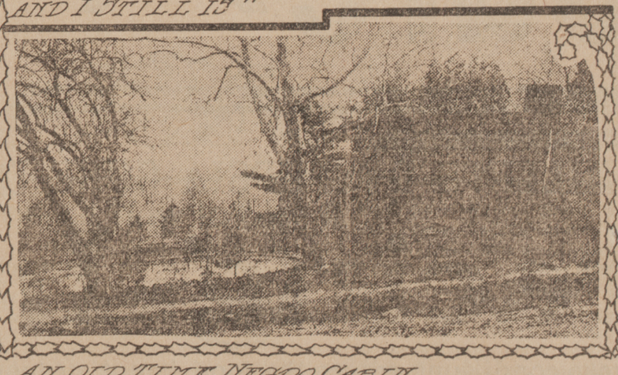
GATHERED AROUND THE YULE LOG



HER TASK COMPLETE



"I WUZ A SLAVE AND I STILL IS"



AN OLD TIME NEGRO CABIN THE "TEL POND BESIDE IT



WHERE GEN LEE SPENT A CHRISTMAS IN HIS DECLINING YEARS

Christmas is near. Its approach is heralded by the thousands and one symbols that from babyhood we have learned to love and associate with the festival of the nativity of Christ. This festival is joyously celebrated in every country on the globe where the enlightening rays of Christianity and civilization have penetrated.

Children tell us that Christmas is in the air—that it does not require a glance at the almanac hanging upon the wall to apprise them of the near approach of a season, which to them is synonomous with feasting, merry-making, the exchanging of little gifts with loved ones and, last but not least, the annual visit of fat and jolly old Kris Kringle and his reindeer sled. And the children are right. For, after all, is it not a festival that we grown-ups participate in with the enthusiasm o fthe little folks?

Long since the shops have been stocked to their capacity with toys and the myriad of gewgaws that go to attract the attention of the millions of shoppers who throng the streets, all bent upon one common mission — the making ready for Christmas. A visit to the large cities, small towns, as well as to the little country stores, all bespeak the ease with which preparations for Christmas can be accomplished nowadays, as compared with those of 50 years ago.

It might be well to pause awhile in this money-mad age of commercialism, when the pursuit of the dollar is paramount to all else, and go back half a century or so and recall Christmas as it was celebrated in the fair Southland before the war. To those who knew the South before its broad green fields were crimsoned with the life blood of invader and defender, a Christmas then was a festival long to be remembered; the climax of patient and arduous preparation, the culmination of months of painstaking care, yet withal a labor of love. Those were days of never-ceasing joy, which fairly breathed the spirit of "Peace on earth, good will to men."

"Chrismis giff, Mistiss! Chrismas giff, Marster!" as the wards of the slave-holding planters gathered about the "Great House" front porch on Christmas morning was a greeting none could forget who beheld the upturned an eager black faces of the plantation help as they came forward to receive the gift that they so well knew awaited them.

Good old days, we say? Days that are gone, but the memories of which are as green and fresh in our hearts today as the holly and mistletoe we are engaged in twining into wreaths for the Christmas of today.

"Christmas Before the War" had the same significance for the children of the South as it has for those of today, but how much more it meant to the mistresses of those plantations where a hundred or more slaves had to be remembered than it does to the grand dames of today, who have but to enter their carriages, visit the nearest shop and there purchase whatever her fancy might dictate. Today it is little else than one of many shopping tours, so dear to the heart of all womankind. Then it meant endless work; for months the needles flashed in the busy housewives' hands, as a gift then was almost invariably handmade.

Preparations for Christmas in ante-bellum days generally began early in September, when milady paid her semi-annual visit to the nearest city or town, and there laid in her supplies. Groceries were purchased by the wholesale, staples for the field hands and all the delicacies the market afforded for the "Great House" and the horde of guests which were to invade it.

A visit to the dry goods stores resulted in the purchase of cloths, cottons, flannels and silks by the bolts. Of course, materials for fancy work were purchased in large quantities, for every Southern-born woman spent her spare moments at work of this sort. Arriving home the fall campaign was mapped out. Every plantation boasted of half a dozen or more women and girls among the slaves, who designated themselves by the proud titles of "seamsters." Each day the "seamsters" would come to the room set apart in the manor house for sewing and, under the watchful eyes of the mistress of the house, sew up the seams of the garments she herself had cut out. Dresses for the smallest baby on the plantation, as well as those of the little pickaninnies, half-grown girls, young and old women alike, were made and laid away for Christmas. Bright prints, gaily checkered calicoes and domestics were the materials generally employed ,as the negro ever had an eyes for color. Garments for the women completed, those for the men and boys were next taken up, so that on Christmas morning each negro who came to the house could be assured of returning to his quarter with arms laden with good warm clothing, including everything from a pair of shoes that "cried" to his heart's delight to a warm new cap, or hat, as his fancy elected. This sewing circle generally extended its operations over a period of two months, but the work was invariably gotten out of the way before December 1, for the three weeks just prior to Christmas were busy ones and had to do with the mysteries of the well-stocked pantry.

The succeeding days were ones of never ceasing delight to the housewife and her corps of well-trained cooks and helpers. Cakes by the dozen were mixed, baked and set away; cakes the receipts for which are priceless today; pastry of every description, and invariably these were made in sufficient quantities to carry the family and their score of guests through the holiday season for Christmas always extended over New Year's Day. With preparations for Christmas complete, the house is set in order for its influx of guests. The choicest linen, spiced and snowy in its cleanliness, is brought forth from the great linen presses, and all the spare beds in the house made up. Then follows the decorations. In each room, living-rooms as well as bed chambers, blazing logs crackled upon the hearth; windows are festooned with ropes of Christmas greens, and everywhere the Christmas spirit prevails. In the great open halls, some so heroic in proportion as to permit of a four-in-hand being therein turned, is set the huge Christmas tree, fairly groaning beneath its burden of presents, for here displayed are gifts of each member of the household, guests and house servants alike. The trees of those days, however, were illuminated by myriads of vari-colored tallow dips, since electric lights were as far in the dim, dim future as many of the other predictions of that wonderful old prophetess, Mother Shipton.

Promptly at 6 o'clock on Christmas Eve the peace and quite of the great hall was disturbed by the men servants of the house as they staggered in beneath the burden of the yule log, in reality the massive trunk of a well-seasoned hickory. This was set upon the carefully polished andirons and served as a "back log" for the cheerful fire of Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Supper over, members of the household gathered around. Chestnuts and popcorn were brought forth; the evening was spent in roasting chestnuts, popping corn and spinning Christmas yarns for the little folks, who hovered near. As the grandfather clock chimed out the hour of nine a hush would fall upon the family group and every ear was strained to catch the plaintive melody that floated in from without. The Christmas seranaders had arrived. The servants of the plantation, grouped about the front porch, to the accompaniment of a banjo, would sing the old plantation melodies until invited into the kitchen where liberal potations of "a little drap to warm them up" was served, and each was asked to drink the health of ole mistiss, ole mars, the little folks and the household guests. This closed the ceremonies for Christmas Eve. Candles were passed around and warm beds sought there to dream of Santa Claus and the morrow and what was to be found in the score of stockings left hanging about the great open fireplace.

Christmas morning breaks clear and cold. The household bestirs itself early, awakened by the entrance of the house servants, who rush from room to room calling "Christmas giff!" to all within as they bear to each the family loving cup, containing the morning grog, a sip from which each is supposed to take. Gathering in the great dining-room, a huge punch bowl, filled to the brim with the snow-capped Christmas egg-nog, greets them. This is the beginning of the day's good cheer. Breakfast over, the gift-giving begins among the servants, for those within the house had all descended in the wee sma' hours to scan the contents of their stockings, there to find that which was most ardently desired. When the army of slaves arrived on the front lawn gifts over which the mistress and her helpers had labored so arduously were brought forth and bestowed, while groceries, extra allowances of provisions, sweetmeats and flasks of egg-nog or spirits were passed around. Then the household made ready for church, which was followed by the mid-day Christmas feast, capped by the blazing plum pudding, prepared months ago.

WHY DO WOMEN WORRY?

First Sign of Failing Health.

The woman who worries has a poor appetite—she sleeps poorly. If it only lasted for a day or two it might be of small consequence—but she grown limp, miserable, unhappy—worse day by day.

She needs Ferrozone, which cures worry by curing the conditions that render worry possible. For nervous, weak women, no tonic is so good; thousands it has cured just like Mrs. M. E. Etherington, of Troy, who writes: "I am quite willing to give a public testimonial for Ferrozone, believeing it to be a tonic of superior excellence and one that will rapidly build up strength and supply new energy to anyone not feeling well. Last spring I was in very poor condition of health. I was nervous, felt tired, and completely worn out. No doubt it's quite a common complaint with ladies of my age, but I placed great reliance in Ferrozone, and took it for several weeks. It made me quite strong, and in fact I have been in better health ever since. I can heartily recommend Ferrozone."

Ferrozone cures by making good blood, strong nerves and a healthy body.

This is why it gives color, clearness to the skin, buoyancy to the step, brightness to the eyes—because with good digestion and activity of the body in all its parts there's health. Price 50c. per box at all dealers.