

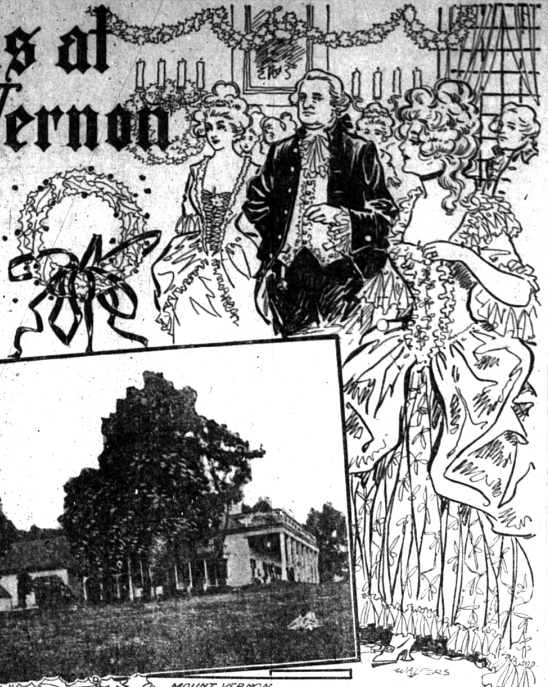
Christmas at Mount Vernon

CHRISTMAS at Mount Vernon in the peaceful days which followed the Revolution was always exceedingly merry. The Virginians of those days, being cavaliers, made the most of the holiday which the grim Puritans of New England ignored.

But in all the northern neck of Virginia no house was the scene of more joyous doings than that of George Washington. Often mere strangers, bearing letters of introduction, came and went at will, sometimes staying for weeks, or even months. Though strict, Washington could unbend considerably on such an occasion.

He was getting to be an old man, and his adopted son, George Custis, describes him as wearing habitually at that period plain drab clothes, with a broad-brimmed white hat, and carrying an umbrella with a long staff attached to its handle when he rode to shelter him from the sun, his skin being tender and burning easily.

While yet a young man he had inherited the Mount Vernon estate from his half-brother. The house was much smaller than it is today, being what was then called a "four-room cottage"—that is to say, with only four many rooms on the ground floor. It had been built in 1743 by Lawrence Washington by the labor of transported convicts from



WASHINGTON AT MOUNT VERNON

One may view the scene in imagination, at the moment having arrived for an important act of ceremony, Washington rises to his feet from his place at the table, holding a glass of Madeira in his hand. He is dressed in a suit of castly black velvet, with knee breeches, black silk stockings, and silver buckles on his shoes. At his wrists are fine lace ruffles, and his hair is drawn back and done up behind in queues.

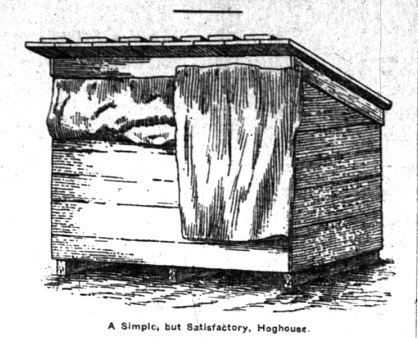
"Gentlemen," he says, bowing right and left, "I drink to my guests!"

The natural response, at the instance of the most distinguished guest present, is a health drunk to Lady Washington. This is followed, perhaps by five or ten minutes of general conversation, after which Mrs. Washington gives the signal by pushing back her chair, and the women rise to take their departure. The general himself walks to the door, throwing out wide eyes to each of the ladies courteously as she goes out, in response to the bows of the host and the other men.

When the time comes to rejoin the ladies, if in a condition to do so, they are handed over to the care of the African major domo, who sees that the ladies depart with all the honors that happen occasionally, and it is not likely that any of the women will have the bad tact to ask what has become of them.

TREMENDOUS LOSS WROUGHT BY PESTIFEROUS LITTLE LOUSE

Many Farmers Do Not Realize That Lice Cause Much Damage to Swine Parasites Worry Animals and Prevent Feeding and in Many Cases Cause Sores Retarding Natural Growth.



A Simple, but Satisfactory, Hoghouse.

(By H. G. WEATHERSTONE.)

Not long ago in looking over a bunch of hogs in western Illinois we observed that most of the animals were afflicted with little sores, red spots, on the thin places in their skins.

These eruptions were particularly noticeable back of the ear and on the flanks. The farmer complained that his hogs were not eating well and he could not understand what caused the sores to break out.

This bunch of hogs of all ages, from three-month-old pigs to three-year-old sows, ran on a pasture during the day but at night slept in houses which were used the winter quarters.

I suggested that the trouble might be caused by lice, and the farmer caught two or three pigs and found them almost alive with parasites. He was astonished and admitted that he had never examined one of his animals before.

Many farmers do not realize that lice are a source of tremendous loss in the raising of hogs. They worry the animals and prevent their feeding well, and in many cases produce sores or eruptions which naturally retard growth.

It is not difficult to rid the pig of lice by dipping or spraying. Both these remedies are of no use unless the pens and sleeping quarters are rid of the lice which have infested them.

The best dip to use is some of the tar solutions, as they are harmless. We do not believe in kerosene emulsion because unless great care is taken to keep the solution very weak the animals will blister if allowed to run in the hot sun after being sprayed.

When a bunch of hogs is heavily infested the animals should be dipped, although spraying may be used, provided the hogs are fed and thrown into the water. Such a course of action will give the surface portion of the body. It is no use to spray the upper part of a hog and leave the under side untouched, because every louse will multiply and soon spread all over the animal's body.

After the hogs have been dipped or sprayed they should be turned into a clean lot that has never been used for hogs and the old quarters should be abandoned, or at least this is not practiced, every particle of bedding and litter in the yards must be raked, swept up and burned, and every foot of ground in the yards and alleys and sleeping quarters, as well as everything sprayed with a strong disinfectant.

Kerosene emulsion, which is cheap, can be used in this way to advantage. The hogs should not be returned to the old quarters for several weeks, and a second spraying or even a third before the hogs are turned in is advisable.

If the hogs are allowed to occupy the same pens and sleeping quarters year after year, which are not frequently cleaned and sprayed as above suggested, lice will surely get into the hogs and multiply.

As this parasite multiplies with tremendous rapidity it only takes a short time to thoroughly infest hogs so that their terrors are compounded.

The hog louse affects no other animal, but devotes his entire time and energy to the swine. While he is quite common to the swine, it is still a moderate application of dips and sprays and the burning of old bedding and whitewashing of the interiors of sleeping quarters will quickly put him out of business.

For Mixing Concrete.

For mixing concrete there has been invented a spade with long oval holes in the blade, through which the finer cement will flow and give the surface a finer finish.

FEDERAL HEALTH BOARD

It is gratifying to note that the bill for the creation of a federal health board will not be allowed to pass without a protest. Reports of organized resistance come from all parts of the country, and it may be that the opposition will soon be sufficiently solidified to defeat a project that promises infinite mischief for the community, and suffering and injustice for the individual.

The proposal is based upon those specious claims that are notoriously difficult to controvert. If a federal health board were to confine its activities to the promulgation of salutary advice upon routine matters, to the abatement of quarantines, and to the purity of drugs, it might be possible to say much in its favor, although it would still be difficult to say that such an organization is needed. But we know that it will attempt to do far more than this, seeing that its adherents are loudly proclaiming its intentions. Indeed, there is no secrecy about them. It is confidently expected that the board will consist of advocates of one school of medicine only, and that the methods of that school will be not only recommended, but enforced upon the nation. Indeed a board that was in any way representative of the medical profession as a whole would be stultified by its own disagreements. Outside the domain of simple hygiene for the people, no federal board at all, there is no single point of medical practice upon which rival schools, homeopathic, eclectic and osteopathy could be in conflict. Any board that could be devised as a representative of one school only, and this means that all other schools are branded as of an inferior caste, though nothing worse happens to them, and some things worse might happen to them. If we are to establish a school of medicine, if we are to establish a school of osteopathy, the United States favors one variety of practice more than others, why not establish also a sect of religion and bestow ecclesiastical honors upon Baptists, Methodists and Episcopals?

An established school of "religious medicine" seems somewhat less objectionable than an established sect of pseudo-scientific conjecture.

Those who suppose that a federal board of health would have no concern with individual rights are likely to find themselves undeceived. It is for the purpose of interfering with individual rights that the proposal has been made. We need no knowledge of conditions to be aware of methods of healing that are in vogue in the orthodox. Homeopathy claims a vast number of adherents as just as well educated, just as intelligent as those who adhere to the orthodox. Osteopathy, eclectic and hand a dozen other methods are certainly not losing ground. Beyond them is the vast increasing army of those who may be classed under the general and vague name of mental healers are likely to be added to any of these forms of orthodoxy need have no doubt as to the purposes of the federal health board. It is necessary to make it difficult for them to follow their particular fads and fancies, to lead them, if necessary, to strip them from medical orthodoxy to medical orthodoxy.

Now the Argonaut holds no brief for the excesses and the superstitions connected with the case, but in this age is so ripe. It does feel concerned for the preservation of human liberty and the rights of the individual to doctor himself in any way he pleases so long as he does not unduly threaten the health of the community. He may take large doses or small ones, or no doses at all; he may be massaged, or he may be bled, or he may be pruned, or he may be treated in any manner he chooses the color of his necktie or the character of his underclothing. It is not a matter in which any wise government will seek to interfere. It is precisely the liberty that the health board intends to take from him. Orthodox medicine, conscious of its loss, is trying to buttress itself by federal statute, to exalt allopathy to the status of a privileged caste, and to deprive an established school of medicine just as some other practitioners have allowed themselves to create an established school of religion. It is for the common sense of the community to rebuke that effort and to repel an unwarranted invasion upon elemental human rights.—San Francisco Argonaut.

A Drain of the Company.

On his way home from the theater, where he had seen a performance of "Othello," Bobby was unusually quiet. "No, you enjoy the play," his grandfather asked at last.

"Oh, yes, very much," replied Bobby. "But grandpa, there's one thing I don't understand. The man who says black men kill a lady every night"—

YOUTH, COMPANY.

Natural Deduction.

"Papa, are lawyers always bad-tempered?"

"No, daughter, why do you ask that?"

"Because I read so much in the papers about their cross-examinations."

Kindred Spirits.

"Lady," said Plodding Pete, "I ain't a square meal in two days."

"Wood you said the reason was, as he turned the dog loose, 'neither has Towser, so I know you'll excuse him.'"

Its Status.

"Our congress is the finest legislative body going."

"No, sir. It's the finest house of commons is, and I can prove it."

"How so?"

"Well, you must admit the house of commons is without a peer."

Business Connection.

Managers of a circus saw the well-gone was a talker to Jimmy?

Newsboy—A, him and me's walking together for years. He's the editor of one of my papers.—LIT.

England, the main timber being cut from the nearby forest, was an abating of North Carolina pine was hewn into blocks to resemble staves.

There were about a dozen bedrooms, all of them small and they were rather crowded at Christmas time—some of the people, "doubling up." All of the rooms had low ceilings, there was no paper on the walls; water pipes of all kinds were conspicuous by their absence; no furnace heated the mansion (there were no stoves, indeed), and the only illumination in the evening was furnished by candles. Yet, as things went in those days, this was a luxurious establishment.

The Christmas dinner was at 3 o'clock in the banquet hall, and probably twenty-five or thirty people sat down to the feast. The table was covered with a snowy damask cloth, and there were fine linen napkins—both being luxuries, rather exceptional in those days. But this was by no means all. There was a handsome service of glass, silver, most of which had belonged to the widow Custis when she married Mr. Washington, and also there was a big display of cut glass even more precious. Most remarkable of all, however, were rare silver forks—a rarity indeed!

Ladies and gentlemen ate with their knives in those days in a way that would now be considered shocking. It was a matter almost of necessity, inasmuch as the forks were used, which had only three tines, did not serve very well for some purposes, such as the carrying of peas to the mouth, for example. It is painful to think of the Father of His Country at his Christmas dinner putting his knife into the mouth, but there is no doubt that he did so. Another oddity, as novices would be considered, was the arrangement to be served, including even the puddings and pies, were placed at once. No wonder that in those times a festive board was said to "groan" beneath the weight of the viands!

As a matter of course, at the Christmas dinner (as on other occasions) the table was waited upon by slaves, who did duty as house servants. Two were allotted to each guest, so that quite a number were required. All of the estates had to be fetched at a considerable distance, the kitchen being detached from the mansion, with which it was connected by a covered way.

At the houses of the great Virginia families at that period it was customary for the slaves to wait on the table in their ordinary plantation garb. But at Mount Vernon many things were on a scale of exceptional luxury, and the negroes who performed such service were clad in Washington's own livery of red, white and gold, which was handsome and striking.

One may suppose, then, that the conversation at the Christmas dinner was more than ordinarily entertaining. As a matter of course, everybody was hungry; for, according to the custom of those days, there were only two meals—breakfast, which was early, and dinner. The necessity for supper was removed by a great prolongation of the Christmas dinner, being more or less light, which was early, and dinner. The necessity for supper was removed by a great prolongation of the Christmas dinner, being more or less light, which was early, and dinner. The necessity for supper was removed by a great prolongation of the Christmas dinner, being more or less light, which was early, and dinner.

Fortunately, the frame, or setting, as it might be called, of the Christmas dinner never deteriorated in such crude outline as is preserved intact, thanks to the efforts of a few patriotic women who have made this their loving task. The United States government has never taken one cent to keep the home of Washington from destruction. Many years ago congress refused to give the money to buy it. But in the hands of Vernon Amos and his wife, Martha, kept open house and offered a generous hospitality, not only at Christmas but at all other seasons of the year.

because there is a warm charitable feeling in a man's soul towards his employers, or employees, or acquaintances. We are all so busy, we are apt to forget to be considerate, forgiving, and kind. It is well to let the brain rest, and allow the heart to rule for a while. There is a great deal to be learned from loving and being charitable.

Centuries of experience have proved that it is well also to make a man's life happy at Christmas. The accounts by wiping off all the old grudges and settling old quarrels, and listen once again to the message of peace and good will. Anger and malice never gave a man happiness; nothing but forgiveness and charity can do that.

tree standing upon a mound of holly is not new, but nothing better seems to have been found when it is desired that some trifling souvenir of non-sense verse or "fortune" (hidden in gilded walnuts) be given to each person present.

Skeptical.

"But you believe in bereddy, don't you, Squalltop?"

"Not much. My grandmother could read a Tale big enough to swallow, but I can't do it to save my life."

PROTEST MADE AGAINST HUNTER

No Reason Why Farmer Should Be Expected to Kill a Band of Trespassers Every Fall.

(By HESSIE L. PUTNAM.)

A few years ago, when the plowmen along the line commenced to object to the depredations of the hunter, they were charged by hunters and surrounding farmers alike as stinky and unaccommodating. But more and more there is a growing sentiment against the hunter, and the farmer is beginning to see the sense of his own farm used as a hunting ground.

At this season it is very easy to start a fire, very difficult to check one that has once commenced. Even though the majority of hunters are careful never to toss aside a lighted cigar, never to strike matches in improper places, one never knows when the careless one may come along and do untold mischief.

There is the annoyance to stock. The old saying, "One might as well be killed as scared to death," is applicable with peculiar force. Sheep, worried by hunters and dogs, soon become so wild that not even the owner can approach them readily.

Cattle have been known to stampede when a gun was fired in close proximity. Such treatment is ruinous to the dairyman, to say nothing of the frequent accidents, when a valuable animal is sacrificed and the owner fretting of with his game and leaving the owner of the land that much poorer for his uniform dog and surrounding.

Finally, the game is rapidly being exterminated, and much of it is really

A MERRY CHRISTMAS.

Christmas brings the remembrance of a gift so great and wonderful that all who realize what it meant to the world feel the desire to give something in return, though it may be nothing more than the expression of a wish for a merry Christmas. No one was anxious to receive the gift at first. People do not always know the value of what is given them. The only door opened to receive it, led to the cattle stable! But now, whose door does not sit open at Christmas to send out some blessing, some word of good will!

It is not hard, and, to a few shepherds, has gone around the world

now, and the message of peace and good will has been carried everywhere. Somehow, when you lay a new-born babe in a man's arms, you are pretty sure to bring a smile to his face, and a softening to his heart as bright as the sun.

An infant in his great peace—the heart of this grim world—more than anything else, is the remembrance that Christmas brought him condescendingly in the arms of humanity, brought him from home, and left him content, that the opportunity might be given to every man to take him in and give him the love and tenderness which is every child's birthright.

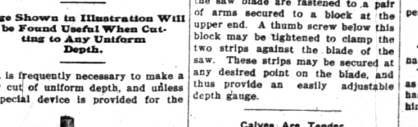
This is it, which moves us to strive to make children happy at Christmas. They may be like those who float along with the river, knowing nothing of its lovely source high up in the everlasting hills. But even if they do not know why, most of us do want to make it for children.

It is emphatically the children's festival. No one ever regrets it who goes out of the way to help it some little ones to be happy at Christmas. They are the special friends of the Christmas child, and it is well to be able to understand the king's friends, if not the king himself.

It does the world good to open its heart and take in the season's greeting. Business goes on all the happier,

SPECIAL DEVICE FOR DEPTH SAWS

Gage Shown in Illustration When Cutting to Desired Depth.



Depth Gage for Saws.

A young girl is a good deal like a young boy in many respects, particularly in its ability to digest food. It is perhaps true that more babies than calves are killed by overfeeding than any other cause.

Grain Ration for Eggs.

A very successful and at the same time cheap method of rationing for egg production is the measurement of equal parts, by measurement, of Indian corn, wheat and oats, well mixed.

THE "FIRST FOOT."

Our great-grandmothers in early England must have suffered many a pang on account of the identity of the man or woman who first set foot over their threshold on Christmas morning. If a woman stepped it was considered a very wretched ill-luck unavoidable spinsterhood. A light-haired man was almost as unlucky as a woman, although obviously for other reasons. Gossip chroniclers tell us of the ingenious

plans which many a maid devised to secure the coming of the true Prince Charming, and they also intimate, most curiously, that such a lassie would often spur on her timid suitor by coaxing him to be her "First-foot" on Christmas day.

This idea could be easily carried out by a party of young folks Christmas Eve. Just before midnight the men may be quietly ushered out of the room by the hostess and a single stroke of 12 each girl in turn should be placed before the reception

room door. At the same time one of the laddies will open the door and step over the threshold. The type of man to which this "first footer" belongs will indicate that of her future spouse. At any rate, the question of her partner for dinner will be settled.—Ladies' Home Journal.

A Christmas Centennial.

A small log a foot long hollowed out and filled with holly may recall the traditional Yule log enough to enter its presence. A miniature Christmas