DESERET EVENING NEWS.

Published every day, except Sundays, at 4 p. m. Subscription price, in advance, Six per year, $3.00 per month, 25 cents per week, payable on delivery by carrier.

DESERET SEMI-WEEKLY NEWS.

Published every Tuesday and Friday. Subscription price, in advance, per year, $4.00; six months, $2.25; three months, $1; payable in advance.

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THEIR FIRST NEW YEAR'S

GREETING PRESIDENT WASHINGTON AND HIS WIFE.

How and Where They Held Their First Reception—Some of the Notables Present—The Splendor of the Occasion—Tea and Cake, but No Punch.

The first presidential New Year's reception was held by General Washington in the executive mansion in the then aristocratic portion of Cherry street. The house itself was one of the finest residences in New York. It stood on the corner of Cherry street and Franklin square, next where Harper's publishing house now stands. It was a handsome, substantial structure of brick and stone, with a hospitable looking door in the corner and broad light rooms extending far back on both sides of a lofty hall. Public eyes were the first to see and here in stately elegance the first lady in the land received her New Year's guests for the first time.

General Washington himself, always the central figure, no matter what the surroundings, stood beside his wife. His superb physique and his noble face, crowned with light brown hair, starts threaded with silver and illumined by his mild yet brilliant blue eyes, gained added charms from his rich coat and breeches of black velvet, his silver knee and shoe buckles studded with gems, his white silk vest enriched with silver lace and buttons, and his hair, powdered, gathered into a silk bag and further ornamented with a ribbon bow.

No less interesting was Lady Washington, who, in gorgeous attire, received each guest with dignified grace. Her beautiful gown of white satin lined her slender form to perfection. The long, pointed waist, the elaborate train, the folds of sleeves lace, folded demurely upon the breast, and the beautiful, tempting headdress are familiar to every one. She also wore a necklace and stomacher of rare jewels.

It was not customary for General Washington nor his wife to shake hands at receptions, but on New Year's day this formal regulation did not prevail, and after the customary courtesies were exchanged Mrs. Washington extended her withered hand, heavy with gems, and lightly but graciously touched the hands of her guests. From 1 o'clock until 3 a steady stream of brilliant personages poured through the rooms.

General and Mrs. Washington stood at the farther end of the second drawing room. A liveried servant at the door received the name of the guest and announced it in trumpetlike tones. The effects was thus taken up by a second "lackeyed retainer" and repeated to General Washington, who in turn presented the caller to his wife, receiving his own salutations until fists had been made.

The two parlors in which the reception was held were large, long and lofty. The ceilings were of white and gold, and were the paneled walls; long mirrors framed in the same delicate tints reflected the beautiful gowns, the delicate hues of which showed to admirable advantage against the deep scarlet cushions of the furniture.

All the beauties of the republican court came in gorgeous attire to usher in the new year with wishes received in courtly guises. Lady Kitty Duer, the daughter of Lord Stirling, was one of the first arrivals on that long gone New Year's day, accompanied by her sister Hesiomi, Colonel William Duer. Lady Kitty, who was neither very young nor very handsome, was one of the oldest looking women in New York. Her tall and graceful figure gained additional height and grace from her beautiful gown of pink brocade, full silk in long loose folds from her shoulders to the back and opening in front over a petticoat of white satin, from which it was draped back with bouquets of pink roses. Her low set corsage showed to advantage her fine neck and shoulders, set in a frame of rose old lace, and her hair, drawn up from her forehead over a cushion, was powdered and dressed with strings of pearls held in place by diamond clasps.

The president of the senate and his wife, Lady Christina Griffin, appeared in the room. Lady Christina, who was rather austere and grand in appearance, was reserved in manner and in ill health. She was not very beautiful, but very fashionable; indeed, she was eminently plain and a woe to "dowdy." I fear, for she wore a gown of grey soiled silk; a white silk kerchief about her pronounced little shoulders, and some plumes of funereal black in her hair.

A vivid contrast to her and her taciturn lord were the secretary of state and Mrs. John Jay. Mr. Jay was a most charming man, of faultless manner, and had, we are told, "considerable reputation for attitudes." He dressed plainly for the times, but with great taste. His coat of dark plum colored velvet, trimmed with gold lace, his breeches of satin, his long silk stockings of pale blue, his diamond buckles at knee and instep, made a most elegant attire. Mrs. Jay, who was perhaps the leader of social life in New York, was very young, very beautiful, very charming, and when we would now, for want of a better word, call "stylish."

Her dress always must shortly, but with great elegance. Her matrons now looked some of its usual splendor. The long sleeves of satin, her long waist ornamented with large green pins, so natural that one almost detected their perfume. The very low corsage was bordered with superb green, and the sleeves of shadowed parts were twisted in her beautiful hair, which fell in most delightful ripples about her throat and shoulders. Her pearls were among the most valuable owned in New York, and on the occasion she wore most of them.

Another notable belle and beauty was Mrs. Robert King. Her features were "Roman" in outline, her clear brunette complexion contrasted strikingly with her vividly blue eyes, and her beautiful black hair and her teeth were famous for their perfection.

The scenery of the day included in the most magnificent fabrics and in fashions already in vogue for the season. She wore her very high on the top of the head and heavily scented in with superb stone, mounted. Many of them, instead of powder, used a pomade to make the half glossy, and when the hair was of a brown cast the effect was very striking. Cosmetics were little used, but the social belles of the day, who were, then very hence to have "Revolution of America," succeeded in the fact that the women were rouge and kept the fashion.

Beautiful as was the dress of the belles of a century ago, the opinion of the modern gossipy teem now even more charming. A new model, not be simply and fashionable to wear, soft lace, and embroidery and lovely bonnets, every to wear our society the same. White silk stockings seem to have been the favorite corsage or ladies' fashion, partly because they apparently increased their size. Their waists were very long, and of red. Indeed the latter seemed a notable fetish. The sacred left, sprinkled with gold, and not stock, was to shoulders as the badges of a "noble house" worn by our dames. The very beauty of silk dress, frequently heavily embroidered with gold, silver or silver, always ornamented with embossing and other valuable buttons, had long flaps the entire length, and was, after the case, the most prominent article of attire.

Ruffles of lace, fine as that worn by Queen Anne, that reached to the waist, fell about their neck and kept backs and sleeves their snowy skirt bosoms. The women latitude in color and fabric was prominent, and though General Washington, Mr. Jay, Robert Morris and some distinguished men contented themselves to black, white or scarcely visible colors, many of the aristocratic dames of the day were seen arrayed as delicate as the most rainy delicacies.

Mrs. Washington never requested for weekly visitors to be seated. Indeed, all the chairs were removed from the room and only a sofa remained, and before this she stood. On this New Year's day the great crowd of guests poured through in the afternoon. From 4 until 6 there was a temporary lull in the entrance and General Washington and his wife ingested the refreshments.

Shortly after 6 o'clock the stream of visitors began to flow again, and the guests who now came in informal attire, outgoing that of the afternoon, remained for long periods, as the cards had been spread for tea and cake. Among the notables of the social Friday receptions of Lady Washington, no was an exception made on this more informal occasion. The cordial greeting of the hostess, generally gallantry, the pretty ripple of laughter then were quite free, and the continuous talk and rounds of dancing and the elegant equipment stood broke the chaste. But one innovation was made in favor of New York. Refreshments were served at 7 o'clock, and though to no who attended "tea with a prince" or a party supper of game, salads, terrapin, oysters, ices, etc., at Delmonico, the proffered entertainment looks very simple, the simplicity presented no contrast. Tea and coffee, plain cake and plain cake were served.

The Washington sausage was famed for its china, its silver, its glass and linen. The family plate, some of which descended from the Clinton side of the house, was exceedingly rich and had been brought to New York by Mrs. Washington, and on her special was all united down and reproduced in more elegant and fashionable forms. Lossing has described the china at the Washington, and much of it is still in the possession of the Curtis family. The massive silver, 200 pieces long and 10 g wide, is old and perfectly devoid of all ornamentation save a rim of "beading" at the outer edge. Upon this were served ice and coffee in cups of the same pattern, with the initials within showed from within in strict height in the cup. Two tiny servants, dressed in plain livery, passed the cups that showed too scanty did one to attitude. Though not punches, sangaree and wines of every sort were drunk in great quantities, and at all times Lady Washington seemed to have been as anxious to serve them as was one of her social successors.

Mrs. Washington was scarcely paint a more charming scene than her parlors had now have shown. On whichever side one looked beauty and fashion, birth and wealth, luxury and distinction, marked the brilliant assemblage. There was a stately dignity and breeding, an indescribable atmosphere of "elegance, that were felt and felt the grace of a day that is dead," for we never see them now. Although music enlivened the occasion the stately dances were not attempted, and conversation had on this become a lost art, and on such occasions as this it reached its highest perfection. As 9 o'clock struck, Lady Washington rose, and, stepping forward with a sonorous smile, said, "The general usually retires at 9 o'clock and I always precede him," and with the deep and graceful courtesy that, with other beautiful things, has fallen into the limbo of departed, she withdrew, and the first presidential New Year's reception was a thing of the past.—Home Journal.

New Zealand Holidays.

The colonists of New Zealand, according to Mr. Edward Wakefield, are a holiday making people. There is almost an average of one lengthened holiday to a month, and it is a common practice for all working people to take two or more days at Christmas, New Year's and Easter, so as to make an unbroken play time of three or four days, including a Sunday.

The commencement of all holiday announcements is the picnic. The several trades, societies and associations have picnics of their own, to which the public are cordially invited, some on the payment of a small sum to cover the expense of the entertainment. It is amusing to the railway traveler to note, as he passes through some pretty secluded, set one or two, but perhaps fifty different picnics in full swing, each numbering scores or hundreds of people. Large boats sail, with much more track than is usually to be found in sojourns of this kind, that "New Zealand people are like ducks. You need only turn a number of them into a pasture and have them alone, and they will make themselves perfectly happy."

On a warm and tempting New Year's day an enterprising bonnet night walk through a New Zealand city and help amusement indulged in the outside of those of the houses. Dwellings and streets are alike deserted, and the casual sojourner who does not understand the ways of the place seeks in vain for some one to speak to or something to do. By 8 or 9 o'clock in the evening the streets are lively with returning crowds.—Youth's Companion.

Turning Over a New Leaf.

What shall be said of New York good resolutions? They are either remarkable or contemplative, according to their nature and their nature—plants whose value depends upon the seed and the soil, the highest conditions are to order and to scarcely, then, at the best of times. Will should not every man, woman and child among us try to spend a week hence in a new leaf? Suppose New Year good resolutions were not so unusual—they may be normal. It is our hope if they are like Job's good, that they are formed when the sun waxed hot. There is no reason why the counsel be like Job's tree, planted by the dews of water, that brought forth its fruit in its season.—New York World.

Russian New Year's Cards.

The author of "The Russian at Home" reports a custom of that people which refinite could upon their humanity, as well as upon their good sense.

The Russians have invented a way to produce cards of real fine more ornamental than slaughter. Those who do not wish to call on their friends on the New Year send these cards, which are sent out on New Year's day the presents printed a list of persons who have given to continue the money. They would otherwise have spent on calling.

This is secured by every person a polite and satisfactory equality.

A few short figures year will help free low places from error that might deliver many rolls of minor grade.

When painting tools that are to be exposed to the weather a light color should be chosen. The effects that tend to drad of shrinking in the detriment of the wood.

FEEDING FOR WINTER EGGS.

Experiences of Poultry Breeders in New York, Minnesota and Pennsylvania.

In reply to the question "Did you have fresh eggs? If so, how did it happen? Have you a secret? If so, give it to us," the following is given in the Philadelphia Farm Journal. A correspondent from Medina, N. Y., wrote:

"As a few years of long experience I answer yes, but not much of a secret. Plenty of thoughts, so they will not get out through with or separated from milk. I keep an egg factory exclusively for Brown Leghorns. The principal feed was corn and barley. Water almost food and meat, and lots of exercise. Fresh meat, cabbage, not for our food, meat was food in cold weather. Remember of warm weather and with barley in morning and noon, the longest feed of noon. Fed twice a day, morning and noon. The whole food in the morning, then in the noon. I feed in feeding other farm animals. Feed this day. The sound supply of meat, water, gravel, raw meat, and, were gone. The henhouse is filled with fresh gravel, the floor is cleaned and nicely sanded and covered with tarred paper before sleeping, and sometimes as an to make the colonel feed sufficiently to keep the fowls warm in cold weather."

The Minnesota correspondent gave her experiences as follows:

"Yes, mine had all winter. I have ninety hens which I keep in two houses, forty-five and hens in one and forty-five pullets in the other. In the cooler weather I feed a little grain, but not much. Potatoes, cabbage and turnips are kept in the morning, then in the noon I feed a little grain, and in the evening I give a few ground oats mixed with milk. Then in morning I give to each six of hens six good ears of corn, and in the noon they will grind in hand-mill, of buckwheat, old brown, 22 to 26, one one half lot fall, to be 16. Hens need to be fresh eggs and litter of some kind green then. Two or three times a week. Plenty of grit is also necessary. Lime and sand mixed is what I need this winter. Limestone gravel is to excellent. My hens were not let out during the month of March, and they laid 1,350 eggs. I forgot to mention that they had green food nearly every day."

A Pennsylvania woman wrote:

"We can answer that question in the affirmative. We have ninety-five Light Brahma hens. We gathered from Nov. 1 to April 1, 1891 about 1,000 eggs. We consider that pretty fair laying for the winter season. We fed mixed meal of wheat bran and crushed corn, two parts bran, in morning, mixed with hot water, half a peck at a time, at noon, half a peck of bran and cracked corn, and at night half a peck of corn. Twice a week fed some cracklings chopped fine. Put some of Bowker's powder to keep fowls in good condition. Never let them out of house in cold weather or when there was any snow on the ground. Our house is 12 by 32 feet, divided into three rooms. Our room has wide front, in which we throw all the droppings of hens door for fowls to scratch in."

Milk Cows.

Farmers who breed their own milk cows need to keep constantly in mind, says the Jersey Bulletin, that the use fundamental object is increased capacity and improved quality, which not only is secured by establishing and strengthening constitutional vigor. There is no surer way to secure this than by giving a generous flow of rich milk, and if at the same time the is nourishing a liberal calf she needs an abundant supply of nutritious and appetizing food, comfortable quarters and kind attention. Her food and care should never be neglected simply by the money returns from her milk. There is all the time of dry something more than making milk, and it also is well heed this extra something is of much more value than the milk she makes, be that ever so much or ever so rich. The milk and is entitled to a generous supply of food for her calf. Plenty of food is just as essential to the calf before it is dropped as afterward. Do not forget that the cow has to be kept the supply of nutritious food every day in the year, whether they are giving milk or not, whether they are in grass or not, taking care only that you do not feed them indiscriminately, starving today, gorging tomorrow.

Potato Experiments in New Jersey.

The New Jersey agricultural experiment station has tested the influence of some mineral fertilizers on the cooking of the potatoes treated with them. The experiments gave the following conclusions: Dried blood and other mineral fertilizers for potatoes in the pen results being cooked when they are used with barn manure, and when plies are the same, adjacent of potatoes has no advantage over marlate. Trials were made to test the quality for the table, and to ascertain whether any difference could be discovered in the cooked tubers. All being dry and mealy, the chemists of the station were unanimous in their choice of those grown after the sulphate of potash, and grown entirely some qualified with the farts selected with and fertilizer those grown where sulphate of potash entered largely into the composition of the fertilizers.

Fine Linen.

The Philadelphia Farm Journal advises that you:

Use the needle on red top hay which all such plies.

Encourage white clover—particularly in the pastures.

Train the ball to work the power for sowing wind, cutting hay and grinding.

Keep a sharp eye on the corn stover. Its feeding value, when rightly cured and fed, is too often underestimated.

Agricultural Briefs.

According to the Maine state board of agriculture 40 per cent of that state's population are farmers and the product of their land and labor is worth over $10,000,000.

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