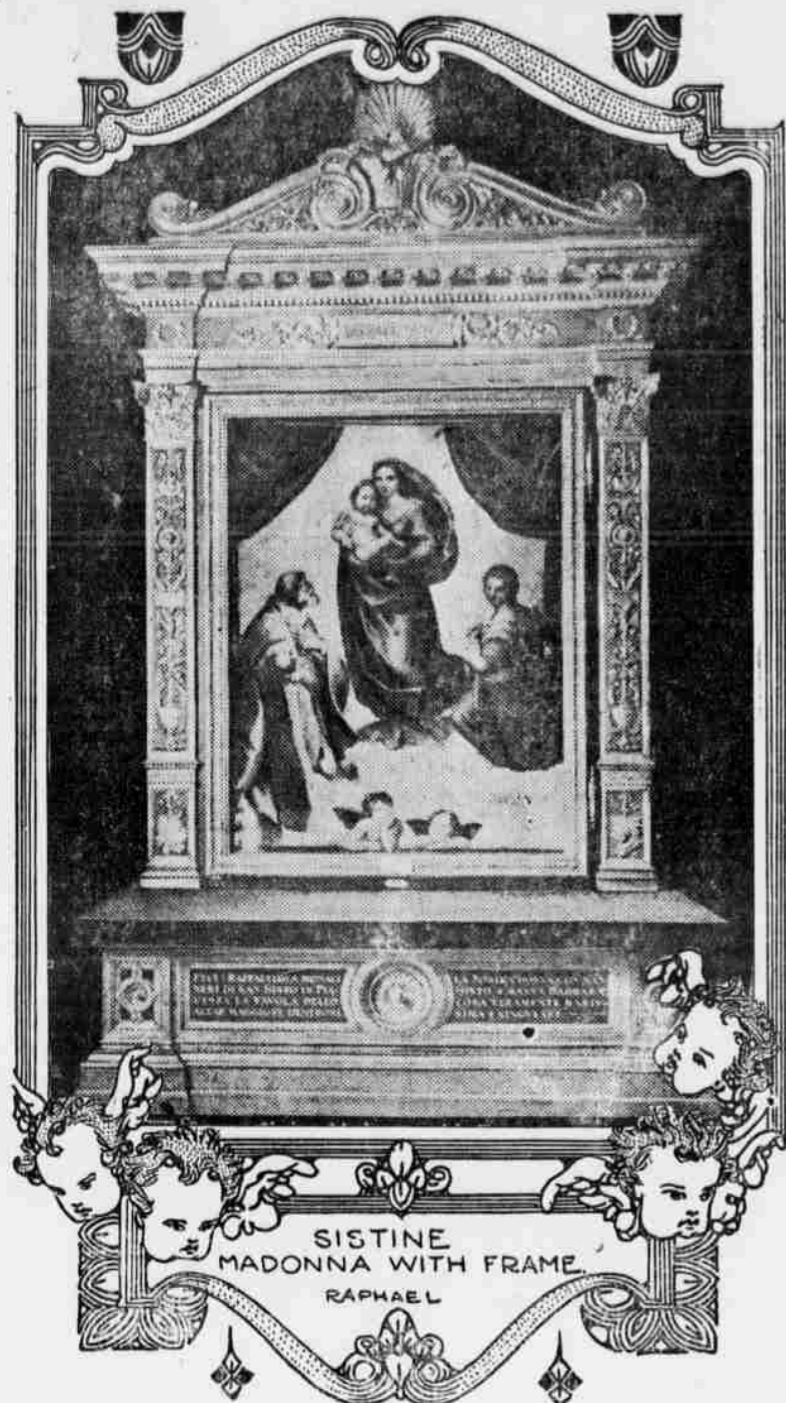


The Sistine Madonna.



SISTINE MADONNA WITH FRAME
RAPHAEL

REPRESENTING the Virgin, not as a mother, but as the all powerful queen of the heavens, descending from clouds which are themselves composed of thousands of cherubs. Raphael's Madonna di San Sisto, more commonly known as the Sistine Madonna, ranks, by universal consent, as the greatest painting in the world.

In the Virgin's arms there is the Christ Child, whose thoughtful eyes make it appear that he is fully conscious of his destiny as Saviour of the world. On either side St. Sixtus II. and St. Catherine kneel in adoration of the queen of the heavens and the Christ Child. St. Catherine is looking down at the two cherubs, which form the base of the picture and which are familiar in popular reproductions. Sixtus II. was bishop of Rome from 257 to 258 A. D. and was martyred under Valerian.

Raphael Sanzio or Santi was born in 1483, and this picture, his masterpiece, was completed two years before his death in 1520. Thus the artist was thirty-five years old when the greatest picture of all times was completed. It

was his last Madonna, although he painted others prior to this time. The Madonna was the favorite theme of painters in the renaissance era in Italy, starting with Fra Angelico, Fra Bartolommeo and others of the first painters in this period and reaching its height with the completion of the Sistine Madonna by Raphael.

This Madonna was painted as an altar piece for the church of San Sisto at Piacenza. In 1754 it was purchased by the elector Augustus III. from the Benedictine monastery and is now the property of the Royal gallery at Dresden.

Raphael, the artist, died of a fever at Rome when but thirty-seven years old. He was the son of an artist and studied at one time under Perugino. In 1504 Raphael went to live in Florence, where most of his Madonnas were painted. His fame rapidly spread until he was called to Rome to decorate the Vatican. Toward the end of his life, about the time the Sistine Madonna was completed, the artist developed his own style and did his greatest work. Aside from his ability to paint, Raphael was a talented architect.

CHRISTMAS IN OTHER LANDS.

Many American children of foreign parentage know something of Christmas customs in at least one European country, having been told by their elders, but for the most part our boys and girls know little of the day except in their own land.

In Spain it is the custom to let out of prison many of the short time prisoners on Christmas eve, also to permit a few of the soldiers to go home on furlough. Only blood relations eat in the house on Christmas eve or Christmas day. It is a general belief that ere midnight on Christmas eve the Virgin comes, bearing a blessing. There is a midnight mass in the churches, and other masses follow.

A few years ago in England it was the custom after the Christmas dinner to pull bonbon crackers and to wear the grotesque caps and masks that came with them. In other ways the celebration is very much as with us.

Good cheer is the rule in Ireland, and holly and ivy are seen on every hand. A midnight mass is celebrated, and masses follow through the night and morning, all of which are largely attended. The religious element predominates. Rich and poor alike have goose for their Christmas dinner. The day following Christmas is devoted to athletics, fun and frolic.

The celebration of Christmas is not general in Japan, yet the Nipponese have a Santa Claus of their own. He is the god Hotei, and he is supposed to give good things to the children not on one day alone, but the year around.

Christmas Fortune Telling.

Bachelors and spinsters in Bohemia desirous of seeing the features of their future matrimonial mate cut a hole in the ice of a river or pond at midnight of Christmas eve and peer into the black water beneath. It is the belief that the face of the one the experimenter is to marry will then become visible as in a mirror. A combination of faith and imagination is necessary to make the spell work successfully.

CHRISTMAS IN BETHLEHEM.

No place in all the world has a greater interest in the Christmas season than Bethlehem. The normal population of the town where Christ was born in less than 5,000, but during Christmas week it becomes a great cosmopolitan center of 50,000 or 60,000 souls, all eager to pay homage to the place hallowed by the Saviour's birth.

In Bethlehem people are brought face to face with the wonderful scenes which are but feebly known to the rest of the world. Here they may see the place where the three wise men of the east halted after their long journey. Here they worship the shrine inclosing the manger in which Christ was born.

They walk along the same road followed by the Virgin Mary in her journey to the ancient city. They see buildings and ruins which the eyes of the infant Christ rested upon. The tiny city, crescent shaped and beautiful to look upon, teems with the realities which the rest of the world celebrates.

IN FRENCH CHURCHES.

Christmas Mass Always Well Attended—Services Are Unique.

In Paris Christmas day is kept as a religious festival, and many who never dream of going to church on any other day in the year make it a point of attending mass on le Jour de Noel, and the blaze of the tapers falls on crowded congregations, men, women and children, kneeling, sitting and standing in the wide area of the Madeleine and Notre Dame.

Midnight mass is held on Christmas eve. A waxen image of the infant Saviour lies upon a little hutch of real straw in a cave built of miniature stones. The Virgin mother kneels over the child, and to quote a verse from one of the quaintest old carols:

St. Joseph, too, is near to guard the child, To watch him and protect his mother mild.

Often the three wise men are added, bearing offerings in their hands.

Christmas Means Extra Buying

WE HANDLE THE BEST LINE OF CHRISTMAS GOODS, CANDIES, NUTS AND FANCY STAPLE GROCERIES.

TELEPHONE ORDERS PROMPTLY ATTENDED TO. PROMPT SERVICE AND COURTEOUS TREATMENT IN OUR STORE.

DO YOUR CHRISTMAS SHOPPING EARLY THIS YEAR. IT WILL GREATLY FACILITATE THE HANDLING OF YOUR ORDERS.



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For this beautiful Princess Dresser in Golden Quartered Oak. The base is 40 inches long and 21 inches wide. Two swell front top drawers and one large and deep drawer. Oval shaped bevel plate mirror 28 by 22. Well constructed and finely finished. Retail in stores for \$18 to \$20. Carefully packed and shipped freight charges prepaid for \$14.40. Send for our latest catalogue or "Satisfaction Furniture at Factory Figures." Free on request.

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A GIFT.
WHAT shall I send you for Christmas, dear?
What can a penniless ringer send

But the wish that when skies are filled with gloom For you blithe April buds may bloom And that every throb of the heart of you May whisper of days when the skies were blue?

What shall I send you for Christmas, sweet?
What can a friendless minstrel send
But the prayer that when days drag drear and long Your heart will sing snatches of sweetest song

And that every flake of the Yuletide's snow May speak of the dreams of the long ago?

What shall I send you for Christmas, my own?
What can a lonely bardling send
But the wish that when life grows dark and chill The roses of summer may bloom for you still

And in moods when the fond old dreams still cling to you That the birds may return, my sweet, and sing to you?
—Irving Dillon in Life.

THE FARMERS AND MECHANICS BANK

Corner of Main and Tenth Streets, Wishes All its Patrons a

Merry Christmas

and a

Happy New Year

We desire to thank you for your liberal patronage, which has made it possible for the bank's rapid and conservative growth.

We desire particularly to call your attention to this bank's comparative growth of its deposits:

JUNE 1st, 1907	-	-	-	-	\$ 24,398.54
MAY 1st, 1908	-	-	-	-	\$109,896.20
MAY 1st, 1909	-	-	-	-	\$161,077.58
MAY 2d, 1910	-	-	-	-	\$241,843.67
MAY 1st, 1911	-	-	-	-	\$272,500.68
MAY 3d, 1912	-	-	-	-	\$304,915.97
MAY 1st, 1913	-	-	-	-	\$346,938.40
NOVEMBER 1st, 1913	-	-	-	-	\$382,991.37

OFFICERS:—M. E. Simons, Pres. J. E. Tiffany, V. Pres. C. A. Emery, Cashier.

DIRECTORS:

M. B. Allen,
J. Sam Brown,
Oscar E. Bunnell,
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John Weaver,
G. Wm. Sell,
M. E. Simons,
Fred Stephens,
George W. Tisdell.

Xmas Greetings

What Shall I Give Her?

What Shall I Give Him?

Xmas Greetings

REIF'S

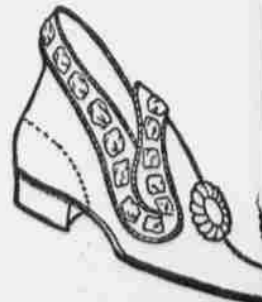
BIG DISPLAY OF XMAS GOODS

A New and Up-to-date Stock of Holiday Slippers for Men, Women and Children, in all styles, colors and prices to suit EVERYBODY



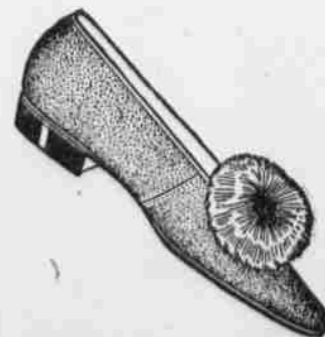
Women's Juliets at \$1.00

JULIETS for Women and Children in wine, brown, red, green, gray and black—fur and ribbon trimmed. Prices, 50c to \$1.50.



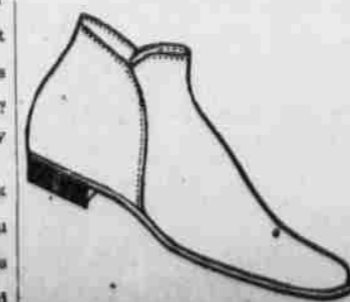
Women's Juliets at 1.25

Men's Tan Romeo House Slippers, hand turned, Prices \$1.50 to \$2.00



Women's Siesta red, blue, tan, pink and lavender, 75c to \$1.25

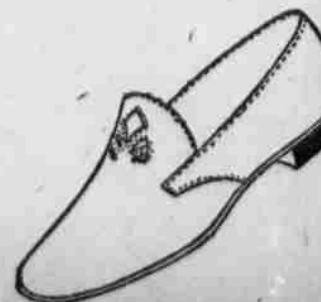
Men's Everett House Slippers in black and tan leather and velvet embroidered, Prices from 50c to \$2.00



Men's Tan Romeo

REIF'S Red Stone Front

NOTICE OUR WINDOWS



Men's Everett