

December

They were in a high state of excitement about their "dresses" for that occasion, Marie & I getting them out of bed to try them on.

Monday 27

fine with
after cloudy
we. rainy

In forenoon I was in hall on various errands. Marie & the boys were busy building the landscape with fountain &c for Lucas, besides fixing the linen tree; as I was troubled with hemorrhoids in the afternoon I could assist but little.

Although the hours sped rapidly yet for the boys they apparently they only crept along and slower & slower the nearer they approached that supreme moment when the ring of the bell is heard the doors thrown open and the light from dozens of candles show out their jagged beards inviting to mingle with them on this hallowed spot.

— Carl & Marie arrived at 7 P.M. from St. Coltheims their train was late 1/2 hour, — this caused somewhat of a delay for the beginning of the festivities. However shortly after 8 Mother & Father, Jacob, Auguste, Carl & Marie, Emil, Luise & Gustav were at my house. — Everything was in readiness, the hallowed spot being my library, which was shortly to emerge from darkness to light. Emil assisted me in lighting the many candles (18 Chinese lanterns & about 100 small candles) the bell rang, the door opened, music was pouring from the music box, — now came the long procession headed by Beatie the rest following in ascending process of the linen function. — The landscape & pretty fountain attracted the most attention on entry. Mrs. Julius & her son found their places as shown by the cards bearing their respective names. Max's chief present was to him (and to Marie & me too) more than a present it was an event — with the suit of new clothes — he graduated from knickerbockers to long trousers. All were happy and everyone received something. Max had chosen many things packed with care & with some special ones for Emil, Father, Carl & Jacob — they were comic & illustrative of the expressive business or calling. These cards were much enjoyed — To Marie I gave

a handsome oak panel table. I received a package, its contents were not revealed until I had unrolled some tissue wrap, when a fine pair of gold sleeve buttons handsomely engraved with my monogram appeared. - It is an article which I very much desired. - Now came the musical programme. The four boys (Waldemar included) were neatly attired, a burnt cork supplied each with a mustache & quater vene Max who as "professor" wore side whiskers. - Max, had the flute, Julius guitar - also the bones, Oskar bones, Waldemar accordion, Marie piano & I piano & guitar. - Nine selections were given two of which were vocal. - Amount of applause great each piece. By the time this part of the evening's entertainment was over the appetites were whetted for solid & liquid refreshments. Nuts, raisins, figs, dates, condiments, the irresistible German Lucas cakes, craps, beer & wine were then besieged amidst merry chatting and joyful mirth - for the three generations assembled were all young tonight. Mother was cheerful & Father was happy. - Shortly after 10 P.M. Rev. J. Snyder put in his appearance - not as a preacher but as a sociable educated gentleman. For his benefit the musical programme was repeated. The hours glided rapidly down the steep incline of time and it was after 1 a.m. ere we sang "God Save the Queen" & "Auld Lang Syne", and another bright jewel had been set into the Crown of Life.

Tuesday 25
misty
windy

Christmas Day. - Last night & today's rain have taken all the frost out of the ground and the weather is more like that at the end of April than of June.

The Christmas dinner is that meal where the small boy may feel inclined to cry that he can't eat more of the many good things offered. - When the plum pudding was served all were already satiated & ate only a little of it as a mere matter of form. For tea we were all at Mother's, & thereafter another krus was celebrated, all were again made the recipients of presents. - The boys gave another musicale